

MURUK

THE PAFUA NEW GUINEA BIRD SOCIETY

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BIRD WATCHING AROUND LAE

GEOFF P. SMITH

This issue of *MURUK* includes bird lists and comments from a wide range of localities within PNG. Manuscripts have been received in the north, Tari in the east, Woodlark Island in the east and many places in between. Hopefully, these articles may inspire others to record their observations from other areas of PNG.

Of particular interest is Geoff Smith's "Bird Watching around Lae". Where-to-Watch-Birds articles are always welcome and are useful not only to resident bird watchers but to visitors, who would like to know the number of species seen in the time available to them. We have received a number of such reports, but more would be appreciated. We currently lack coverage of the Coast and the Highlands (except for Tari).

Very few people have provided their records for inclusion in "Recent Observations" during 1990. The monthly observations of recent months will fade away without input from both residents and visitors. Of particular interest are observations of nesting birds (the breeding seasons for many PNG species are poorly known and, for a large proportion, nesting habits are not described), observations of birds of prey, particularly diurnal raptors, and observations of birds of prey, particularly diurnal raptors, when compared with Beehler *et al.* (1986) or Coates (1983 & 1989), observations of migrants etc. Please, please submit your observations to the editor.

EDITORS: Roger Hicks with technical assistance from Mike Hopkins and editorial help from Edie Brown, Peter Ferguson Hopkins, Jenny Hicks. The cover on this *MURUK* and on the last issue, Vol. 4.2, were drawn by Jones Hiaso, for which many thanks. Jones will be able to assist on future covers.

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Roger Hicks (Editor)

Lae is situated in Morobe Province in North-East New Guinea, on the Huon Gulf, close to the mouth of the Markham River. It is an area of very high rainfall, the wettest season being from May to September. During this time there is the distinct possibility that morning trips will be a complete wash-out. Morobe Province contains a wide variety of habitats, from coastal rain forest to alpine grassland, and the road network in the province is fairly good. Almost totally absent, however, are extensive areas of marshland and their associated wetland species. The bird names used in this paper follow Beehler *et al.* (1986).

The airport is at Nadzab, in the Markham Valley, some 45 km from Lae city. There are a number of reasonable hotels in Lae, but all are pretty expensive for the facilities offered. Lae International and the Melanesian are probably the most comfortable. The Huon Gulf and Klinkii Lodge are slightly more reasonably priced. Budget travellers usually head for Buablung House on Cassowary road, although the facilities are a bit spartan. Other reasonable accommodation can be found at the Lutheran Guest House and Salvation Army self-catering units, and, from time to time, the Lae School of Catering.

Around the city of Lae, a number of species can be seen in the urban gardens and larger open spaces such as the botanical gardens and the campus of the University of Technology. Common species include Black Kite, Peaceful Dove, Orange-bellied Fruit-Dove, Red-cheeked Parrot, Dusky Lory, Rainbow Lorikeet, Sacred Kingfisher, Pacific Swallow, White-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike, Willie Wagtail, Yellow-bellied Sunbird, Helmeted Friarbird, Varied Honeyeater, Singing Starling, Hooded Butcherbird and Torresian Crow.

Somewhat more difficult to observe, but usually present during at least part of the year, are Little Pied Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Whistling Kite, Brahminy Kite, Collared Sparrowhawk, Purple Swamphen, Lesser Golden Plover, Whimbrel, White-throated Needle-tail, Eclectus Parrot, Brush Cuckoo, Pheasant Coucal, Forest Kingfisher, Rainbow Bee-eater, Dollarbird, Grey Shrike-Thrush, Papuan Flowerpecker, Black Sunbird, Scrub White-eared Meliphaga, Yellow-faced Myna, Brown Oriole, Spangled Drongo and Fawn-breasted Bowerbird.

A number of more uncommon species include the following that I have recorded from the Unitech campus: Darter, Intermediate Egret, Black-winged Kite, Gurney's Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Brown Quail, Bush-Hen, Long-toed Stint, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Great Cuckoo-Dove, Stephan's Ground-Dove, Papuan Mountain Pigeon,

Western Black-capped Lory, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Oriental Cuckoo, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo, Malay Bronze-Cuckoo, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Barn Owl, Papuan Frogmouth, Large-tailed Nightjar, Hook-billed Kingfisher, Cicadabird, White-shouldered Fairy-Wren, Leaden Flycatcher, Shining Flycatcher and Streak-headed Honeyeater.

The sea, of course, has its own species which do not venture far on to land at all. A number of terns can be seen near the end of the air strip in Lae, or more especially past the main wharf and towards the mouth of the Markham. Species observed include the **White-winged Black Tern, Sooty Tern, Crested Tern, Lesser Crested Tern and Brown Noddy**. The **Common Black-headed Gull** has also been seen a number of times (Finch 1986). **Lesser Frigate Birds** are quite common, but the spectacular sight of a **White-bellied Sea-Eagle** skimming for fish is only rarely seen.

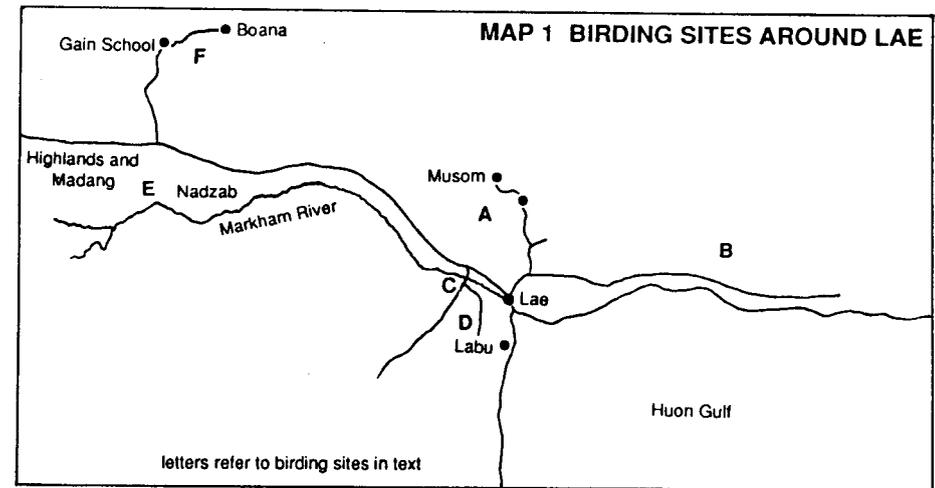
A number of waders make a brief appearance near the mouth of the Markham River during migration. Species observed include **Little Ringed Plover, Grey-tailed Tattler and Common Sandpiper**. The **Lesser Golden Plover** ventures further from the coast, and may occasionally be seen on the airstrip or sports ovals. Some non-sea birds may also make occasional appearances near the coast, such as the **Papuan Mountain Pigeon** and **Pied Imperial Pigeon** flying high overhead. The species mentioned here may also be seen along the coast towards Bukaua to the East and Salamaua to the South-West. At Salamaua, the **Orange-fronted Fruit-Dove** appears to be common.

DAY EXCURSIONS FROM LAE

A number of roads lead out of Lae (see Map 1) and give ready access to places where many interesting bird species may be found. Unfortunately, the Huon endemics all live at altitudes beyond the road system, apart from the **Emperor Bird of Paradise**, which can be reached on the Boana road. It is very difficult to get to most of the places described by public transport, so access to a vehicle is essential. On most of the unsealed roads, the condition of the surface can vary considerably, especially after heavy rain, and a 4-wheel drive vehicle is recommended if possible. At the time of writing, there is considerable "rascal" (criminal) activity around Lae, and caution is advised. The following routes are within about an hour's drive of Lae. Early morning is by far the best time to see birds here, but even so, forest species are notoriously difficult to see. The calls are the best guide to a bird's presence.

A. Sankwep-Gawam-Musom road

This road gives ready access to forested areas and is within easy reach of Lae. Travelling from Lae past Unitech and Bumayong High School, the road crosses the Busu river before bearing off to the left and down to the Sankwep River. Here **Torrent**



Flycatcher can often be seen on rocks in the river, or perched on overhanging branches. Over the Sankwep, the road goes up a steep hill, and here a variety of lowland forest birds can be seen.

Some of the species commonly observed in this area include: **Crested Hawk, Long-tailed Buzzard, Brahminy Kite, Collared Sparrowhawk, Grey Goshawk, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Pink-spotted Fruit-Dove, Ornate Fruit-Dove, Zoe Imperial Pigeon, Western Black-capped Lory, Red-cheeked Parrot, Eclectus Parrot, Common Koel, Greater Black Coucal, Moustached Tree-Swift, Rufous-bellied Kookaburra, Dollarbird, Boyer's Cuckoo-Shrike, White-bellied Thicket-Fantail, Filled Monarch, Streak-headed Honeyeater, Metallic Starling, Brown Oriole, Spangled Drongo, White-eared Catbird, King Bird of Paradise, Raggiana Bird of Paradise, and Grey Crow**.

Not all of these species are equally easy to see, however. For example, the spectacular scarlet and white **King Bird of Paradise** is reasonably common, but it is extremely difficult to get a good view of one. As with many other species, this bird may be heard calling much more frequently than it is observed. The **Raggiana Bird of Paradise** is quite common from the Sankwep onwards, although fully plumed males are not often seen.

Leaving the Sankwep River, the road proceeds to the settlement of Gwabadik and on through some fairly untouched forest (all of this area has been logged at some time). Here, in addition to those species listed, some of the less easily observed species may be found, such as **Grey-headed Goshawk, Little Eagle, New Guinea Bronzewing,**

Great Cuckoo-Dove, Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Emerald Ground-Dove, Pinon Imperial Pigeon, Papuan Mountain Pigeon, Red-flanked Lorikeet, Palm Cockatoo, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Buff-faced Pygmy-Parrot, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Vulturine Parrot, White-crowned Koel, Dwarf Koel, Blyth's Hornbill, Blue-breasted Pitta, Varied Triller, Green-backed Gerygone, Northern Fantail, Golden Monarch, Black-sided Robin, Long-billed Honeyeater, Tawny-breasted Honeyeater, Streak-headed Mannikin and Lowland Peltops.

As the road goes on further, it gets higher and higher until it reaches an altitude of about 600 m at the village of Gawam. From here, the road continues across a valley to the village of Musom at about the same altitude. Gawam is also the beginning of a number of routes in to mountain villages due north. From Musom, a road has been pushed towards the village of Lambaip, the eventual aim being to reach Boana. However, at the time of writing, this road is in very poor condition, and not useful as anything but a walking track.

As the altitude increases from Gwabadik, a number of species are found which do not usually occur at lower altitudes. These include: **Brown-collared Brush-Turkey, Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove, Pheasant Pigeon, Little Red Lorikeet, Black-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike, Rusty Mouse-Warbler, Hooded Pitohui, Black Butcherbird, Crinkle-collared Manucode, Magnificent Riflebird and Magnificent Bird of Paradise.** The **Raggiana Bird of Paradise** is quite common along the road, but at an area near a new bridge just before the steep ascent to Gawam village, plumed males can usually be seen displaying. The **Torrent-Lark** may be found near streams at higher altitudes beyond Musom village, and the **Emperor Bird of Paradise** is also within range here.

B. Bukaua road

This road runs east of Lae parallel with the coast for 20 or 30 km. It ends at the village of Bukaua. The condition of the road varies considerably, and some of the rivers may be too high to cross if there has been heavy rain. The road runs through grassland and cleared farms and gardens past Situm settlement, and further into forest. Many of the lowland forest species found round Sankwep River and described in the previous section can be found here. There are no roads to higher altitudes, but there are walking tracks to villages in the hills at a number of places. The road is unsealed, and a 4-wheel drive vehicle is usually required.

Extensive lowland rainforest past the Buso River is usually good for **Blyth's Hornbill**, and a number of larger pigeons such the **Zoe** and **Pinon Imperial Pigeons** and the **Great Cuckoo-Dove**. In areas of grassland, small flocks of **Grand Mannikin** and **Chestnut-breasted Mannikin** are found, and occasionally a **Black-winged Kite** can be seen hovering for prey.

C. Markham Bridge area

This is another good area close to Lae for visitors with not much time. Travelling from Lae, the road to Bulolo and Wau bears off to the left from the Highlands Highway after about 15 km. Another 3 or 4 km brings one to the Markham Bridge. Just over the bridge the road runs through a stretch of several km of forest, which is usually quite productive of the more common lowland forest species. In the low-lying sago swamps, the **Glossy-mantled Manucode** can often be seen, or heard giving its long drawn out plaintive whistling call. Also common are the **Orange-bellied Fruit-Dove, Dusky Lory, Western Black-capped Lory, Eclectus Parrot, Rufous-bellied Kookaburra, Boyer's Cuckoo-Shrike, White-bellied Thicket-Fantail, Streak-headed Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Myna, Spangled Drongo and Hooded Butcherbird**, while other species occasionally seen include the **Crested Hawk, Long-tailed Buzzard, Whistling Kite, Brahminy Kite, Pacific Black Duck, Purple Swamphen, Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Zoe Imperial Pigeon, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Barking Owl, Moustached Tree-Swift, Hook-billed Kingfisher, Forest Kingfisher, Varied Triller, Large-billed Gerygone, Black Sunbird, Tawny-breasted Honeyeater, Lowland Peltops, King Bird of Paradise, Raggiana Bird of Paradise and Grey Crow.**

D. Markham-Labu road

Just over the Markham Bridge, a rough road runs to the left, parallel to the right bank of the Markham for a kilometre or so before turning right into a logging area. The road sidles along the edge of the steeply rising slopes for about 15 km before ending in newly bulldozed logging tracks. To the left, low-lying bush and sago swamps stretch out to the Labu Lakes and the coast. This is strictly speaking a private road, owned by Labu Butu villagers and logged by PI Logging Ltd., and a boom gate at the entrance may occasionally be locked, although the gate-keeper can usually be found close by. Since the area has only recently been logged, the bird life is good, and generally quite visible.

Those species mentioned in the previous section on the Markham Bridge area are all found along this road. Some species are more common, for example the **Crested Hawk, Brahminy Kite, Pink-spotted Fruit-Dove, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Dwarf Koel, Moustached Tree-Swift, Blyth's Hornbill, Black Cuckoo-Shrike, Golden Monarch, Tawny-breasted Honeyeater, Streak-headed Mannikin, Metallic Starling, Lowland Peltops and Grey Crow.**

In addition, you may be lucky enough to come across such species as **Grey-headed Goshawk, Little Eagle, Common Scrubfowl, Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Palm Cockatoo, Vulturine Parrot, Yellow-billed Kingfisher, King Bird of Paradise and Raggiana Bird of Paradise.** In particular, **Palm Cockatoos** and **Blyth's Hornbills** seem to be reasonably common. In 1988, I came across a huge congregation of hornbills just before sunset. They gathered on some bare trees high on the ridge before flying off in small parties towards the coast. I counted over 75 of them - a most spectacular sight.

E. Nadzab Airport and the Markham Valley

Nadzab airport, some 40 km outside Lae on the Highlands Highway, is situated in savanna grassland typical of much of the Markham Valley. You can see some species here which are more difficult to find elsewhere, such as **Pheasant Coucal**, **Forest Kingfisher**, **Sacred Kingfisher**, **Blue-tailed Bee-eater**, **Singing Bushlark**, **Pacific Swallow**, **Tawny Grassbird**, **Rufous-banded Honeyeater**, **White-breasted Wood-Swallow** and **Fawn-breasted Bowerbird**. In addition, some small waders occasionally alight on the extensive grassy strips on their migrations. Such species include the **Lesser Golden Plover** and **Whimbrel**.

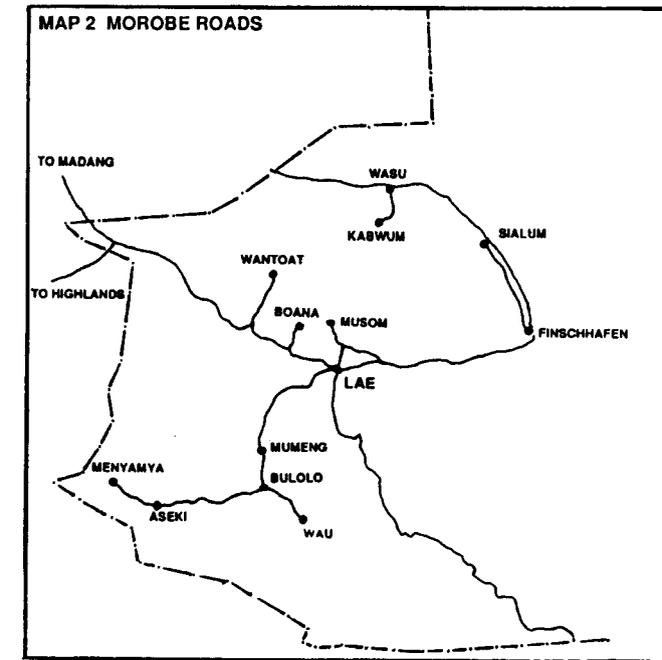
Other notable species to be found in the Markham include **Black-winged Kite**, **Spotted Marsh Harrier**, **Brown Quail**, **Buff-banded Rail**, **Masked Lapwing**, **Pied Imperial Pigeon**, **Edwards' Fig-Parrot**, **Lesser Black Coucal**, **White-winged Triller**, **Grey Shrike-Thrush**, **Grand Mannikin** and **Chestnut-breasted Mannikin**.

About half way between Lae and Nadzab, the Highway passes through an area of swamp forest near the turnoff to the village of Ngasawapum. This is quite a good place to see **Edwards' Fig-Parrot**, and a pair has been observed recently apparently nesting in a dead tree near the side of the road. **Masked Lapwing**, **Pied Imperial Pigeon**, **Grand Mannikin** and **White-winged Triller** are generally to be found further up the Markham towards Kassam Pass. Recently, a number of species beyond their normal range have been recorded in the Markham, such as **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**, **White-faced Heron** and **White-headed Stilt**.

F. Erap Valley-Boana road

A few kilometres past Nadzab Airport is the Erap River. Just before the bridge is an insignificant looking road leading off to the right. This is the road to Boana, a small district headquarters. It follows the Erap Valley, which is soon flanked by steep-sided grassy hills, before leaving the river and making a very steep ascent up to a school known as Gain School. Here a road branches off towards the village of Tinibi in the Upper Erap Valley, while the main Boana road continues past the school up to a ridge at about 1000 m.

It is in the forest beside this road just past Gain School that **Emperor Bird of Paradise** is found. This is endemic to the Huon Peninsula, i.e., it is found here and nowhere else, and as such it is highly prized by visiting bird-watchers, especially those who are keen on collecting lists of exotic species to impress their friends! It is apparently not found below 500 m, and is not present in the locations around Lae mentioned in the previous sections. The bird is very similar in shape and appearance to the Raggiana Bird of Paradise, but the plumes are white instead of red. The male also has a resplendent iridescent green breast and yellow lower back. The Emperor is quite common in this patch of forest between Gain School and the ridge summit, and a dozen or so



individuals can sometimes be seen flying to and fro over the road. The voice is quite a remarkable series of pops and whip-like sounds interspersed with the loud "wau wau wau" call resembling that of the Raggiana.

The Boana road goes to altitudes beyond the range of the roads previously mentioned, and this presents the opportunity to see some species of slightly higher elevations, such as **Mountain Kingfisher**, **Stout-billed Cuckoo-Shrike**, **Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-Shrike**, **Red Myzomela**, **Papuan Black Myzomela**, **Mountain Peltops** and **Great Wood-Swallow**. Non-bird-watchers may also enjoy the ride, as the drive along the valley has some fine views over to the Markham. At Boana, there are numerous trails into mountain villages going up to the highest altitudes, but the walking is extremely arduous in this kind of country. Some four hours walk towards the village of Bawan will bring you to the habitat of another Huon endemic Bird of Paradise, **Wahnes' Parotia**.

Further Afield in Morobe

Roads from Lae include the Highlands Highway to Kainantu and the Highlands Provinces, and the road to Bulolo and Wau (see Map 2). The latter gives access to some good birding sites, and at Wau, the Ecology Institute may have some up-to-date information about local conditions. At Bulolo a spectacular road branches off to Aseki and Menyamy, going right over the dividing range. A road towards the mountain headquarters of Wantoat runs north from the Highlands Highway at the Leron river about 100 km out of Lae. This goes through some of the higher altitude areas which

should be suitable for one or two of the Huon endemics, but I have so far not explored this area.

For those wishing to see Huon endemics, expensive air travel or time-consuming sea travel is involved. A road from Wasu on the north coast of the Huon is ideal for bird-watchers, going straight up the mountain towards Kabwum, giving access to the altitudinal ranges of all the endemics. First the **Emperor Bird of Paradise** is found above 500 m, then the **Wahnes' Parotia** at 1100 m, the **Spangled Honeyeater** at 1200 m, the **Huon Astrapia** at 1500 m, and finally the **Huon Melidectes** at 1600 m.

A road from Finschhafen runs north along the coast to Sialum, while an inland road linking Finschhafen with Pindiu is under construction. This too should give access to the Huon endemics. As yet there is no road link planned between Finschhafen and Lae, mainly due to the unwillingness of Finschhafen residents to allow their peaceful hideaway to be accessible by road to rascal elements.

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

Finch, B.W. 1986. Black-headed Gulls *Larus ridibundus* at Lae Airstrip, Morobe Province. Third record for mainland Papua New Guinea. *Muruk* 1: 90.

Address: Language Dept., Unitech, Private Mail Bag, Lae.

ASIAN WATERFOWL CENSUS : PORT MORESBY AREA, 1990.

ROGER K. HICKS

The Asian Waterfowl Census (AWC) is co-ordinated by the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau (IWRB) and Asian Wetlands Bureau (AWB). The aims of the AWC are "to obtain information on waterfowl populations at wetlands in Asia during the mid-winter period (January), as a basis for evaluation of sites and monitoring populations" and "to encourage greater interest in wetlands and waterfowl amongst governmental, non-governmental and private individuals and thereby promote the conservation of wetlands in Asia". In 1989 twenty countries participated, 1319 sites were covered and 6.9 million waterfowl of 222 species were recorded (Scott & Rose 1989).

PNG is not part of Asia, but was included in the Directory of Asian Wetlands (DAW) (Scott 1989). This was presumably because Irian Jaya, the western half of the island of New Guinea is a province of Indonesia which is in Asia, so the eastern half of the

island, PNG, was also included. PNG's avifauna is distinctly Australian, with less than 50% of south-eastern Asian waterfowl (as on the AWC form for that region) and if the long distance migrants (wadlers and terns) are ignored, then only 33% of waterfowl are common to PNG and south-east Asia. However, in 1990 PNGBS members were invited to participate in the AWC for the first time.

January is not the best month to conduct a census of waterfowl in PNG. It is the height of the wet season in most parts of the country. High rainfall causes extensive flooding in the lower reaches of most rivers, greatly increasing the area of wetland. Access to some sites becomes difficult if not impossible. The waterfowl also tend to disperse over a greater area, depressing numbers at accessible sites. Numbers of waterfowl are usually augmented each wet season by migrants from Australia. The late eighties were wet years in Australia, so birds have not moved to find more suitable habitat. Concentrations of waterfowl, in the Port Moresby area, are greatest towards the end of the dry season, October - November, when the wetland is smallest.

Between 11 - 14 January 1990, five members of the PNGBS (Will Glynn, Roger Hicks, Edel & Lex Kraaijo and Niklas Wahlberg) visited seven wetland sites in the Port Moresby area, six of which were included in the DAW. Each of these sites has been regularly visited by PNGBS members over the last five years, at least. Counts have been made regularly at Moitaka Settling Ponds and Hisiu Beach. The AWC counts are presented in Table 1.

Fifty-two species were recorded in the course of the census. Over the previous year only 12 other wetland species were recorded at these sites. These included two vagrants, one passage migrant and two Australian breeding species, leaving only seven species which might have been expected on the census days. No large concentrations of any species were noted, for the reasons outlined above.

The following observations were noteworthy for the Port Moresby area. At a high-tide roost near the village of Lea Lea we saw c. 50 Grey-tailed Tattlers, c. 80 Greenshanks and, most unexpectedly, six White-headed Shelduck. At Kanosia Lagoon we counted nine Wood Sandpipers and three Oriental Pratincole. There were also eight Red-rumped Swallows hawking over the lagoon. The rarest species recorded, for PNG, was probably the single adult Great Cormorant seen at Moitaka settling ponds where a Little Bittern was heard and a Black bittern seen. Individuals of all egrets recorded, at all sites, were in breeding plumage, although no nest sites were found. Australasian Grebes were noted nesting or with young at most freshwater sites and the behaviour of a pair of Little Ringed Plovers, of the resident race, suggested they were probably breeding at Kanosia Lagoon.

Scott, D.A. (ed). 1989. *A Directory of Asian Wetlands*. IUCN

Scott, D.A. & P. Rose. 1989. *Asian Waterfowl Census 1989*. IWRB.

Table 1. Results of the 1990 Asian Wetland Census: Port Moresby Area

Site Codes: 1 = Moitaka Settling Ponds; 2 = Lakes Iaraguma and Bunu; 3 = Lea Lea Salt Flats; 4 = Kanosia Lagoon; 5 = Aroa Lagoon; 6 = Hisiu Lagoon; 7 = Hisiu Beach (Obu Point - Cape Suckling).

Abbreviations: b = noted breeding during AWC; h = heard; X = recorded at site in previous year but not during the AWC.

Sites	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Date of Census	11/1	13/1	13/1	14/1	14/1	14/1	14/1
% Coverage of wetland	100	100	100	100	50	100	50
Australasian Grebe	1	104b	-	82b	8	X	-
Great Cormorant	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Little Black Cormorant	61	53	-	X	160	X	-
Little Pied Cormorant	X	41	-	X	80	X	-
Darter	X	1	-	-	1	-	-
Great Egret	4	8	-	1	X	7	-
Pied Heron	330	29	-	-	-	-	-
Intermediate Egret	3	16	1	-	-	-	-
Cattle Egret	-	13	-	18	-	-	-
Little Egret	9	1	-	-	3	1	-
Eastern Reef-Egret	-	-	X	-	-	-	X
Striated Heron	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Rufous Night-Heron	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Little Bittern	h	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Bittern	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glossy Ibis	-	-	-	-	X	-	-
Sacred Ibis	-	X	-	-	-	X	-
Straw-necked Ibis	-	-	X	-	-	-	-
Royal Spoonbill	-	1	-	-	2	-	-
Spotted Whistling Duck	14	X	-	X	2	X	-
Wandering Whistling Duck	208	419	-	30	20	4	-
White-headed Shelduck	-	-	6	-	-	-	-
Green Pygmy-Goose	X	2	-	-	1	X	-
Grey Teal	X	X	6	-	-	-	-
Pacific Black Duck	11	10	-	36	4	2	-
Garganey	9	39	-	3	-	X	-
Australian White-eyed Duck	-	-	-	X	-	-	-
Buff-banded Rail	X	-	-	X	-	-	-
White-browed Crake	h	X	-	X	-	X	-
Bush-Hen	h	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dusky Moorhen	83	161	-	2	70	6	-
Purple Swamphen	8	49	-	4	35	6	-
Comb-crested Jacana	2	49b	-	X	3	19	-
White-headed Stilt	7	X	-	X	1	X	-
Beach Stone-Curlew	-	-	-	-	-	-	X

Sites	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Date of Census	11/1	13/1	13/1	14/1	14/1	14/1	14/1
Oriental Pratincole	X	-	-	3	-	-	-
Masked Lapwing	10	3	-	29	3	5	-
Grey Plover	-	-	X	-	-	-	2
Pacific Golden Plover	5	X	5	X	-	X	X
Little Ringed Plover	X	-	-	2	-	-	-
Mongolian Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Large Sand-Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Eastern Curlew	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Whimbrel	X	-	2	-	-	-	X
Little Curlew	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Sandpiper	X	X	-	9	-	-	-
Grey-tailed Tattler	-	-	50	-	-	-	4
Common Sandpiper	4	X	X	X	-	2	6
Common Greenshank	X	X	80	X	-	X	-
Marsh Sandpiper	X	-	5	X	-	-	-
Terek Sandpiper	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
Snipe sp.	3	X	-	1	-	X	-
Black-tailed Godwit	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bar-tailed Godwit	-	-	X	-	-	-	X
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	1	X	11	19	-	17	-
Pectoral Sandpiper	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-necked Stint	X	X	150	X	-	3	27
Long-toed Stint	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Whiskered Tern	X	-	-	-	-	X	-
White-winged Black Tern	13	-	-	-	-	X	-
Gull-billed Tern	X	X	X	-	X	X	-
Common Tern	X	-	X	-	-	X	X
Little Tern	3	X	-	-	-	X	X
Crested Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Lesser Crested Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	X

Address: c/o NCC, P.O. Ward's Strip, Waigani, PNG.

ADDITIONS TO THE AVIFAUNA OF THE ADELBERT RANGE, PNG.

ROY D. MACKAY

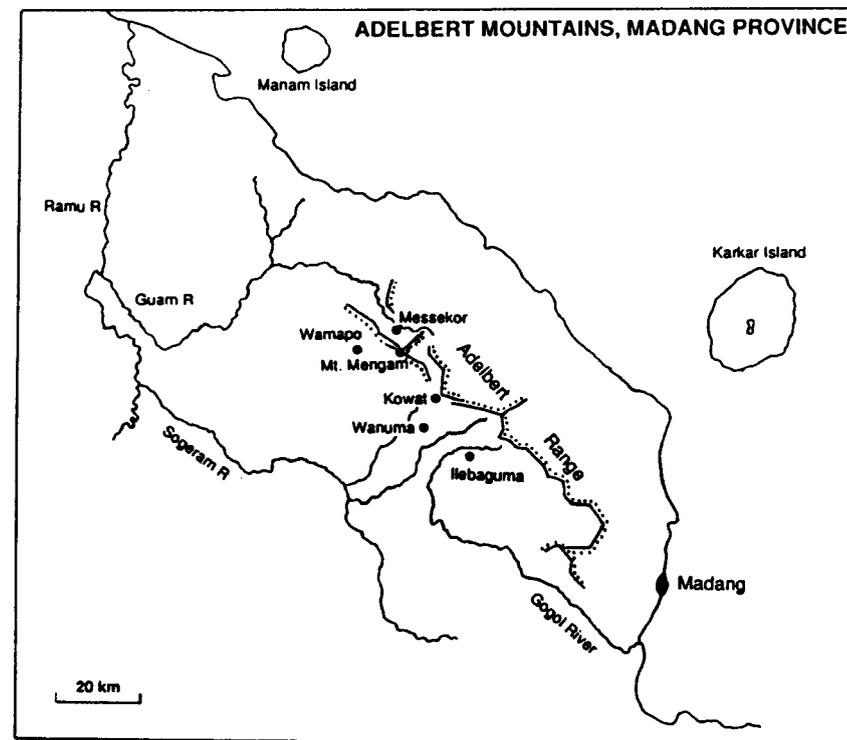
During the period of my studies on the Fire-maned Bowerbird *Sericulus bakeri* in the Adelbert Range, Madang Province, I have kept a note of the birds seen by me and my companions. These records were made between 500 m and 1550 m on the highest peaks of the range around Mt Mengam. This range of altitudes includes three distinct environmental zones: 1) a transition zone from lowland rainforest to hill forest, 500-700 m; 2) hill forest, 700-1450 m; and 3) lower montane forest, 1450-1550 m. The avifauna is largely distributed in a similar way, e.g., the Common Paradise Kingfisher occurs at 600 m near Wanuma airfield and no higher, the Fire-maned Bowerbird occurs only in the hill forest zone and Macgregor's Bowerbird occurs only in the lower montane zone above 1450 m. There are, of course, many species that are not so restricted, for example birds of prey, friarbirds and white cockatoos.

Since the discovery of the Fire-maned Bowerbird in 1928 by Rollo Beck of the American Museum of Natural History, New York (Chapin 1929), there has been moderate interest in the birds of the Adelbert Range. Gilliard & Leroy (1967) made a major expedition to rediscover the bowerbird and collect the birds of this little known area. Another major collecting trip was made by the staff of the Wau Ecology Institute (Pratt 1982). Both of these expeditions made lists of the birds recorded, totalling 144 species. Since then there have been only a few small expeditions (Alpha Helix, Peckover) until my studies and those of Diamond (1985). The total number of birds recorded for the area now totals 177 species and there are likely to be quite a few more as birds, ubiquitous elsewhere, have not yet been recorded, e.g., Willie Wagtail.

Below are the birds I and my companions have recorded over a period of four years on the following six visits, during which I spent 62 days in the field.

16 - 18 Apr 1985	Wanuma 700 m.
3 - 9 Sep 1985	Mt Mengam 1450 m (c. 1600 m at summit)
22 - 31 Oct 1985	Mt Mengam 1450 m.
8 - 19 Sep 1986	Ilebaguma 1000 m.
27 Aug to 7 Sep 1987	Kowat 1000 m.
9 - 16 Nov 1988	Kowat 1000 m.
16 - 24 Nov 1988	Wanuma 700 m.

Only species additional to those listed in Gilliard & LeCroy (1967) and Pratt (1982), with one exception, are listed here.



- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Grey-headed Goshawk | <i>Accipiter poliocephalus</i> |
| 4 September 1987, seen only once as it hunted in a garden at Kowat. | |
| Brown Falcon | <i>Falco berigora</i> |
| Common, recorded in each zone. | |
| Wattled Brush-Turkey | <i>Aepyodius arfakianus</i> |
| 9 September 1986, one flushed off a walking track as Brian Coates and I were stalking <i>Ptilorrhoa castanonotus</i> . We had a short sighting as it raced off into open undergrowth at Ilebaguma and another seen from a hide near a <i>Sericulus bakeri</i> bower. | |
| White-throated Pigeon | <i>Columba vitiensis</i> |
| 28 August 1987, one froze on the forest floor a few metres off a walking track as we passed in mature second-growth forest at Kowat. | |
| Emerald Ground-Dove | <i>Chalcophaps indica</i> |
| This is a high altitude sighting for this species but Gilliard & LeCroy (1967) recorded <i>C. stephani</i> at about the same altitude, 1400 m, and both are normally found much lower (Bechler <i>et al.</i> 1986) | |
| Cinnamon Ground-Dove | <i>Gallinula rufigula</i> |
| 13 September 1986, seen from a hide as it searched for food on the ground near a bower of <i>Sericulus bakeri</i> at Ilebaguma. | |
| Ornate Fruit-Dove | <i>Ptilinopus ornatus</i> |
| 30 October 1985, several seen feeding in fig tree <i>Ficus xylosyca</i> which is also a major food tree of <i>Sericulus bakeri</i> at Mesekor. | |
| Pink-spotted Fruit-Dove | <i>Ptilinopus perlatus</i> |
| 14 November 1988, feeding in a fig tree with many other birds at Kowat. | |
| White-crowned Koel | <i>Caliechthrus leucolophus</i> |
| Seen and heard in several localities from 700 m at Wanuma airfield to the edge of the lower montane forest at 1400 m. | |

- Dwarf Koel *Microdynamis parva*
Often seen, heard and netted in the hill forests at about 1000 m.
- Common Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea*
Seen and heard from Wanuma at 700 m to near Mt Mengam at c. 1450 m.
- Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*
Only seen and heard at Wanuma, 700 m.
- Lesser Black Coucal *Centropus bernsteini*
Commonly seen up to 1400 m. One pair seen duetting while perched on dead branches only 2 m, from the ground in tall grass at Wamapo 1400 m.
- Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa*
Commonly heard at night at several localities from 1000-1450 m.
- Papuan Boobook *Ninox theomacha*
Only one seen at Ilebaguma, 1000 m, but commonly heard at all altitudes.
- Owlet-nightjar sp. *Aegotheles* sp.
None seen, but calls suggesting *A. bennettii* heard at several localities.
- Uniform Swiftlet *Collocalia vanikorensis*
Very common around Wanuma at 700 m; each evening hundreds, even thousands gather before roosting.
- Mountain Swiftlet *Collocalia hirundinacea*
Recorded only around Mt Mengam area, 1450 m.
- Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*
Recorded only near Mt Mengam, 1450 m.
- Hook-billed Kingfisher *Melidora macrorrhina*
Seen once at Kowat but heard at all altitudes to 1400 m.
- Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sancta*
17 Apr 1985, one, Wanuma 700 m.
- Mountain Kingfisher *Halcyon megarhynchus*
One seen at Kowat, 1000 m; heard at same altitude elsewhere. The call of *H. megarhynchus* is quite a bit stronger than that of *H. torotoro* and, so far as I have heard, does not start with a sharp downward trill before giving the long continuous trill characteristic of both species.
- Chestnut-backed Jewel-Babbler *Ptilorrhoa castanonotus*
10 September 1986. This is not an additional species, but Brian Coates noted a brown headed bird not typical of the others we saw at Ilebaguma.
- Island Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus trivirgatus*
Seen at Mt Mengam, 1400 m, and Kowat, 1000 m.
- Dimorphic Fantail *Rhipidura brachyrhyncha*
Netted in lower montane forest, Mt Mengam, 1450 m.
- Friendly Fantail *Rhipidura albolimbata*
Common in the lower montane forest on Mt Mengam, 1450-1500 m.
- Yellow-legged Flycatcher *Microeca griseocephala*
Netted at Ilebaguma, 1000 m.
- Ashy Robin *Poecilodryas albispecularis*
Seen on the forest floor in the lower montane forest on Mt Mengam.
- Brown-backed Whistler *Pachycephala modesta*
Seen on two visits to the Mt Mengam area, 1400 m, at edge of lower montane forest and hill forest.
- Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*
6 September 1985, seen by Margaret Mackay and I on damaged trees at edge of lower montane forest on Mt Mengam, 1400 m.
- Black Sunbird *Nectarinia aspasia*
In food gardens at Wanuma, 700 m.

- Mountain Red-headed Myzomela *Myzomela adolphinae*
One at edge of lower montane forest, Mt Mengam, 1400 m.
- Mountain Meliphaga *Meliphaga orientalis*
Seen at Ilebaguma and Kowat, both at 1000 m.
- Varied Honeyeater *Lichenostomus versicolor*
Recorded on two visits to Wanuma, 700 m. A separate paper is being prepared on these records.
- Streak-headed Honeyeater *Pycnopygius stictocephalus*
An unusually high-altitude sighting in old village garden area at Ilebaguma, 1000 m.
- Lowland Peltops *Peltops blainvillii*
One pair calling and feeding young in second growth just below Wanuma housing area, 700 m.

I gratefully acknowledge the help and observations given by Margaret Mackay, Clifford Frith and Dawn Frith, Brian Coates, Andrew Yaga, James Menzies, Jared Diamond and Don Bruning.

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RECENT OBSERVATIONS FROM THE EASTERN HIGHLANDS, ENGA AND GULF PROVINCES

L.P. TOLHURST

During 1989 it was my good fortune to travel widely in PNG. I spent a week in Enga Province (March 27 - April 2) and the six weeks (June 28 - August 20) "on the road" visiting Omaura in the Yonki Valley, Eastern Highlands Province (EHP), Goroka and Kabiufa (also EHP) before returning to Enga for several weeks. Next, I flew to the Gulf Province for three weeks before returning to Port Moresby via Goroka. While this was a work assignment, I was able to spend some time observing birds in a variety of centres. As the PNGBS does not have many records from Enga, Eastern Highlands or Gulf Provinces, I present here lists of the species I recorded. I hope these lists will be of some use to those studying the bird life of PNG and to those who may wish to visit the same areas.

Perhaps the most interesting discovery made during these weeks was that 16 species were recorded above their normal altitude range as defined in the current literature

(Rand & Gilliard 1967, Coates 1985, Beehler *et al.* 1986). A list of these species with locations, altitudes and published upper altitude limit is presented in Table 1. This highlights how little is known of even some of PNG's more common birds and the need for continuous observation and reporting of sightings. Following the table are bird lists for each of the main localities that I visited.

OMAUVA - YONKI VALLEY AREA (EHP). 1500 m.

1 - 4 July 1989.

Black Kite 2; Spotted Marsh-Harrier dark phase; Oriental Hobby above range; Brown Quail heard; Dusky Lory common; Rainbow Lorikeet common; Brush Cuckoo heard; Moustached Tree-Swift above range; Mountain Swiftlet; Glossy Swiftlet; Richard's Pipit; Pacific Swallow common; Cicadabird 2 males and 1 female; Long-tailed Shrike; Pied Chat; Tawny Grassbird; Golden-headed Cisticola above range; Rusty Mouse-Warbler heard; White-shouldered Fairy-Wren heard; White-faced Robin 3 or 4; Black-headed Whistler common, parents seen feeding young on a branch; Grey Shrike-Thrush 2; Yellow-bellied Sunbird above range; Hooded Mannikin c. 12; White-breasted Wood-Swallow 3, above range; Yellow-breasted Bowerbird 3; Raggiana Bird of Paradise 1 female.

KABIUFA (EHP). 1829 m.

5 July 1989.

Willie Wagtail above range, heard; Grey Shrike-Thrush above range; Common Smoky Honeyeater.

RAKAMANDA (ENGA). 1980 m.

6 - 28 July 1989.

Black-winged Kite; Brahminy Kite; Black Kite above range; Spotted Marsh-Harrier dark phase, also adult male of Central Highlands population; Collared Sparrowhawk; Peregrine Falcon 2; Brown Cuckoo-Dove 3; Rainbow Lorikeet; Brush Cuckoo above range, very common, seen and frequently heard; Papuan Boobook heard; Mountain Swiftlet; Sacred Kingfisher; Pacific Swallow above range, parents seen feeding young out of nest; Richard's Pipit 2 seen, one local boy had a young one in the hand; Cicadabird 2 females and 1 male above range; Long-tailed Shrike; Pied Chat; Tawny Grassbird; Island Leaf Warbler; White-shouldered Fairy-Wren 3 or 4; Large Scrub-Wren; Buff-faced Scrub-Wren; Brown-breasted Gerygone; Black Fantail 1 female; Willie Wagtail above range; Black-headed Whistler above range; Rufous-naped Whistler; Papuan Flowerpecker; New Guinea White-eye, small flock seen; Mountain Red-headed Myzomela; Mountain Meliphaga above range; Helmeted Friarbird above range; Marbled Honeyeater; Belford's Melidectes; Common Smoky Honeyeater; Hooded Mannikin; Singing Starling 5 or 6, above range; Superb Bird of Paradise heard almost every day around house, and seen several times, both male and female present, male seen more often because it called frequently.

SOPAS (ENGA). 2225 m.

7 July 1989.

Black Kite above range; Pied Chat; Willie Wagtail heard above range.

WABAG (ENGA). 2133 m.

29 July 1989.

Torrent Flycatcher above range.

PORGERA (ENGA). 2225 m.

25 July 1989.

Mountain Swiftlet; Long-tailed Shrike; Tawny Grassbird; Pied Chat; Willie Wagtail above range; Mountain Red-headed Myzomela heard; Belford's Melidectes; Yellow-browed Melidectes; Great Wood-Swallow; Superb Bird of Paradise heard.

KANDEP PASS (ENGA). 3048 m.

17 July 1989.

Garnet Robin; Crested Berrypecker.

BAIMURU (GULF). Sea-level.

Intermediate Egret; Helmeted Friarbird heard.

KEREMA (GULF). Sea-level.

30-31 July 1989.

Intermediate Egret; Uniform Swiftlet; Pacific Swallow; Willie Wagtail; Grey Shrike-Thrush; Singing Starling; White-breasted Wood-Swallow.

KIKORI (GULF). Sea-level.

1-15 August 1989.

Little Pied Cormorant; Darter; Great Egret; Intermediate Egret; Little Egret; Brahminy Kite; Whistling Kite; Grey Goshawk; Black-billed Brush-Turkey heard; White-headed Stilt; Southern Crowned Pigeon; Ornate Fruit-Dove; Orange-bellied Fruit-Dove; Coroneted Fruit-Dove; Pied Imperial Pigeon; Zoe Imperial Pigeon; Collared Imperial Pigeon; Pinon Imperial Pigeon; Greater Streaked Lory; Rainbow Lorikeet; Western Black-capped Lory; Sulphur-crested Cockatoo; Palm Cockatoo; Red-cheeked Parrot; Eclectus Parrot; Vulturine Parrot; Brush Cuckoo heard; Shining Bronze-Cuckoo; Lesser Black Coucal much further East than range indicated in Beehler *et al.* 1986; Uniform Swiftlet; Glossy Swiftlet; Papuan Spine-tailed Swift; Rufous-bellied Kookaburra; Sacred Kingfisher; Forest Kingfisher; Common Kingfisher; Rainbow Bee-eater; Dollarbird; Blyth's Hornbill; White-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike; Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike; Cicadabird female seen; Black Cuckoo-Shrike male seen; Golden Cuckoo-Shrike both male and female seen; Varied Triller; Blue Jewel-Babbler; Rusty Mouse-Warbler heard; Mangrove Gerygone; Variable Pitohui; Papuan Flowerpecker; Yellow-bellied Sunbird; Black Sunbird; Yellow-bellied Longbill; Long-billed Honeyeater; Red-throated Myzomela; Mimic Meliphaga; Streak-headed Honeyeater; Helmeted Friarbird; Brown-backed Honeyeater; Rufous-banded Honeyeater; Singing Starling; Metallic Starling; Golden Myna; Yellow-faced Myna; Brown Oriole; Spangled Drongo; Hooded Butcherbird heard; Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise female seen.

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

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

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

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

TABLE 1. SPECIES RECORDED ABOVE PUBLISHED ALTITUDE RANGE

SPECIES	DATE	LOCATION	ALTITUDE	UPPER LIMIT
Black Kite	7/7/89	Sopas, Enga	2225 m (7300 ft)	5300 ft*
	9/7/89	Rakamanda, Enga	1980 m (6500 ft)	1750 m ^b 2200 m ^c
Oriental Hobby	2/7/89	Omaura, EHP	1500 m (4920 ft)	3000 ft* 1200 m ^b 1800 m ^c
Brush Cuckoo	17/7/89	Rakamanda, Enga	1980 m (6500 ft)	5500 ft* 1700 m ^b 1800 m ^c
Moustached Tree-Swift	2/7/89	Omaura, EHP	1500 m (4920 ft)	4000 ft* 1000 m ^b 1580 m ^c
Pacific Swallow	6/7/89	Rakamanda, Enga	1980 m (6500 ft)	6500 ft* 1900 m ^b
Cicadabird	21/7/89	Rakamanda, Enga	1980 m (6500 ft)	2500 ft* 1500 m ^b
Golden-headed Cisticola	26/3/89	Tari Gap, SHP	2590 m (8500 ft)	5000 ft*
	2/7/89	Omaura, EHP	1500 m (4920 ft)	1400 m ^b
Willie Wagtail	7/3/89	Rakamanda, Enga	1980 m (6500 ft)	6000 ft*
	29/3/89	Sopas, Enga	2225 m (7300 ft)	1000 m ^b
	1/7/89	Omaura, EHP	1500 m (4920 ft)	
	5/7/89	Kabiufa, EHP	1830 m (6000 ft)	
	25/7/89	Porgera, Enga	2225 m (7300 ft)	
Torrent Flycatcher	29/7/89	Wabag, Enga	2133 m (7000 ft)	6000 ft* 1800 m ^b
Black-headed Whistler	6/7/89	Rakamanda, Enga	1980 m (6500 ft)	5000 ft* 1600 m ^b
Grey Shrike-Thrush	5/7/89	Kabiufa, EHP	1830 m (6000 ft)	2000 ft* 1500 m ^b
Yellow-bellied Sunbird	2/7/89	Omaura, EHP	1500 m (4920 ft)	1200 m ^b
Mountain Meliphaga	21/7/89	Rakamanda, Enga	1980 m (6500 ft)	3750 ft* 1700 m ^b
Helmeted Friarbird	27/3/89	Rakamanda, Enga	1980 m (6500 ft)	1500 m ^b
Singing Starling	9/7/89	Rakamanda, Enga	1980 m (6500 ft)	5200 ft* 1500 m ^b
White-bellied Wood-Swallow	2/7/89	Omaura, EHP	1500 m (4920 ft)	1600 ft* 800 m ^b

* = Rand & Gilliard 1967.

EHP = Eastern Highlands Province

^b = Beehler *et al.* 1986.

SHP = Southern Highlands Province

^c = Coates 1985.

BIRD WATCHING IN KAGI

J. DUMBACHER

Kagi (Central Province) is a small village of 25-30 houses situated at c. 1400 m along the Kokoda Trail between Efogi-2 and Mt Bellamy. The diversity of elevations and habitats around Kagi is rich, ranging from the deep forested valley and river between Kagi and Efogi, large clearings and grasslands, to higher forested slopes within a 1-hour walk from Kagi towards Myola.

I visited Kagi from 28-31 July 1989 to look for New Guinea Harpy-Eagle *Harpyopsis novaeguineae* and Streaked Bowerbird *Amblyornis subalaris*. During my brief stay I found the people of Kagi hospitable and knowledgeable about the bush. The purpose of this paper is to offer travel suggestions and descriptions of the area to those wishing to visit Kagi.

Transport

Simbu Air takes passengers to Kagi on Mondays and Fridays for K38.00 (one way) plus extra for baggage exceeding their limit. Be prepared to wait all day in the terminal. You should talk to a pilot and make sure he will pick you up when you need to leave. Since foul weather can keep the planes from making the "scheduled" flights, you may like to plan your return to Port Moresby a couple days before any departing international flights. For the more adventurous traveller, Kagi is a 3-day walk from Ower's Corner at the Port Moresby end of the Kokoda Trail.

Accommodation

Mr Gai Amur runs a guest house that offers lodging at K6.00 per person per night, K7.00 for lodging and meals. He is willing to lead bird tours for K4.00 per person. I stayed at the rest house owned by the community leader, Mr Dimute. The rest house is cheaper, but is meant to house hikers walking the Kokoda Trail. One should not stay for more than one evening at the rest house. Remember that most men and women are Seventh-Day Adventists and will not work on Saturday for any amount of money. Knowledge of Pidgin is helpful.

Places to Visit

The airstrip is a 5-minute walk from Kagi and offers good views of the countryside and a good place to watch raptors. I saw adult and immature Brahminy Kites and a Little Eagle here. Flocks of mannikins (mostly Grey-headed) also feed in the grass along the airstrip. If you continue towards Efogi, the Kokoda Trail descends steeply and begins to enter forest. Plenty of birds call from just inside the bush, but seeing them requires hard work, patience and, of course luck. Thirty minutes away from Kagi the trail

crosses a small river where Torrent Larks and Torrent Flycatchers can be seen (or so say the men of Kagi). It is hard to hear over the stream, so you will have to look for birds here without the aid of your ears. The water in this stream is suitable for drinking.

Walking in the other direction, the Kokoda Trail winds up and into the mountains through grasslands and past many local gardens. White-shouldered Fairy-Wrens, Golden-headed Cisticolas, Great Wood-Swallows, and some myzomelas are common here. After about one-hour's walk, the trail enters the forest. Bird watching along the Kokoda Trail is nice, but if you hire a local guide they can take you on smaller bush trails. George Moiah and Archie Moiah and Eddie Loeve each helped me on different days and know where to find most of the common birds and bowers of the Streaked Bowerbird.

One-and-a-half hours from Kagi the trail enters a clearing. There is an established fire place and the area looks suitable for camping although it is not level. Mt Victoria, Kagi, and some of the other villages can be seen on a clear day. Water is available 15 minutes farther up the trail. The bush does get thicker here, and I saw Red-collared Myzomela, Rufous-backed Honeyeater, Regent Whistler, Black-breasted Boatbill, and Blue-grey Robin close to this spot. Many smaller branch trails give access to the bush. This clearing is about a 3-hour walk from Myola.

I did not find the New Guinea Harpy-Eagle although some village men did know the location of a nest. My search for the Streaked Bowerbird produced three bowers, two of which were still active. Both were located on west-facing hillsides in the forest. The first was within 45-minutes of Kagi and the second and third were c. 150 m away from the first on the same hillside. The first was a round, bowl-shaped structure made of sticks and decorated with three different types of yellow-green capsular fruits and several bright yellow flowers. My guide, George, told me that females ate the fruits. The lack of intricate decoration or structure suggested it was the bower of a younger male (G. Borgia pers. comm.). The second bower was a hut built around the base of a small sapling. A tunnel went in the front, around the sapling, and out of another entrance in the front. Between the two entrances a mat of moss was woven into the structure and decorated with dark blue plastic and seeds, and yellow flowers. A semi-circular platform made of sticks protruded from the front of the bower. It was decorated with red leaves on the right hand side, three species of capsular fruits (the same as at first bower) in the front, and a cluster of yellow flowers (also the same as at first bower) on the left. Two dark blue, partially chewed shotgun shell cases were located near the bower on the left and appeared to be the source of the plastic decoration. The third bower was 3.5 m down the hill from the second and only a shell of sticks remained. The male bowerbird was extremely wary and despite our efforts to conceal ourselves away from the bower, he did not return all morning.

I would like to thank Dr. Bruce Beehler for making the trip possible.

Bird list

Thanks to Eddie Loeve and to Magau and his sons Noah and Alex, I have been able to include many birds of the Kagi area that I did not see. All bird records given only by them are noted with a K following the species name.

Dwarf Cassowary (K), Brahminy Kite, Grey Goshawk (K), New Guinea Harpy Eagle (K), Little Eagle, Common Scrubfowl (K), Wattled Brush-Turkey (K), Brown Quail, King Quail (K-towards Myola), Forbes' Forest-Rail (K), Red-necked Rail (K), Baillon's Crake (K), Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove, Great Cuckoo-Dove (K), Stephan's Ground-Dove (K), Bronze Ground-Dove (K), White-bibbed Ground-Dove (K), Wompoo Fruit-Dove (K), White-breasted Fruit-Dove (K), Orange-bellied Fruit-Dove, Zoe Imperial Pigeon (K), Papuan Mountain Pigeon (K), Yellow-billed Lorikeet, Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrot (K), Large Fig-Parrot (K), Eclectus Parrot (K), Fantailed Cuckoo, Rufous-throated Bronze-Cuckoo (K), White-eared Bronze-Cuckoo (K), Dwarf Koel (K), Marbled Frogmouth (K), Papuan Frogmouth (K), Large-tailed Nightjar, Moustached Tree-Swift (K), Mountain Swiftlet, Glossy Swiftlet, Common Paradise-Kingfisher (K), Brown-headed Paradise-Kingfisher (K), Forest Kingfisher, Yellow-billed Kingfisher, Rainbow Bee-eater, Spotted Jewel-Babbler (K), Lesser Melampitta (K), Golden-headed Cisticola, White-shouldered Fairy-Wren, Gerygone sp., Black Fantail, Friendly Fantail, Black-breasted Boatbill, Torrent Flycatcher (K), Lemon-bellied Flycatcher (K), Olive Flycatcher (K), Canary Flycatcher (K), White-faced Robin, Banded Yellow Robin (K), Blue-grey Robin, Regent Whistler, White-Eye sp., Red-collared Myzomela, Meliphaga sp., Rufous-backed Honeyeater, Grey-headed Mannikin, Torrent Lark (K), Great Wood Swallow, Mountain Peltops (K), Macgregor's Bowerbird (K), Streaked Bowerbird, Brown Sicklebill (K), Stephanie's Astrapia (K), Superb Bird of Paradise, Lawes' Parotia (K).

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A SHORT WEEK IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

TIMOTHY AND LAUREL OSBORNE

We spent the week of 15-22 April 1989 visiting Papua New Guinea. Whilst in Port Moresby, we stayed at the Civic Guest House [now renamed Amber's Guest House, Ed.] in Boroko. Outside in an *Acacia* sp. tree a pair of Rufous-banded Honeyeaters were feeding young in a suspended cup nest, just below the canopy. We found another pair 100 m up the road in the process of building a nest at the end of a branch.

We flew to Tari on 17 April and stayed at Ambua Lodge. We enjoyed the area but had the feeling that April might not be the best month to see all the resident birds of paradise in a short time. After five days we had only seen five species. The paradigallas and astrapias were mainly female and juvenile plumaged birds. Although we walked all over the Lodge grounds and adjacent paths and up to Tari Gap three times there did not appear to be many trees in fruit by the road or trail sides, where we could sit and wait

for the birds to come to us. Of course we were also frustrated by our lack of call recognition which did not improve until we were almost ready to leave. Other problems were the habits of the LBJs (little brown jobs) which, after a very brief glimpse, dropped off into the abyss on the steep canyon trails never to be seen again. The roar from the waterfalls blocked out bird calls.

Each day just after sun-up we saw a dozen or more flocks of 15-75 Papuan Mountain Pigeons several hundred metres over the lodge, flying from the north to the south, and near sundown the flocks would return to the north. In the forest above the Bailey bridge Meyer's Goshawks were fairly common and we saw at least three adults and one immature over the course of several days. Between the bridge and the upper part of the "old road" we saw a New Guinea Harpy Eagle tearing up epiphytic moss, which was growing on a large tree, searching for prey. The wing flopping and tarsal gymnastics looked very similar to the antics of the African Gymnogene when it is engaged in searching hanging palm fronds for prey. The next day we saw another or the same bird soaring over the Bailey bridge. I expect that the bird has a nest somewhere north of the road. We saw one Buff-banded Rail between chalets 5 and 7 and two on the road verge at dusk above the lodge all on 19 April. We saw a ringed, immature Short-tailed Paradigalla close to the nest from which, we were informed, it had fledged. We found a pair of Torrent Larks between the power plant and the upstream waterfall. We thoroughly enjoyed the area and wished that we had more time to spend at Tari. We also regretted not having worn gumboots since our shoes were continually wet from the rain, and the grasslands at Tari Gap were like bogs.

We returned to Port Moresby and went to Varirata National Park for a day trip with Charles Derby and Mike and Helen Hopkins. The highlight was a sighting of a Gurney's Eagle which was possibly an immature bird. We saw the bird soaring north-westwards over the escarpment near Lifiliwasowaso Lookout. A few minutes later when we were at the lookout the bird flew past again about 20 m away and slightly below us, giving us excellent views. At the same time Mike Hopkins was on the Hubert Murray Highway at the base of the escarpment and also saw the bird. The field characters of the bird were: large size, as large as the African Tawny Eagle, colour rich buffy brown with pale whitish patches on upper wings where the secondaries meet the primaries and at the base of the tail. These pale markings were similar to those of an immature Golden Eagle. The end of the tail was slightly rounded. The flight was slow and rather lazy as the bird was obviously hunting along the top of the escarpment edge.

We would like to thank Thane Pratt, whom we consulted in Hawaii and who suggested Ambua Lodge as the best location for our limited stay. We would also like to thank Mike Hopkins and Helen Fortune Hopkins for all the help and assistance they extended us during our stay.

Species list Tari area

Brahminy Kite, Brown Goshawk, Meyer's Goshawk, New Guinea Harpy Eagle, Brown Quail, Buff-banded Rail, Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove, Bronze Ground Dove, Papuan Mountain Pigeon, Papuan Lorikeet, Plum-faced Lorikeet, Orange-billed Lorikeet, Brehm's Tiger Parrot, Rufous-throated Bronze Cuckoo, Papuan Boobook, Moustached Tree-Swift, Mountain Swiftlet, Long-tailed Shrike, Pied Chat, Island Thrush, Tawny Grassbird, White-shouldered Fairy-Wren, Buff-faced Scrub-Wren, White-throated Gerygone, Dimorphic Fantail, Black Fantail, Friendly Fantail, Black-breasted Boatbill, Canary Flycatcher, Mountain Robin, Black-throated Robin, Blue-grey Robin, Sclater's Whistler, Regent Whistler, Black-headed Whistler, Black Sittella, Fan-tailed Berrypecker, Papuan Flowerpecker, Crested Berrypecker, New Guinea White-Eye, Red-collared Myzomela, Forest White-eared Meliphaga, Rufous-backed Honeyeater, Grey-backed Streaked Honeyeater, Sooty Melidectes, Belford's Melidectes, Yellow-browed Melidectes, Common Smoky Honeyeater, Mountain Firetail, Mountain Drongo, Torrent-Lark, Great Wood-Swallow, Short-tailed Paradigalla, Brown Sicklebill, Stephanie's Astrapia, Ribbon-tailed Astrapia, King of Saxony Bird of Paradise.

Species list Varirata N.P.

Australasian Grebe, Brahminy Kite, Gurney's Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Black-billed Brush-Turkey (heard), Oriental Cuckoo, Pheasant Coucal, Forest Kingfisher, Rainbow Bee-eater, Rusty Mouse-warbler, Yellow-bellied Gerygone, Chestnut Fantail, Spot-winged Monarch, Frilled Monarch, Leaded Flycatcher, Hooded Pitohui, White-throated Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Myna, Mountain Drongo, Hooded Butcherbird, Fawn-breasted Bowerbird, Raggiana Bird of Paradise.

Address: P.O. Box 209, Galena, Alaska, 99741, U.S.A.

BIRD LIST FOR KARAWARI LODGE AND AREA, EAST SEPIK PROVINCE.

DARRELL PRICE¹ AND LLOYD NIELSEN²

Karawari Lodge is situated on a ridge (c. 100 m) overlooking the Karawari River, a tributary of the Sepik. The surrounding area is lowland swamp forest, some of which is seasonally inundated. The following is a list of species observed in the area around Karawari Lodge, including Yimas Lakes and the Arafundi River, 27-29 November 1989.

Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>
Pied Heron	<i>Egretta picata</i>
Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Rufous Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>
Whistling Kite	<i>Haliastur sphenurus</i>
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
Spotted Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna guttata</i>
White Pygmy-Goose	<i>Nettion coromandelianus</i>
Pacific Black Duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>
Dusky Moorhen	<i>Gallinula tenebrosa</i>
Purple Swampphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>

Masked Lapwing	<i>Vanellus miles</i>
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia amboinensis</i>
Superb Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus superbus</i>
Coroneted Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus coronulatus</i>
Orange-bellied Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus iozonus</i>
Pinon Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula pinon</i>
Papuan Mountain Pigeon	<i>Gymnophaps albertisii</i>
Dusky Lory	<i>Pseudeos fuscata</i>
Western Black-capped Lory	<i>Lorius lory</i>
Red-flanked Lorikeet	<i>Charmosyna placensis</i>
Palm Cockatoo	<i>Probosciger aterrimus</i>
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita</i>
Edwards' Fig-Parrot	<i>Psittaculirostris edwardsii</i>
Red-cheeked Parrot	<i>Geoffroyus geoffroyi</i>
Eclectus Parrot	<i>Eclectus roratus</i>
Malay Bronze-Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx minutillus</i>
Lesser Black Coucal	<i>Centropus bernsteini</i>
Uniform Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia vanikorensis</i>
Rufous-bellied Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo gaudichaud</i>
Dwarf Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx lepidus</i>
Blyth's Hornbill	<i>Rhyticeros plicatus</i>
Blue-breasted Pitta	<i>Pitta erythrogaster</i>
White-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike	<i>Coracina papuensis</i>
Boyer's Cuckoo-Shrike	<i>Coracina boyeri</i>
Pale-billed Scrub-Wren	<i>Sericornis spilodera</i>
Large-billed Gerygone	<i>Gerygone magnirostris</i>
Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>
Frilled Monarch	<i>Arses telescopthalmus</i>
Shining Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra alecto</i>
Black Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia aspasia</i>
Graceful Meliphaga	<i>Meliphaga gracilis</i>
Plain Honeyeater	<i>Pycnopygius ixioides</i>
Meyer's Friarbird	<i>Philemon meyeri</i>
Helmeted Friarbird	<i>Philemon buceroides</i>
Singing Starling	<i>Aplonis cantoroides</i>
Golden Myna	<i>Mino anais</i>
Yellow-faced Myna	<i>Mino dumontii</i>
Spangled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>
Hooded Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus cassicus</i>
Lowland Peltops	<i>Peltops blainvillii</i>
White-eared Catbird	<i>Ailuroedus buccoides</i>
Trumpet Manucode	<i>Manucodia keradrenii</i>
Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise	<i>Seleucidis melanoleuca</i>
King Bird of Paradise	<i>Cicinnurus regius</i>
Grey Crow	<i>Corvus tristis</i>

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[The PNGBS would like to produce an annotated checklist for Karawari, similar to those being prepared for Varirata, Myola and Bensbach. If you have any additional records or comments please communicate them to the editor. Thank you. Ed].

BEHAVIOURAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SOME BIRDS AROUND LAE AND AT KERA VAT, EAST NEW BRITAIN

GEOFF P. SMITH

On a recent visit to Keravat, near Rabaul (12-13 August 1989), one of the most striking features of the birds observed, apart from the New Britain endemics, was some slight differences in calls or other behaviour in species familiar from Lae. These observations were made in secondary growth around gardens or plantations in the Keravat area on the Gazelle Peninsula some 45 km south-west of Rabaul. Some of these observations supplement or confirm those of Finch and McKean (1987).

Brahminy Kite

Haliastur indus

Eleven were observed soaring on thermals on one occasion, seven on another. Around Lae, these birds are fairly common, but are usually observed singly or in pairs. I have never observed them soaring communally in this way. However, as at one location outside Lae, one individual was observed perched among a nesting colony of Metallic Starlings *Aplonis metallica*, presumably waiting to prey on the unwary.

Eclectus Parrot

Eclectus roratus

Very common, with seemingly brighter colours shining splendidly in the morning sunshine. Calls were a little different, some being higher in pitch and shriller. Also, some small flocks of up to 8 birds were observed. Around Lae, they almost always fly singly or in pairs. The majority of birds observed were male, with only about one quarter females.

Shining Flycatcher

Myiagra alecto

Several were heard calling, and a pair was observed engaged in some kind of display. Two males with crests erected faced each other and bobbed repeatedly while flashing their gapes. The gape was a conspicuous bright red, rather than orange, as some reports for mainland birds indicate. One or two other males were seen in the vicinity, but no females.

Yellow-faced Myna

Mino dumontii

In contrast to the dry croaks familiar from Lae, these birds also commonly gave a more melodious churring descending whistle, with something of the quality of the calls of the Golden Myna *Mino anais* heard around Moresby.

Spangled Drongo

Dicrurus hottentottus

Again a different range of vocalisations. Fewer harsh metallic cries, and among the others, one sounding rather like the second two notes of the "Whick-e-whick" call of a Black Butcherbird *Cracticus quoyi* familiar from Lae.

Torresian Crow

Corvus orru

The call is very different, an endlessly repeated short sharp call somewhere between a duck's quack and a dog's bark. One can see why they call this species "Kotkot" in Rabaul. This fits the description of *Corvus meeki insularis* as described by Finch and McKean (1987).

Other species recorded include :

Bush-Hen

Amaurornis olivaceus

Heard calling.

Common Sandpiper

Tringa hypoleucos

On seashore.

Brown Cuckoo-Dove

Macropygia amboinensis

Several observed flying and perched.

Red-Knobbed Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus insolitus</i>
Common. Looks and sounds very like the mainland <i>P. iozonus</i> , apart from red knob on cere.	
Pied Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula bicolor</i>
One or two seen flying. Quite a number of other unidentified <i>Ducula</i> species with white underparts were seen.	
Eastern Black-capped Lory	<i>Lorius hypoinochrous</i>
Common and vocal.	
Red-flanked Lorikeet	<i>Charmosyna placentis</i>
Many small parties feeding.	
Blue-eyed Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua ophthalmica</i>
One or two observed.	
Song Parrot	<i>Geoffroyus heteroclitus</i>
One pair seen in typical <i>Geoffroyus</i> pose in the topmost branch of a tree.	
? Oriental Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus saturatus</i>
A large cuckoo being mobbed in flight by a Willie Wagtail.	
Brush Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis variolosus</i>
Commonly heard.	
Common Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>
Manic "kooee" call heard frequently, and one seen flying into scrub.	
White-necked Coucal	<i>Centropus ateralbus</i>
Several pairs of these attractive birds were observed - a real treat for a first-time observer. One common call by duetting pairs was rather like large bubbles breaking the surface of water. One posed upright for some time on a sunlit branch with wings and tail fully outstretched and head to one side. It appeared to be a passable impression of an <i>Archaeopteryx</i> , but its real purpose was unknown.	
Sacred Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon sancta</i>
Common and conspicuous. All birds seen had immaculately neat plumage.	
Rainbow Bee-eater	<i>Merops ornatus</i>
Several small flocks.	
White-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike	<i>Coracina papuensis</i>
One or two observed.	
Varied Triller	<i>Lalage leucomela</i>
Common in urban gardens as well as secondary growth.	
Golden-headed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola exilis</i>
One in a grassy area cleared for a garden.	
Northern Fantail	<i>Rhipidura rufiventris</i>
Quite common.	
Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>
Common.	
Bismarck Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum eximium</i>
A delightful small bird frequently encountered.	
Black Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia aspasia</i>
Both sunbirds were observed in a tree at Rabaul market, as well as in other locations.	
Yellow-bellied Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia jugularis</i>
Common.	
? Black-headed White-Eye	<i>Zosterops hypoxantha</i>
Small flock presumably of this species.	
New Britain Red-headed Myzomela	<i>Myzomela erythromelas</i>
Seen in trees adjacent to a teak plantation.	
New Britain Friarbird	<i>Philemon cockerelli</i>
Common. Calls much less harsh and obtrusive than <i>P. novaeguineae</i> .	

New Britain Honeyeater	<i>Vosea whitemanensis</i>
Observed in urban gardens as well as scrub.	
Mannikin sp.	<i>Lonchura</i> sp.
Small flock observed.	
Singing Starling	<i>Aplonis cantoroides</i>
At Keravat National High School.	
Metallic Starling	<i>Aplonis metallica</i>
Abundant.	

Finch, B.W. & J. McKean. 1987. Some Notes on the Birds of the Bismarks.
Muruk 2: 3-28.

Address: c/o Language Dept., Unitech, Private Mail Bag, Lae.

NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF NEW BRITAIN

PETER STORER¹ AND CHRISTOPHER EASTWOOD²

We provide an annotated list of species encountered on a seven-day expedition to Walindi in West New Britain and Rabaul in East New Britain. The list includes notes on some aspects of the endemic species, frequency encountered and comparison with mainland populations.

On 8 November 1988 we left Port Moresby in the morning for Hoskins (via Lae) on a scheduled flight. We hired a vehicle for the hour's drive to Walindi, which is located to the north-west of Hoskins across Stettin Bay and c. 10 km west of Kimbe. In the afternoon we walked to a lookout at the edge of hill forest about 2 km inland from the lodge at Walindi. The area around the lodge contained various natural and planted trees and shrubs and was surrounded on three sides by large oil palm and copra plantations and on the fourth side by the Bismarck Sea. The next three days were spent birding along the Numundo Plantation road which runs inland from the Kimbe-Walindi coast road. The Numundo Plantation road passed through plantations and areas of secondary growth. There was very little accessible primary forest, but a few small pockets remained alongside this road.

On the afternoon of 11 November 1988 we flew by a scheduled flight to Rabaul. Over the next few days we explored the areas beyond Keravat and around Rabaul and Kokopo. The Gazelle peninsula is extensively planted with oil palm and coconut with no primary forest left within 30 km of Rabaul. Beyond Keravat large tracts of forest could be seen in the distance but appeared inaccessible to ordinary vehicles. The main road passes through numerous villages surrounded by extensive cultivation and secondary growth.

ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED IN WEST AND EAST NEW BRITAIN, 8 - 15 NOVEMBER 1988

Abbreviations used: WNB = West New Britain; ENB = East New Britain

- Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*
 ENB Occasionally seen along the coast at Rabaul.
- Eastern Reef-Egret *Egretta sacra*
 WNB One along the beach at Walindi.
 ENB One pair (one white-phase bird and one dark-phase bird) on Matupit Island.
- Crested Hawk *Aviceda subcristata*
 WNB Fairly common raptor in forest, secondary growth and gardens in the Walindi area.
 ENB One on road beyond Keravat.
- Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*
 WNB Very common in all habitats at Walindi, including the grounds of the lodge and in the plantations.
 ENB Fairly common in secondary forest and forest edge.
- New-Britain Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brachyurus*
 WNB One immature, presumably this species, in an overgrown garden 1 km inland from Walindi.
- Accipiter sp.
 A small raptor - less than 30 cm; the head, back and wings were pale grey with darker tips to the primaries; indistinct chestnut hindcollar. The cere and legs were yellow, the iris red and the bill black. Several other small raptors were also seen but were not identified.
- Lesser Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*
 WNB Numerous at Hoskins Airport and on open grassland in front of Hoskins Hotel.
 ENB 13 Nov, 100+ & 14 Nov, 250+ at Rabaul Airport.
- Mongolian Plover *Charadrius mongolus*
 WNB A few present at Walindi beach.
 ENB 13 Nov, 10+ on Matupit Island.
- Large Sand-Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*
 ENB 14 Nov, 2 on Matupit Island.
- Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*
 ENB 14 Nov, 1, Matupit Island.
- Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*
 ENB 13 Nov, 1, Matupit Island.
- Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
 ENB Singles on Matupit Island and at Rabaul Airport.
- Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*
 WNB Fairly common along beach at Walindi.
- Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos*
 WNB 2 or 3, Walindi beach.
 ENB Singles on Matupit Island and at Rabaul Airport.
- Terek Sandpiper *Tringaterk*
 ENB 13 Nov, 10+, Matupit Island.
- Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala*
 WNB Common at Hoskins Airport.
 ENB Common (50+) at Rabaul Airport.
 Note: positive identification was not made.

- Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*
 ENB 2, Rabaul Airport.
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*
 WNB Common at Hoskins Airport.
 ENB 50+ at Rabaul Airport.
- Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*
 WNB Seen occasionally offshore at Walindi.
 ENB 1, flying over Simpson Harbour, Rabaul and common off Matupit Island.
- Brown Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis*
 WNB Fairly common in forest on Numundo plantation road.
- Spot-breasted Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia mackinlayi*
 WNB 2 or 3 in forest on Numundo plantation road.
 Slightly smaller than *M. amboinensis* but with faintly mottled breast.
- Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*
 WNB 2, in forest along Numundo plantation road.
- Red-knobbed Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus insolitus*
 WNB 1, in canopy of forest along Numundo plantation road. Often seen at dawn in small groups perched in large trees.
 ENB Singles on road beyond Keravat.
- Finsch's Imperial Pigeon *Ducula finschii*
 WNB 1, inside forest edge along Numundo plantation road tentatively identified as this species.
- Black Imperial Pigeon *Ducula melanochroa*
 WNB 1, seen with a party of *D. rubricera* along the Numundo plantation road, at c. 150 m.
- Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor*
 WNB Groups flying along the coast.
- Papuan Mountain Pigeon *Gymnophaps albertisii*
 WNB Fairly common in forest, secondary growth and gardens.
- Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*
 WNB Common in forests and gardens.
- Eastern Black-capped Lory *Lorius hypoinochrous*
 WNB Common in most habitats, particularly coconut plantations.
- Red-flanked Lorikeet *Charmosyna placensis*
 WNB Very common at flowering trees including coconuts.
 ENB Fairly common in and around Rabaul.
- Blue-eyed Cockatoo *Cacatua ophthalmica*
 WNB Common and conspicuous in forest and forest edge.
 ENB Several beyond Keravat.
 Similar to *C. galerita* but with blue eye-patch and less harsh call.
- Ecliptus Parrot *Ecliptus roratus*
 WNB Very common in forest and forest edge.
 ENB Common beyond Keravat in secondary growth and forest
- Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*
 WNB Heard near the lodge at Walindi.
 ENB Heard in most habitats around Rabaul.
- Common Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea*
 WNB One male, Numundo plantation.
- Violaceous Coucal *Centropus violaceus*
 WNB One along the Numundo road. A very large coucal with a brown-purple sheen and conspicuous bare white patch around eye. First seen on a bare branch but once disturbed it quickly scrambled into a tangle of epiphytes where it made its booming call. This was the only sighting although it was often heard.

- White-necked Coucal *Centropus aleribus*
WNB Common in forest canopy and secondary growth. More visible and vocal than *C. violaceus*.
- Moustached Tree-Swift *Hemiprocne mystacea*
WNB Common in forest, secondary growth and gardens.
ENB Fairly common beyond Keravat and in the Kokopo area.
- Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*
WNB Seen near the coast; we found it to be the least common of the three *Collocalia* species in the area.
- Uniform Swiftlet *Collocalia vanikorensis*
WNB Very common in all areas visited.
- White-rumped Swiftlet *Collocalia spodiopygia*
WNB Common, especially along streams and rivers.
ENB Fairly common in gardens, clearings and forest edge.
- Black-headed Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanyptera nigriceps*
WNB One glimpsed in flight inside forest along the Numundo road.
- Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sancta*
WNB Fairly common in gardens, clearings and forest edge.
ENB Fairly common in gardens and forest edge beyond Keravat.
[I think these sightings may refer to Collared Kingfisher *H. chloris* as Sacred Kingfisher is migratory. By the end of October there are very few to be seen in the Port Moresby area, most having departed to breed in Australia. I would expect the same to be true on New Britain and for them not to be still fairly common. I have also recorded Collared Kingfisher commonly in secondary growth near Walindi. ed].
- Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*
ENB 1, along a river beyond Keravat.
- Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*
ENB Several at Rabaul Airport and around sandy cliffs between Rabaul and Kokopo.
- Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*
WNB 1, along the Numundo road.
- Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus*
WNB Fairly common, including one party of 5 over forest surrounding Numundo plantation.
- Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*
WNB Common in and around towns.
ENB Common around Rabaul Airport.
- Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina lineata*
WNB 1, along the Numundo road.
- Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*
WNB 1, male along the Numundo road.
- Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*
WNB Common in secondary growth and forest. A pair was resident in the grounds of Walindi Lodge.
- Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*
ENB Common in scrub and grassland around Rabaul, especially at Matupit.
- Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris*
WNB Common in forest along the Numundo road.
- Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*
WNB Very common in disturbed habitats. An aggressive bird was seen chasing a group of *Corvus meeki* from a tiny islet just offshore from Walindi Lodge. It rode on the back of one of the escaping crows, pecking at it furiously.
ENB Common in disturbed habitats.

- Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*
WNB Fairly common in forest along the Numundo road.
- Lesser Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra hebetior*
WNB 1 female, in scrub along the Numundo road. Distinguished from *M. alecto* by grey head, brown upperparts and white underparts. A very active bird keeping inside the mid-storey and sub-canopy.
- Bismarck Flowerpecker *Dicaeum eximium*
WNB Common in forested areas.
ENB Fairly common in clearings, forest and forest edge.
- Black Sunbird *Nectarinia aspasia*
WNB One of the commonest passerines found in nearly all habitats.
ENB Common in all habitats including the town of Rabaul. One fully fledged juvenile was seen being fed by pair of adults on Matupit Island.
- Yellow-bellied Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis*
WNB Common in most habitats.
- New Britain Dusky Myzomela *Myzomela cineracea*
WNB Common in most habitats.
- Red-headed Black Myzomela *Myzomela erythromelas*
WNB Fairly common in forests, clearings and gardens. Visited flowering trees around the lodge.
- New Britain Friarbird *Philemon cockerelli*
WNB Common in most wooded habitats.
ENB Occasionally beyond Keravat and on the Gazelle Peninsula.
- Buff-bellied Mannikin *Lonchura melaena*
WNB Flock of 30+ at Hoskins Airport feeding on ground amongst short grass. The one or two males appeared all black with rufous rumps.
- Hooded Mannikin *Lonchura spectabilis*
ENB Common in grassland.
- Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica*
WNB Abundant and vociferous. By far the most common bird in all habitats where there were trees. Several nesting colonies contained between 50-100 pendant nests.
ENB Common in gardens, secondary growth and forest.
- Yellow-faced Myna *Mino dumontii*
WNB We presume this species rather than Long-tailed Myna *M. krefftii*. The birds did not appear to be any different from the mainland form with the exception of their calls which were more similar to *Dicrurus hottentottus*. They were fairly common in secondary growth and forest.
- Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*
WNB Very common in secondary growth and forest.
- White-backed Wood-Swallow *Artamus insignis*
ENB 2, hawking for insects from some tall trees in an old garden. A strikingly handsome black and white wood-swallow recalling Great Wood-Swallow *A. maximus* but with a prominent white back.
- Bougainville Crow *Corvus meeki*
WNB Very common in gardens, towns, secondary growth and forest.
We tentatively identify the crows as this species since the birds were quite different from the familiar *C. orru* on the mainland. Its flight sometimes appeared more like that of a raptor than that of a crow. The call is higher pitched than that of *C. orru* and comprises several notes descending in pitch. The birds were frequently seen in small flocks rather than as individuals.

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² P.O. Box C312, Clarence Street, Sydney 2000, Australia

REPORT OF AN EXPEDITION TO NEW IRELAND

23 - 28 OCTOBER 1989

ANDREW LYBURN

Intent on discovering a real South Pacific paradise, my father and I journeyed to Kavieng via Rabaul, the last leg being in a Cessna 402, with a pilot who had never flown one before.

We began birding at Kavieng airstrip where Lesser Golden Plovers were feeding on the short grass. Uniform Swiftlets circled overhead. We signed for our transport, a Mazda twincab, at the coffee shop and then checked in to the Malagan Lodge, an impressive kwila structure situated on the waterfront.

Early next morning we began the 275 km drive to Namatanai along the north-east side of the island. Brahminy Kites and Torresian Crows were the most conspicuous of the avifauna viewed as we drove past picturesque fishing villages. Rundown coconut plantations cover most of the coastal plain, which is about 2 km wide, but primary rain forest cloaks the central range of hills. In a swampy area at Komo we stopped on the road to watch Eclectus Parrots, Red-flanked Lorikeets, Black Sunbirds (the females showing a distinct dark moustachial streak on a greyish head), and Yellow-faced Mynas. During lunch on the beach, a Crested and two Lesser Crested Terns provided a useful comparison but were overshadowed by an Osprey sweeping past.

Further down the coast, at Karu, a black bird with two long tail streamers flying in a direct line through a patch of secondary forest could only be the fabled Paradise Drongo, number one on the target list.

For the next three days our base was the Namatanai Hotel, which must survive commercially only because it enjoys a complete monopoly in the southern half of the island. At "dinner" on the first evening we met a logger who recommended we drive across to the western side of the island the next morning for bird watching and invited us to view his operations on the following day. Following his advice we took the road going north-west from Namatanai, but only relict forest remains in the gullies. More Black Sunbirds, a Bismarck Flowerpecker, a Paradise Drongo, three Golden Monarchs, several Eastern Black-capped Lories and a Stephan's Ground-Dove were all that we saw. We do not rate the area worthy of closer investigation.

By contrast, there are numerous logging tracks penetrating the interior from a point 15 km south of Namatanai where Santa Investments is operating. Our first visit, the

same afternoon, produced a large eagle as yet unidentified, with plumage resembling a juvenile Brahminy Kite. Driving back to Namatanai we had magnificent views of an Osprey tearing a fish to shreds in the top of a bare roadside tree. Our second visit in the early morning, turned up by far the best collection of birds during the entire trip. Paradise Drongos abounded. At one time we had six birds in view. This was particularly pleasing because the area had been very heavily logged and it has been a cause for concern that Paradise Drongos would be threatened by logging operations. Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeons and Red-knobbed Fruit-Doves provided us with good views. Black and Yellow-bellied Sunbirds, Golden Monarchs, Brown Cuckoo-Doves, White-bellied Cuckoo-Shrikes, a pair of Blyth's Hornbills and a White-necked Coucal were all seen in the space of an hour.

Our visit to the small scale logging operation on the steep slopes above Bulu in the Karu area, 70 km north of Namatanai was aborted in the absence of the logger who had invited us. An extremely muddy track led up into the hills through closed forest but viewing was difficult due to the fairly steep gradient and the density of the forest. The only birds seen well were a Bismarck Flowerpecker, Blyth's Hornbill and a Crested Hawk which was hunting by clambering along the limbs of a tall tree. We soon retired to a nearby beach where we watched a Whimbrel and a fishing Osprey. Our reward for a 04:00 start that day came in the form of a Nicobar Pigeon flying away from the side of the road at Karu.

There is no doubt that birding in New Ireland is challenging, due mainly to the inaccessibility of good areas and the lush density of the natural forest. Our advice to future expeditions is to seek out new logging tracks and drive to the end of them, arriving as soon after dawn as possible. Since New Ireland is so far east dawn is a little after 05:00 and few birds are active after 09:00. To have one's own transport is essential. Travel and accommodation are prohibitively expensive even by PNG standards: the two of us spent K1400 in five days. As ever the highlight was unexpected. For us the sight of six Paradise Drongos dancing in the air and the extraordinary sound of them booming like bitterns in the forest competed for pride of place with the three Ospreys, which gave us sightings which in Europe are only seen on film.

Species List

Eastern Reef-Egret / Osprey / Crested Hawk / Brahminy Kite / (White-bellied Sea-Eagle) / (Pink-legged Rail) / Mongolian Plover / Whimbrel / Common Sandpiper / Greenshank / Crested Tern / Lesser Crested Tern / Brown Cuckoo-Dove / Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove / Stephan's Ground Dove / Red-knobbed Fruit-Dove / Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeon / Nicobar Pigeon / Rainbow Lorikeet / Eastern Black-capped Lory / Red-flanked Lorikeet / White-necked Coucal / Uniform Swiftlet / Mangrove Kingfisher / Sacred Kingfisher / Blyth's Hornbill / Pacific Swallow / White-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike / Willie Wagtail / Shining Flycatcher / Golden Monarch / Bismarck Flowerpecker / Black Sunbird / Yellow-bellied Sunbird / Paradise Drongo / 34 species
Parenthesis round the name indicate uncertainty.

Address: 4 Cumlodden Avenue, Edinburgh, EN12 6DR, Scotland.

IN SEARCH OF THE MANUS ENDEMIC.

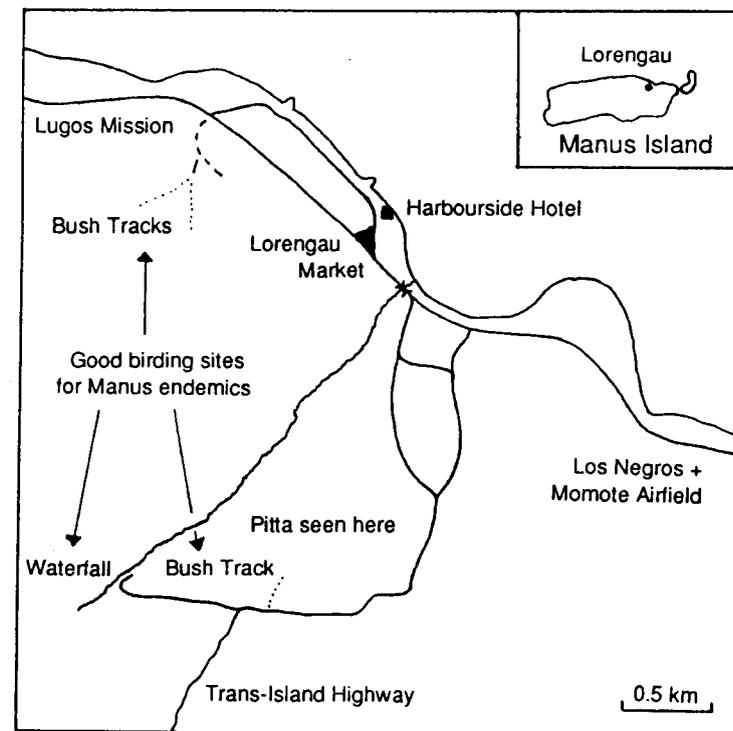
ROGER K. HICKS AND JENNIFER H. HICKS

Manus is one of the more remote of Papua New Guinea's provinces, lying about 250 km north of Madang and the same distance west of New Ireland. It was to this splendid isolation that we flew in early May 1989 for a long weekend away from Port Moresby. Of course while we were there we hoped to see some of the island's endemic birds. Depending which book you read there may be five or six of these: Meek's Pygmy Parrot *Micropsitta meeki*, Manus Boobook *Ninox meeki*, Superb Pitta *Pitta superba*, Manus Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura semirubra* (sometimes considered only a race of Rufous Fantail), Manus Pied Monarch *Monarcha infelix* and White-naped Friarbird *Philemon albitorques*. Manus and its birds have featured relatively little in PNGBS publications to date, so descriptions of the birds we saw are included here to help those who follow.

We arrived at Momote airfield at midday after a flight that had touched down in four provinces and flown over another four. Momote is a large ex-WW2 airfield on the island of Los Negros, which is separated from Manus island by the narrow Lonui Channel. We slowly drove the 25 km to Lorengau, the provincial capital, but only saw White-rumped Swiftlets en route.

Following a lazy afternoon, we went bird watching in the evening at a site recommended by Tony Palliser. It was less than 3 km from Lorengau (see map) and several of the endemics had been seen there. It proved productive for us too. White-rumped Swiftlets were again much in evidence, accompanied by a few Glossy Swiftlets, which also have white rumps here, but are distinguished by cleaner white bellies. Our first new bird was a Black-headed (Bismarck) White-Eye, which was relatively common in areas of secondary growth. It has, as its name implies, a black or dark grey head, including chin and throat, which becomes paler on the nape, shading into the dark green of the upperparts. The white eye-ring was broken in front of the eye and was not as broad as that of the Black-fronted White-Eye, the species with which we are most familiar. The underparts were dusky yellow, brighter on the undertail coverts.

The first endemic we saw, not surprisingly, was a White-naped Friarbird, flying across the valley. In silhouette it was not unlike the Eurasian Jay, albeit with a thinner neck. For a friarbird it was quite striking. It had a dark brown face, crown, mantle, back and wings. The nape and all underparts were pale fawn. It had an amazing range of calls, at times sounding like a Rufous-bellied Kookaburra or a Raggiana Bird of Paradise, neither of which occurs on Manus. It was widespread and we recorded it in all the habitats we visited, including around Lorengau.



BIRDERS MAP TO THE AREA AROUND LORENGAU, MANUS

The next bird we saw had us puzzled. A cuckoo-shrike landed in a fruiting tree where some Singing Starlings were already feeding. It seemed uniform dark grey with perhaps darker wings, and was noticeably smaller than the starlings. We ruled out Cicadabird at first because we thought it too small, but shortly after it was joined by a female-plumaged Cicadabird. As the starlings appeared normal sized we decided it must be a small subspecies. A second puzzle followed a little later when a third type of swiftlet with a white rump was seen. It was generally larger and stockier than both White-rumped and Glossy Swiftlets, with a large, square, dirty white rump. We think this may prove to be Whitehead's Swiftlet of the New Ireland race. As this may be a new record for Manus, one of only a few records of this subspecies and an increase in the known distribution of this subspecies, this observation will be written up in more detail (Hicks in prep).

Our third new bird was Meek's Pygmy-Parrot, which we heard repeatedly before seeing a small flock foraging along the branches of a large tree. Generally they had mustard yellow heads, although some had dark crowns, and underparts, except for the undertail coverts, which were brighter yellow. The mantle, back, wings and tail were dark green. The legs were orange. They were relatively common and easily seen in both forest and secondary growth. Our second new record for Manus, which will also be written up in more detail, was a pair of Claret-breasted Fruit-Doves feeding in the

same fruiting tree as the Cicadabirds and starlings. This rounded off our evening's bird watching.

Disappointingly the remainder of our stay produced no more new birds although we did see Common Golden Whistler and more Claret-breasted Fruit-Doves in rainforest along the highway. Frustratingly the endemic Superb Pitta may have been glimpsed. A bird was flushed from a forest track, all that was noted of this bird was a flash of electric blue on the inner wings and across the back of a pitta-sized bird. What else could it have been? If Superb Pitta is found at this site (see map), then all the Manus endemics can be found within 3 km of Lorengau, as Tony Palliser recorded Manus Boobook and Manus Pied Monarch in the same area.

We would like to thank Tony Palliser who provided information about bird watching on Manus and supplied the very useful map, which we have reproduced here, with some additions.

Species List: Brahminy Kite / Grey Goshawk / Large Sand-Plover / Grey-tailed Tattler / Black-naped Tern / Crested Tern / Claret-breasted Fruit-Dove / Rainbow Lorikeet; / Meek's Pygmy-Parrot / Eclectus Parrot / Brush Cuckoo (h) / Moustached Tree-Swift / White-rumped Swiftlet / Glossy Swiftlet / Whitehead's Swiftlet (?) / Rainbow Bee-eater / Superb Pitta (?) / White-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike / Cicadabird / Northern Fantail / Shining Flycatcher / Common Golden Whistler / Yellow-bellied Sunbird / Black-headed White-Eye / White-naped Friarbird / Singing Starling / Metallic Starling. 27 species.

Address: c/o NCC, P.O. Ward's Strip, Waigani, PNG.

WOODLARK ISLAND

KEVIN VANG

Woodlark Island in Milne Bay Province, lies c. 300 km NE of Alotau, 400 km SW of Bougainville, 70 km N of Misima and 70 km E of the Trobriands. The island is c. 65 km long, east to west, and c. 25 km wide north to south at its widest point.

Woodlark is located on a wide, uplifted, island-arc zone which extends from the Luscanay Reefs in the west, across the Trobriands, through Woodlark and east to the Laughlin Islands. This uplifted zone was probably formed during the Miocene, 15-20 million years ago, by subductive tectonic activity that has long been associated with this region of Papua New Guinea. Around these volcanic rocks, coral reefs began to build and extend large platforms. Throughout the Miocene, volcanic and intrusive igneous activity recurred, further raising the general area. Each time the volcanism subsided, new coral platforms would build and extend around the shallow, uplifted areas. Therefore, today, Woodlark Island has a central core of intrusive and extrusive

igneous rocks which form the central hill region, surrounded by massive limestone platforms which comprise the lowland region.

The island is relatively flat with a subdued relief except in the central hill area of the Suloga Peninsula and Kulumadau where there are hills up to 300 m and relief is very rugged.

Within the flatter, lowland areas are many fresh water lakes and swamps, the largest being Lake Lelua in the north-west. In the well drained lowland areas, primary forest including vast tracts of virgin ebony are present. These forest areas have been the centre of the logging operations (see map). The western half of the island has been logged over leaving large pockets of secondary forest among the primary forest that had not been cut.

The highland areas are forested and have some very spectacular scenery. The mining has been concentrated in these areas and hence the disturbance from mining so far has been localized.

The coastal areas are very rich, with vast tracts of mangroves in the lowlands, and rugged cliffs where the sea meets the highland areas. There are extensive reef systems around the island and many small offshore islands.

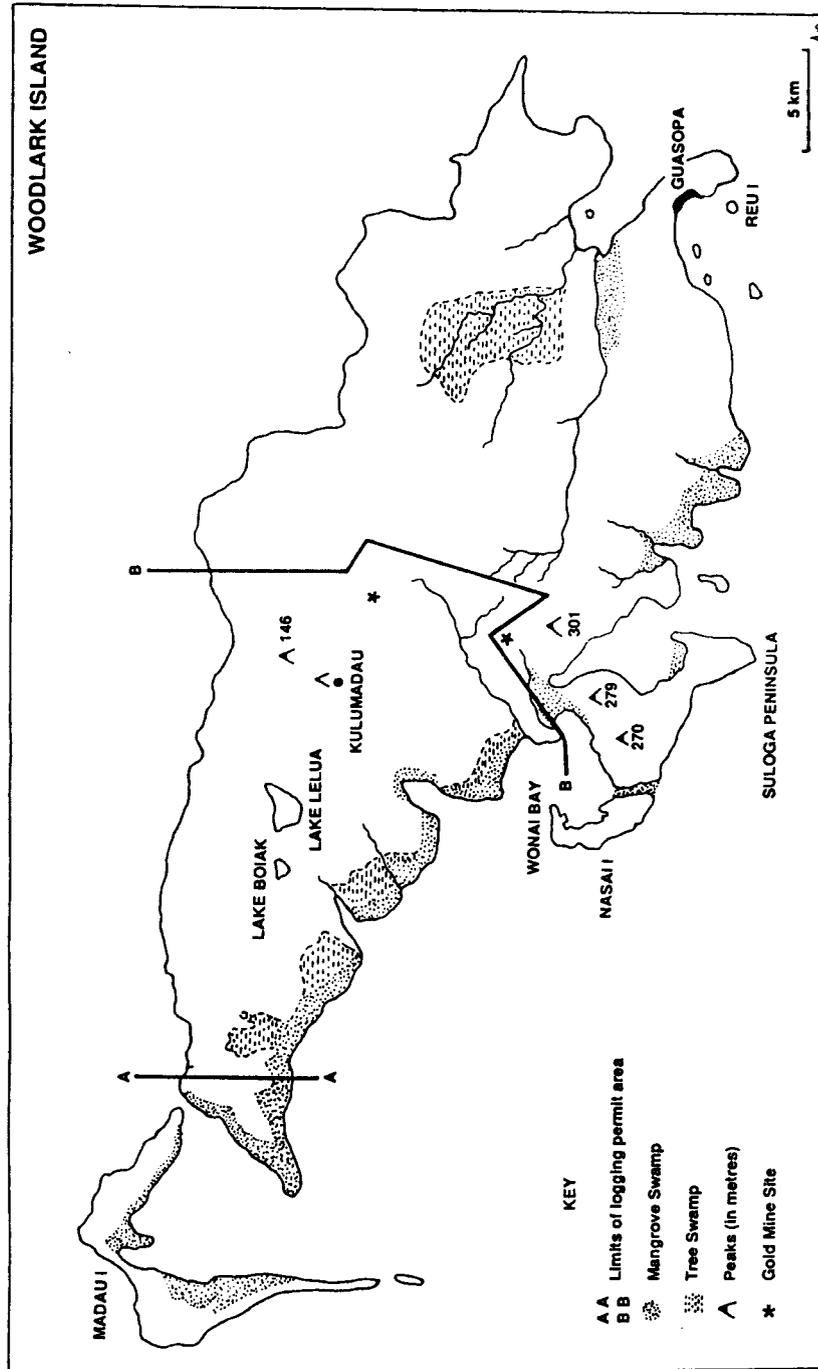
AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Suloga Peninsula (including Nasai Island) - Rugged, fairly undisturbed wilderness area which is rich in plant and animal life, including the Woodlark Cuscus and most of the island's bird species. Many coastal cliffs have spectacular wave action and are home to many species of salt-resistant orchids and other plants. There is a very important archaeological site, which is the only regional source of greenstone for the Kula trade. Extensive mangrove areas and the many scenic, rugged limestone pinnacles in Wonai Bay are used by birds for nesting.

North-east coastal area - Last large tracts of virgin ebony along with some small lakes and wetland areas.

Southern mangrove areas - Extensive mangrove and grass swamp areas which are home to fish, marine invertebrates, dugongs and birds from Suloga Peninsula to Madau Island. Breeding grounds for much of the marine life used as food and trade by the islanders.

Madau Island - Extensive marine swamps and reef areas.



Offshore Islands— Many small, uninhabited offshore islands which provide pristine marine and terrestrial habitats.

Between 13-18 June 1990 I visited Woodlark Island as part of the Tropical Forest Action Plan (TFAP) Taskforce Team. This was the TFAP Taskforce's first preliminary survey of a potential conservation area. Woodlark Island was chosen because its unique fauna, beautiful scenery, and rich marine life is under immediate threat from logging and mining activity. The team comprised eight persons. Two representing UPNG, three representing NGO's, two from Department of Environment and Conservation and one from Department of Forests.

The Taskforce mainly talked with land owners but some ecological surveys were undertaken. I did initial bird surveys visiting, briefly, most areas of the island.

I have only been birding in PNG for six months and am not as familiar with the species here as my veteran colleagues who will read this preliminary survey. I have tried to be as careful as possible to keep detailed notes in case of possible discrepancies, for instance, as between the Collared and Sacred Kingfishers. Many years of birding throughout the world has given me plenty of experience, but also taught me that mistakes are made by even the most careful observer. I have tried to alert the reader to areas where my observations were not exact, and have included other possible candidates and considerations where it is warranted. Further field trips of longer duration would solve remaining questions.

Australasian Grebe

Tachybaptus novaehollandiae

Very common on Lake Lelua. 100+ in breeding plumage (white bill-spot and red neck-patch) were observed gathered in small groups of two to five. The red neck-patch was only evident in direct light or very close range. Some possible reed nests were seen. There were no signs of fledgling or juvenile birds. This species was readily distinguished from the morphologically similar *T. ruficollis* by its whitish (some with yellowish wash) coloured iris. The white wing-patch was not obvious on close inspection while they were in the water, and none were seen in flight. The grebes seemed unusually unwary and allowed close approach. They probably occur on other small lakes on Woodlark Island. There are no previous records of this species from Woodlark or other East Papuan Islands (Coates 1985, Beehler *et al.* 1986).

Lesser Frigatebird

Fregata ariel

Frequently seen flying high above the coastal areas particularly along the south coast. One was forced onto a low water marker near Nasai Island during a heavy rain storm, and was observed at very close range.

Egret sp.

Egretta sp.

I did not see any egrets during this trip, but one was seen by my colleague in a wet, inland clearing near Kulumadau. By his description, it was probably a Great Egret. Locals often pointed to the white egrets in the bird book, but they may confuse these with the white-phase Eastern Reef Egrets. Due to suitable habitat on Woodlark, and the widespread presence of these species regionally, occasional visits seem probable. Coates (1985) and Beehler *et al.* (1986) indicate no previous records from East Papuan Islands of any species, but suggest possible visits, especially by the Great Egret.

- Eastern Reef-Egret *Egretta sacra*
Very frequent along the coast and offshore islands. A nesting colony was seen on an offshore island near Nasai Island. The ratio of dark plumage birds to light ones was about 9:1. The colony was on a small offshore limestone island with many tall pinnacles on top of which the egrets nested. All these nesting areas were covered with guano. Some nests were also seen in less exposed sites on the ground or on the flatter areas of small cliffs.
- Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*
This was occasionally seen in the mangrove areas between Nasai Island and Suloga Peninsula and flying between mangrove pockets along the beach. One discovered at close range in the mangroves struck its typical, immobile, beak up position and allowed the canoe to approach to c. 1 m before flying deeper into the mangroves. Its stockier build and irregular white breast striping (coalesced while flying into one irregular, whitish stripe) distinguished it from other herons in flight. It tended to fly only 2-4 m above the ground or water for short distances unlike the reef egrets that were often seen flying higher and greater distances.
- Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
Occasionally seen soaring or flying quite high over the coastal areas.
- Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*
Common in all habitats, but seemed to favour, coastal areas, disturbed areas and second growth.
- White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
One seen on the windward side of Reu Island just off the coast from Guasopa. Residents suggest that this species is usually present in small numbers along the coast and offshore islands.
- Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*
or Grey-headed Goshawk *Accipiter poliiocephalus*
A small accipiter was seen perched on a snag at some distance. The above two species are possible candidates due to their presence on surrounding islands, i.e., the D'Entrecasteauxs and Misima, although the Grey-headed Goshawk is usually seen in the forest interior and not perched out in the open.
- Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*
I did not see any ducks on the island, but several colleagues described seeing what was probably this species at several small ponds. According to local accounts and literature sightings and because of the number of fresh water lakes, ponds and swamps on Woodlark, one could infer that this species is a likely visitor and perhaps resident breeding bird.
- Common Scrubfowl *Megapodius freycinet*
An adult or possibly subadult individual sitting (hiding) on the ground in thick bush on Reu Island was carefully observed at less than 1 m. The body and head of the bird were very dark (light black-dark grey), the beak was a bit lighter (lighter grey with orange or yellow tinge), the legs were bright yellow, and the undertail coverts were very light (light grey or dusky white) not unlike a Purple Swamphen. It let me practically walk on it before it ran. No other individuals were seen at such a close range, but those frequently seen along the roads had the same general colouration.
- Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*
Locals suggest that it is very common in the deeper swamps. It probably breeds in the island's extensive inland swamp areas.
- Beach Stone-Curlew *Esacus magnirostris*
One was observed repeatedly foraging on the airstrip in Guasopa. It was very unwary and occasionally was chased by dogs. As the dogs approached, it would run or fly a small distance and realight. Once this went on for a half hour before the dog gave up. Three others were seen on a beach at Reu Island foraging on the reef.
- Lesser Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*
A flock of 8 birds was seen foraging on the airstrip in Guasopa.
- Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*
Commonly seen along the coast and outer reefs. Sometimes solitary, and sometimes in straggling flocks of ten to twenty individuals.

- Emerald Ground-Dove *Chalcophaps indica*
or Stephan's Ground-Dove *Chalcophaps stephani*
One of these two species was seen commonly, flying rapidly at very low levels across open areas (usually roads) between dense cover. However, a close inspection of a sedentary individual was never made. One was seen at very close range, but the sighting lasted only a second. No white was clearly distinguished on the shoulders or on the forehead, only very distinct green wings and brown body. Emerald Ground-Dove has been recorded on Woodlark, but there are no records of Stephan's Ground-Dove (Coates 1985).
- Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*
A solitary male, sitting c. 3-4 m high in a medium sized tree on the forest edge, just west of Guasopa, was the only record. The orange collar and dark blue breast stripe against the white body were the most distinctive features.
- Grey Imperial Pigeon *Ducula pistrinaria*
Commonly seen on offshore islands and in lowland forest on Woodlark at the tops of large trees (or occasionally lower). They were usually in flocks of less than ten birds, but were occasionally solitary. Coates (1985) indicates that although this species has not been recorded for Woodlark, it is to be expected.
- Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor*
Commonly seen on offshore islands and in the lowland forests of Woodlark. They were seen in groups of up to twenty birds, but were also often seen in smaller flocks or solitary. They often flew in small flocks between the offshore islands and the main island.
- Imperial Pigeon sp. *Ducula* sp.
Other *Ducula* species probably occur on the islands from time to time. Local residents often pointed to the picture of the Pinon Imperial Pigeon *Ducula pinon* as being present and occasionally hunted.
- Eastern Black-capped Lory *Lorius hypoinochrous*
The most common parrot on the island, inhabiting nearly all areas. They are very conspicuous, loud and unwary.
- Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*
Common throughout the island and small offshore islands. They seemed to favour the primary forest and more isolated areas, but they were still common throughout disturbed forest and second growth. They were not very wary, and are apparently little hunted.
- Uniform Swiftlet *Collocalia vanikorensis*
Abundant, but more common in the lower areas of the island nearer the coast.
- Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*
Very common, but not as much so as the preceding species. They seem to be more abundant in the hilly terrain in the central area around Kulumadau.
- Forest Kingfisher *Halcyon macleayii*
Commonly seen in the disturbed areas around Guasopa. White wing patches diagnostic in flight.
- Collared Kingfisher *Halcyon chloris*
or Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sancta*
One, or perhaps both these species of kingfisher was commonly seen in disturbed areas around Guasopa, in the same localities as the Forest Kingfisher. Due to its buff-tinged breast, common occurrence in the town area, and the fact that it seemed to be the same size as Forest Kingfishers present and to the Sacred Kingfisher common in Port Moresby, I will tentatively identify it as the Sacred Kingfisher. Collared Kingfishers have not been recorded from Woodlark, but may occasionally have buffy underparts and occupy disturbed and second growth habitats especially on islands. However, on some Pacific islands buffy breasted kingfishers previously classified as Collared Kingfishers have been redesignated as Sacred Kingfishers (Pratt *et al.* 1987).
- Beach Kingfisher *Halcyon saurophaga*
One sighting of this very conspicuous bird on Reu Island. It was very wary, but did not fly far when disturbed.

Common Kingfisher

Alcedo atthis

Occasionally seen in the mangrove areas and in a tree on the edge of Lake Lelula. The diagnostic contrast between the dark blue wings and the electric blue back, the deep orange-red underparts and the small size were very evident. Generally they would perch on posts overlooking channels between the mangroves. As the boat approached, they would fly to another post down-channel. They were wary, but allowed for occasional very close approaches. Always solitary.

Rainbow Bee-eater

Merops ornatus

Very common in open habitats especially in forest clearing and along roads. Usually in small groups. Streamers were only present in a few individuals. Not previously recorded on Woodlark (Coates 1985). Perhaps the logging operations have opened up enough habitat for recent colonization.

Dollarbird

Eurystomus orientalis

Common in forest clearings perched in dead trees. Always solitary. Not previously recorded on Woodlark (Coates 1985). Logging and increased clearing of forest might have produced suitable habitat for this species.

Black Sunbird

Nectarinia aspasia

This was probably the most common bird on the island. It was the only small passerine that was readily evident and occurred in all areas including mangroves and offshore islands. Iridescence of male is diagnostic. Seen in small groups with males and females present together. The lack of other small passerines on the island is not easy to account for. Other passerines previously recorded from Woodlark (Coates 1990) (not including starlings and crow below) include the Island Monarch *Monarcha cinerascens*, Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*, Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto* and the Black Myzomela *Myzomela nigrita*.

Singing Starling

Aplonis cantoroides

Very common especially large flocks of juveniles. Occasionally seen deep inside the forest, although they seem to prefer disturbed areas. One adult was seen at close range puffing his head feathers into a sort of crest while singing intensely.

Metallic Starling

Aplonis metallica

Common, but not as much so as preceding species. No nesting colonies were seen on the island, but are likely to be there. Favoured disturbed areas.

Torresian Crow

Corvus orru

Common throughout the island and offshore islands.

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

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

Coates, B.J. 1990. *The Birds of Papua New Guinea*. Vol 2. Dove Publications.

Pratt, D., P.L. Bruner & D.G. Berrett. 1987. *The Birds of Hawaii and the Tropical Pacific*. Princeton University Press.

Address: c/o D.E.C., P.O. Box 6601, Boroko.

RECENT OBSERVATIONS OCTOBER - DECEMBER 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: Ian Burrows (IB); Bill Cooper (BC); Chris Eastwood (CE); Jennifer Hicks (JH); Roger Hicks (RH); Helen Fortune Hopkins (HFH) Andrew Lyburn (AL); Geoff Smith (GS); Len Tolhurst (LT); Niklas Wahlberg (NW).

Abbreviations: ad = adult; bp = breeding plumage; Cen = Central Province; EHP = Eastern Highlands Province; Fm = Farm; 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; pr = pair; R = River; rd = road; SHP = Southern Highlands Province; SP = settling ponds; UPNG = University of PNG campus; Wes = Western Province.

Australasian Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae</i>
12 Nov, 1 nest with eggs, Kanosia L (RH); 19 Nov, 1 nest, PAC (RH).	
Australian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i>
8 Oct, 6, L Iaraguma (IB).	
Cattle Egret	<i>Egretta ibis</i>
12 Nov, 50+, some in bp, Kanosia L (RH).	
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
3 Nov, 1 heard, Moitaka SP (RH); 20 Dec, 1, Moitaka SP (RH).	
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
8 Oct, 1, L Iaraguma (IB).	
Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
8 Oct, 1, L Iaraguma (IB).	
Royal Spoonbill	<i>Platalea regia</i>
20 Dec, 4, Moitaka SP (RH).	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
19 Oct, 1, Moitaka SP (IB).	
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
19 Oct & 26 Oct, 1 sub-ad, Moitaka SP (IB).	
Chestnut-shouldered Goshawk	<i>Accipiter buergersi</i>
15 Oct, 1 imm rufous phase, Mt Gahavisuka, EHP (IB); 17 Dec, 1, probably adult light phase, Koiari rd (IB <i>et al.</i>).	
New Guinea Harpy-Eagle	<i>Harpyopsis novaeguineae</i>
Aug 89, 1 ad, Boundary trail, Varirata NP. Seen by two independent groups early and late in the month. Excellent photo in the possession of IB.	
Oriental Hobby	<i>Falco severus</i>
17 Dec, 2, Koiari rd (IB).	
Australian Hobby	<i>Falco longipennis</i>
8 Oct, 1 imm, L Iaraguma (IB).	
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
17 Oct, 1 female, swooped on a flock of Little Curlew <i>Numenius minutus</i> narrowly missing an erythristic bird. It spent 2 mins sitting on the playing fields, UPNG (IB); 14 Nov, 1, UPNG playing fields (IB).	

Garganey *Anas querquedula*
12 Nov, 1 male, Kanosia L (RH); 9 Dec, 1, Kanosia L (RH); 23 Dec, 1 male, Kanosia L (IB).

Common Scrubfowl *Megapodius freycinet*
12 Nov, 1, flying over the road, Maraboi (RH).

Brown Quail *Coturnix australis*
28 Oct, 2, Bogio (RH); 12 Nov, 1, Kanosia L (RH).

Buff-banded Rail *Rallus philippensis*
19 Nov, 2 ad & 1 unfledged imm, PAC (RH & LT).

Chestnut Forest-Rail *Rallina rubra*
19 Nov, 1 male, in forest just below Tari Gap, SHP. Seen flying close to ground, through a patch of sunlight; uniform bright chestnut wings, back and head, no spotting (HFH).

Bush-Hen *Amaurornis olivaceus*
29 Dec, heard calling at night, Matiroge Point (RH).

White-headed Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus*
12 Oct, 29, incl. 2 juv, Moitaka SP (IB).

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*
29 Oct, 1 imm, Kanosia L (IB).

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
8 Oct, 3, Lea Lea (IB); 29 Oct, 3, Hisiu Beach - Cape Suckling (IB); 12 Nov, 8, Hisiu Beach - Cape Suckling (IB).

Lesser Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*
5 Oct - 19 Nov, numbers at Moitaka SP varied from c. 20 - 60 (9 visits) (IB); 16 Oct - 19 Nov, numbers on UPNG playing fields varied from 1 - 59 (10 visits) (IB); 29 Oct, 1, Hisiu Beach (IB).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
23 Dec, 1, Kanosia L (IB).

Mongolian Plover *Charadrius mongolus*
8 Oct, 44, Lea Lea (IB); 29 Oct, c. 30, Hisiu Beach - Cape Suckling (IB); 12 Nov, c. 20, Hisiu Beach - Cape Suckling (IB).

Large Sand-Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*
8 Oct, 1, Lea Lea (IB); 29 Oct, 4, Hisiu Beach - Cape Suckling (IB); 12 Nov, 4, Hisiu Beach - Cape Suckling (IB).

Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus*
31 Oct - 1 Nov, 1, with Lesser Golden Plover, UPNG playing fields (IB *et al.*); 14 Nov, 2 ad, UPNG playing fields; 15 Nov, 2, Moitaka SP; 16 Nov, 4 ad, UPNG playing fields; 17 Nov, 2 ad, UPNG playing fields; 19 Nov, 1, UPNG playing fields (all obs IB).

Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*
8 Oct, 1, Lea Lea (IB); 23 Dec, 1, Hisiu Beach (IB).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
8 Oct, 4, Lea Lea (IB); 29 Oct, 4, Hisiu Beach (IB); 12 Nov, 6, Hisiu Beach (IB); 10 Dec, 1, Motupore I (IB).

Little Curlew *Numenius minutus*
6 Oct, 9, UPNG playing fields - first returning birds of 1989 (IB); numbers increasing through early Oct to a max of 52 on 12 Oct (IB); 16 Oct, 6, UPNG playing fields, including one very reddish bird which was noticeably different from the others (RH); 20 Oct, 18, including reddish bird, UPNG playing fields (RH); 21 Oct, 20, Moitaka SP, including reddish bird (IB); 25 Oct, last record of "red" bird, UPNG playing fields (RH); 27 Oct, last record, UPNG playing fields (RH); 29 Oct, 1, Kanosia L (IB).

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
5 Oct, 1, PAC (IB); 21 Oct, 3, Moitaka SP (IB); 9 Nov, 1, Moitaka SP (RH); 15 Nov, 2, Moitaka SP (IB); 19 Nov, 1, PAC (RH); 23 Dec, 5, Kanosia L (IB).

Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*
8 Oct, 6, Lea Lea (IB); 29 Oct, 6, Hisiu Beach (IB); 12 Nov, 8+, Hisiu Beach (IB).

Wandering Tattler *Tringa incana*
10 Dec, 1, by call, Motupore I (IB).

Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos*
5 Oct - 19 Nov, 4-10, Moitaka SP (8 visits) (IB); 5 Oct, 5, PAC (IB); 29 Oct, 8+, Hisiu Beach (IB); 12 Nov, 10+, Hisiu Beach (IB); 10 Dec, 2, Motupore I (IB); 23 Dec, 2, Kanosia L (IB).

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
8 Oct, 1, L Iaraguma (IB); 2 Nov, 1, Moitaka SP (IB); 9 Nov, 1, Moitaka SP (RH); 9 Dec, 1, Kanosia L (RH).

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*
5 Oct - 2 Nov (8 visits), 1, Moitaka SP, with 2 on 12 & 30 Oct (IB); 9 Dec, 1, Kanosia L (RH); 20 Dec, 1, Moitaka SP (RH).

Terek Sandpiper *Tringaterk*
8 Oct, 2, Lea Lea (IB); 29 Nov, 4, Hisiu Beach (IB); 12 Nov, 1, Hisiu Beach (RH).

Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala*
5 Oct, 5, Moitaka SP (IB); 12 Oct - 19 Nov, 1, Moitaka SP, except 26 Oct, when 2 (IB); 12 Nov, 1, Kanosia L (IB); 23 Dec, 8+, Kanosia L (IB).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*
9 Nov, 1, Moitaka SP (RH); 15 & 19 Nov, 1, Moitaka SP (IB).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*
8 Oct, 1, Lea Lea (IB); 29 Oct, 5, Hisiu Beach (IB); 12 Nov, 5, Hisiu Beach (RH & IB).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*
8 Oct, 1, Lea Lea (IB); Numbers at Moitaka SP increasing through Oct from 9 on 12 Oct to 21 on 30 Oct (7 visits) (IB) then decreasing through Nov from 18 on 2 Nov to 3 on 19 Nov (4 visits) (IB & RH); 29 Oct, 16 Kanosia L (IB); 23 Dec, 14, Kanosia L (IB).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*
26 Oct, 1, Moitaka SP (IB); 29 Oct, 2, Kanosia L & 2, Moitaka SP (IB).

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*
5 Oct, 4, Lea Lea (IB); 12 Oct - 2 Nov, only small numbers, min 3 max 7, noted on passage at Moitaka SP (IB); 29 Oct, 60+, Hisiu Beach (IB); 12 Nov, 80+, Hisiu Beach (IB).

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*
29 Oct, 1, Hisiu beach (IB), only the third record for PNG.

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*
12 Oct, 1 unringed, therefore a different individual from that seen in Sep, Moitaka SP (IB).

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*
30 Dec, 1 male, Bulla Plains, Bensbach R, Wes (RH).

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*
26 Oct, 10, Moitaka SP (IB).

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*
12 Oct, 3 imm, Moitaka SP (IB); 2 Nov, 6 imm, Moitaka SP (IB); 9 Nov, 4, Moitaka SP (RH); 19 Nov, 6, incl. 1 ad, Moitaka SP (IB).

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*
9 Nov, 1, Moitaka SP (RH).

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*
12 Nov, 1, Hisiu Beach (RH).

Great Cuckoo-Dove *Reinwardtoena reinwardtii*
12 Nov, 1, Oxbow (RH).

Pink-spotted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus perlatus*
9 Dec, 1 carrying nesting material, King Bird Tree (RH).

Orange-fronted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus aurantiiifrons*
14 Dec, 1, Moitaka SP (RH).

White-breasted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus rivoli*
17 Dec, 4, Koiari rd (IB).

Dwarf Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus nanus*
17 Dec, 1 male in fruiting tree, at 1200 m, Madilogo Ridge, Koiari rd. This is 450 m (Beehler *et al.* 1986) or 100 m (Coates 1985) above its normal altitude range (IB & RH).

Palm Cockatoo *Probosciger aterrimus*
29 Dec, 1, Bensbach Wildlife Lodge, Wes (JH).

Buff-faced Pygmy-Parrot *Micropsitta pusio*
10 Dec, pr, Musgrave R (RH).

Brehm's Tiger-Parrot *Psittacella brehmii*
19 Nov, Tari Gap, SHP (CE).

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*
28 Oct, 1, Gaire (RH); 9 Dec, 1, King Bird Tree (RH).

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*
8 Oct, 1, found injured on Lea Lea rd, died later (IB).

Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*
8 Oct, 1 flushed from waterside tree, L Iaraguma (IB).

Papuan Boobook *Ninox theomacha*
17 Nov, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (CE).

Marbled Frogmouth *Podargus ocellatus*
3 Dec, 1, nr Rouna pumping station (IB).

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*
3 Dec, 2, entry road to Varirata NP (IB).

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*
29 Dec, 2, Bensbach Wildlife Lodge, Wes (RH).

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*
20 Nov, 1, Botanic Gardens, Port Moresby (IB); 22 Nov, 1, UPNG (IB); 24 Nov, 2, Moitaka SP (RH); 20 Dec, c. 10, Moitaka SP (RH).

Brown-headed Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera danae*
3 Dec, 1 ad & 1 juv, Varirata NP (CE).

Collared Kingfisher *Halcyon chloris*
12 Nov, 1, Hisiu mangroves (RH).

Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sancta*
14 Oct, 1, Goroka, EHP (IB); 28 Oct, latest record in Port Moresby area, Tahira (RH).

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*
16 Oct, very common, Suki, N of Morehead, Wes (CE).

Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus*
26 Nov, 1, King Bird Tree (IB).

Blue-breasted Pitta *Pitta erythrogaster*
22 Oct, 1 trapped, King Bird Tree (IB).

Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida*
19 Nov, 1 trapped, King Bird Tree (IB).

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
12 Nov, 4, all with brownish backs, possibly imm or in moult, Kanosia L (RH & IB); 9 Dec, 3, Kanosia L (RH).

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*
9 Dec, 1, Kanosia L (RH); 23 Dec, 3, Kanosia L (IB).

Tree Martin *Hirundo nigricans*
9 Nov, 2, Moitaka SP (RH); 12 Nov, 1, Kanosia L (RH & IB).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*
23 Dec, 1, Kanosia L (IB).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*
17 - 19 Nov, 1, Ambua Lodge, Tari, & several Tari Gap, SHP (CE).

Hooded Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina longicauda*
18 Nov, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (CE).

Grey-headed Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina schisticeps*
10 Dec, 1 pr, Musgrave R (RH).

Spotted Jewel-Babbler *Ptilorrhoa leucosticta*
19 Nov, 2, landslip gully, Tari Gap, SHP (CE).

Blue Jewel-Babbler *Ptilorrhoa caerulescens*
19 Nov, 2 trapped, King Bird Tree (IB).

Emperor Fairy-Wren *Malurus cyanocephalus*
9 Dec, 1 feeding fledged young, King Bird Tree (RH).

White-shouldered Fairy-Wren *Malurus alboscapulatus*
17 Dec, 4, Koiari rd, at c. 1100 m (IB).

Orange-crowned Fairy-Wren *Clytomyias insignis*
21 Nov, (at last!) 4+, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (CE).

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*
23 Dec, 1 on nest, Oxbow (RH).

Black-throated Robin *Poecilodryas albonotata*
18 Nov, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (CE).

Dwarf Whistler *Pachycare flavogrisea*
6 Oct, 2, Gares Lookout trail, Varirata NP (IB).

Mangrove Golden Whistler *Pachycephala melanura*
12 Nov, 1 female, Hisiu mangroves (RH).

Rufous-naped Whistler *Pachycephala rufinucha*
17 Nov, 2 Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (CE).

Black Pitohui *Pitohui nigrescens*
18 Nov, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (CE).

Wattled Ploughbill *Eulacestoma nigropectus*
18 Nov, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (CE); 19 Nov, landslip gully, Tari Gap, SHP (CE).

Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*
19 Nov, 6+, Bushwalkers' camp, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (CE).

Western Mountain White-Eye *Zosterops fuscicapillus*
20 Nov, 3+, Tari township (CE).

New Guinea White-Eye *Zosterops novaeguineae*
19 Nov, 4+, bushwalkers' camp, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (CE); 17 Dec, 4, Koiari rd (IB).

Ornate Melidectes *Melidectes torquatus*
17 Dec, 1, Madilogo ridge, Koiari rd (IB).

Grand Mannikin *Lonchura grandis*
10 Dec, ad & juv (with Grey-headed Mannikins), Subitana plantation, Sogeri Plateau (RH).

Grey-headed Mannikin *Lonchura caniceps*
19 Nov, 1, collecting nesting material, PAC (RH).

Grey-crowned Mannikin *Lonchura nevermanni*
16 Oct, 10+, in mixed flock with Crimson Finches, Suki, Wes (CE).

Crimson Finch *Neochmia phaeton*
16 Oct, 10+, in mixed flock with Grey-crowned Mannikins, Suki, Wes (CE).

Macgregor's Bowerbird *Amblyornis macgregoriae*
20 Nov, 2, Banari rd, nr Tari, SHP (CE).

Streaked Bowerbird *Amblyornis subalaris*
5 Nov, 1 male trapped, Madilogo ridge, Koiari rd (IB).

Fawn-breasted Bowerbird *Chlamydera cerviniventris*
19 Nov, 2 trapped, PAC. While in the hand these birds mimicked a wide range of noises including a tractor, wood being chopped, men talking and Torresian Crow *Corvus orru* calling (RH).

- Crested Bird of Paradise *Cnemophilus macgregorii*
19 Nov, 1 male, Tari Gap, SHP & 1 male, landslip gully, Tari Gap, SHP (CE).
- Glossy-mantled Manucode *Manucodia atra*
28 Oct, numerous in fairly open habitat, nr Gaire (RH); 12 Nov, 1, Hisiu mangroves (RH); 19 Nov, 1 trapped, PAC (RH & LT).
- Short-tailed Paradigalla *Paradigalla brevicauda*
18 Nov, 2, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (CE).
- Black Sicklebill *Epimachus fastuosus*
20 Nov, 1 male, Banari rd, nr Tari, SHP (CE).
- Ribbon-tailed Astrapia *Astrapia mayeri*
19 Nov, 5+ in one tree, Tari Gap, SHP (CE).
- Stephanie's Astrapia *Astrapia stephaniae*
15 Oct, 1 male, Mt Gahavisuka, EHP (IB).
- Lawes' Parotia *Parotia lawesii*
20 Nov, 3+ females & 2 males, Banari rd, nr Tari, SHP (CE).
- King of Saxony Bird of Paradise *Pteridophora alberti*
15 Oct, 1 male, Mt Gahavisuka, EHP (IB).
- King Bird of Paradise *Cicinnurus regius*
19 Nov, 1 male trapped, King Bird Tree (IB).
- Blue Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea rudolphi*
20 Nov, 1 female (others heard), Banari rd, nr Tari, SHP (CE).

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