

A PORT MORESBY RECORDING AREA

ROGER K. HICKS

EDITORIAL

The majority of the Papua New Guinea Bird Society's PNG resident members have lived in the capital, Port Moresby. This is reflected by the preponderance of records from this area in PNGBS publications. It is still true today and this issue of **MURUK** is devoted to papers and notes on the birds of the Port Moresby area.

For a long time, there has been an area regarded as the Port Moresby bird watching area, in this issue it has been formally defined. Someone may care to make use of this and produce an annual bird report for the Port Moresby area, along the lines of those produced for county reports in the U.K. Bird watchers in other parts of PNG might similarly define their bird watching areas and also produce regular reports (for inclusion in **MURUK**, hopefully).

The cost of producing **MURUK** has risen steeply over the past year (in keeping with the general rise in cost of living in PNG). In the past, the Department of Environment and Conservation have eased the financial burden on the PNGBS by printing first the Newsletter and later **MURUK**. With the current financial constraints on all Government departments this is no longer possible. We have sought sponsorship from a wide range of commercial and environmental organisations, both here and abroad. Ok Tedi Mining Limited has come forward and offered to support **MURUK** on a long-term basis. Without this support the PNGBS would not be able to produce **MURUK**, so we take this opportunity to thank Ok Tedi Mining Limited.

EDITORS: Roger Hicks with technical assistance from Mike Hopkins and editorial help from Ellie Brown, Helen Fortune Hopkins, Jenny Hicks and Jerry Hoskyns. Special thanks to Jenny Hicks who drew the graphs for the migrants paper and to Bill Eddie for the wader vignettes.

MURUK is published by the Papua New Guinea Bird Society and is available as part of the Society membership. Backnumbers are available at K4 each plus postage and packing. Volume one (first published in 1986) but is currently out of stock. It will shortly be reprinted. We always require articles for publication or records for inclusion in "Recent Observations". Please send your contributions to :- The Editor, PNGBS, P.O. Box 1598, Boroko, Papua New Guinea.

Roger Hicks (Editor)

Mackay (1970) previously defined a Port Moresby district (Map 1), which included all of the main roads out of Port Moresby at that time. Subsequently, the road network has been extended to the north-west (Hiritano and Goilala Highways), to the south-east (Magi Highway), and more recently to the east (Koiari Road). The bird-watching area of Port Moresby-based Papua New Guinea Bird Society members has similarly expanded.

Here I define a Port Moresby bird-recording area (Map 1) that includes all areas regularly visited by Port Moresby bird watchers. The squares on this map are the 10 km grid from the PNG Topographical maps. In the east the boundary is the Kemp Welch River and a tributary the Aieme River (also known as Musgrave River); from the head-waters of the Aieme River, in the vicinity of Return Saddle (147° 37'E, 9° 22'S), a straight line is drawn in a north-west direction until it crosses the Vanapa River (147° 17'E, 9° 5'S). Thus far the boundary is the same as that of Mackay. From this point on the Vanapa River, the border continues north-west to the crossing of the Angabanga River by the Goilala Highway (146° 51'E, 8° 34'S). This section of the Angabanga River, as far as its mouth, near Bereina, forms the northern boundary. The western and southern borders are the coral reef to the mouth of the Kemp Welch River.

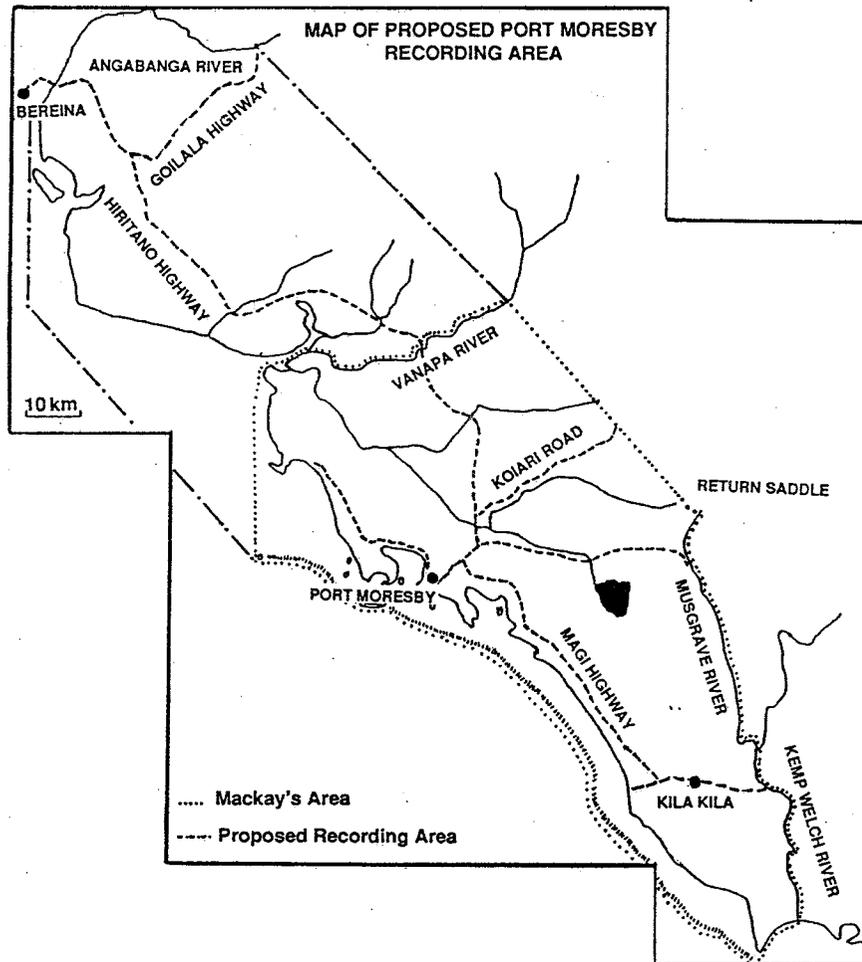
This boundary encompasses an area approximately 50% larger than Mackay's Port Moresby district. All bird-watching areas within a comfortable day's drive of Port Moresby are included, but not all accessible main roads out of the capital. Over 70% of all bird records in PNGBS publications have occurred in this area.

Mackay, R.D. 1970. *The Birds of Port Moresby District*. Nelson.

Address: c/o N.C.C., P.O. Ward's Strip, Waigani.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DATES IN THE PORT MORESBY AREA OF MIGRANTS FROM THE NORTH

ROGER K. HICKS



In the "Handbook of New Guinea Birds" (Rand & Gilliard 1967) it was noted that "little attention had been paid to the non-breeding birds that visit New Guinea" and that "their relative abundance and times of arrival need to be recorded". Since its founding in 1965, the Papua New Guinea Bird Society (PNGBS) has documented the bird life of PNG through its *Newsletter* and, more recently, through its journal, *Muruk*. These publications contain many references to migrant species. Coates (1985) summarised the observations of non-passerine migrants to PNG, and Mackay (1970) did the same for species in the Port Moresby area. In this paper I aim to summarise the records of holarctic migrants for the Port Moresby area since the founding of the PNGBS and note for each species earliest and latest records, main passage periods, and usual arrival and departure dates. A second paper will deal with migrants to PNG that breed in the southern hemisphere (Hicks in prep.).

The Port Moresby recording area is defined as that which is accessible by road and within a comfortable day's drive of the town centre, i.e. north-west to the Angabanga River, east to Musgrave River and south-east to Kemp Welch River (Hicks 1990). Over 70% of all migrant records in PNGBS publications are from this area.

The PNGBS *Newsletters* (1965 to date) and *Muruk* (1986 to date), have been the major source of records which are referenced here by the *Newsletter* number and page number or *Muruk* volume, issue and page number. Papers quoted from other sources are referenced in full. The data are presented below for each species separately. My personal observations from August 1985 to August 1988 have been included for some species where they help to clarify matters. Extreme dates for areas of PNG beyond Port Moresby are included in brackets. The bar graphs for all species, unless otherwise stated, show number of records per month, not numbers of individuals as this has not always been recorded. Where mentioned, seasons are northern seasons, i.e., November to February is winter, and May to August is summer. Each species' status has been assessed from the number of published records (vagrant = < 6 records, rare = 6 - 20 records, uncommon = 21 - 60 records, common = 61 - 100 records, abundant > 100 records) but qualified by personal observations.

Determining the earliest arrival date of some species is made difficult by the presence of overwintering individuals, i.e., birds remaining in PNG when they should be on their breeding grounds. Generally, birds that overwinter do not acquire breeding plumage, suggesting they may be immatures. Therefore, in species which regularly overwinter, only records of birds showing some trace of breeding plumage have been included for earliest arrival records.

The following abbreviations have been used in the species accounts: ESP = East Sepik Province; I = Island; L = Lake; MBP = Milne Bay Province; Mor = Morobe Province; NIP = New Ireland Province; NSP = North Solomons Province; Oro = Northern Province; R = River; SHP = Southern Highlands Province; Wes = Western Province. On the graphs: N = number of birds; P = my records 1985-88; R = number of records in PNGS publications.

Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas*
 Uncommon winter visitor to Coral Sea. Probably more common than records indicate, as there are so few pelagic bird-watching boat trips.

Earliest Date: 11/9/82, 1, Hisiu Point (193:37).
 Latest Date: 8/5/88, 1, c. 12 km off Port Moresby (Muruk 3: 129).

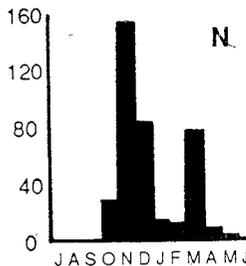
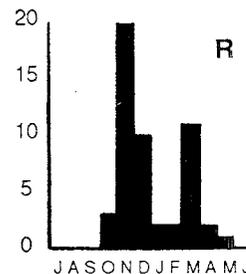
Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*
 Uncommon winter visitor, but secretive behaviour means it could possibly be overlooked. Regularly recorded at Waigani Swamp between 1976 and 1980, but only one record since, in May 1988.

Earliest Date: 17/1/76, 1 male, Moitaka settling ponds (119:7).
 Latest Date: 28/5/88, Oxbow (T. Andrew pers. comm.).

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*
 Vagrant. Only one record for Port Moresby area, a pair that stayed for two weeks in November 1978 at Moitaka settling ponds (151:8).

Garganey *Anas querquedula*
 Common passage migrant with most records and largest number of birds passing south in November. Fewer observed on northwards migration, usually in March. A few probably overwinter each year.

Earliest Date: 19/10/85, 1, Kanosia Lagoon (pers. obs.).
 Latest Date: 19/5/89, 1, Moitaka settling ponds (Muruk 4(3):116). {12/5/78, 1 male, Kavieng, NIP (146:16). At the time considered the most south-easterly record for this species}.



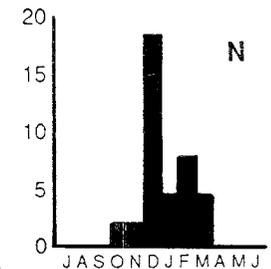
Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*
 Irregular and uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. Most records from December to March.

Earliest Date: 28/10/79, 2, Kanosia Lagoon (162:13).
 Latest Date: 29/3/81, 1 in winter plumage, Moitaka settling ponds (178:33).



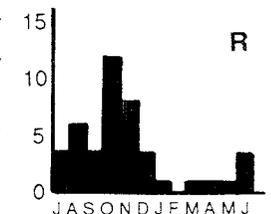
Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
 Common passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor to coastal sites, with a few records from inland. Small numbers of birds, usually in non-breeding plumage, probably oversummer regularly but records are few e.g. 1980 (167:39) and 1982 (191:4).

Earliest Date: 16/8/87, some in breeding plumage, Hisiu Beach (Muruk 3:70).
 Latest Date: 19/5/84, Hisiu Beach (209:17).

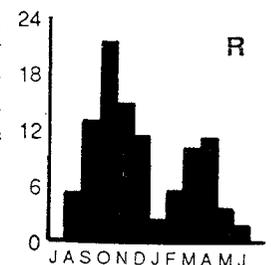


Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*
 Abundant winter visitor and passage migrant. Most often found on open grassland habitats such as playing fields and airfields. Has oversummered (Mackay 1970), but no June records from, at least 1966, until 1989 when three oversummered at the Pacific Adventist College (Muruk 4:108).

Earliest Date: 19/7/80, Moitaka settling ponds (167:39).
 Latest Date: 13/5/79, Moitaka settling ponds, in winter plumage (155:9). {15/5/79, Tari, SHP (159:11)}.



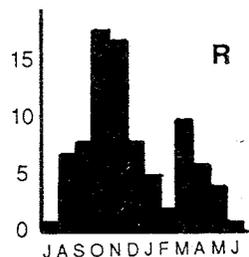
American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*
 Vagrant. One PNG sight record (Muruk 4:106) of one bird loosely associated with Pacific Golden Plovers at Moitaka settling ponds in November 1984.



Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
 Three records of the migrant race *curonicus* (identified by call) all from the Port Moresby area. One in February (215:7) and two in March (201:9). All other records are assumed to have been the resident race *C.d. dubius*.

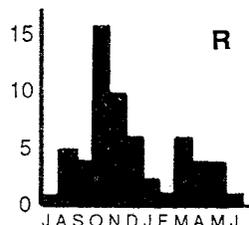
Mongolian Plover *Charadrius mongolus*
Common winter visitor and passage migrant to beaches, occasionally found at freshwater sites. A few oversummer.

Earliest Date: 16/8/87, some in breeding plumage, Hisiu Beach (Muruk 3:71).
Latest Date: 19/5/84, Hisiu Beach (209:17).



Large Sand-Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*
Common winter visitor and passage migrant, usually on beaches but occasionally found at freshwater sites. A few oversummer. Possibly less common than Mongolian Plover.

Earliest Date: 16/8/87, some in breeding plumage, Hisiu Beach (Muruk 3: 71).
Latest Date: 19/5/84, Hisiu Beach (209:17).



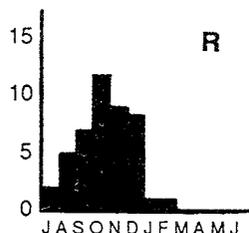
Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus*
Irregular and rare passage migrant. Most often recorded in November, usually in company with Pacific Golden Plover as it favours the same habitat. May occasionally overwinter.

Earliest Date: 28/10/79, Hisiu Lagoon (162:11). {10/10/80 4, Daru, Wes (171:35)}.
Latest Date: 2/4/88, UPNG (W. Eddie pers. comm.).



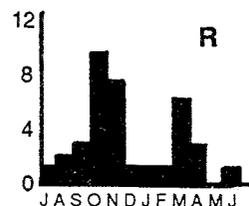
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*
Uncommon passage migrant and rare winter visitor to coastal sites. Only very rarely found at freshwater habitats. Has oversummered in PNG, but no March - May records for the Port Moresby area.

Earliest Date: 16/8/87 Hisiu Beach (pers. obs.).
Latest Date: February 1979, Hisiu Beach (151:8). {20 - 23/4/84 Kiriwina, MBP (209:7)}.

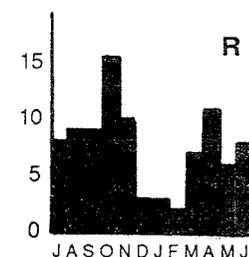


Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascarensis*
Uncommon but regular passage migrant (most records October and March) with small numbers overwintering. One record of oversummering, a single bird on Hisiu Beach 23/6/79 (157:23).

Earliest Date: 19/8/69, Bootless Bay (45:6).
Latest Date: 18/4/76, mouth of Angabanga R (125:12).

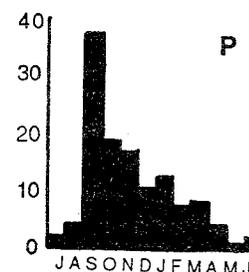


Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
A common, annual passage migrant and winter visitor. Small numbers regularly oversummer. A high proportion of PNGBS records (23%) refer to birds oversummering, which makes it difficult to determine earliest and latest dates for this species, so none are presented here. A plot of my observations minimises this bias towards the reporting of unusual records. First returning birds probably arrive in mid-August while latest departures are probably in early May.



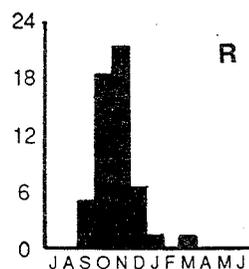
Little Curlew *Numenius minutus*
Uncommon but regular passage migrant, with most records in October and November. Passage seems to be later than most other waders. A few possibly overwinter, but only one spring record.

Earliest Date: 24/9/78, 1, Aroa Lagoon (148:22).
Latest Date: 6/3/67, 1 or 2, Bootless Bay (17:2). {April - May 1975, Manus (112:4)}.



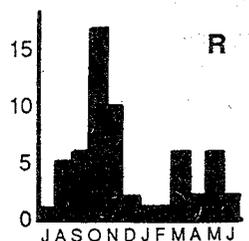
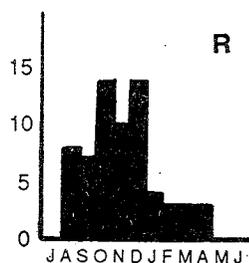
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
Common passage migrant, with a few overwintering. Common on southwards migration, with first birds usually seen from mid-August to early-September. Rare on northwards migration.

Earliest Date: 16/8/78, 1, Moitaka settling ponds (148:23) {14/8/80, 2, Sangersa, Popondetta, Oro (181:39)}.
Latest Date: 10/4/83, Aroa Lagoon (201:2).



Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*
(Un)Common (but probably under recorded) passage migrant and winter visitor. Occasionally found at freshwater sites but most often along the sea shore

Earliest Date: 7/8/88, Hisiu Beach (238:2).
Latest Date: 20/5/88, Roku (Muruk 3: 34).



Wandering Tattler

Tringa incana

Difficult to separate from preceding species if not in breeding plumage and call is not heard. A rare, but probably regular, passage migrant. Most records in spring and probably refer to birds in breeding plumage.

Earliest Date: 7/8/88, Hisiu Beach (238:2).

Latest Date: 6/5/77, c.60, Lea Lea (32:5).



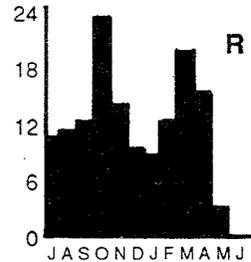
Common Sandpiper

Tringa hypoleucos

Abundant winter visitor and passage migrant. Recorded in all months except June.

Earliest Date: 7/7/81, Moitaka settling ponds (181:39).

Latest Date: 9/5/86, 2, Moitaka settling ponds (pers. obs.). {14/5/84, Jaba delta, NSP (211:4)}.



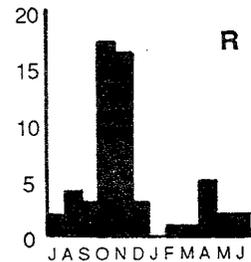
Common Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

Uncommon passage migrant, only rarely overwintering. Few only noted on northwards migration. Oversummered in 1978 (145:22).

Earliest Date: 18/7/86, 3, Moitaka settling ponds (222:6).

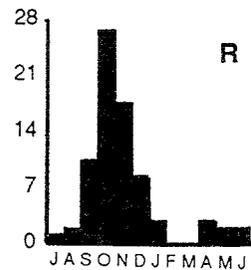
Latest Date: 7/5/87, Moitaka settling ponds (Muruk 3: 34).



Redshank

Tringa totanus

Only two records for PNG, one of which was in the Port Moresby area, Moitaka settling ponds 17/10/72 (81:3).



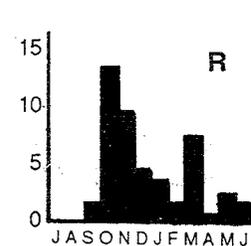
Marsh Sandpiper

Tringa stagnatilis

Common passage migrant with small numbers overwintering. One June record which may have been very early returning birds. Usually arrives mid-September.

Earliest Date: 26/6/82, 3, Kanosia Lagoon (193:39).

Latest Date: 23/5/86, 1, Moitaka settling ponds (222:6).



Terek Sandpiper

Tringa terek

Uncommon passage migrant with singles overwintering. Has oversummered (43:4, 55:1, 193:39).

Earliest Date: 7/9/80, Lea Lea (171:3).

Latest Date: 13/5/87, 1, Haidana I (Muruk 3: 34).

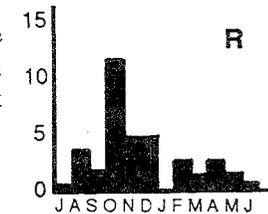
Latham's Snipe

Gallinago hardwicki

Not easy to separate from the following species and many snipe go unidentified. First recorded in the Port Moresby area in September 1966 (Mackay 1970). One bird oversummered at Moitaka settling ponds in 1982 (193:40).

Earliest Date: 8/8/87, Moitaka settling ponds (pers. obs.).

Latest Date: 8/4/84, Moitaka settling ponds (208:16).



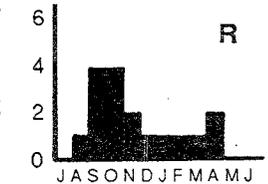
Swinhoe's Snipe

Gallinago megala

Rare passage migrant, although difficulty of making positive identification may mean it is commoner than records show. Less frequently recorded than Latham's Snipe.

Earliest Date: 16/8/78, Moitaka settling ponds (148:23).

Latest Date: 7/4/88, 2, trapped and ringed at Moitaka settling ponds (Muruk 3: 131).



Pin-tailed Snipe

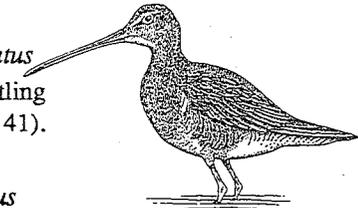
Gallinago stenura

No confirmed sightings of this species, but several possibles from October - early March.

Asian Dowitcher

Limnodromus semipalmatus

Vagrant. Only three PNG records, two from Moitaka settling ponds, 8 - 21/11/81 (185:39) and 8 - 12/11/88 (Muruk 4: 41).



Long-billed Dowitcher

Limnodromus scolopaceus

Vagrant. One PNG record. One bird at Aroa Lagoon 2/12/84 (212:6).

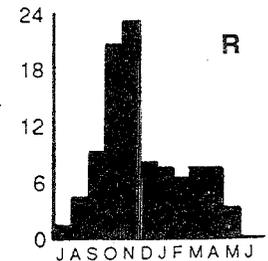
Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa

Common passage migrant with small numbers overwintering at a few freshwater sites.

Earliest Date: 11/7/82, 1, Moitaka settling ponds (193:40).

Latest Date: 23/5/86, 1, Moitaka settling ponds (222:6).



Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*
 Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. Occasionally (on passage?) recorded at freshwater sites. One record of overwintering, three birds at Hisiu Beach, June - August 1982 (193:40).

Earliest Date: 7/8/88, Hisiu Beach (238:2).
 Latest Date: 19/5/84, Hisiu Beach (209:18).

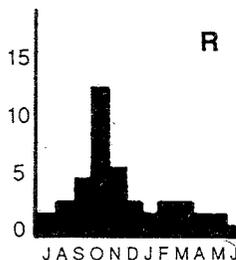
Knot *Calidris canutus*
 Vagrant. Only three records for PNG and only one for the Port Moresby area. One at Hisiu Lagoon in October 1982 (201:34).

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*
 Rare passage migrant, only recorded on southwards passage, most often in November.
 Earliest Date: 9/9/78, Lea Lea (148:23).
 Latest Date: 18/1/86, Hisiu Beach (pers. obs.).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*
 Abundant passage migrant, with very few overwintering at freshwater sites. Small return (spring) passage.
 Earliest Date: 1/8/86, Moitaka settling ponds (222:6).
 {17/7/82, 1, Bensbach, Wes (193:40)}.
 Latest Date: 8/5/82, Moitaka settling ponds (191:5).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*
 First PNG record in October 1973 (92:3). Since then recorded annually in small numbers on southward passage, usually associated with Sharp-tailed Sandpipers. Only two spring records, one in March (Muruk 4:78) and one in May.
 Earliest Date: 21/8/82, 1, Moitaka settling ponds (193:40).
 Latest Date: 19/5/85, 2, Moitaka settling ponds (215:8).

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*
 Vagrant. One PNG record of a single bird, with Sharp-tailed Sandpipers at Kanosia Lagoon on 24/11/85 (219:7).

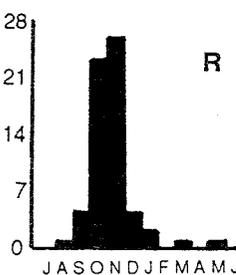
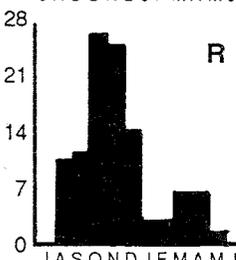
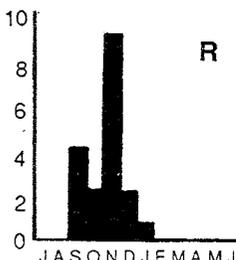
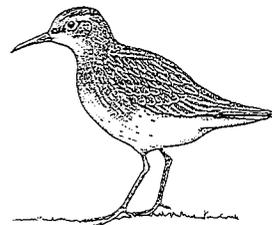


Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*
 Common passage migrant with smaller numbers overwintering on beaches. Records of birds overwintering, e.g., flock of 40 Hisiu Beach, June - August 1982 (193:40).
 Earliest Date: 31/7/77, c. 80 - 100, Lea Lea (135:5).
 Latest Date: 2/5/76, Bootless Bay (122:5).

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*
 Vagrant. One record for Port Moresby area (and only one other for PNG) at Aroa Lagoon on 16/3/83 (201:3).

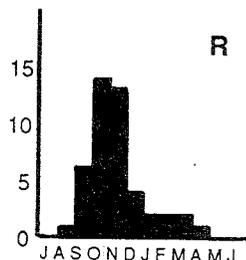
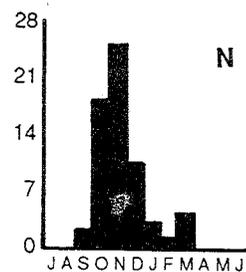
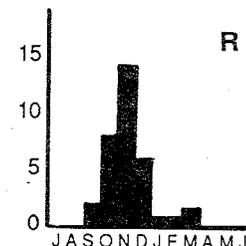
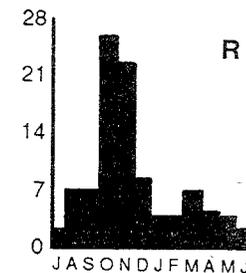
Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*
 Uncommon and irregular passage migrant, occasionally overwintering. First PNG record 5/11/67 Bootless Bay (26:2). Recorded annually between 1978 and 1984, but then none until 1989. Only two spring records.

Earliest Date: 9/9/79, 1, Hisiu Lagoon (162:10).
 Latest Date: 25/3/81, 3, Moitaka settling ponds (178:33).



Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*
 Uncommon but regular passage migrant, mainly October and November on beaches and freshwater sites. Only one spring record.
 Earliest Date: 22/8/75, 2, mouth of Angabanga R (125:13).
 Latest Date: 13/4/80, Lea Lea (165:8) {14/5/84, Jaba Delta, NSP (211:4)}.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*
 Rare and irregular winter visitor to beaches in the Port Moresby area. No freshwater records. Appears later in the year than other waders, but usually associated with Red-necked Stints.
 Earliest Date: 19/9/87, 1, Hisiu Beach (pers. obs.).
 Latest Date: 20/3/82, 1, Hisiu Beach (191:5).



Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*
Vagrant. All three Port Moresby area records in October.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*
Uncommon and irregular passage migrant (although annual from 1974 - 1981). First recorded in PNG on 14/11/70 (60:2). Only two records away from the Port Moresby area: January 1983, Manus (215:8) and 30 December 1989 Bensbach, Wes. All of rest, except three, have been at Moitaka settling ponds. Thirty-eight individuals have been recorded (21 females, 13 males and no sex recorded for 4 birds). There is a statistically highly significant association ($X^2_1 = 7.14, p < 0.01$) between sex and arrival dates with females tending to arrive earlier than males.

Earliest Date: 11/9/79, 1 female, Moitaka settling ponds (148:23).
Latest Date: 12/4/71, 3, at least one male and one female, Moitaka settling ponds (65:2).

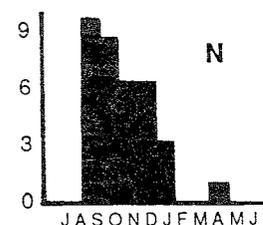
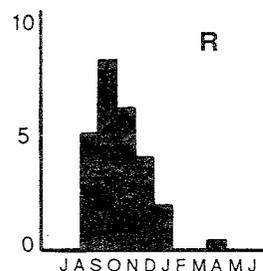
Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*
Vagrant; only one Port Moresby area record. One dark phase bird seen c. 12 km offshore 20/4/86 (220:6).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*
Rarely recorded, but possibly commoner than records suggest as there are few pelagic bird-watching boat trips. Eight records, all offshore except one at Moitaka settling ponds.

Earliest Date: 14/12/86, 3, c. 15 km offshore (218:7).
Latest Date: 9/5/70, Bavo I (54:3).

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*
Three Port Moresby area records, all at Moitaka settling ponds; in January 1979 (151:1) and January and March 1981 (175-76:7). All records are of subadults.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*
One PNG record, one adult in breeding plumage, Moitaka settling ponds, May 1985 (Muruk 1(1): 26-28).



White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*
Common and regular passage migrant with marked spring (some birds in breeding plumage) and autumn passage. Two records of overwintering birds (112:11 & 122:3) both parties of birds in first-summer plumage. Most records from fresh-water habitats.

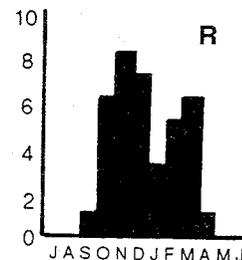
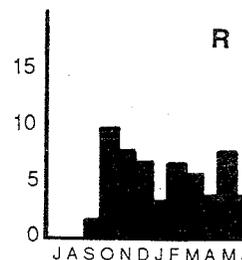
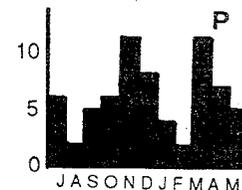
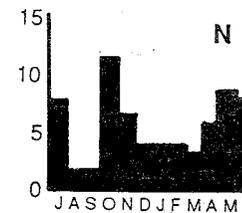
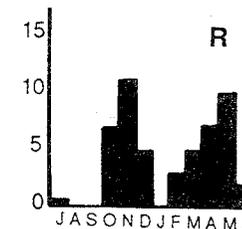
Earliest Date: 22/9/85, 1, Moitaka settling ponds (pers. obs.).
Latest Date: 29/5/82, 3, Moitaka settling ponds (191:2).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*
Abundant winter visitor and passage migrant although publication of unseasonal rather than usual records has tended to obscure this. Personal observations show a marked spring and autumn passage. Regularly overwinters, birds usually in first-summer plumage. It is not possible to give earliest and latest dates from the available records, although first returning birds probably arrive in early September and late departing birds leave in early May.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*
No summer (July - September) records for the Port Moresby area suggest it is the northern race found in PNG waters. Two June records (133:3 and 210:6) mean birds may rarely overwinter. Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor with most records in May and October. Recorded from both fresh and salt water.

Earliest Date: 18/9/87, Moitaka settling ponds (pers. obs.).
{14/8/76, Finschaffien, Mor (149:4)}
Latest Date: 13/5/79, Moitaka settling ponds (155:10).

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*
Uncommon winter visitor, although, in some years, it may be present in large numbers, e.g., 1981-82 (185:39).
Earliest Date: 7/9/69, 1, Ogotana, Sogeri (47:2).
Latest Date: 26/4/87, 1, King Bird Tree (Muruk 3: 35).

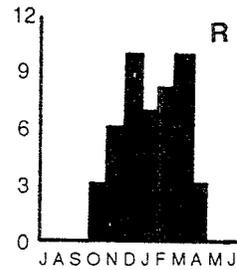


White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacuta*

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant. Large flocks have been noted in December and March.

Earliest Date: 10/10/70, Brown River (60:2).

Latest Date : 21/4/86, 1, Paga Hill, Port Moresby (222:8).

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*

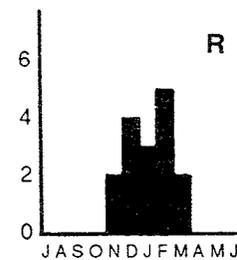
Vagrant. Irregular passage migrant in small numbers, although vast flocks are recorded annually in Western Province. Recorded in Port Moresby in December (1 record) and February (3 records).

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*

First record for PNG (and Australasia) in 1974 (104:3), second in 1979, and third in 1983. Recorded annually and in increasing numbers in PNG since 1985. Rare winter visitor to the Port Moresby area.

Earliest Date: 24/11/85, 1, Aroa service station (219:8). {23/9/74, Angoram, ESP (104:3)}.

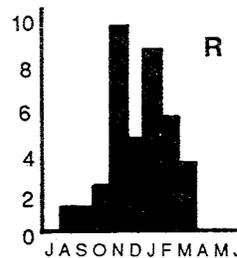
Latest Date : 25/3/86, 10, Kanosia Lagoon (219:8). {26/4/86, Tabubil, Wes (220:10)}.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Uncommon winter visitor in small numbers.

Earliest Date: 30/8/81, 1, with Tree Martins, Kanosia Lagoon (181:40). {3/8/67, 20, Pureni, SHP (123:4)}.

Latest Date: 13/3/82, 10, Aroa Lagoon (191:7).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

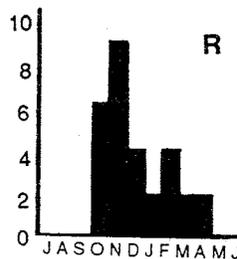
Common winter visitor to highlands of PNG but, with only one record of a single bird at Kuriva (c. 250 m) on 14/11/81 (185:40), a vagrant to the Port Moresby area.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers. Usually found in marshy grassland beside lagoons. Two subspecies have been identified, *M.f. taivana* and *M.f. simillina*.

Earliest Date: 26/10/80, L Iaraguma (171:37).

Latest Date: 10/4/82, Aroa Lagoon (201:2).

Gray's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella fasciolata*

Vagrant; but may be commoner than records suggest due to secretive habits. Two Port Moresby area records, one in February (197:40) and one in October (226:13).

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*

Vagrant. Only one Port Moresby area record, one at Aroa in December 1979 (163-64: 16-20).

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

Vagrant. One PNG record of a male of the race *philippinensis* on Paga Hill, Port Moresby 7/1/86 - 19/2/86 (Muruk 2: 66-67).

Sixty species of palearctic migrant/vagrant have been recorded in the Port Moresby area. A summary of the usual arrival and departure dates of regularly recorded species is presented in Table 1. Thirty-eight species migrants from the north are waders (shorebirds), 24 of which are recorded annually. The next largest group are the terns with four species, three recorded annually. Only seven migrant passerines have been recorded of which only three can be considered regular. Even then Red-rumped Swallow has only attained this status in the last few years.

None of the migrants recorded in the Port Moresby area have their main wintering ground in PNG, except perhaps Grey Wagtail, which is usually confined to the highlands. The main wintering areas for palearctic passerine migrants is to the north and west of New Guinea, so those that reach Port Moresby have probably overshot their intended destination. The same is possibly true for some of the vagrant waders, e.g., Little Ringed Plover and Redshank. However, the bulk of the wader population winters in Australia, so most species recorded in PNG are on passage. Port Moresby is only on the periphery of the main flyway hence the vagrant status of species such as (Red) Knot which winter in Australia (and New Zealand) and have been recorded in large numbers in Irian Jaya (Hoogerwerf 1964 in Coates 1985). Small numbers of some species do winter in PNG and the Port Moresby area, e.g., Lesser Golden Plover, Whimbrel Common Sandpiper, and Red-necked Stint. Many fewer species and individuals are recorded in the spring (northbound) than the autumn (southbound) passage.

Fourteen species of palearctic migrant have been recorded in Irian Jaya and PNG but not in the Port Moresby area (see Appendices 1 and 2 respectively). None of these except possibly Red-necked Phalarope, which is common in the seas north of New Guinea, have their major wintering grounds in PNG. A further 21 species of migrant (either Asian or North American breeding species) have been recorded in Australia (Simpson & Day 1988) (Appendix 3). All could possibly occur in the Port Moresby area.

Table 1. Usual arrival and departure dates of regular migrants from the north in the Port Moresby area.

Species	Usual Arrival	This Year Arrival	Usual Departure	This Year Departure
Garganey	October		Early Apr	
Oriental Pratincole	October		March	
Grey Plover	Late Aug		Early Apr	
Lesser Golden Plover	Early Aug		Late Apr	
Mongolian Plover	Mid Aug		Early May	
Large Sand-Plover	Mid Aug		Early May	
Oriental Plover	October		January	
Ruddy Turnstone	August		January	
Eastern Curlew	August		April	
Whimbrel	Mid Aug		Early May	
Little Curlew	Late Sept		January	
Wood Sandpiper	Late Aug		March	
Grey-tailed Tattler	Mid Aug		Late Apr	
Common Sandpiper	Mid July		Late Apr	
Common Greenshank	Late Aug		April	
Marsh Sandpiper	September		April	
Terek Sandpiper	Mid Sept		March	
Latham's Snipe	Late July		Early May	
Swinhoe's Snipe	Late Aug		Early May	
Black-tailed Godwit	Early July		Early Apr	
Bar-tailed Godwit	Late Aug		March	
Great Knot	September		January	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Early Aug		Early Apr	
Pectoral Sandpiper	October		January	
Red-necked Stint	Early Aug		Late Apr	
Long-toed Stint	Late Sept		March	
Curlew Sandpiper	September		March	
Sanderling	October		March	
Ruff	Late Sept		January	
White-winged Black Tern	October		Early May	
Common Tern	October		April	
Little Tern	October		Late Apr	
Oriental Cuckoo	Late Sept		Early Mar	
White-throated Needletail	Late Oct		Late Mar	
Barn Swallow	October		March	
Red-rumped Swallow	Early Dec		March	
Yellow Wagtail	October		March	

Please use this table to record your observations of arrival and departure dates of migrants from the north and submit your records to the PNGBS.

- Coates, B.J. 1985. *The Birds of Papua New Guinea*. Vol 1. Dove Publications.
 Coates, B.J. 1990. *The Birds of Papua New Guinea*. Vol 2. Dove Publications.
 Hicks, R.K. 1990. A Port Moresby Recording Area. *Muruk* 4: 89.
 Hicks, R.K. in prep. Arrival and Departure Dates in the Port Moresby area of migrants from the south.
 Mackay, R.D. 1970. *The Birds of Port Moresby District*. Nelson. Melbourne.
 Rand, A.L. & E.T. Gilliard. 1967. *The Handbook of New Guinea Birds*. Weidenfeld & Nicolson.
 Simpson & Day. 1988. *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia*. Christopher Helm.

Appendix 1. Migrant species from the northern hemisphere that have been recorded in Irian Jaya, but not in the Port Moresby area.

Chinese Goshawk	<i>Accipiter soloensis</i>
Grey-faced Buzzard	<i>Butastur indicus</i>
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Jungle Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus indicus</i>
Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>

Appendix 2. Migrant species from the northern hemisphere that have been recorded in Papua New Guinea, but not in the Port Moresby area.

Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>
Long-tailed Skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>
Sand Martin	<i>Ripariariparia</i>
Siberian Rubythroat	<i>Erithacus calliope</i>
Grey-streaked Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa griseisticta</i>
Arctic Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>

Appendix 3. Migrant species from the northern hemisphere that have been recorded in Australia (Simpson & Day 1988), but not in the Port Moresby area.

Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Caspian Plover	<i>Charadrius veredus</i>
European Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Upland Sandpiper	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>
Spotted Greenshank	<i>Tringa guttifer</i>
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>
Hudsonian Godwit	<i>Limosa haemastica</i>
Cox's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pararetanotus</i>
White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Micropalma himantopus</i>
Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>
Black-tailed Gull	<i>Larus crassirostris</i>
Franklin's Gull	<i>Larus pipixcan</i>
Laughing Gull	<i>Larus atricilla</i>
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>
White-Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
Black-backed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla lugens</i>

PROBABLE AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *PLUVIALIS*
DOMINICA AT MOITAKA SETTLING PONDS

BRIAN W. FINCH¹ & PETER G. KAESTNER²

On 9 November, 1984, in company with John Silcock, we observed a Golden Plover that was so different from the other Pacific Golden Plovers present *Pluvialis fulva*, that we considered it as a possible American Golden Plover *P. dominica*, which breeds mainly in the Nearctic with an overlap in Eastern Siberia with *P. fulva*. Unfortunately we did not have immediate access to the excellent paper on field separation of the two species (Pym 1982) although we were aware of it.

As *P. fulva* and *P. dominica* are now considered as separate species, since they have been found breeding in the same area, this record is well worth reporting.

FIELD DESCRIPTION

Our immediate impression was that the bird looked like a Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* apart from the slighter bill, longer neck, dark ear-coverts, prominent supercilium and overall smaller size. It was the pallid appearance that first drew our attention. The crown was dark with light, grey-white tips; the supercilium was broad, prominent, and whitish and contrasted with the dark crown, small dark area in front of the eye, and dark patch on the ear-coverts; the breast and underparts were wholly grey-white with grey mottlings on the sides of the breast; the back and wings were grey with small whitish tips, very faded in overall appearance; and the back of the neck was dull grey. This bird was with several *P. fulva*, and was fractionally larger and possibly bulkier. One observer believed that the bird appeared to have a higher forehead, which was shown in the photos of Pym's article, but not mentioned in the text.

The whole bird showed no trace of buffy or golden spangling in the plumage whatsoever, whereas all of the *P. fulva* showed rich buff and golden spangling and mottled necks and breasts.

COMPARISON WITH OTHER PLOVERS PRESENT

	<i>P. fulva</i>	probable <i>P. dominica</i>
Crown	Dark with buffy tips	Dark with greyish white tips
Forehead	Pale, greyish white but noticeable	Extensive, whitish and obvious when view from front on
Supercilium	Conspicuous, buffy-white	Conspicuous, broader and whitish
Contrast of Supercilium with crown	Distinct but not contrasting	Very distinct and heavy contrast
Ear Coverts	Small dark patch not conspicuous against yellowish buff face	More extensive ear patch, conspicuous against whitish face
Back of Neck	Golden spangling	Grey, completely lacking gold
Underparts	Breast with buffy-gold mottling	Whole underparts quite unmarked greyish white with grey mottling at sides of breast
Back and Upperparts	Dark grey to blackish with rich golden and buff tips and edges. Overall impression buffy-yellow	Dull grey with greyish-white tips and edges, less extensive and smaller. Overall impression greyish-white
Size and shape	All present appeared identical in shape and size	Slightly larger, plumper. Forehead higher, not sloped as much as <i>P. fulva</i>
Call	Typically variable	Not in any way different from <i>P. fulva</i> present.

CONCLUSION

We found that the differences noted between our bird and the *P. fulva* with which it was loosely associated, was virtually the same as the difference between *P. dominica* and *P. fulva* published elsewhere (Pym 1982).

There is little doubt that this bird, which was not seen again was referable to *P. dominica*, a bird that has not been identified in the New Guinea region before. To the best of our knowledge, it has not been recorded in Australia, but has turned up in New Zealand. Unfortunately, a collector's gun remains between this probable sight record and the certainty of a museum specimen.

Now that the Lesser Golden Plover has been split into Pacific (or Eastern) Golden Plover *P. fulva* and American Golden Plover *P. dominica*, observers should be more aware of the identification criteria for separating the two species. More records will certainly come to light.

Pym, A. 1982. Identification of Lesser Golden Plover and status in Britain and Ireland.
Br. Birds 75: 112-24.

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²

THREE LESSER GOLDEN PLOVERS SPEND WINTER NEAR PORT MORESBY

L.P. TOLHURST

Twice each year many waders pass through the Port Moresby region on their annual migrations north and south, between Australia and Siberia or North Eastern Asia. Among the species seen here in large numbers is the Lesser Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*.

On 3 April 1989, about the time birds normally begin their northward migration, three Lesser Golden Plovers were first noticed on the campus of the Pacific Adventist College. These birds were seen almost daily through to early September, when conspecifics were returning to Australia for the southern summer. Among those who saw these birds were staff members of Pacific Adventist College, and several members of the PNGBS. The birds were photographed.

At the time the birds were noticed, it was evident that one was coming into breeding plumage. This bird seemed to have a slight wing injury. The first and, possibly, the second primaries on the left wing drooped noticeably, but this did not prevent the bird from flying when an observer approached too closely. The bird might have known instinctively that the wing was not strong enough to make the trip to the northern breeding grounds. By September, there was no evidence of any drooping of that wing, and the bird appeared to be perfectly normal. As the weeks passed this bird came into full breeding plumage, but by early September was losing its breeding plumage and by early October could not be identified among the many others that were passing through.

The other two birds did not change into breeding plumage, and I therefore concluded that they were juveniles. It may be that the adult bird was a parent of the other two which might explain why they stayed in PNG together instead of going north with the other Lesser Golden Plovers in April.

Address: c/o Pacific Adventist College, Private Mail Bag, Boroko.

STRAW-NECKED IBIS *THRESKIORNIS SPINICOLLIS* AT KANOSIA LAGOON, CENTRAL PROVINCE.

NIKLAS WAHLBERG

On 11 February 1989, Will Glynn, Richard Gregory-Smith, Keith Harris, and I were visiting Kanosia Lagoon. Upon arriving we found to our delight that after a 2-year dry spell the lagoon was once again full. An abundance of bird life meant there had been water in the basin for a while, and indeed a Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa* had a brood of six young ducklings. While watching some Barn Swallows *Hirundo rustica* through a telescope, I noticed a large black and white bird feeding in the background. When it raised its head I recognised it as a Straw-necked Ibis. RGS, having had previous experience with the species, confirmed my identification. This bird was an adult, and the straw-like plumes were clearly discernible. It remained in the area while we were there (about 1-hour) and was also seen a week later. This is only the third record of this species in the Port Moresby area. The first was at Kairuku (Slater 1958) and the second at Jackson's airport in 1964 (Mackay 1970). Hence this record is also the first for 25 years.

Mackay, R.D. 1970. *The Birds of Port Moresby and District*. Nelson.
Slater, K.R. 1958. Ibis and Little Whimbrel in New Guinea. *Emu* 58: 256.

Address: Jaaskentie 7B, 02140 Espoo 14, Finland

WELCOME SWALLOW *HIRUNDO NEOXANA* AT MOITAKA SETTLING PONDS

ROGER K. HICKS¹ AND RICHARD GREGORY-SMITH²

A single Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxana* was seen at Moitaka settling ponds (National Capital District) at 07:15 on 30 March 1988. The most notable feature was its elongated outer tail feathers, which made it appear more slender than the Pacific Swallows *H. tahitica* available for comparison. Its plumage was very similar to the Pacific Swallows': dark blue-black above, greyish below with a rich rufous throat and upper breast. The long tail-streamers and rich colour of the throat indicated this bird was an adult, as immatures have short tails and duller plumage (Pizzey 1980). A swallow with tail-streamers, that had been glimpsed but not identified, at the settling ponds on 24 March 1988, is now assumed to have been this Welcome Swallow. The other two possible options are Barn Swallow *H. rustica* and Red-rumped Swallow *H. daurica*, both northern winter visitors to PNG (Beehler *et al.* 1986). It was not considered to be either of these species because it lacked the dark breast band and white underparts of Barn Swallow, and did not have the pale or rufous rump and collar of Red-rumped Swallow. We are familiar with all three species.

The Welcome Swallow is endemic to Australia, although some authorities consider it conspecific with the Pacific Swallow (Howard & Moore 1984). It is a partial migrant; some southern breeders desert their nesting areas in the austral winter and move north. It has colonised New Zealand (Pizzey 1980). The first record in PNG was of a single bird associating with Barn Swallows and Tree Martins *H. nigricans* at Aroa Lagoon, Central Province, in November 1980 (Finch 1980). The second record was of two birds, an adult and an immature at Hisiu Lagoon, Central Province, in October 1984 (Finch 1984). Hence, this is only the third record for PNG and the entire New Guinea region.

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

Finch, B.W. 1980. Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxana* at Aroa Lagoon, Central Province. A new species for the New Guinea region. PNGBS Newsletter 173-74: 4-5.

Finch, B.W. 1984. Welcome Swallows *Hirundo neoxana* at Hisiu Lagoon. Second record for the New Guinea Region. PNGBS Newsletter 212: 4-5.

Howard, R. & A. Moore. 1984. *A Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World*. Papermac.

Pizzey, G. 1980. *A Field Guide to the Birds of Australia*. Collins.

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²13 Astelia Place, Rivett, Canberra, ACT 2611, Australia.

BARRED OWLET-NIGHTJAR *AEGOTHELES CRISTATUS* AT THE KING BIRD TREE

NIKLAS WAHLBERG

On 1 October 1988, Chris Eastwood and I were visiting the King Bird Tree area, situated 6 km north-west of the Brown River Bridge, on the Hiritano Highway.

We had gone c. 200 m into the forest when I flushed an owlet-nightjar that had apparently been roosting in a hollow tree trunk. It flew to a bare branch c. 10 m above the forest floor where it stayed for about half an hour. During this time the bird was carefully studied from various angles and these notes were taken: mouse brown above with distinct whitish collar; grey breast and belly, with fine black barring, which got thicker towards the throat; barring on tail; size, c. 20 cm.

After consulting Beehler *et al.* (1986), Barred Owlet-nightjar best fitted the description. Owlet-nightjars are extremely hard to see in Papua New Guinea.

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

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INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS OF BIRDS AT VARIRATA NATIONAL PARK, JUNE-JULY 1989

BRUCE M. BEEHLER¹ & JOHN P. DUMBACHER²

We spent two months at Varirata National Park in order to begin a study of the Raggiana Bird of Paradise. During this period, we recorded 120 species, and made observations of several species rarely or not previously known in the park. These are reported in the following annotated list. We follow the nomenclature of Beehler & Finch (1985).

Australasian Grebe

Tachybaptus novaehollandiae

A pair attempted to nest on the lowest pond in June. This nest was destroyed and the birds constructed a new nest in mid-July.

Little Pied Cormorant

Phalacrocorax melanoleucos

Observed in early June flying over the open picnic area.

- Doria's Hawk *Megatriorchis doriae*
Observed by JPD at a Raggiana Bird of Paradise Lek on 20 June. This bird entered the lek tree and perched there for a few minutes, which gave JPD the opportunity to make extensive field notes on the individual, an adult in typical plumage. The Raggianas evacuated the tree well before the hawk appeared in the lek.
- New Guinea Harpy-Eagle *Harpyopsis novaeguineae*
Michael Lucas and Rodney Goga, field technicians from Biagge working with our team, claimed to have heard this species in the area south of the loop trail.
- Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*
15 June, 2 light-morphs, soaring off Gare's Lookout.
- White-bibbed Ground-Dove *Gallicolumba jobiensis*
One, in immature plumage, was observed by BMB in the forest interior after it flushed from the ground to a low perch.
- Malay Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*
The distinctive song of this species was heard on several days in the forest interior.
- Dwarf Koel *Microdynamis parva*
Several calls of this species were heard by BMB on a number of occasions. JPD observed a single male. The male is easily lured in by an imitation of its whistled call.
- Marbled Frogmouth *Podargus ocellatus*
9 July, BMB heard this species calling in the forest.
- Owlet-Nightjar sp. *Aegotheles* sp.
We observed this bird with the aid of torchlight. The bird perched in a *Casuarina* right by our camp in the open part of the park. BMB's tentative identification was Australian Owlet-Nightjar based on the pale plumage. A harsh call, typical of an owlet-nightjar, was heard from the *Casuarina* grove on several occasions.
- Scaly Thrush *Zoothera dauma*
One, in adult plumage, was mist-netted in the forest interior.
- Streak-headed Honeyeater *Pycnopygius stictocephalus*
An oft-recorded species at the forest-edge. Heard more often than seen.
- Parrot-Finch *Erythrura* sp.
BMB heard the *t-t-t* flight call of a parrot-finch on several occasions.
- Mountain Peltops *Peltops montanus*
There has been some disagreement about which peltops species inhabit the park. On two differing days, at two different sites, BMB heard the distinctive, descending series of tittering notes that is given only by *P. montanus*.
- Crinkle-collared Manucode *Manucodia chalybata*
We observed and heard only this species of manucode in the park. It kept primarily to the forest interior, although we also saw individuals visiting fig trees at forest edge. We recorded neither Trumpet nor Glossy-mantled Manucodes.
- Raggiana Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea raggiana*
We found a female sitting on a nest in a small fig tree near the Information Centre in late July. No egg had been laid when we checked the nest.

Beehler, B. & B. Finch. 1985. *Species-Checklist of the birds of New Guinea*. RAOU Monogr. #1.

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WHEN VARIRATA IS GOOD IT IS VERY GOOD

CHRISTOPHER EASTWOOD

One Sunday in May I had arranged to go to Brown River to do some birding but, because I overslept, ended up in Varirata National Park. I was there by the relatively late hour of 07.45 and really did not expect to see much.

My route took me from Varirata Lookout to Gares Lookout, back down to the picnic site and the start of the Circuit Track and then back along the stream to Varirata Lookout. This is a longish walk at the best of times.

Starting out at Varirata Lookout, I first saw several Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrikes in the casuarinas and a Pheasant Coucal in the scrub below them. I walked on for about half an hour and eventually reached the first thick patch of bamboo. There seemed to be a fair bit of activity, so I sat down and waited. Shortly thereafter, I heard scratchings on the forest floor and a pair of Chestnut-backed Jewel-Babblers emerged in full view, foraging along the edge of the path and quite oblivious of me. I was then distracted by a burst of activity to my right, and a Black Butcherbird flushed from the floor to perch in the bamboo. The jewel-babblers had now moved on but, almost immediately, I heard more calls behind me, and turning I saw a male Painted Quail-Thrush cross the path a few metres away and forage nearby. It called continually and was soon joined by a female. As the female neared the male, the male circled the female two or three times, making the occasional small jump and calling at the same time. Both birds then settled down and continued foraging.

I had to flush the quail-thrush as I could hear a cuckoo calling nearby and wanted to investigate. I could not see the bird, but did hear some rustling down by the path; I froze, and a Pheasant Pigeon stepped onto the path. It appeared to see me, for it turned and started walking quickly down the path. However, after a few steps, it stopped and foraged by the path for at least 5 minutes before disappearing back into the bush.

It was time for me to move. Some distance away I came across a third quail-thrush, a male, but I was more interested in some activity nearby that turned out to be a party of Hooded Pitohuis. While trying to get some good views of them, I heard rustling to my left and saw a Cinnamon Ground-Dove walking quickly over the ground. Unfortunately, it saw me and had vanished by the time I lifted my binoculars.

Shortly before I reached Gares Lookout, I saw a large, noisy, active flock of at least 12 Grey Crows flying around and sometimes perching in the trees. They had with them several juveniles, which were almost as large as the adults but looked quite black.

From Gares Lookout, I headed back towards the picnic site. At one of the patches of rain forest, I heard more calling and picked up two Northern Scrub-Robins by the path and could hear a third bird calling inside the forest. While watching the scrub-robins, I heard yet more movement and realised I was looking at a juvenile Dwarf Cassowary half hidden behind a small bush. It stayed there for several minutes before emerging and looking me in the eye somewhat balefully. Again, I moved on.

At the picnic site, I joined the path that would take me along the stream back to Varirata Lookout. It was well past midday and there was by now virtually no activity at all. Surprisingly though, after 20 minutes or so I came across my first bird party of the day which contained the usual Spot-winged and Frilled Monarchs, Grey Whistlers and Yellow-bellied Gerygones amongst others. Once the bird party had passed by, all activity ceased.

As I drove out of Varirata I was joined for a few minutes by a Long-tailed Buzzard which was flying along the road. That was the end of an excellent day.

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SCALY THRUSH *ZOOTHERA DAUMA* AT VARIRATA NATIONAL PARK

RICHARD GREGORY-SMITH

On 21 May 1989, in Varirata National Park, Central in Varirata National Park, Central Province, I flushed a medium-sized brown bird from the path through deep rain forest on the circular trail between the Raggiana Bird of Paradise display tree and the entrance road.

I thought at first it might be a Quail-Thrush, but it froze some 20 m away and I was able to identify it as a Scaly Thrush *Zoothera dauma*. The bird was heavily spotted all over, dark brown on off-white, and the spots (scales) were more dense on the back than on and below the face. The legs were pale and pinkish, as was the bill.

I was using Minolta 8 x 40 binoculars. There are no previous records of this species in Varirata National Park and no records of migration to and from Australia. It seems it may be a scarce nomadic species in Papua New Guinea.

I had previously seen this species in Australia and Nepal.

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RECENT OBSERVATIONS APRIL - JUNE 1989

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: Colin Bacon (CB); Robin Benson (RB); Ian Burrows (IB); Bill Cooper (BC); Chris Eastwood (CE); Richard Gregory-Smith (RGS); Roger Hicks (RH); Andrew Lyburn (AL); Geoff Smith (GS); Len Tolhurst (LT); Niklas Wahlberg (NW).

Abbreviations: ad = adult; Cen = Central Province; EHP = Eastern Highlands Province; I = Island; imm = immature; juv = juvenile; L = Lake; Mor = Morobe Province; NP = National Park; NSP = North Solomons Province; Oro = Northern Province; PAC = Pacific Adventist College; R = River; rd = Road; SHP = Southern Highlands Province; SP = settling ponds; UPNG = University of PNG campus; y = young.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Dwarf Cassowary | <i>Casuarius bennetti</i> |
| 9 Apr, 1, Varirata NP (RGS); 24 Apr, 1 ad, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (IB); 29 Apr, 1 half-grown individual, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (IB); 14 May, 1 juv, Varirata NP (CE). | |
| Short-tailed Shearwater | <i>Puffinus tenuirostris</i> |
| 20 May, 1 pursued by an imm White-bellied Sea-Eagle off Idler's Bay (IB). | |
| Australasian Grebe | <i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae</i> |
| 6 May, pair nesting on pond in Varirata NP (RGS). | |
| Great Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> |
| 1 Apr, 5 May & 26 May, 1, Moitaka SP (IB, RGS & RH). | |
| Little Pied Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos</i> |
| 26 May, 25, Moitaka SP (RGS). | |
| Eastern Reef-Egret | <i>Egretta sacra</i> |
| 14 May, 3 white phase, Gaba Gaba (RGS). | |
| Black Bittern | <i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i> |
| 13 Apr, 1 imm, Moitaka SP (IB); 5 May, 1 juv, Moitaka SP (RGS). | |
| Osprey | <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> |
| 7 Apr, 1, Moitaka SP (IB); 5 May, 1, Moitaka SP (RGS); 28 Jun, 1, Moitaka SP (RH). | |
| Long-tailed Buzzard | <i>Henicopernis longicauda</i> |
| 4 May, 1, Baim-Huon, Mor (RGS); 21 Jun, Varirata NP (CE). | |
| Bat Hawk | <i>Macheiramphus alcinus</i> |
| 5 May, 1, Buhem R, Mor (RGS); 14 May, King Bird Tree (IB). | |
| Black Kite | <i>Milvus migrans</i> |
| 9 May, 100, Lae, Mor (RGS). | |
| White-bellied Sea-Eagle | <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i> |
| 20 May, 1 imm, in pursuit of a Short-tailed Shearwater, Idler's Bay (IB); 26 May, 1, Local I (RGS); 10 Jun, 1 imm, Elavala R, Wes (RH <i>et al.</i>). | |
| Spotted Marsh Harrier | <i>Circus spilonotus</i> |
| 5 May, 1, Lae, Mor (RGS). | |
| Swamp Harrier | <i>Circus approximans</i> |
| 19 May, 1, Moitaka SP (RGS). | |

Brown Goshawk	<i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>
19 May, 1, Moitaka SP (RGS); 21 May, 1, Varirata NP (RGS); 18 Jun, 1, Motupore I (IB).	
Grey Goshawk	<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>
5 May, 1, which we believe to be a black phase of this species, Moitaka SP (RGS & RH).	
Grey-headed Goshawk	<i>Accipiter poliocephalus</i>
4 Apr, 1, Baim-Huon, Mor (RGS).	
Little Eagle	<i>Hieraetus morphnoides</i>
21 May, 1, Varirata NP (RGS); 4 Jun, 2 (1 light & 1 dark phase), Koiari rd (NW).	
Oriental Hobby	<i>Falco severus</i>
25 May, 1, Varirata Lookout, Varirata NP (IB); 4 Jun, 1, Koiari rd (NW).	
Australian Hobby	<i>Falco longipennis</i>
26 May, 1, Gordons, Port Moresby (RGS); 27 Jun, 1, UPNG (IB); 28 Jun, 1, Moitaka SP (RH).	
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Observed several times during May, on the Unitech campus and nr Lae airport, Mor (GS).	
White-headed Shelduck	<i>Tadorna radjah</i>
9 Apr, 1, Lower Vanapa (CE).	
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
1, Apr, 1, Moitaka SP (IB); 19 May, 1, Moitaka SP (RGS).	
Australian White-eyed Duck	<i>Aythya australis</i>
7 Apr, 1, Moitaka SP (IB).	
Common Scrubfowl	<i>Megapodius freycinet</i>
1, King Bird Tree (CE).	
Black-billed Brush-Turkey	<i>Talegalla fuscirostris</i>
21 Jun, 1, Varirata NP (CE).	
Lewin's Rail	<i>Rallus pectoralis</i>
19 Jun, 1, Myola, Oro (CE).	
Forbes' Forest-Rail	<i>Rallinaforbesi</i>
26 Jun, 1, Banari rd, Tari, SHP (GB, CE).	
Red-necked Rail	<i>Rallinatricolor</i>
8 Jun, 1, scarp trail, Varirata NP (IB).	
Spotless Crake	<i>Porzana tabuensis</i>
18 & 19 Jun, 2, Myola, Oro (CE).	
Dusky Moorhen	<i>Gallinula tenebrosa</i>
13 May, 1 ad and 2 y, Oxbow (RGS).	
Beach Stone-Curlew	<i>Esacus magnirostris</i>
14 May, 1, Gaba Gaba (RGS).	
Lesser Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>
6 Apr, 34 in bp, Nadzab, Mor (RGS); 13 Apr, 4, UPNG playing fields (IB); 10 May, 4, Nadzab, Mor (IB).	
Large Sand-Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>
8 Apr, 1, Fishermans I (RGS).	
Common Sandpiper	<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>
1 Apr, 4; 7 Apr, 8; 13 Apr, 6; 29 Apr, 2; all obs, Moitaka SP (IB).	
Latham's Snipe	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>
1 & 8 Apr, 1, Moitaka SP (IB).	
Swinhoe's Snipe	<i>Gallinago megala</i>
1 Apr, 1, Moitaka SP (IB).	
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
1 Apr, 10, Moitaka SP; 13 Apr, 2, Moitaka SP (both IB).	
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
14 May, 2 (juv ?), Gaba Gaba (RGS).	

Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>
29 Apr, 2, Moitaka SP (IB).	
White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
13 Apr, 1, Moitaka SP (IB).	
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
5 May, 1, Moitaka SP (RGS).	
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
17 Jun, 92 & 19 Jun, 23 on sand-bar at Motupore I. One bird in breeding plumage - red legs, red bill with <u>no</u> black tip (IB).	
Black-naped Tern	<i>Sterna sumatrana</i>
8 Apr, 10+, Loloata, (CE).	
Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>
17 Jun, 5, Motupore I (IB).	
White-throated Pigeon	<i>Columba vitiensis</i>
24 Jun, 1, Tari, SHP (CE & GB).	
Great Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Reinwardtoena reinwardtii</i>
14 May, 1 flying over Unitech campus, Lae, Mor - in an open area between the sports ovals and a residential area. It has been recorded on the campus before, but is quite unusual (GS); 25 May, 1 imm, Gare's Lookout, Varirata NP (IB); 11 Jun, 3, on road (picking up grit?) halfway between Kiunga & Tabubil, Wes (RH <i>et al.</i>).	
Emerald Ground-Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
2 Jun, Varirata NP (NW).	
Cinnamon Ground-Dove	<i>Gallicolumba rufigula</i>
14 May, 1, Varirata NP (CE).	
White-bibbed Ground-Dove	<i>Gallicolumba jobiensis</i>
17 Jun, 1, Myola, Oro (CE).	
Pheasant Pigeon	<i>Otidiphaps nobilis</i>
14 May, 1, Varirata NP (CE).	
Southern Crowned Pigeon	<i>Goura sheepmakeri</i>
10 Jun, 1, perched in tree over-hanging the river, a favoured roost site apparently, and a further 3 seen later, Elavala R, Wes (RH <i>et al.</i>).	
Superb Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus superbus</i>
21 Jun, 3, Varirata NP (CE).	
Dwarf Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus nanus</i>
16 Jun, 6+, King Bird Tree (CE).	
Pinon Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula pinon</i>
16 Jun, 1, King Bird Tree (CE).	
Collared Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula muellerii</i>
10 Jun, 1, flying across Elavala R, Wes - we had expected them to be much commoner (RH <i>et al.</i>).	
Pied Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula bicolor</i>
9 Apr, 100+, Lower Vanapa (CE).	
Papuan Mountain Pigeon	<i>Gymnophaps albertisii</i>
8 May, 15 Baim-Huon, Mor (RGS).	
Red-flanked Lorikeet	<i>Charmosyna placensis</i>
23 Apr, many small flocks of 6 - 30 birds nr the Sankwep R, Mor, usually only 1 or 2 seen (GS).	
Plum-faced Lorikeet	<i>Oreopsittacus arfaki</i>
24 Jun, 6+ drinking from a small stream, Tari, SHP (CE).	
Palm Cockatoo	<i>Probosciger aterrimus</i>
9 Jun, 2, logging tracks nr Kiunga, Wes (RH <i>et al.</i>); 10 Jun, 2, flying over Elavala R, Wes (RH <i>et al.</i>); 11 Jun, 1, perched in the top of a tree in pouring rain, logging tracks N of Kiunga, Wes (RH <i>et al.</i>); 12 Jun, 1, nr Tabubil, Wes (RH <i>et al.</i>); 21 Jun, 2, Gares Look Out, Varirata NP (CE); 30 Jun, 1, Komaio village, Gul (IB).	

- Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*
5 Apr, 26, Buhem R, Mor (RGS); 4 Jun, 3+, Goldie R (CE).
- Buff-faced Pygmy-Parrot *Micropsitta pusio*
21 May, 1, Varirata NP (RGS).
- Yellow-capped Pygmy-Parrot *Micropsitta keiensis*
11 Jun, c. 10, roadside forest N of Kiunga, Wes (RH *et al.*).
- Brehm's Tiger-Parrot *Psittacella brehmii*
25 Jun, 1, Tari, SHP (CE).
- Vulturine Parrot *Psittichas fulgidus*
10 Jun, 1, flying across Elavala R, Wes (RH); 13 Jun, 2, nr, Tabubil, Wes (RH *et al.*).
- Papuan King-Parrot *Alisterus chloropterus*
4 Jun, Koiari rd (NW); 26 Jun, 4+, Banari rd, Tari, SHP (CE).
- Dwarf Koel *Microdynamis parva*
14 May, pair, King Bird Tree (IB).
- White-crowned Koel *Caliechthrus leucolophus*
21 Jun, heard, Varirata NP (CE).
- Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*
1 Apr, 1, King Bird Tree (NW); 7 Apr, 3, Waigani (RGS); 26 May, 1, Moitaka SP (RGS); 11 Jun, 2, flying over Kiunga, Wes (RH *et al.*); 14 Jun, 1, logging tracks N of Kiunga, Wes (RH *et al.*).
- Greater Black Coucal *Centropus menbeki*
2 Apr, a pair crashing around clumsily in roadside undergrowth, Gawam rd, Mor (GS).
- Lesser Black Coucal *Centropus bernsteini*
30 Jun, 1, Kikori, Gul, is the most easterly record to date (IB).
- Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*
16 Jun, 1, King Bird Tree (GB).
- Rufous Owl *Ninox rufa*
29 Apr, 1, nr Varirata Lookout, Varirata NP, was mobbed by 4 Hooded Butcherbirds, 3 Black Butcherbirds, 2 Helmeted Friarbirds, 2 male Raggiana BoPs, and a Brown Oriole (IB).
- Papuan Boobook *Ninox theomacha*
12 Jun, heard, Cloudlands Hotel, Tabubil, Wes (RH *et al.*); 23 & 24 Jun, heard, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (CE).
- Mountain Owlet-Nightjar *Aegotheles albertisi*
4 May, 1, perched in tree overhanging driveway at 21:00, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (AL).
- Papuan Nightjar *Eurostopodus papuensis*
11 Jun, 1, hawking over woods nr Cloudlands Hotel, Tabubil, Wes (RH *et al.*).
- Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*
23 Apr, 1 & 29 Apr, 5, on approach road to Varirata NP (IB).
- Papuan Spine-tailed Swift *Mearnsia novaeguineae*
1 Apr, 2, King Bird Tree (IB).
- Moustached Tree-Swift *Hemiprocne mystacea*
5 May, 1, Buhem R, Mor (RGS).
- Common Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera galatea*
9 Apr, 1, 14 May, 1 & 11 Jun, 2 trapped, King Bird Tree (IB).
- Australian Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera sylvia*
4 Jun, 2, Goldie R (CE).
- Brown-headed Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera danae*
21 Jun, 3 imm, seen separately, not as a party, Varirata NP (CE).
- Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sancta*
8 Jun, 1, perched on phone lines during heavy downpour and "washing" itself, Kiunga, Wes (RH *et al.*).

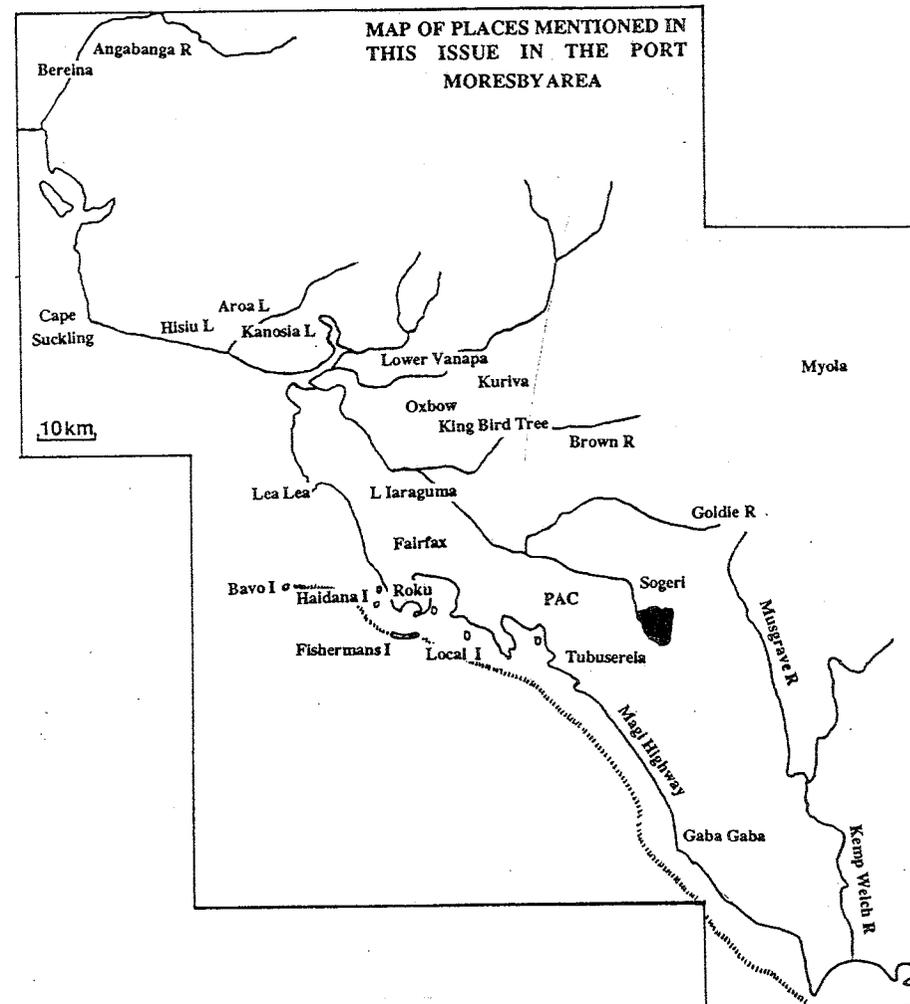
- Azure Kingfisher *Alcedo azurea*
23 Apr, 1, on the small creek past Gwabadik, before the Musom settlement, Mor. Diving from perch to river and back (GS).
- Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*
2 Apr, a small flock on the Gawam rd, Mor, was the first of the season (GS).
- Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*
5 May, 1, Buhem R, Mor (RGS); 14 May, 1, Kankas (RGS).
- Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus*
10 Jun, 5 females & 2 males, flying over Elavala R, Wes (RH *et al.*); 12 Jun, 2, nr Tabubil, Wes (RH *et al.*); 30 Jun, 1, Komaio village, Gul (IB).
- Blue-breasted Pitta *Pitta erythrogaster*
7 May, 1, Varirata NP (RGS).
- Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida*
11 Jun, 1 trapped, King Bird Tree (IB).
- Boyer's Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina boyeri*
10 May, 2, Kwapsanek, Mor (RGS); 13 May, 2, King Bird Tree (RGS).
- Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*
8 Jun, 1 male, Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP (IB); 19 Jun, 1, female trapped, Motupore I (IB).
- Grey-headed Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina schisticeps*
8 Jun, 1 female, logging tracks nr Kiunga, Wes (RH *et al.*); 12 Jun, c. 6, Cloudlands Hotel, Tabubil, Wes (RH *et al.*).
- Black Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina melaena*
5 May, 1 Varirata NP (RGS).
- Golden Cuckoo-Shrike *Campochaera sloetii*
10 Jun, 2, logging tracks N of Kiunga, Wes (RH *et al.*); 12 Jun, 4, nr Tabubil, Wes (RH *et al.*); 30 Jun, 4, Komaio village, Gul (IB).
- Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*
21 May, 1, Varirata NP (RGS).
- Scaly Thrush *Zoothera dauma*
21 May, 1, Varirata NP (RGS).
- Painted Quail-Thrush *Cinclosoma ajax*
14 May, a pair and a single, Varirata NP (CE); 25 May, 1 pair, between Varirata Lookout & Gare's Lookout, Varirata NP (IB); 8 Jun, 1 male, by "steps" on Gare's Lookout trail (IB); 21 Jun, 1, Varirata NP (CE).
- Spotted Jewel-Babbler *Ptilorrhoa leucosticta*
19 Jun, 1, Myola, Oro (CE). A call frequently heard on the Gawam rd, Mor, is identical to the call described as this species on John Austing's tape. However, these records (so far heard only) well below 1000 m, would be unusually low for this species.
- Blue Jewel-Babbler *Ptilorrhoa caerulescens*
13 May, 2, King Bird Tree (RGS); 16 Jun, 2, King Bird Tree (CE).
- Chestnut-backed Jewel-babbler *Ptilorrhoa castanonotus*
14 May, 2, Varirata NP (CE); 21 May, 2, Varirata NP (RGS); 22 Jun, 1, Varirata NP (CE).
- Island Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus trivirgatus*
23 Apr, 2, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (IB).
- Emperor Fairy-Wren *Malurus cyanocephalus*
13 May, 3, Brown R (RGS); 14 May, 1 male trapped, King Bird Tree (IB).
- White-shouldered Fairy-Wren *Malurus alboscapulatus*
15 Apr, 4, Goroka, EHP (IB).
- Rusty Mouse-Warbler *Crateroscelis murina*
9 Apr, 3, Varirata NP (RGS); 25 May, a nest with two eggs found on the Gare's Lookout trail when a bird was disturbed from sitting. Nest was a small cup, on the ground under a very small shrub. (IB & RH); 8 Jun, eggs hatching, nest empty four days later (IB).

- Bicolored Mouse-Warbler *Crateroscelis nigrorufa*
21 May, 2, Varirata NP (RGS).
- Pale-billed Scrub-Wren *Sericornis spilodera*
2 Jun, small feeding flock, Varirata NP (NW).
- Papuan Scrub-Wren *Sericornis papuensis*
16 Apr, 4, Mt Gahavisuka, EHP (IB).
- Grey-green Scrub-Wren *Sericornis arfakianus*
8 Jun, 2, in a feeding party of small insectivores, Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP (IB).
- Brown-breasted Gerygone *Gerygone ruficollis*
15 Apr, 2, Goroka, EHP (IB).
- White-throated Gerygone *Gerygone olivacea*
29 Apr, 1 heard, nr entrance to Varirata NP (IB).
- Black Thicket-Fantail *Rhipidura maculipectus*
14 May, 1, trapped, King Bird Tree (IB & RGS); 8 Jun, 1, Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP (IB);
11 Jun, 1, trapped, King Bird Tree (IB).
- White-bellied Thicket-Fantail *Rhipidura leucothorax*
9 Apr, Lower Vanapa (CE); 11 Jun, a nest at King Bird Tree contained two eggs (IB).
- Black Fantail *Rhipidura atra*
4 Apr, 1, Baim-Huon, Mor (RGS).
- Spot-winged Monarch *Monarcha guttula*
6 May, 4, Varirata NP (RGS); 10 May, 1, Kwapsanek, Mor (RGS); 21 May, 5, Varirata NP (RGS).
- Frisled Monarch *Arses telescopthalmus*
10 May, 3, Kwapsanek, Mor (RGS).
- Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*
9 Apr, 3, Varirata NP (RGS); 7 May, 1, Varirata NP (RGS).
- Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*
14 Jun, 1 female, inundated forest nr Kiunga airfield, Wes (RH).
- Torrent Flycatcher *Monachella muelleriana*
23 Apr, a pair on the Sankwep rd, Mor (GS); 10 May, 2, Kwapsanek, Mor (RGS); 11 Jun, pair,
on tributary of Ok Tedi, nr Tabubil, Wes (RH et al.).
- Jacky Winter *Microeca leucophaea*
5 & 19 May, 2, Moitaka SP (RGS).
- Canary Flycatcher *Microeca papuana*
4 Apr, 1, Baim-Huon, Mor (RGS).
- White-faced Robin *Tregellasia leucops*
21 May, 3, Varirata NP (RGS); 23 Apr, 8, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (IB).
- Garnet Robin *Eugeryone rubra*
18 Jun, 1 female, Myola, Oro (CE).
- Black-sided Robin *Poecilodryas hypoleuca*
1 Apr, 2, King Bird Tree (IB).
- Northern Scrub-Robin *Drymodes superciliaris*
7 May, 2, Varirata NP (CE); 14 May, 3 Varirata NP (CE); 16 Jun, 2, King Bird Tree (GB).
- Dwarf Whistler *Pachycare flavogrisea*
8 Jun, 1 male, Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata NP (IB).
- Mottled Whistler *Rhagologus leucostigma*
25 Jun, 1 male, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (CE).
- Grey Whistler *Pachycephala simplex*
26 May, 1 feeding in flowering *Acacia* tree, Moitaka SP (RGS & RH).
- Rufous-naped Whistler *Pachycephala rufinucha*
24 Jun, 1 imm, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (CE).

- Sooty Whistler *Pachycephala tenebrosa*
16 Apr, pair, Mt Gahavisuka, (IB).
- Hooded Pitohui *Pitohui dichrous*
6 & 21 May, 2, Varirata NP (RGS).
- Crested Pitohui *Pitohui cristatus*
29 Apr, 1, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (IB); 21 Jun, 1, Varirata NP (CE).
- Wattled Ploughbill *Eulacestoma nigropectus*
25 Jun, 2+, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (CE).
- Papuan Treecreeper *Climacteris placens*
17 Jun, 3+, Myola, Oro (CE).
- Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*
25 Jun, 10+, Banari rd, Tari, SHP (CE).
- Black Sittella *Daphoenositta miranda*
17 Jun, 10+, Myola, Oro (CE); 25 Jun, 6+, Tari, SHP (CE).
- Black Berrypecker *Melanocharis nigra*
13 May, 1, King Bird Tree (RGS); 21 May, 1, Varirata NP (RGS).
- Tit Berrypecker *Oreocharis arfaki*
26 Jun, 6+, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (CE).
- Black-fronted White-ye *Zosterops atrifrons*
9 Apr, 3, Varirata NP (RGS); 21 May, 6, Varirata NP (RGS).
- Olive Straightbill *Timeliopsis fulvigula*
18 Jun, 2, Myola, Oro (CE).
- Tawny Straightbill *Timeliopsis griseigula*
14 May, 1, King Bird Tree (IB).
- Long-billed Honeyeater *Melilestes megarhynchus*
8 May, 1, Baim-Huon, Mor (RGS); 10 May, 1, Kwapsanek, Mor (RGS).
- Pygmy Honeyeater *Oedistoma pygmaeum*
21 May, 2, Varirata NP (RGS).
- Red-throated Myzomela *Myzomela eques*
29 Apr, 2 Boundary trail, Varirata NP (IB); 4 Jun, 1, Goldie R (CE).
- Dusky Myzomela *Myzomela obscura*
22 Jun, 1, UPNG (IB).
- Mountain Red-headed Myzomela *Myzomela adolphinae*
21 May, 1, Varirata NP (RGS); 21 Jun, 2+, Varirata NP (CE).
- Mountain Meliphaga *Meliphaga orientalis*
23 Apr, 1 Boundary trail, Varirata NP (IB); 8 May, 2, Baim-Huon, Mor (RGS).
- Scrub White-eared Meliphaga *Meliphaga albonotata*
4 Jun, Koiari rd (NW); 8-10 Jun Kiunga, Wes (RH et al.); 30 Jun, 3, Kikori, Gul (IB).
- Puff-backed Meliphaga *Meliphaga aruensis*
10 May, 1, Kwapsanek, Mor (RGS).
- Mimic Meliphaga *Meliphaga analoga*
9 Apr, 1, Varirata NP (RGS).
- Graceful Meliphaga *Meliphaga gracilis*
21 May, 1, Varirata NP (RGS).
- Varied Honeyeater *Lichenostomus versicolor*
8 Apr, 2, Fishermans I (RGS). 10 May, 2, Nadzab airport, Mor (IB); Normally this species does
not get very far from the coast. However, recently a number have been seen further inland than
usual and at the moment it is quite common on the Unitech campus, Lae, Mor (GS)
- Spotted Honeyeater *Xanthotis polygramma*
7 May, 1, Varirata NP (CE); 4 Jun, Koiari rd (NW).

- Tawny-breasted Honeyeater *Xanthotis flaviventer*
13 May, 1, King Bird Tree (RGS).
- Sooty Melidectes *Melidectes fuscus*
24 Jun, 1, Tari, SHP (CE).
- Yellow-browed Melidectes *Melidectes rufocrissalis*
26 Jun, 1, Banari rd, Tari, SHP (CE).
- Rufous-banded Honeyeater *Conopophila albogularis*
10 May, 5, Nadzab airport, Mor (IB).
- Blue-faced Parrot-Finch *Erythrura trichroa*
7 May, feeding on ground nr perimeter fence, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (AL).
- Grand Mannikin *Lonchura grandis*
25 Jun, 1, feeding in tall seeding grass (with Grey-headed Mannikins *L. caniceps*), Kokoda Trail Hotel (AL).
- Golden Myna *Mino anais*
13 May, 1, Oxbow (RGS); 8 - 10 Jun, numerous in forest N of Kiunga, Wes (RH *et al.*).
- Mountain Drongo *Chaetorhynchus papuensis*
23 Apr, 3, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (IB); 21 May, 2, Varirata NP (RGS).
- Torrent-Lark *Grallina bruijni*
18 Jun, 3, Myola, Oro (CE).
- White-breasted Wood-Swallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*
8 Jun, 3, perched on phone lines in heavy downpour with wings half open apparently bathing, Kiunga, Wes (RH *et al.*).
- Great Wood-Swallow *Artamus maximus*
15 Apr, 1, Goroka, EHP (IB).
- Black Butcherbird *Cracticus quoyi*
14 May & 21 Jun, 1, Varirata NP (CE).
- Lowland Peltops *Peltops blainvillii*
4 Apr, 1, Baim-Huon, Mor (RGS).
- Archbold's Bowerbird *Archboldia papuensis*
24 Jun, 1 male & 25 Jun, 1 heard, Tari, SHP (CE).
- Flame Bowerbird *Sericulus aureus*
9 Jul, 1 male, logging tracks N of Kiunga, Wes (RH); 14 Jun, 2 males, logging tracks N of Kiunga, Wes (RH).
- Loria's Bird of Paradise *Cnemophilus loriae*
17 Jun, pair trapped, Myola, Oro (RH).
- Magnificent Riflebird *Ptiloris magnificus*
7 May, 1, Varirata NP (RGS); 8 May, 1, Baim-Huon, Mor (RGS); 10 May, 1, Kwapsanek, Mor (RGS).
- Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise *Seleucidis melanoleuca*
11 Jun, 1 female, trapped, King Bird Tree (IB).
- Black Sicklebill *Epimachus fastuosus*
26 Jun, 1 male, Banari rd, Tari, SHP (CE).
- Stephanie's Astrapia *Astrapia stephaniae*
16 Apr, 2 males, Mt Gahavisuka, EHP (IB).
- King of Saxony Bird of Paradise *Pteridophora alberti*
16 Apr, 2 males, Mt Gahavisuka, EHP (IB).
- Raggiana Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea raggiana*
2 Apr, on Gawam rd, nr the new bridge, there were several plumed males calling and flying round. At one display tree we were treated to a spectacular display with a flame-like light shining through the extended plumes of the males (GS); 2 Jun, 4 displaying males & 6 female plumaged birds, Varirata NP (NW).

- Greater Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea apoda*
8 - 10 common in forest nr Kiunga, Wes (RH *et al.*).
- Emperor Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea guilielmi*
4 Apr, 21, Baim-Huon, Mor (RGS); 9 May, 7, Baim-Huon, Mor (RGS).
- Blue Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea rudolphi*
26 Jun, 1 male, Banari rd, Tari, SHP (CE).
- Grey Crow *Corvus tristis*
9 Apr, 3, Varirata NP (RGS); 14 May, 12+, including 2 or 3 black juvs, Varirata NP (CE); 12 Jun, 3, Cloudlands Hotel, Tabubil, Wes (RH *et al.*).



RECENT OBSERVATIONS JULY - SEPTEMBER 1989

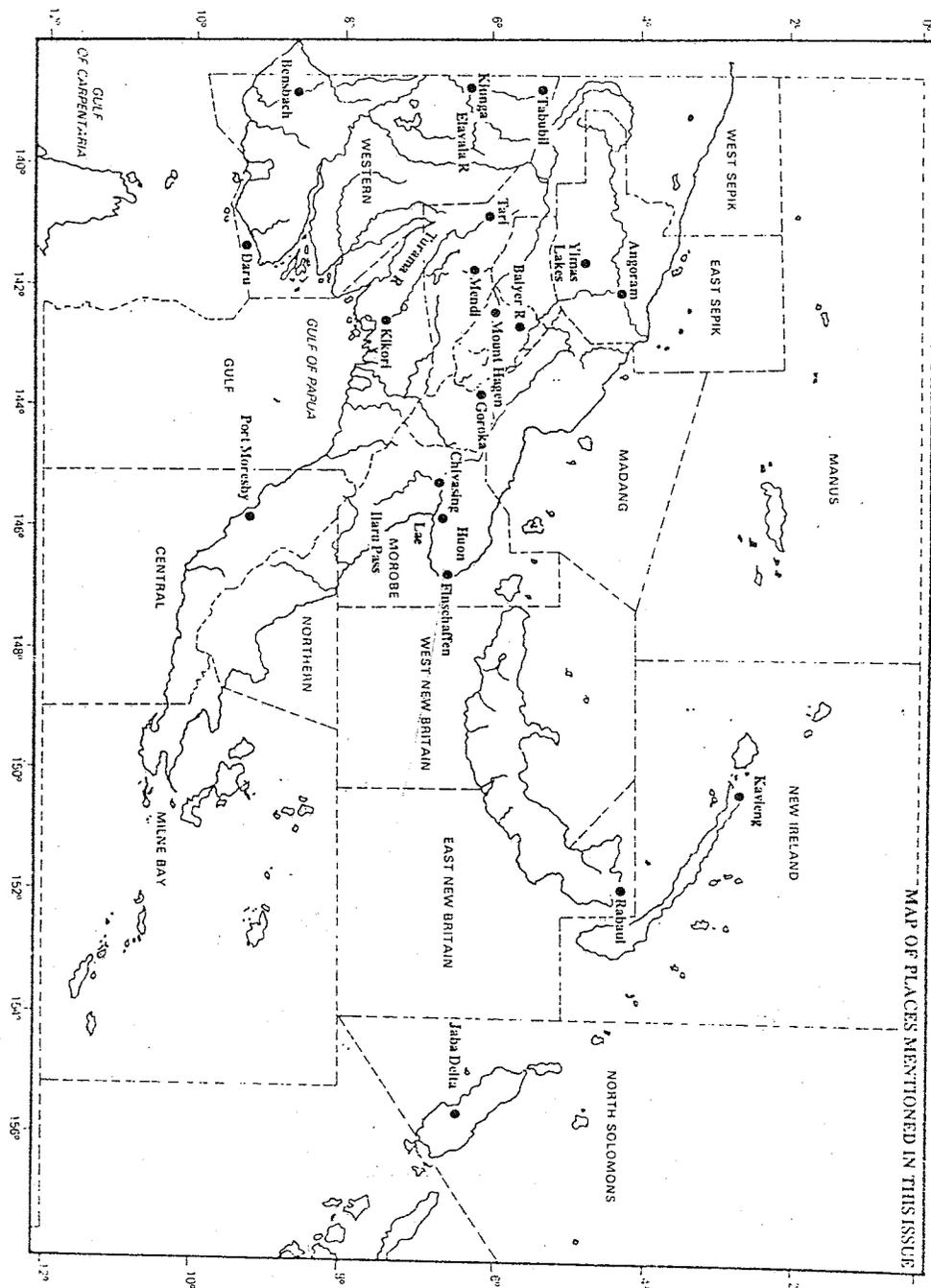
COMPILED BY ROGER HICKS

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

Contributors: Neil Anderton (WA); Colin Bacon (CB); Robin Benson (RB); Ian Burrows (IB); Bill Cooper (BC); Bird Quest Party (BQP); Ron Demey (RD); Chris Eastwood (CE); Brian Finch & Wings tour party (BF); Richard Gregory-Smith (RGS); Roger Hicks (RH); Andrew Lyburn (AL); John Mckean (JM); Gordon Rennie (GR); Iain Robertson (IR); Geoff Smith (GS); Ruth Swift (RS); Len Tolhurst (LT); Niklas Wahlberg (NW); Philip Williams (PW).

Abbreviations: ad = adult; Cen = Central Province; EHP = Eastern Highlands Province; ENB = East New Britain Province; ESP = East Sepik Province; Fm = Farm; I = Island; imm = immature; juv = juvenile; L = Lake; Mor = Morobe Province; NP = National Park; nr = near; NSP = North Solomons Province; Oro = Northern Province; PAC = Pacific Adventist College; pr = pair; R = River; Rd = Road; SHP = Southern Highlands Province; SP = settling ponds; UPNG = University of PNG campus; WHP = Western Highlands Province.

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|--|------------------------------------|
| Southern Cassowary | <i>Casuarius casuarius</i> |
| 3 Jul, 1 male, nr Kuri camp, Turama R, Gul (IB). | |
| Australasian Grebe | <i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae</i> |
| 22 Jul, pr nesting, Oxbow (RH). | |
| Little Grebe | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> |
| 19 Aug, one pr, Yimas Lakes, ESP. | |
| Great Frigatebird | <i>Fregata minor</i> |
| 5 Aug, 4, Hisiu - Cape Suckling (IB). | |
| Lesser Frigatebird | <i>Fregata ariel</i> |
| 31 Jul, 10, Motupore I (IB); 5 Aug, 12 Hisiu - Cape Suckling (IB). | |
| Brown Booby | <i>Sula leucogaster</i> |
| 31 Jul, 6, Motupore I (IB). | |
| Cattle Egret | <i>Egretta ibis</i> |
| 2 Sep, c. 50, Fairfax grasslands (RH). | |
| White-faced Heron | <i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i> |
| 29 Jul, 1, feeding at a roadside pond, Markham Valley, nr Chivasing, Mor (GS). | |
| Striated Heron | <i>Ardeola striata</i> |
| 30 Jul, 2, Motupore I (IB); 9 Sep, 1, Tahira mangroves (RH). | |
| Rufous Night Heron | <i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i> |
| First record for the Unitech Campus, Lae, Mor, in the garden area between the staff housing and the farm (LL). | |
| Forest Bittern | <i>Zonerodius heliosylus</i> |
| 6 Aug, 1, Elevala R, Wes (WA, JM & IR). | |
| Sacred Ibis | <i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i> |
| 2 Sep, 3, L Iaraguma (RH). | |



- Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
28 Jul, (RH) 7 Sep (IB) & 18 Sep (IB), 1, Moitaka SP.
- Long-tailed Buzzard *Henicopernis longicauda*
22 Jul, 3, Veimauri (RH); 4 Aug, nest building, Kiunga, Wes (BQP); 18 Sep, 1, Varirata NP (RH).
- Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus*
29 Jul, 1, Hawick R (JM & RH).
- Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*
21 Jul, Upper Markham Valley, Mor, chasing off a Black Kite *Milvus migrans* (GS); 14 Aug, 2, Mount Hagen airport, SHP (IB).
- Black Kite *Milvus migrans*
30 Jul, 1, Ilimo Fm (BQP).
- Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*
2 Sep, 8, over a grass fire, Fairfax grasslands (RH).
- White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
1 Jul, 1 ad, Komaio village, GP (IB); 4 Aug, 1 imm, mobbed by Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*, Moitaka SP, (RH); 7 Sep, 1 imm, Moitaka SP (IB); 15 Sep, 1 ad & 1 imm, Moitaka SP (RH); 30 Sep, 1 imm, Moitaka SP (RH).
- Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*
16 Jul, Markham-Labu road, Mor. White phase bird perched on bare branches. There are so many Sulphur-crested Cockatoos *Cacatua galerita* around this area that this species was almost overlooked (GS); 22 Jul, 1 white phase, Veimauri (RH).
- Grey-headed Goshawk *Accipiter poliocephalus*
2 Jul, 1, nr Kuri camp, Turama R, Gul (IB); 10 Sep, 1, Veimauri (IB).
- Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*
15 Aug, 1, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (RD *et al.*)
- Meyer's Goshawk *Accipiter meyerianus*
13 Aug, 1, nr Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (IB).
- Chestnut-shouldered Goshawk *Accipiter buergeri*
2 Aug, 1 juv seen well, chasing a Hooded Butcherbird over the Laloki R just below Varirata NP. Size, colour and tail pattern used to identify it (BQP); 13 Aug, 1 pale phase adult, seen perched nr Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (IB).
- New Guinea Harpy-Eagle *Harpyopsis novaeguineae*
1 Jul, 1 flew across the Turama R, Gul, nr Kuri camp and perched in a bankside tree (IB); 7 Aug, heard 06:30, Koiari rd (RH *et al.*).
- Gurney's Eagle *Aquila gurneyi*
1, soaring above Lae city centre, Mor (GS).
- Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*
16 Jul, lone individual roaming high overhead, occasionally hanging motionless on the breeze, Markham-Laburd, Mor (GS); 29 Jul, 1, Ilimo fm (RH); 29 Jul, several at Kassam Pass, Mor (GS); 6 Aug, 1, Unitech campus, Mor (GS); 30 Sep, 1, Jackson's airfield (RH).
- Oriental Hobby *Falco severus*
6 Aug, 1, Koiari rd (RH); 15 Aug, 1, Ilaru Pass, Mor (BF); 24 Sep, 4, probably a family party, c. 20 km along the Koiari rd (IB).
- Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*
28 Jul, 1, Jackson's airfield (RH); 29 Jul, 1, Jackson's airfield (IB); 29 Jul, 1, Waigani at dusk (RH); 15 Aug, 1, Boroko tennis courts, hawking moths at 19:30 (IB); 26 Aug, 1, Laloki (RH); 2 Sep, 1, L Iaraguma & 1, over grass fire, Fairfax grasslands (RH).
- Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*
5 Aug, 1, Hisiu (IB); 12 Aug, 1, Banari rd, Tari, SHP (IB).
- Salvadori's Teal *Anas waigiensis*
13 Aug, Bailey bridge, Tari Gap, SHP (BQP); 17 Aug, Baiyer R, WHP (BF).

- Common Scrubfowl *Megapodius freycinet*
2 Jul, 2, nr Kuri camp, Turama R, Gul (IB); 2 Sep, 1, Fairfax ford, Lea Lea road (RH).
- Red-backed Button-Quail *Turnix maculosa*
30 Jul, 2, Ilimo Fm (BQP); 6 Aug, 2 & 24 Sep, 1, Goldie barracks training range (IB).
- Red-necked Rail *Rallinatricolor*
3 Jul, 1, nr Kuri camp, Turama R, Gul (IB); 5 Aug, 2, Veimauri (IB); 8 Aug, heard, Varirata NP (BF).
- White-headed Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus*
21-29 Jul, 1, nr Chivasing, Markham Valley, Mor, feeding with c. 8 Pacific Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*) in a roadside pond (GS).
- Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabellae*
3 Aug, 1, Kiunga, Wes (BQP).
- Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*
29 Jul, Markham Valley, Mor (GS).
- Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
5 Aug, 5, Hisiu - Cape Suckling (IB).
- Lesser Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*
5 Aug, 2, Hisiu - Cape Suckling (IB); 17 Aug, Mendi, SHP (PW); 14 Sep, 20, UPNG (IB); Numbers at Moitaka SP increasing through the Sep from 1 on 7 Sep to 70 on 28 Sep (IB); 30 Sep, c. 40, Moitaka SP of which 2 were trapped (IB).
- Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
10 Aug, 2, Tabubil, Wes (BQP).
- Mongolian Plover *Charadrius mongolus*
5 Aug, 1, Hisiu - Cape Suckling (IB).
- Large Sand-Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*
5 Aug, 14, Hisiu - Cape Suckling (IB).
- Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*
3 Aug, 1, Daru, Wes (BQP).
- Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
30 Jul, 3, Motupore I (IB); 5 Aug, Hisiu - Cape Suckling (IB); 19 Aug, 3, Motupore I (IB); 16 Sep, 6, Moitaka SP (IB).
- Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
7 Sep, 1 & 16 Sep, 2, Moitaka SP (IB & RH).
- Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*
5 Aug, 23, Hisiu - Cape Suckling (IB);
- Wandering Tattler *Tringa incana*
19 Aug, 2, Motupore I (IB).
- Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos*
22 Jul, 2, first returning birds, Moitaka SP (RH); 4 Aug, 1, Moitaka SP (IB); 19 Aug, 2, Motupore I (IB); 3 - 6 at Moitaka SP throughout Sep (IB); 30 Sep, 2 trapped, Moitaka SP (IB).
- Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
2 Sep, first returning bird, 1, L Iaraguma (RH).
- Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*
10 - 18 Sep, 2, & 30 Sep, 3, Moitaka SP (IB).
- Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala*
7 Sep, 1, 10 Sep, 1 & 16 Sep, 2, Moitaka SP (IB).
- Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*
10 & 16 Sep, 1, Moitaka SP (IB).
- Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*
5 Aug, 3, Hisiu - Cape Suckling (IB).

- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*
2 Sep, 1, Lea Lea salt pans, first returning bird (RH); numbers at Moitaka SP peaking at 33 on 10 Sep, then decreasing through the month until 3 on 30 Sep, (IB); small flock feeding at a pond nr Chivasing, Markham valley, Mor (GS).
- Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*
28 & 30 Sep, 1, Moitaka SP (IB *et al.*).
- Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*
5 Aug, 5, Hisiu - Cape Suckling (IB).
- Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*
28 Sep, 1, Moitaka SP (IB); 30 Sep, 1, trapped, Moitaka SP (IB *et al.*). This is the first record of this species since 1984.
- Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*
Between 80 - 120 recorded on all visits (6) to Moitaka SP during Sep (IB).
- Gull-billed Tern *Gelocheidon nilotica*
4 Aug, 14; 7 Sep, 1; 10 Sep, 5; 18 Sep, 4; 30 Sep, 5; all records Moitaka SP (IB).
- Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*
31 Jul, c. 50, Lion I (IB).
- Roseate Tern *Sterna dougalli*
31 Jul, 3, Lion I (IB).
- Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana*
31 Jul, 2, Lion I (IB).
- Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus*
31 Jul, 5, Lion I (IB).
- Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata*
2 Jul, seen in the Huon Gulf between Lae and Salamaua, Mor, in a mixed flock with Lesser Frigatebirds *Fregata ariel* and some other unidentified large white terns. The birds were diving for fish also being pursued by a school of enormous yellow-finned tuna which leaped out of the water in a most spectacular manner (GS).
- Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*
31 Jul, 10, Lion I (IB).
- Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*
31 Jul, 3, Lion I (IB).
- Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus*
31 Jul, c. 130, Lion I (IB).
- Great Cuckoo-Dove *Reinwardtoena reinwardtii*
1 Jul, 1, Komaio village, Turama R, Gul (IB); 11 Aug, 1, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (IB); 12 Aug, 1, Banari rd, nr Tari, SHP (IB); 13 Aug, 1, Tari Gap, SHP (IB); 27 Aug, 1, Veimauri (IB).
- New-Guinea Bronzewing *Henicophaps albifrons*
22 Jul, 1, Veimauri (RH - thanks Nik!).
- Southern Crowned Pigeon *Goura sheepmakeri*
2 Jul, 1 & 3 Jul, 4, nr Kuri camp, Turama R, Gul (IB); 5 Aug, 3 nr Kiunga, Wes (BQP).
- Orange-fronted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus aurantiifrons*
2 Jul, Salamaua nr Lae, Mor, a bit outside the normally described range. Small flocks of these doves seemed common here, although just across the Huon Gulf in Lae it is the Orange-bellied Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus iozonus* which is the common urban fruit-dove. I have heard reports of the Orange-fronted Fruit-Dove in Lae, but I have never seen one myself (GS); 30 Jul, 2, Motupore I (IB); 9 Sep, 1, Tubusereia (RH).
- White-breasted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus rivoli*
6 Aug, 1 & 24 Sep, 8, Koiari rd (IB *et al.*).
- Dwarf Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus nanus*
4 Aug, 1 male, King Bird Tree (IB).

- Red-Knobbed Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus insolitus*
13 Aug, Rabaul, ENB (GS).
- Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula rufigaster*
22 Jul, 1, Veimauri (RH); 27 Aug, 1, Veimauri (IB).
- Rufescent Imperial Pigeon *Ducula chalconota*
14 & 15 Aug, Ilaru Pass, Mor (BF).
- Pinon Imperial Pigeon *Ducula pinon*
1 Jul, 6 & 3 Jul, 10, nr Kuri camp, Turama R, Gul (IB); 16 Jul, Markham-Labu road, Mor. Three perched on bare branches, late afternoon. Deep booming call heard repeatedly.
- Collared Imperial Pigeon *Ducula muellerii*
1 Jul, 20 & 4 Jul, 30+, Komaio village, Turama R, Gul (IB).
- Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula spilorrhoa*
21 Jul, a few perched in roadside trees, Upper Markham Valley, Mor (GS).
- Greater Streaked Lory *Chalcopsitta scintillata*
22 Jul, Pair at nesting hole, c. 14 m in eucalypt, Circuit trail, Varirata NP (AL).
- Goldie's Lorikeet *Trichoglossus goldiei*
12 Aug, c. 50, Banari rd, nr Tari, SHP (IB); 27 Aug, c. 30 & 10 Sep, c. 20, Veimauri (IB).
- Papuan Lorikeet *Charmosyna papou*
12 Aug, 6, Banari rd, nr Tari, SHP (IB); 13 Aug, c. 10, Tari Gap, SHP (IB); 14 & 15 Aug, Ilaru Pass, Mor (BF).
- Palm Cockatoo *Probsciger aterrimus*
1 Jul, 1, Komaio village, Turama R, Gul (IB); 2 Jul, 2, Kuri camp, Turama R, Gul (IB); 4 Jul, 6 between Kuri camp and Komaio village, Turama R, Gul (IB); 16 Jul, Markham-Labu rd, Mor. One flew noisily over the road and perched on a small tree. It was joined by two others. There was some kind of display which seemed to be to do with courtship, with all three birds raising their crests and alternately hanging upside down and bobbing back again. One later flew out, leaving a pair to carry on the display. 17 Jul, pair also seen Gawam rd, Mor (GS).
- Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrot *Micropsitta bruijnii*
6 Aug, 1 male & 1 female, Koiari rd (IB).
- Double-eyed Fig-Parrot *Cyclopsitta diophthalma*
2 Jul, 15+ & 3 Jul, 12, nr Kuri camp, Turama R, Gul (IB).
- Large Fig-Parrot *Psittaculirostris desmarestii*
2 Jul, 1, nr Kuri camp, Turama R, Gul (IB).
- Brehm's Tiger-Parrot *Psittacella brehmii*
13 Aug, 1 male & 2 females, Tari Gap, SHP (IB); 14 Aug, 1 male, nr Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (IB).
- Modest Tiger-Parrot *Psittacella modesta*
12 Aug, 1 male, Banari rd, nr Tari, SHP (IB).
- Blue-collared Parrot *Geoffroyus simplex*
17 Jul, Gawam Rd, Mor. No positive identification, but a group of about 30 high flying parrots gave the familiar "sleigh-bells" call. Later another group of about 60 flew over. Another possible record for Huon Peninsula (GS); 6 Aug, 2, Koiari rd (IB *et al.*); 14 Aug, 15, nr Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (IB); 14 & 15 Aug, Ilaru Pass, Mor (BF).
- Vulturine Parrot *Psittichas fulgidus*
2 Jul, 5 & 3 Jul, 3, nr Kuri camp, Turama R, Gul (IB); 4 Jul, 3, Komaio village, Turama R, Gul (IB).
- Papuan King-Parrot *Alisterus chloropterus*
22 Jul, pair, Veimauri (RH); 8 Aug, Varirata NP (BF); 14 & 15 Aug, Ilaru Pass, Mor (BF).
- Shining Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus*
7 Jul, 1 in garden on UPNG campus (IB).

- Malay Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*
30 Jul, 1, Mt Lawes (RH); 3 Aug, 1, feeding quietly in a mango tree in a Unitech campus garden, Lae, Mor. First record for campus (GS).
- Rufous-throated Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx ruficollis*
13 Aug, 1, Tari Gap, SHP (IB); 14 Aug, 1, nr Bailey bridge, Tari Gap, SHP (IB).
- White-eared Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx meyerii*
9 Aug, Veimauri logging tracks (BF).
- White-crowned Koel *Caliechthrus leucolophus*
18 Sep, 1, Gares Lookout trail, Varirata NP (RH).
- Common Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea*
5 Jul, 1 imm male, Kikori, Gul (IB).
- Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*
3 - 6 Aug, Kiunga, Wes (BQP); 18 Aug, Veimauri (BQP).
- Greater Black Coucal *Centropus menbeki*
3 Jul, nr Kuri camp, Turama R, Gul (IB).
- Lesser Black Coucal *Centropus bernsteini*
5 Jul, 1, Kikori, Gul (IB); 1, dark, no sign of barring, nr Lae showground, Mor. (GS).
- Barn Owl *Tyto alba*
9 Jul, 1, caught in headlights, perched on roadside post, nr Rouna 1&3 Power stations (AL).
- Papuan Hawk-Owl *Urogaux dimorpha*
2 Aug, 1, perched on post beside road, below Varirata NP turnoff. Watched in headlights. Identified on size, streaked breast and barred back (GR, RS *et al.*).
- Rufous Owl *Ninox rufa*
27 Aug, 2 ad & 2 fledged juv, Veimauri (IB).
- Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*
11 Sep, 1, Pacific Adventist College (RH).
- Papuan Boobook *Ninox theomacha*
10 Aug, Tabubil, Wes (BQP); 11 - 15 Aug, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (BQP & IB).
- Papuan Frogmouth *Podargus papuensis*
11 Sep, 1, Pacific Adventist College (RH).
- Papuan Nightjar *Eurostopodus papuensis*
9 Aug, 1, Veimauri logging tracks (BF).
- Mountain Nightjar *Eurostopodus archboldi*
15 Aug, 1, Bailey bridge, Tari Gap, SHP (JM *et al.*).
- Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*
22 Jul, 1, Kuriva (RH); 9 Aug, Veimauri logging tracks (BF).
- Australian Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera sylvia*
31 Jul, Varirata Lookout, Varirata NP (BQP); 9 Aug, 1, Veimauri logging tracks (BF).
- Hook-billed Kingfisher *Melidora macrorrhina*
15 Aug, heard calling at night in a built up residential area, Chinatown, Lae, Mor (GS).
- Collared Kingfisher *Halcyon chloris*
5 Aug, 5, Hisiu mangroves (IB).
- Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*
6 Aug, 2, feeding with a group of Rainbow Bee-eaters *Merops ornatus* in an area cleared for food gardens, Unitech, Lae, Mor. First record for campus (GS); 21 Jul, Markham Valley, Mor (GS).
- Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus*
1 Jul, 15, between Komaio village & Kuri camp, Turama R, Gul (IB); 3 Jul, 10, nr Kuri camp, Turama R, Gul (IB); 4 Jul, 40+, between Kuri camp and Komaio village, Turama R, Gul (IB); 16 Jul, Markham-Labu road, Mor (GS); 24 Sep, 1 male, Koiari rd (IB).
- Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*
11 Aug, 2, Wapenamanda airstrip, Eng (IB); 14 Aug, 2, Tari airstrip, SHP (IB); 14 Aug, 6+, Mt Hagen airstrip, WHP (IB).

- Tree Martin *Hirundo nigricans*
2 Sep, c. 20, over grass fire, Fairfax grasslands (RH); 11 Sep, 1, Moitaka SP (RH).
- Hooded Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina longicauda*
11 Aug, 3, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (IB); 12 Aug, 2, Banari rd, nr Tari, SHP (IB); 14 Aug, 3, nr Bailey bridge, Tari Gap, SHP (IB).
- Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina lineata*
3 Sep, Gawam rd, Mor - first time recorded in this area (GS).
- Black-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracinamorio*
9 & 11 Aug, Veimauri logging tracks (BF).
- Grey-headed Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina schisticeps*
9 & 11 Aug, Veimauri logging tracks (BF).
- Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*
2 Aug, 1 male, Varirata NP (BQP); 6 Aug, feeding quietly on trees in Unitech campus, Lae, Mor (GS); 9 Sep, Varirata NP (BF); 26 Aug, 1 female, King Bird Tree (RH); 2 Sep, 1 male, Lea Lea mangroves (RH).
- Black-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina montana*
6 Aug, 6 & 24 Sep, 4, Koiari rd (IB).
- Golden Cuckoo-Shrike *Campochaera sloetii*
7 Aug, 2, Koiari rd (RH); 9 Aug, Veimauri logging tracks (BF); 27 Aug, 1 male & 1 female, Veimauri (IB).
- White-winged Triller *Lalage suerii*
21 Jul, c. 7 or 8, including both sexes, in roadside trees in the upper Markham Valley near Kassam Pass, Mor. The bird is frequently seen here, and seems to be quite common (GS).
- Papuan Whipbird *Androphobus viridis*
13 Aug, 1 female, old road above Bailey bridge, Tari Gap, SHP. Plumage as in Beehler *et al.*, chisel shaped bill noted, jizz as a *Melanocharis berrypecker* (JM, IR *et al.*); 14 Aug, 1 male, Hydro track, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (JC). Prior to 1989 this species was only known from the Snowy Mountains in Irian Jaya. Recently, the PNGBS has received several records of this species in the Ambua Lodge area, none of which have been well documented. If you should be lucky enough to see a Papuan Whipbird while staying at Ambua Lodge please take copious field notes to substantiate the record. Records of females should not be taken as confirmation of such a huge extension of range given the possibility of confusion with female Fan-tailed Berrypeckers (ed).
- Lesser Melampitta *Melampitta lugubris*
14 Aug, Tari Gap, SHP (JM).
- Island Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus trivirgatus*
24 Sep, 1 trapped, Koiari rd (IB).
- Emperor Fairy-Wren *Malurus cyanocephalus*
28 Jul, pair in reed beds, Moitaka SP, first recent record for this site (RH).
- Orange-crowned Fairy-Wren *Clytomyias insignis*
13 Aug, 4, nr Bailey bridge, Tari Gap, SHP (IB).
- Black Monarch *Monarcha axillaris*
18 Sep, 1 (white pectoral tufts seen well), Gares Lookout trail, Varirata NP (RH).
- Hooded Monarch *Monarcha manadensis*
2 Jul, 3, nr Kuri camp, Turama R, Gul (IB).
- Golden Monarch *Monarcha chrysomela*
11 Aug, Veimauri logging tracks (BF); 26 Aug, 1 male, King Bird Tree (RH).
- Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*
4 & 6 Aug, Kiunga, Wes (BQP).
- Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*
9 Sep, 1 female, Tahira mangroves (RH).
- Jacky Winter *Microeca leucophaea*
28 Jul, 1, UPNG (IB).

- Yellow-legged Flycatcher *Microeca griseiceps*
8 Aug, Varirata NP (BF); 24 Sep, 2, Koiari rd (IB).
- White-faced Robin *Tregellasia leucops*
24 Sep, 3 trapped, Koiari rd (IB).
- Mangrove Robin *Eopsaltria pulverulenta*
5 Aug, 2 nesting pairs, Hisiu mangroves (IB).
- Banded Yellow Robin *Poecilodryas placens*
22 Jul, 1, Veimauri (RH); 5 Aug, 6, Veimauri (IB); 9 & 11 Aug, Veimauri (BF).
- Northern Scrub-Robin *Drymodes supercilialis*
17 Sep, 1 trapped, Varirata NP (RH).
- Lesser Ground-Robin *Amalocichla incerta*
11 Aug, 1, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (IB).
- White-winged Robin *Peneothello sigillatus*
13 Aug, 1, Tari Gap, SHP (IB).
- White-rumped Robin *Peneothello bimaculatus*
9 Aug, heard, Veimauri logging tracks (BF).
- Black-headed Whistler *Pachycephala monacha*
A vocal inhabitant of garden trees, Ramu Sugar compound, Mor (GS).
- Grey Shrike-Thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*
Very vocal and conspicuous on Unitech campus, Lae, Mor throughout July. Not noticeably so common in previous years (GS).
- Variable Pitohui *Pitohui kirhocephalus*
5 Jul, 2, Kikori, Gul (IB).
- Black Pitohui *Pitohui nigrescens*
11 Aug, 1 female, nr Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (IB).
- Wattled Ploughbill *Eulacestoma nigropectus*
14 Aug, 1 female, nr Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (IB).
- Crested Berrypecker *Paramythia montium*
13 Aug, 8+, Tari Gap, SHP (IB).
- Yellow-bellied Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis*
19 Aug, 1 male of race *idenburgi* (with black underparts), Yimas Lakes, ESP (BF).
- New Guinea White-Eye *Zosterops novaeguineae*
24 Sep, c. 10, Koiari rd (IB).
- White-Eye *Zosterops* sp.
3 Sep, species not determined, but probably *Z. novaeguineae*, Gawam rd, Mor. First record for that area. A pair in a mixed feeding party with Golden Monarch *Monarcha chrysomela*, Spotted-winged Monarch *M. guttula*, Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris*, Grey Whistler *Pachycephala simplex*, and Gerygone sp (GS).
- Tawny Straightbill *Timeliopsis griseigula*
29 Jul, 3, trapped, King Bird Tree (IB).
- Yellow-bellied Longbill *Toxorhamphus novaeguineae*
3 Jul, 4, nr Kuri camp, Turama R, Gul (IB).
- Dwarf Honeyeater *Oedistoma iliolophus*
18 Sep, 1 feeding 1 fledged young, Varirata NP (RH).
- Green-backed Honeyeater *Glycichaera fallax*
16 Jul, 1 retrapped, King Bird Tree (IB); 11 Aug, Veimauri (BF).
- Silver-eared Honeyeater *Lichmera alboauricularis*
Common and noisy in garden trees, Ramu Sugar residential area, Mor. Song described in Beeher *et al.* is falling in pitch and accelerating. However, these birds had a song ascending in pitch and decelerating.
- Red-throated Myzomela *Myzomela eques*
18 Sep, 1 male, Gares Lookout trail, Varirata NP (RH).

- Spot-breasted Meliphaga *Meliphaga mimikae*
9 & 11 Aug, Veimauri logging tracks (BF).
- Obscure Honeyeater *Lichenostomus obscurus*
9 Aug, heard, Veimauri logging tracks (BF).
- Plain Honeyeater *Pycnopygius ixioides*
26 Aug, 1, King Bird Tree (RH).
- Marbled Honeyeater *Pycnopygius cinereus*
6 Aug, 2, Koiari rd (IB); 11 - 12 Aug, Banari rd, nr Tari, SHP (BQP); 14 Aug, Iaru Pass, Mor (BF); 24 Sep, 2, Koiari rd (IB).
- Ornate Melidectes *Melidectes torquatus*
24 Sep, 1, Koiari rd (IB).
- Blue-faced Parrot-Finch *Erythrura trichroa*
10 Aug, heard, Varirata NP (BF); 11 Aug, heard, Veimauri logging tracks (BF); 11 Aug, 2, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (IB); 12 Aug, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (BQP); 14 Aug, Iaru Pass, Mor (BF); 16 Aug, Bailey bridge, Tari Gap, SHP (BQP); 22 - 24 Aug, Tari Gap, SHP (BF).
- Papuan Parrot-Finch *Erythrura papuana*
11 Aug, 3, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (IB).
- Mountain Firetail *Oreostruthus fuliginosus*
11 - 15 Aug, Tari Gap, SHP (BQP).
- Mountain Drongo *Chaetorhynchus papuensis*
24 Sep, 1, Koiari rd (IB).
- Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*
Seen in a coconut palm in an urban garden, nr Lae showground, Mor (GS).
- Torrent-Lark *Grallina bruijni*
9 Aug, 4, Tabubil, Wes (BQP); 16 Aug, 2, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (BQP).
- Spotted Catbird *Ailuroedus melanotis*
6 Aug, 4, Koiari rd (IB).
- Archbold's Bowerbird *Archboldia papuensis*
14 & 15 Aug, Tari Gap, SHP (BQP); 14 Aug, 1 male & 1 female, nr bailey bridge, Tari Gap, SHP (IB); 22 Aug, Tari Gap (BF).
- Macgregor's Bowerbird *Amblyornis macgregoriae*
12 Aug, 1 male, Banari rd, nr Tari, SHP (IB).
- Streaked Bowerbird *Amblyornis subalaris*
24 Sep, 1 female feeding in bamboo thicket and 1 male perched in a *Nothofagus* tree, Koiari rd (IB).
- Flame Bowerbird *Sericulus aureus*
4 & 6 Aug, nr Kiunga, Wes (RD & JM).
- Crested Bird of Paradise *Cnemophilus macgregorii*
13 Aug, 1 female, Tari Gap, SHP (IB); 22 Aug, Tari Gap, SHP (BF).
- Glossy-mantled Manucode *Manucodia atra*
3 Sep, 1 pr, nesting in the grounds of the Kokoda Trail Motel (IB).
- Trumpet Manucode *Manucodia keraudrenii*
20 Aug, Pair at "viewpoint" c. 400 m along Gares Lookout trail, Varirata NP. Male puffed up throat feathers and "yodelled" (AL).
- Short-tailed Paradigalla *Paradigalla brevicauda*
11 Aug, 1, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (IB); 22 & 23 Aug, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (BF).
- Magnificent Riflebird *Ptiloris magnificus*
4 Aug, 1 male displaying, King Bird Tree (IB); 3 Sep, 1 male, perched on an exposed branch calling repeatedly, glossy breast iridescence and plumes under wing visible, Gawam rd, Mor (GS).
- Buff-tailed Sicklebill *Epimachus albertisi*
11 Aug, 1 female feeding in moss covered tree at Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (IB).

- Black Sicklebill *Epimachus fastuosus*
11 - 13 Aug, Banari rd, nr Tari, SHP (BQP & IB).
- Brown Sicklebill *Epimachus meyeri*
13 Aug, 3 females, Tari Gap, SHP (IB).
- Ribbon-tailed Astrapia *Astrapia mayeri*
11 - 15 Aug, Tari Gap, SHP (BQP).
- Stephanie's Astrapia *Astrapia stephaniae*
13 Aug, 6, Bailey bridge - Tari Gap, SHP (IB).
- Supert Bird of Paradise *Lophorina superba*
6 Aug, 1 female, Koiari rd (IB); 12 Aug, c. 8 Banari rd, nr Tari, SHP (IB); 24 Sep, 2 females trapped, Koiari rd (IB).
- Lawes' Parotia *Parotia lawesii*
6 Aug, 3 females, Koiari rd (IB); 12 Aug, 2 males & 2 females, Banari rd, nr Tari, SHP (IB).
- King of Saxony Bird of Paradise *Pteridophora alberti*
13 Aug, 1 female, Tari Gap, SHP & 1 male, nr Bailey bridge, Tari Gap, SHP (IB).
- King Bird of Paradise *Cicinnurus regius*
16 Jul & 4 Aug, 1 male, King Bird Tree (IB).
- Magnificent Bird of Paradise *Cicinnurus magnificus*
24 Jul, 1 female trapped, Varirata NP (RH); 6 Aug, 1 female, Koiari rd (IB).
- Blue Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea rudolphi*
12 Aug, 1 male, Banari rd, nr Tari, SHP (IB).
- Grey Crow *Corvus tristis*
5 Aug, 8+, Veimauri (IB).

REVIEW

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF HAWAII AND THE TROPICAL PACIFIC

BY H.D. PRATT, P.L. BRUNER & D.G. BERRETT

Princeton University Press, New Jersey, 1987. 407 pages, 45 colour plates plus line drawings and maps.

For many bird watchers owning bird books is almost as much fun as watching the birds themselves and this book is no exception, as it does not involve getting up before dawn and missing breakfast, swatting mosquitoes in the forest, or changing a wheel on a jeep in the rain. For me, owning a field guide for a place I have not yet visited is a special pleasure, enabling me to plan the trip and anticipate the birds to be seen, which may be the closest I ever get to many of them.

This book is beautifully produced, as would be expected from Princeton University Press, publisher of "Birds of New Guinea" (Beehler *et al.* 1986), and it contains much interesting information which can be read while waiting at airstrips or harbours to hop from one island to another.

Geographically it covers the Hawaiian Islands, Micronesia, Polynesia and Fiji, but excludes Melanesia (New Guinea, the Bismarck archipelago, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia) to the west and Easter Island (which is just south of the Tropic of Capricorn) to the east. While there are other bird guides for some of the islands covered, this is the only one to include them all in one volume, and it is sure to become the standard field guide for the Pacific. The bulk of the book consists of species descriptions arranged taxonomically. All breeding species and regular visitors, from the familiar Sacred Kingfisher and Pacific Swallow to the exotic Tooth-billed Pigeon and Orange Dove, are illustrated on more than 40 excellent colour plates towards the back. The rarer visitors are shown in about 50 beautiful black and white illustrations. In order to indicate which birds are likely to be seen on which islands, the land birds are grouped on plates according to their place of origin, so that pigeons are on plate 21 for Micronesia and on plates 26 and 27 for Polynesia. Introduced species have 4 plates of their own.

To help plan a birding trip, and to present information on bird distribution concisely, there are 6 regional checklists, and an appendix of maps shows the position of all islands mentioned in the text. There is a glossary, an index to bird names and an extensive bibliography. I was particularly pleased to see information included on the different kinds of islands in the Pacific (continental and oceanic) and information on habitats, illustrated by several black and white photographs. The colour plates of plants of importance to birds and birders sets a trend that, as a botanist, I hope other field guides will follow.

Although an extensive section would have been out of place in a field guide, I would have liked to have seen some information about the affinities of the birds, especially the land birds of the different island groups. If one were very keen or knowledgeable, this could be worked out from the checklists, knowing where else the genera occur. Diamond and Mayr have written about the origin, distribution and speciation patterns of Pacific birds, but it would have been nice to see views of Pratt *et al.* as well.

A few Pacific island endemics are already extinct, with interesting names like Oahu Oo and Akialoa, and a considerable number are rare or endangered, including the Hawaiian Goose and Coot illustrated on the front cover. Besides listing extinct and endangered species, a section on conservation discusses threats such as the presence of mosquitoes on Hawaii and introduced brown tree snakes on Guam. Outside of Hawaii, there seem to be few reserves.

I actually borrowed a copy of the book to write this review and now I shall have to go and buy my own, to take with me on my trip to Western Samoa to see Tooth-billed Pigeon and to peruse during the long tropical evenings, while I save up the air fare.

Helen Fortune Hopkins.

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