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MURUK



VOLUME 6 NUMBER 3 JUNE 1994

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EDITORIAL

This issue, Volume 6 number 3, June 1994, concludes the present volume. The aim is to produce 3 issues of *Muruk* during a 12 month period and we are now back on schedule. We are pleased to publish papers in this issue about the birds of little studied areas. Given the rapid pace of development in PNG such baseline inventory studies will assume increasing significance when hard choices about the best usage of the environment have to be made.

The issue also carries a summary of major sightings over the past 3 years, with some revised criteria applying to what is published:

E = Extension of range, records away from previously known range.

A = Altitudinal extension of range.

B = Breeding records, lacking for many quite common species.

R = Rare, scarce or seldom recorded species.

M = Migrants, with first and last dates of interest or numerical records of note.

G = General interest, may be behavioural, unusual numbers or localities, plumage abnormalities etc.

Records not fitting the above categories are usually from lesser known areas.

Contributors have been very few in recent years, and we encourage both residents and visitors to submit their records. Please use the above criteria as guidelines.

We particularly welcome copies of tour group reports, as many interesting sightings lie hidden in these inaccessible databases and it is a courtesy to the host country to make copies available to the PNGBS.

Such reports form part of our archives, and only excerpts would be used if such permission is given.

Feedback to notes and papers is welcomed, if you know better please write and tell us, we will be happy to publish, a major aim being to stimulate study and increase the knowledge of New Guinea birds.

Editor for this issue: Phil Gregory, with assistance from Keyt Fisher and Ray Martin.

Please continue to send submissions to:

Editor, *Muruk*, PO Box 69, Tabubil, Western Province, PNG.

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All contributions will be acknowledged..

COVER: Dwarf Cassowary head study by Jones Hiaso

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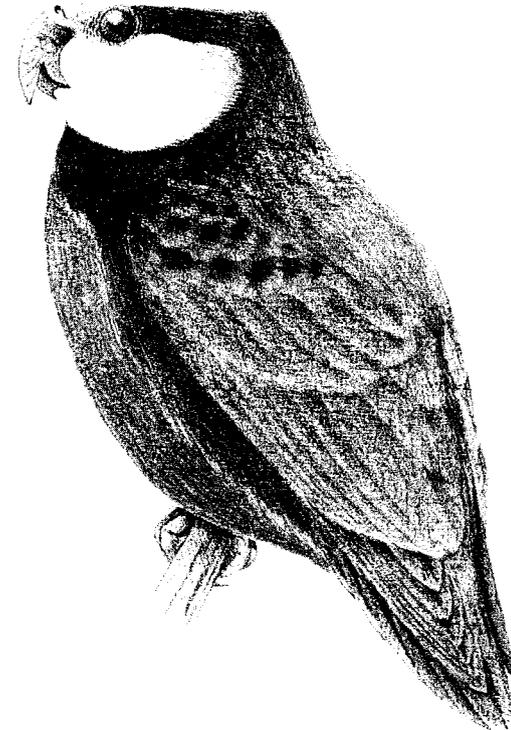
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PLATE 1 Ok Tedi form of Pigmy-parrot *Micropsitta (? bruijnii) ssp. Adult male*



Frontispiece drawn by John Cantelo

BIRDS OF THE LAKEKAMU-KUNAMAIPA BASIN

Bruce M. Beehler, Charles G. Burg,
Christopher Filardi, and Kurt Merg

The Lakekamu-Kunamaipa Basin (herein LKB) is a large expanse of flat lowland humid forest that straddles Gulf and Central Provinces, southeast of the Purari River and northwest of the Angabanga River (Fig. 1). The basin drains the southern scarp of the Ekuti Divide and the Lawson and Chapman Ranges, the northwesternmost segments of the central cordillera on the Papuan Peninsula. Although the LKB is little developed and physiographically isolated by a series of hills and mountain ranges, Kakoro airstrip (point of access) is only twenty-five minutes' flight from Wau, and an hour's flight from Port Moresby. It is thus a wilderness area that is readily accessible to field researchers desiring to spend time in relatively pristine lowland humid forest. This lowland forest supports populations of a number of difficult-to-observe bird species such as Southern Cassowary, Bat Hawk, Southern Crowned Pigeon, Vulturine Parrot, Palm Cockatoo, Long-billed Cuckoo, Shovel-billed Kingfisher, and Tawny Straightbill. Here we summarize our observations of birds made on four field trips to the Lakekamu-Kunamaipa Basin from 1979 to 1992. We present a preliminary bird list (Appendix), and a series of annotated accounts for the more noteworthy observations.

Itineraries

BB first visited the LKB from 6-18 September 1979, and camped and mist-netted birds with Ninga Kawa in the forest ca. 3 km NW of the Kakoro airstrip (Map). BB returned with Carol Beehler and Stephen G. Pruett-Jones, camping on the Si River, ca. 5 km SE of Kakoro, and netting and observing birds from 9-19 July 1982. BB and CGB made a reconnaissance of the Nagore River forest, ca. 6.5 km SSE of Kakoro, from 15-25 April 1992. And finally, BB observed and mist-netted birds at the Nagore Camp with the assistance of Kurt Merg, Chris Filardi, John Sengo, Michael Lucas, Julie Hagelin, Charles Webb, and Alex Van Alen from 3 July-7 August 1992. In all instances we camped and conducted fieldwork with the permission of the local landowners and with clearance from the PNG Department of Environment and Conservation.

The forest where we conducted our studies extends from NW of the Biaru River to the Kunamaipa River, ca. 25 km to the south of the Biaru. It is virtually without relief, and stands ca. 70 m ASL. It is delimited on the west by the low Kurai Hills, on the north by the Tiveri River, on the east by the foothills of the central range, and on the south, by Omeri Mountain. It is drained by four small rivers (from north to south): Si, Parang, Nagore, and Aera. All but the Aera are fast flowing and rocky, with no oxbowing. This is because they flow from steep foothills of the central range just to the east. The entire basin south and east of the Biaru is uninhabited. The forest appears floristically rich, with no apparent taxonomic dominance. Important families include Meliaceae, Lauraceae, Myristicaceae, Myrtaceae, and Moraceae.

Species Accounts

Southern Cassowary *Casuaris casuaris*. Seen on twenty days during the 1992 field season at Nagore Camp, with a maximum single day count of five (including three adults seen simultaneously). In August we repeatedly saw an adult with two chicks, the larger ca. 60 cm high. This species is regularly hunted by the Kurija landowners, but the impact of hunting appears minimal in this particular forest tract. On a number of occasions adults appeared unwary and allowed close approach. In one instance, a large adult cassowary

stood on a trail while CF waited more than ten minutes for the bird to move away. The bird remained, blocking the trail even after CF tossed small sticks at it to frighten it off. Michael Lucas observed two putative males mock fighting and displaying to a putative female. The "males" jumped and made high kicks at saplings in mock battle.

Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*. Observed by Carol Beehler on the Si River in 1982 and on six occasions on the Nagore in 1992. Invariably seen singly.

Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus*. Observed at dusk on two consecutive evenings in July 1992.

Southern Crowned Pigeon *Goura scheepmakeri*. Seen daily by our party in 1992. Typical day-counts ranged from four to six, with high counts of 11 and 15 (these counts, while conservative, probably include resightings by different observers). The birds were very wary and often flushed from 20-30 metres (often before being sighted by the observer). While cutting a net lane we flushed a bird on a nest in early August. It was abandoned, apparently because of the disturbance caused by the netting activity.

Goldie's Lorikeet *Trichoglossus goldiei*. Observed in large numbers in 1982. Flocks were observed flying at great altitude in morning and afternoon — apparently ranging out to forage and then returning to regular roosting sites each afternoon. Seen in smaller numbers in April and July (but not in August) 1992.

Pygmy Lorikeet *Charmosyna wilhelminae*. Small numbers were observed in with the flocks of Goldie's Lorikeets in 1982.

Vulturine Parrot *Psittichas fulgidus*. Observed on most days in 1992. Burg observed several pairs in the late afternoon of 17 April 1992, but on a typical day no more than three birds were observed.

Long-billed Cuckoo *Rhamphomantis megarhynchus*. A single bird, in female plumage, was mist-netted in September 1979.

Australian Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera sylvia*. A single bird in juvenile plumage was mist-netted in 1982.

Shovel-billed Kingfisher *Clytoceyx rex*. Observed repeatedly in 1982 and in 1992. Of the nineteen encounters in 1992, all were of single birds, usually flushed from the ground of flat alluvial rainforest interior. Not heard to call.

Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus*. Seen daily in 1992. Common and very conspicuous, as birds were pairing and making noisy display flights. No nests were located, although we observed pairs inspecting cavities on three occasions. Also observed in the vicinity of Kakoro.

Stout-billed Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina caeruleo-grisea*. Observed on five days in 1992. This species is rare in flat lowland forest.

Scaly Thrush *Zoothera dauma*. A single individual was mist-netted at Nagore Camp in early July 1992. This is the first record from lowland forest for New Guinea.

Golden-backed Whistler *Pachycephala aurea*. Observed on 15 April 1992 by BB and CGB in very tall

cane grass bordering the Biaru River at Mirimas village. A loud vocalist that could be spished into the open. Local informants report this is the typical habitat of this species.

Sclater's Whistler *Pachycephala soror*. A bird in female plumage, apparently of this species, was netted and photographed in July 1992. One of these photographs was forwarded to Mary LeCroy at the Bird Department of the American Museum of Natural History, who compared the photograph with specimens and identified the bird as *P. soror*. This is a apparently the first record of this hill forest form from lowland forest.

Variable Pitohui *Pitohui kirhocephalus*. The black-headed mimetic race occurs in the forest at Nagore Camp. Vocalizations attributed to this species include phrases typical of Hooded Pitohui and of Variable Pitohui. Not as outspokenly vocal and varied in song as the Variable Pitohuis from the East Sepik.

Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise *Seleucidis melanoleuca*. Widespread in the Basin. Adult males were observed in the trees fringing the small wetland immediately adjacent to Mirimas village, and several individuals were observed from the Kakoro airstrip.

Discussion

The Lakekamu-Kunamaipa basin constitutes the largest expanse of undisturbed lowland forest on the southern watershed of the Papuan Peninsula. It supports a very small human population which currently exerts minimum impact on the forest and wildlife. Hunting with shotgun has minimal impact, due mainly to the paucity of guns and the prohibitive cost of cartridges. Because they are so expensive, a cartridge is typically expended only to bring down a pig or large cassowary.

We believe the forest of the LKB should be protected through some form of landowner-mediated conservation plan, although this may be complicated by the complexity of land ownership in this area. We are currently working with the four language groups (Kovio, Kurija, Kamea, and Biaru) that inhabit the LKB in order to aid development of an integrated conservation plan for this important forest ecosystem. Ecological field studies of birds and the rainforest ecosystem are planned at the Nagore camp for the next several years. Fieldworkers and students wishing to participate in this project should contact the senior author.

We thank the Department of Environment and Conservation for permission to conduct research in Papua New Guinea, and the University of Papua New Guinea for sponsorship of this project. Funding for this research was provided by the Smithsonian Institution, Wildlife Conservation International, and Conservation International. We are grateful to our various field assistants for help with the effort.

Appendix

Summary List of Birds Recorded from the Lakekamu-Kunamaipa Basin

Southern Cassowary *Casuarus casuarinus*
 Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*
 Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*
 Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*
 Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*
 Great Egret *Egretta alba*
 Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*
 Forest Bittern *Zonerodius heliosylus*

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
 Crested Hawk *Aviceda subcristata*
 Long-tailed Buzzard *Henicoperis longicauda*
 Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus*
 Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*
 New Guinea Grey-headed Goshawk *Accipiter poliocephalus*
 Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*
 New Guinea Harpy-Eagle *Harpyopsis novaeguineae*
 Little Eagle *Hieraeetus morphnoides*
 Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*
 Black-billed Brush-turkey *Talegalla fuscirostris*
 Bare-eyed Rail *Eulabeornis plumbeiventris*
 Buff-banded Rail *Rallus philippensis*
 Red-necked Rail *Rallina tricolor*
 Bush-hen *Amaurornis olivaceus*
 Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
 Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos*
 Brown Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis*
 Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia nigrirostris*
 Great Cuckoo-Dove *Reinwardtoena reinwardtii*
 Stephan's Ground-Dove *Chalcophaps stephani*
 New Guinea Bronzewing *Henicophaps albifrons*
 Cinnamon Ground-Dove *Gallicolumbarufigula*
 Thick-billed Ground-Dove *Trugon terrestris*
 Southern Crowned Pigeon *Goura scheepmakeri*
 Wompoo Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*
 Pink-spotted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus perlatus*
 Ornate Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus ornatus*
 Orange-bellied Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus iozonus*
 Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*
 Coronated Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus coronulatus*
 Beautiful Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus pulchellus*
 White-throated Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus rivoli*
 Dwarf Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus namus*
 Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula rufigaster*
 Pinon Imperial Pigeon *Ducula pinon*
 Zoe Imperial Pigeon *Ducula zoeae*
 Papuan Mountain Pigeon *Gymnophaps albertisii*
 Streaked Lory *Chalcopsitta scintillata*
 Dusky Lory *Pseudeos fuscata*
 Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*
 Goldie's Lorikeet *Trichoglossus goldiei*
 Western Black-capped Lory *Lorius lory*
 Pygmy Lorikeet *Charmosyna wilhelminae*
 Red-flanked Lorikeet *Charmosyna placentis*
 Little Red Lorikeet *Charmosyna pulchella*
 Palm Cockatoo *Probosciger aterrimus*

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*
 Buff-faced Pygmy-Parrot *Micropsitta pusio*
 Orange-breasted Fig-Parrot *Cyclopsitta gulieimiterti*
 Large Fig-Parrot *Psittaculirostris desmarestii*
 Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi*
 Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus*
 Vulturine Parrot *Psittichas fulgidus*
 Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*
 Long-billed Cuckoo *Rhamphomantis megarhynchus*
 Malay Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*
 White-eared Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx meyerii*
 White-crowned Koel *Caliechthrus leucolophus*
 Dwarf Koel *Microdynamis parva*
 Indian Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea*
 Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*
 Greater Black Coucal *Centropus menbeki*
 Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa*
 Marbled Frogmouth *Podargus ocellatus*
 Papuan Frogmouth *Podargus papuensis*
 Papuan Nightjar *Eurostopodus papuensis*
 Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*
 Moustached Tree-Swift *Hemiprocne mystacea*
 Lowland Swiftlet *Collocalia vanikorensis*
 Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*
 New Guinea Spinetail *Mearnsia novaeguineae*
 Common Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera galatea*
 Australian Paradise Kingfisher *Tanysiptera sylvia*
 Hook-billed Kingfisher *Melidora macrorrhina*
 Shovel-billed Kingfisher *Clytoceyx rex*
 Rufous-bellied Kookaburra *Dacelo gaudichaud*
 Forest Kingfisher *Halcyon macleayi*
 Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sancta*
 Yellow-billed Kingfisher *Halcyon torotoro*
 Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx lepidus*
 Little Kingfisher *Alcedopusilla*
 Azure Kingfisher *Alcedo azurea*
 Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*
 Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*
 Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus*
 Blue-breasted Pitta *Pitta erythrogaster*
 Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida*
 Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*
 Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*
 Stout-billed Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina caeruleogrisea*
 Boyer's Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina boyeri*
 Cicadabird *Coracina temirostris*
 Grey-headed Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina schisticeps*

Black Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina melaena*
 Golden Cuckoo-shrike *Campochaera sloetii*
 Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*
 Scaly Thrush *Zoothera dauma*
 Blue Jewel-babbler *Ptilorrhoa caerulea*
 Rufous Babbler *Pomatostomus isidorei*
 Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*
 Emperor Wren *Malurus cyanocephalus*
 White-shouldered Wren *Malurus alboscapulatus*
 Rusty Mouse-Warbler *Crateroscelis murina*
 Yellow-bellied Gerygone *Gerygone chrysogaster*
 Green-backed Gerygone *Gerygone chloronotus*
 Fairy Gerygone *Gerygone palpebrosa*
 Large-billed Gerygone *Gerygone magnirostris*
 Sooty Thicket-Fantail *Rhipidura threnothorax*
 White-bellied Thicket-Fantail *Rhipidura leucothorax*
 Rufous-backed Fantail *Rhipidura rufidorsa*
 Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris*
 Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*
 Spot-winged Monarch *Monarcha guttula*
 Hooded Monarch *Monarcha manadensis*
 Golden Monarch *Monarcha chrysomela*
 Frilled Monarch *Arses telescopthalmus*
 Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*
 Yellow-breasted Boatbill *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*
 Torrent Flycatcher *Monachella muelleriana*
 Olive Flycatcher *Microeca flavovirescens*
 Black-sided Robin *Poecilodryas hypoleuca*
 Sclater's Whistler *Pachycephala soror*
 Golden-backed Whistler *Pachycephala aurea*
 Grey Whistler *Pachycephala simplex*
 Little Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla megarhyncha*
 Variable Pitohui *Pitohui kirhocephalus*
 Rusty Pitohui *Pitohui ferrugineus*
 Crested Pitohui *Pitohui cristatus*
 Black Berrypecker *Melanocharis nigra*
 Papuan Flowerpecker *Dicaeum pectorale*
 Black Sunbird *Nectarinia aspasia*
 Yellow-bellied Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis*
 Tawny Straightbill *Timeliopsis griseigula*
 Long-billed Honeyeater *Melilestes megarhynchus*
 Yellow-bellied Longbill *Toxorhamphus novaeguineae*
 Dwarf Honeyeater *Oedistoma iliolophus*
 Pygmy Honeyeater *Oedistoma pygmaeum*
 Green-backed Honeyeater *Glycichaera fallax*
 Red-throated Myzomela *Myzomela eques*
 Scrub White-eared Meliphaga *Meliphaga albonotata*

- Puff-backed Meliphaga *Meliphaga aruensis*
- Mimic Meliphaga *Meliphaga analoga*
- Slender-billed Meliphaga *Meliphaga gracilis*
- Obscure Honeyeater *Lichenostomus obscurus*
- Tawny-breasted Honeyeater *Xanthotis flaviventer*
- Plain Honeyeater *Pycnopygius ixoides*
- Streak-headed Honeyeater *Pycnopygius stictocephalus*
- Meyer's Friarbird *Philemon meyeri*
- Helmeted Friarbird *Philemon buceroides*
- Blue-faced Parrot-Finch *Erythrura trichroa*
- Grey-headed Mannikin *Lonchura caniceps*
- Singing Starling *Aplonis cantoroides*
- Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica*
- Golden Myna *Mino anais*
- Yellow-faced Myna *Mino dumontii*
- Brown Oriole *Oriolus szalayi*
- Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus hottentotus*
- Hooded Butcherbird *Cracticus cassicus*
- Black Butcherbird *Cracticus quoyi*
- Lowland Peltops *Peltops blainvillii*
- White-eared Catbird *Ailuroedus buccoides*
- Glossy-mantled Manucode *Manucodia atra*
- Crinked-collared Manucode *Manucodia chalybata*
- Trumpet Manucode *Manucodia keraudrenii*
- Magnificent Riflebird *Ptiloris magnificus*
- Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise *Seleucidis melanoleuca*
- King Bird of Paradise *Cicinnurus regius*
- Raggiana Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea raggiana*
- Grey Crow *Corvus tristis*

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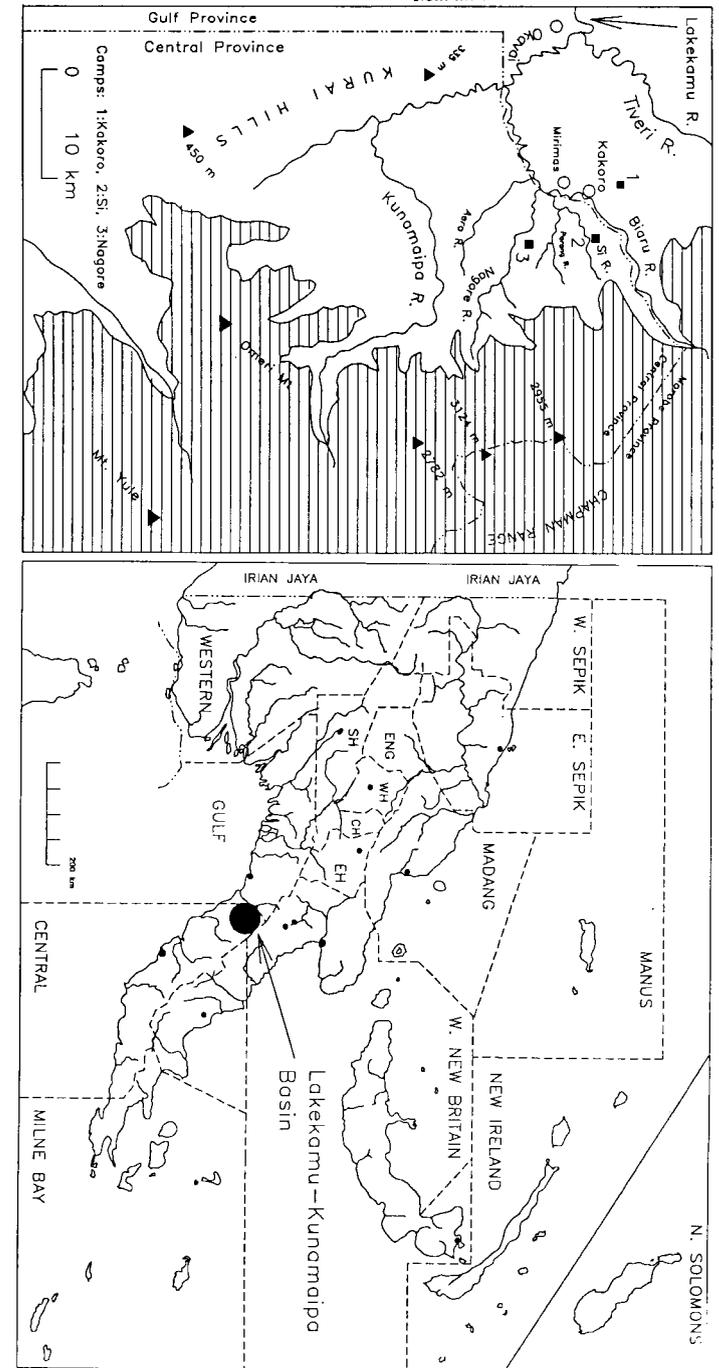
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Legend for Figure 1.

Lakekamu-Kunamaipa Basin.

Horizontal hatching in large-scale map (left) indicates land above 600 m elevation. North is up.

Legend for Figure 1.
 Lakekamu-Kunamaipa Basin.
 Horizontal hatching in large-scale map (left) indicates land above 600 m elevation. North is up.



NOTES ON BIRDS OBSERVED IN THE WESTERN PROVINCE DURING JULY 1993

G.R. Johnston & S.J. Richards

GRJ: School of Biological Sciences, Flinders University, G.P.O. Box 2100, Adelaide, South Australia, 5001, Australia.

SJR: Department of Zoology, James Cook University, Townsville, Queensland, 4811, Australia.

1. Spotted Nightjar (*Eurostopodus argus*): A single bird was observed 17th July at about 8:30pm one kilometre downstream from Obo. It flew along the bank of the Fly River, about 20m from boat for a few minutes, providing an excellent view. The wing spot was large, well-defined and clearly visible. There was no white on the tail, nor any visible on the throat. This bird was the correct size for spotted, rather than the larger white-throated nightjar. We are quite familiar with Spotted Nightjars in Australia and are confident of our identification, even though this species has otherwise been reported only from the Aru Islands in the New Guinea archipelago (Beehler et al., 1986).

2. Collared-Imperial Pigeon (*Ducula muellerii*): This species was very common around d'Albertis junction. We found a nest after a bird was seen to fly from low vegetation very close to our boat. It was situated in vines between the crowns of two pandans about 1.5m above the water in a flooded oxbow. The nest was a sparse platform of dried twigs 25cm in diameter and contained a single white egg.

3. Broad-billed Flycatcher (*Myiagra ruficollis*): Two birds were caught by hand at night in flooded oxbows immediately north of d'Albertis junction on 12th and 13th July. They were both perched on vines about 2m above the water. The bill was very broad and the outer-most tail feathers were paler than the rest of the tail. These oxbows were surrounded by dense lowland rainforest. This species has previously been reported only from mangrove forest in PNG (Coates 1990), but also occurs in tropical monsoon forests and adjacent woodlands in Australia (Simpson & Day 1984).

4. Grey-crowned Mannikin (*Lonchura nevermanni*): A flock of 40-50 birds were observed at Lake Daviumbo on 15th July. They were among tall grass on the flooded lake and were seen clearly from a distance of 30m.

5. Splendid Astrapia (*Astrapia splendissima*): Two birds were observed at close quarters from a helicopter 8-10 kms south of Tabubil in the Ok Tedi valley on 18th July. This locality is at an altitude of 6-700m, very much lower than the 1800m lower limit given by Beehler et al. (1986). This species has been seen previously 6 km from our locality in the Hindenberg Range (P. Gregory - pers. comm.). The long, dark tail with starkly contrasting white on the anterior portion was clearly seen from above. The birds were roughly crow-sized, and in general shape resembled a bird of paradise. Against the green canopy they appeared quite dark, almost black.

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A NEW ALTITUDE RECORD AND RANGE EXTENSION FOR THE THREE-TOED SWIFTLET *Collocalia papuensis*

Peter Rowland

The Three-toed Swiftlet *Collocalia papuensis* was until 1967 considered to be a subspecies of Whitehead's Swiftlet *C. whiteheadi* (Coates 1985). This New Guinea endemic is a large predominantly grey-brown swiftlet, approximately 140mm long with a wingspan of 119-137mm. It is known to occur only from the Idenburg River, along the northern slopes of the Snow Mountains, and Jayapura, Irian Jaya. There are unconfirmed sight records from the northern watershed as far as Lae. Given the difficulty of swiftlet identification, the identity of large swiftlets seen at Manam Island (Berggy 1978) and near Alotau (Gregory pers obs) is uncertain.

The Three-toed Swiftlet is usually observed high in the air, often in large flocks of twenty to thirty birds (Coates 1985), though it is occasionally seen feeding low over marshes and swamps. Little else is known of the species and its nesting habits are as yet undescribed. Until recently the altitudinal range of the Three-toed Swiftlet was considered to extend from sea-level to 1800 metres. However, on April 1st 1993 a single Three-toed Swiftlet was captured by Dr. Tim Flannery (Australian Museum, Sydney) and Mr Lester Seri (Department of Environment and Conservation, Papua New Guinea) while they were trapping bats in a mist net erected outside Luplupwintem Cave, Western Province, on the southern slopes of the Hindenburg Range. The swiftlet was removed from the net at first light (0615 hours), shortly after bats were returning to the cave.

Luplupwintem Cave lies at 2400m above sea-level, within an area of mossy montane and *Dacrycarpus* forest. This represents an altitudinal increase of 600m in the known height range of the species, and is the first specimen record for PNG. Dr. Flannery (pers comm) suggests that the swiftlet may be nocturnal or crepuscular, as it was not trapped the previous evening at 2100 hrs when the net was checked (*but roosting in the cave seems equally plausible*). *Luplupwintem cave is well-known locally as the site for the rare relict species Bulmer's Fruit Bat Aroteles bulmerae. It lies just north of the central Hindenburg Wall--ed*.

The specimen is now registered in the collection of the Australian Museum as 0.64733.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Mr. Walter Boles, Division of Vertebrate Zoology, Australian Museum, for his help with the preparation of this manuscript.

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Author's address: 27 Belmore Road, Peakhurst, NSW 2210, Australia.

(Received September 1993)

MOUNTAIN NIGHTJAR *Eurostopodus archboldi* BREEDING AT AMBUEA

During the afternoon of 23. 10.92 Allan Richards and I were birding some 200m above the bailey bridge east of Ambuea Lodge, Tari, when we saw a bird on the side of the road. We split up and climbed a 4m bank in pursuit and in so doing flushed a nightjar. The bird allowed a close approach to within 1m on two occasions, before giving a pathetic fluttering display of aggression. The bird returned to some lichen covered road spoil pushed up during road construction. We realised that it might be defending a nest and quickly spotted a single white egg apparently without any support material around it. On our return the bird was sitting tightly on the egg.

Overall the bird was a very dark toffee-brown/blackish colour with prominent dull buffish eyebrows and a broken white collar. The feathers of the underparts were broadly tipped buffish but with some white tips too. Many of the mantle feathers were also tipped buff and white. Some feathers on the coverts and possibly scapulars were entirely fawn coloured. There were no white patches in the wings or tail. The tail feathers had tan notches as did some of the outer primaries.

The description fits Mountain Nightjar (*Eurostopodus archboldi*), and with the altitude of the Bailey Bridge at about 2200m this is the only species expected. The nest and eggs are hitherto undescribed.

Author's address : Richard Rowland, Address unknown, note given to editor by author Nov. 92.

FURTHER RECORDS OF AN UNIDENTIFIED PIGMY-PARROT *Micropsitta* sp. FROM THE OK TEDI AREA

Phil Gregory

Greg Johnston and I were birding along the track at Dablin Creek north of Tabubil on November 29th 1991, at a height of about 750metres. We found a flock of Josephine's Lorikeet (*Chamosyna josefinae*) high in the canopy and were observing them through a Kowa x30 wide angle lens telescope, when GJ saw a small flock of pigmy-parrots (*Micropsitta* sp.) fly in. Looking through the 'scope I realised we were on to something unusual as I could not recognise what we were observing :

I watched the bird for about 30 seconds, GJ for slightly longer, and we noted the following: A typical pigmy-parrot with short tail and a striking yellow forehead and crown, a broad dark eyestripe, red underparts with a dark chest band, and green upperparts. GJ noted the eyestripe as blue and the cheeks as yellow, with a blue breastband. The bird then flew away along with 3 other *Micropsitta*, giving the typical "tsit tsit" flight call.

The bird clearly did not fit any of the forms of Red-breasted Pigmy parrot (*M. bruijnii*) illustrated in either Coates (1986) or Beehler (1986), and neither did Yellow-capped Pigmy parrot (*M. keiensis*) seem right. However, reference to Murray (1988) clearly referred to a similar individual, her bird being a male at an altitude of 2140m on Mt. Binnie and again not obviously referable to any described form of *Micropsitta*. Murray suggested her bird may have been a colour variant of *M. bruijnii*, or perhaps a high altitude subspecies of same, or even a new species. Clearly we needed more sightings, and my next came on December 26th 1991 again along the Dablin Creek track at 800m. I located a flock of *Micropsitta* flying

around which settled in the crown of a tall leafy tree, and proved to be the strange form once again, this time with males, females and immature birds present. The flock of 18 birds was mostly inactive, sitting quietly or preening. The males were much as our previous sighting, with broad blue eyestripe, blue chest band, yellow cheeks, chin and throat and yellow crown and forehead with a bluish nape. The underparts were orangey-red, including the undertail coverts. The upperparts were green with a blue upper tail. The legs were grey.

Immature males had a dull yellow forecrown, a dark blue eyestripe, with a yellow chin throat and cheeks and a dark green chest band with paler green belly and flanks and orangey undertail coverts. Females had buff faces and supercilia with a dark eyestripe and the upperparts green with a bluish hindcrown and nape. When preening, the tail appeared tipped and edged with yellow. The underwing was greyish, and the eyes dark. Calls were a sibilant "tsst tsst". Birds were seen later feeding on the highest lichen covered branches of tall trees, too high to discern exactly what was being taken.

This sighting confirms the existence of an unknown form of *Micropsitta* at Ok Tedi, clearly not just some plumage variant of *M. bruijnii*. Views suggest close kinship with that species but with a very distinct head pattern on male birds. A review of my own records of *Micropsitta* showed most birds were just fly-overs and only three sightings were of perched birds, none of these adult males. Murray records seeing birds with red crowns of the race *M. b. bruijnii*, as might be expected from the known distribution. This raises perhaps the possibility of an overlap between this form and the new type, or great variation in the populations in this area. Discussions with visiting tour groups reveal most *Micropsitta* records are of flyovers, and several reports of *M. keiensis* most likely refer to the males of the new form instead. *An adult male example is illustrated in the frontispiece to this issue...ed.*

I suspect that this form is widespread as I later had sightings of 3 males and 5 females in forest edge at Ok Menga, 750. on March 1st 1993. A specimen or photograph would be highly desirable but not likely given the nature of *Micropsitta* parrots. The status of the new form requires further field work, and observers visiting the area should be aware of the situation, paying particular attention to any adult male *Micropsitta*.

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 (Received May 1992)

FIRST PNG NESTING RECORD FOR BAT HAWK *Macheiramphus alcinus* by Chris Eastwood

I had gone birdwatching with friends of mine, Carmela and Ted Bishop, who had joined me for their first ever birdwatching trip. While driving back to Lae at about midday, Ted spotted a bird perched high up in a tall tree and silhouetted against the sky. We stopped our cars and with the aid of a telescope immediately

identified it as a Bat Hawk (*Macheiramphus alcinus*)! Bat Hawks are known to have favourite roosting trees so we decided to return the following weekend to see if see the bird was still around. It was there but this time a second bird flew in carrying a twig and landed by a nest which we had not previously noticed. This began a series of sporadic observations which are summarised below. The birds have clearly been attempting to breed for at least 12 months now but, for unknown reasons, seem to have been unsuccessful in rearing any young.

The site of the nest tree is in the foothills of the Rawlinson Range, about 30 minutes drive from Lae. The site is approximately 5 kilometres by road from the Sankwep River, although the river is much closer as the crow flies. The altitude is approximately 300 metres and the immediate terrain is generally flat although hills are close by. Much of the area is still well forested (Blyth's Hornbills *Rhyticeros plicatus*, for example, are still fairly regular), but since we found the site considerable logging activity has taken place in the immediate area with the nest tree now very much isolated from other trees. There is real concern that this tree may one day be felled. That the birds have so far remained faithful to the site, in spite of the dramatic changes to the surrounding habitat and the considerable disturbance that must be caused by the logging operations, is a good indication of their tolerance.

The tree is approximately 30 metres tall and is not particularly densely foliated. The nest is placed on the lowest horizontal branch (at approximately 20 metres from the ground) and is just before the branches break into leaf. Originally, the area between the tree and the road was an area of fairly dense secondary scrub but much of this, almost up to the tree itself, has since been cleared for village gardens. Beyond the tree there was primary forest but much of this has now been "selectively" logged. Logging tracks now pass within 50-100 metres of the tree. By the side of the road and some 100 metres from the nest tree, there is a densely foliated tree ("the shade tree") in which the birds were sometimes found.

The nest itself (from what can be seen of it from the ground) appears to be a relatively untidy affair of sticks, approximately 700 cms in diameter, straddling two parallel horizontal branches. The depth is approximately 200 cms so that a bird is completely hidden from view when sitting in it and is only visible if it moves. The nest would not appear to be very well shaded which may well cause problems for the birds in the heat of the day.

In general, observations were made in the early morning when I first arrived at the site and then again later towards midday as I prepared to return to Lae. One physical feature that I have noted is that both birds have two conspicuous white "false eyes" on the back of their heads. Brown & Amadon refer to a white nuchal collar in the race *papuanus* of New Guinea, and the two false eye spots are well illustrated in Sinclair 1993.

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SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS OF BAT HAWK AT NEST by C. Eastwood

- 6/9/92 One bird seen at midday perched towards the top of the nest tree, preening.
 16/9/92 One bird perched in amongst foliage; second bird seen flying into nest carrying a twig. Both birds then flew into the "shade tree" where they copulated; they did not return to the shade tree- early morning.
 20/9/92 The birds were seen copulating in the nest tree.
 11/10/92 Both birds perched near the nest with one bird occasionally moving into the nest where it re-arranged something on the floor of the nest - early morning.
 11/11/92 One bird in the nest; the second perched higher up in the tree; at one stage this bird flew one large circle around the tree before settling back at its perch - midday.
 15/11/92 One bird on the nest; the second in the shade tree - midday
 22/11/92 One bird on the nest; the second bird sitting close by - morning. By midday, one bird still on the nest but the second had moved to another part of the same tree.
 29/11/92 Both birds sitting away from the nest, preening - early evening.
 25/12/92 Both birds sitting away from nest and had moved into shade tree by 10.00am
 1/1/93 One bird perched close to the nest; the second bird not seen. At about 10.30 both birds then seen perched some 3 metres above nest; they then both flew in a circle around the tree with one bird landing on the nest and re-arranging something in it. The second bird landed near its earlier perch site.
 3/1/93 Both birds perched approximately 5 metres away from nest; by 10.30 a.m. both had moved into the shade tree.
 17/1/93 Both birds perched by the nest. It then started to rain and both birds flew out into it, circled the tree and landed back in the top where they stretched their wings and bodies in the rain. A little later one of the birds flew another circle around the tree before landing back by its mate. Both birds called when they flew.
 31/1/93 Both birds perched well away from the nest but had gone by midday, probably to the shade tree (I did not check because of the presence of villagers).
 9/5/93 Both birds perched away from the nest.
 10/7/93 One bird in the nest; the second bird perched close by.
 21/7/93 One bird in the nest; the second perched close by. The second bird flew off calling and returned carrying a stick which it gave to the bird on the nest. It flew off again, calling, but was not seen to return to the nest tree. Some 30 minutes later, now away from the nest site, a bird was seen flying overhead. Neither bird visible at midday.
 23/8/93 One bird standing in the nest and the second perched close by. The bird in the nest then joined its mate for some 5 minutes before returning to the nest.
 29/8/93 One bird in the nest and one perched close by. This second bird flew off, calling, but had returned a little later. Then the bird in the nest flew onto its mate and copulated (the bird in the nest must have been the male). Both birds then remained perched by the nest, preening themselves. At midday both birds still perched near the nest.
 5/9/93 Both birds sitting away from the nest and seen to copulate again.
 12/9/93 Both birds perched by the nest. One flew off returning with a stick; it did this several times over the next 30 minutes.
 10/10/93 One bird standing on the nest, one perched next to it. The bird on the nest flew off at least 3 times returning with small bare twigs, and, on one occasion with a small leafy twig. In one instance the bird flew towards me and flew at a tree, with feet held out, presumably to break off a twig, but it then saw me and flew off over me.

A RED LITTLE CURLEW (*Numenius minutus*) OR SOMETHING ELSE ?**Roger K. Hicks and Ian Burrows**

The first Little Curlews of the 1989 southwards passage were seen on 6 October on the UPNG playing fields and were seen almost daily, by several observers, until 28 October. They favoured a rugby pitch that was watered regularly. The flock size varied from a minimum of two to a maximum of 18 on 20 October. The "red" Little Curlew was first noted on 16 October amongst a flock of six normally-plumaged Little Curlew and was always seen in their company. From 16 October - 20 October it was observed daily and was last seen on 25 October. The "red" bird was obviously a *Numenius*, having a black bill, slightly decurved near the tip, which was similar in size and shape to other Little Curlew. Its legs were blue-grey. It had a dark crown with a pale central crown stripe and an obvious, broad, buff supercilium, broadest behind the eye. The "face", neck, breast and belly were cinnamon with no strong streaking. This colour continued on to the flanks, which also appeared unmarked, and onto the underwing coverts (noted in flight). The feathers of the mantle and upper wing coverts also had a cinnamon background colour, giving the bird an overall reddish appearance.

The "red" bird was very similar to the Little Curlew with which it associated, but differed in the following ways: The most obvious distinguishing feature was its colour, rich cinnamon, that was strongest on the breast, flanks and underwing coverts, but which suffused the whole plumage. This bird could be picked out with the naked eye across the width of a rugby pitch (c. 50m). It stood half-a-head taller than its contemporaries although its legs seemed the same length as other Little Curlew. Its wings appeared to extend beyond its tail when standing and when in flight appeared longer than other Little Curlew. The buff supercilium appeared more pronounced, possibly because the surrounding plumage was darker.

There are only two small Curlews. The Little Curlew breeds in Siberia and winters in Australia (Hayman et al 1986). It occurs annually in the Port Moresby area, usually in small numbers with most records occurring in October and November (Hicks 1990). The Eskimo Curlew *N. borealis* is its North American equivalent, which is on the verge of extinction. There have been few confirmed sightings recently and no records for Australasia (Hayman et al 1986). Naturally, none of the observers of the "red" bird have had any experience of Eskimo Curlew, but all are familiar with Little Curlew. Several features of the "red" bird fit Eskimo Curlew, i.e. its colour, especially the cinnamon underwing coverts, its apparent tallness and long wings. However, comparison with field guides (Hayman et al 1986, National Geographic, 1983) and with photographs of Eskimo Curlew at Galveston, Texas indicate a lack of corroborating plumage features (except colour) i.e. lack of heavy barring on breast and flanks, and also different bill proportions.

We think the "red" Little Curlew was just that, an erythristic bird, but for a while it had our hearts pounding. And it certainly was an attractive bird.

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THE NEST OF THE MOTTLED WHISTLER (*Rhagolagus leucostigma*)

George E. Clapp

The nest of the Mottled Whistler has not been previously described (Coates 1990). On 8 February 1993 I discovered an active nest of the Mottled Whistler at a site about 200m from a helipad, situated 1/2 kilometre distant and downslope from BP's Hides-2 gas wellhead on the Hides anticline in the Karius range, Southern Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea. The helipad was situated at geographical co-ordinates 05° 55' 27.00" S latitude, 142° 43' 34.60" E longitude (ascertained by Trimble Transpak GPS). The nest itself was at an altitude of 2270m ASL (measured by Thommen altimeter) in tall, very wet, lower montane rainforest in rugged limestone karst country, with many sinkholes and grikes.

The nest was situated about four metres up in a slender tree, not far from a much larger tree. Due to its position in such a slender tree it would have been impossible to closely examine the nest without destroying either the nest and/or any eggs/young contained therein, so I contented myself with a visual examination only. The nest was a cup, the exterior of which consisted of mossy tendrils with some relatively short wisps of moss hanging down, but no tail as such. The exterior was approximately 10 or 11 cm deep and 13 or 14 cm in diameter (both estimated by comparison with nearby leaves, similar leaves being measurable). The nest was built on the outer part of a relatively small tree and was supported by a total of three branchlets - one on either side and one underneath - the nest material having been woven around them. Some light was just visible through the bottom of the nest but I could not discern whether any eggs or young were present.

Both the male and the female Mottled Whistler were seen. The sighting of the female clinched the identification, as the form here seemed relatively drab with distinguishable but poorly defined mottling. However, the orange cheek patches of the female (although these were also subdued by comparison with the photograph in Coates (1990)) enabled positive identification. In connection with the birds' drab appearance, however, it must be added that light conditions were quite poor and I was using only 9x20 binoculars. No nest material was brought by either bird but at one stage the female entered the nest and sat, not moving until my movement alarmed her. Both birds seemed nervous but persisted in staying either in the nest tree or its vicinity, leading me to believe that the female may well have been due to lay shortly. Both birds occasionally regurgitated small round fruit pits.

The area in which the nest was found is frequently rainy and cloudy and is covered by extremely wet moss forest. A small, unobtrusive track had been cut the day before as access to the helipad area, but had the nest not been there it is doubtful whether I would have noticed the Mottled Whistlers. I was able to briefly visit the nest site again on 13 February and gained the impression that the nest might have been more substantial, but I did not see the birds and could spend no time there.

Although obviously incomplete this observation is submitted in view of the otherwise complete lack of knowledge of the Mottled Whistler, and the general lack of knowledge of the nesting habits of the higher altitude whistlers in PNG.

REFERENCE

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Author's address: 123 Kennedy Terrace, Paddington, Brisbane, Queensland 4064 Australia

REPORTS 1992

The recent reports section has become woefully out-of-date and cumbersome to organise, so a simplified system begins this issue. There are so few observers in PNG that reports are heavily biased towards the well-known areas like Varirata, Port Moresby environs and Ambua/Tari.

We now have a fairly good database of species occurrence there, so rather than repeat sightings of common or well-known species at their customary localities, this section will focus on the less studied areas. Reporting significant occurrences anywhere is still to be encouraged, along the following guidelines:

- E** = Extension of range, records from areas away from the known range.
- A** = Altitudinal extension, given the significance that altitude plays with the avifauna of PNG this is a particularly interesting section.
- B** = Breeding records, lacking for many quite common species. Could usefully include date, clutch size, nest description, behavioural observations etc.
- R** = Scarce or rare species, to be reported from anywhere.
- M** = Migrants, with first or last dates of interest or numerical records of note.
- G** = General interest, may be behavioural, unusual numbers or locations, odd plumages etc.

Records not fitting the above categories are usually from the many lesser known localities.

Please send all records, trip reports etc to:

Editor, *Muruk*, PO Box 69, Tabubil, Western Province, PNG.

Observers for 1992

CE Chris Eastwood based in Lae, Morobe Province.

PG Phil Gregory, based in Tabubil, Western Province.

Systematic List

The following abbreviations are used: f denotes female m denotes male
imm denotes immature juv denotes juvenile

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel* G

1 f Kiunga Wharf 19.4.92. PG Occasionally seen here, presumably following the Fly River to over 400km inland!

Green-backed Heron *Butorides striatus*

Kiunga on 26 and 27.9.92. CE/PG

Pied Heron *Egretta picata*

1 Tabubil 24.7.92. PG

European Coot *Fulica atra* R

4+ Lake Wangbin 9.8.92. with 9 reported in June (I Schofield pers comm) PG. Believed shot-out in the late 70's.

Salvadori's Teal *Anas waiguensis* R

1 on the Ok Menga near old Megalsimbip 15.3.92. PG

Grey Teal *Anas gibberifrons* E

1 Lake Wangbin 9.8.92 was new for the Ok Tedi area PG.

White-bellied Sea-eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* E

An imm bird by Cloudlands Hotel in Tabubil on 30.7.92. was the first for the area, seen later that day 15km south at Sawmill.

Black-mantled Goshawk *Accipiter melanochlamys*

Singles at Townsville drill site, Ok Tedi 15 and 19.9.92

New Guinea Harpy Eagle *Harpyopsis novaeguineae* R

A single heard calling Ok Ma road, Ok Tedi 30.8.92.

Bat Hawk *Macheirhamphus alcinus* R

2, and nest at Sankwep Road near Lae on 16.8.1992 and on 7 occasions up to 25.12.92. CE

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus* R

Ambua on 7.11.1992. CE

Sankwep Road on 22.11.1992. CE

Grey-headed Goshawk *Accipiter poliocephalus*

1 normal phase Ok Ma road 26.4.92 PG

1 ad normal phase and 1 imm there 8.7.92. PG

2 of the apparently undescribed melanistic morph there 28.7.92. PG

1 normal phase Helsinki, Ok Tedi mine 29.7.92. PG

1 normal phase Sankwep Road near Lae on 20.9.1992. CE

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*

Ambua on 7.11.1992. CE

Mt Wilhelm on 12 and 13.12.1992. CE

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*

3 imm Kiunga 24.5.92. 1 there 1.8.92. PG

Oriental Hobby *Falco severus*

Gain on 17.5.1992. CE

Seen occasionally around the Ok Tedi area but very sparse.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*
Kiunga on 27.9.1992. CE
Occasional around Tabubil.

Brown-collared Brush-turkey *Talegalla jobiensis*
Heard Sankwep Road near Lae on 1.8 and 20.9.1992. CE

Brown Quail *Coturnix australis*
Tari Gap on 8.6.1992. CE

Buff-banded Rail *Rallus philippensis*
Ambua on 7.11.1992. CE

Red-backed Buttonquail *Turnix maculosa* E
1 flushed by Cloudlands Hotel Tabubil on 24.8.92 was new for the Ok Tedi area PG.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
The race *dubius* is resident (3 pairs) at Tabubil around the airstrip and lay-down areas, also at Sawmill on the Kiunga road. Display noted in late July PG.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*
2, Tabubil airstrip 5.9.92. were the first returning birds in the area PG

Australian Pratincole *Siltia isabella*
5 at Kiunga 23.6.92. PG One or two at Jacksons Airport at Port Moresby on 11.8.1992. CE

White-throated Pigeon *Columba vitiensis* R
1 Ok Menga 16.8.92.

New Guinea Bronzewing *Henicophaps albifrons* E
1 Dablin Creek 16.7.92. 1 Mt Robinson, Ok Tedi 3.10.92. PG.

Southern Crowned-pigeon *Goura scheepmakeri* R
Elevala River N of Kiunga 3 birds on 27.9.1992. CE/PG

Black-collared Imperial Pigeon *Ducula muelleri*
10 Fly R. N of Kiunga 18.4.92 and over 50 there 24.5.92 100+ there 1.8.92 but none seen same area 26/27.9.92 PG

Dwarf Fruit-dove *Ptilinopus nana* 4 (1m, 3 f) at Km 90 Kiunga/Tabubil road 24.5.92. PG Kiunga on 29/9/1992. CE/PG. Tabubil on 2.10.1992. CE/PG Sankwep Road on 22.11.1992. CE

Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula rufigaster*
Veimauri on 15.3.1992. CE

Rufescent Imperial Pigeon *Ducula chalconota* E
Mount Robinson, Tabubil 4 on 3.10.1992. CE

Goldie's Lorikeet *Trichoglossus goldiei*
4 at 2640m at Tari Gap on 8.6.1992. CE/PG. Sankwep Road on 25.12.1992. CE

Streaked Lorikeet *Charmosyna multistriata* R
1 at Ok Menga 1.3.92 30 Dablin Creek 5.3.92. 6 there on 27.3.92. 11 Dablin Creek 28.5.92 PG; 30+ there on 20.8.92 PG; 30 on 2.10.1992 CE/PG

Little Red Lorikeet *Charmosyna pulchella*
40+ Dablin Creek 19.8.92. 30 Ok Menga 20.8.92.

Whiskered Lorikeet *Oreopsittacus arfaki*
Ambua on 7 and 8.11.1992 CE. 5 at Townsville drill site 13.9.92. PG

Josephine's Lorikeet *Charmosyna josefinae* R
2 Dablin Creek 31.5.92. 1 at Townsville drill site 15.8.92 and 2 there on 12.9.92. 3 at Ok Menga 20.8.92. PG

Pigmy Lorikeet *Charmosyna wilhelminae*
5 at Townsville drill site 13.9.92. 11+ there on 21.9.92 PG.

Double-eyed Fig-parrot *Psittaculirostris diophthalma*
1 at Sankwep Road on 16.8.1992. CE
2 Gusiore village, Elevala River, N of Kiunga 27.09.92 PG
Sankwep Road on 1.11.1992. CE

Large Fig-Parrot *Psittaculirostris desmarestii*
3+ 1.8.92 and 2 on 26.9.92 along the Fly River N of Kiunga PG.

Brehm's Tiger-parrot *Psittacella brehmii*
Tari Gap on 8.6.1992. CE

Madarasz's Tiger-parrot *Psittacella madaraszii*
1m Townsville drill site 13.9.92. PG

Papuan Hanging Parrot *Loriculus aurantiifrons* R
2 m and f/imm Ok Ma road 26.4.92 PG Heard Ok Ma road 30.7.92. 1 at Dablin Creek on 1.10.1992. CE

Pigmy-parrot *Micropsitta sp*
5m and 3 f Dablin Creek 1.3.92 were of the yellow crowned Ok Tedi form, the fourth sighting recorded. 20 flying over Ok Menga 14.6.92. 22 there 20.6.92. 20 Ok Ma road 28.7.92. 5+ Townsville drill site 15.8.92. 30+ Dablin Creek 19.8.92.
1 pair excavating a chamber in a tree stump at Townsville drill site 12.9.92, photographed and sound recorded on 19.9.92.
40+ Ok Menga 5.10.92. 220+ flying N over Ok Menga area between 1530-1730 on 25.10.92 45 N 8.11.92 and an extraordinary 650 NE here between 1600-1645 on 22.11.92, going over like dust specks. Clearly a common species in the area PG!

Vulturine Parrot *Psitttrichas fulgidus* R

5 Ok Ma road 26.4.92. 2 at Ok Menga 14.5.92. 2 Dablin Creek 27.7.92. 5 at Km 92 Kiunga /Tabubil road 30.7.92. 6 along the Ok Ma road, 29.8.92. 3 along the Tabubil - Kiunga Road on 25.9.1992. Kiunga on 27.9.92. and 3 there 14.11.92 CE/PG. 1 at Dablin Creek on 1 and 3.10.1992. CE/PG

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

1 at Alotau 3.1.92, an unusual date PG; 27 in small flocks Fly R N of Kiunga 18.4.92. 2 Gusiore, Elevala R 27.9 and 5 near Nomad River, nr. Kiunga on 28.9.1992. CE/PG

Dwarf Koel *Microdynamis parva*

1m Fly R N of Kiunga 1.8.92. 1m and 1 f Ok Menga 20.8.92. PG

Long-billed Cuckoo *Rhamphomantis megarhynchus* R

2 ad and 1 imm at Veimauri 28.6.92. feeding on caterpillars in a tree.

Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*

A female heard calling (fairly high pitched wufwuf) at 4th Street Lae on 10.3.1992. Even the dogs were reacting ! CE. 4th Street Lae on 9.4.1992. CE. 1 at Kiunga wharf on a floodlit fence 14.4.92. PG

Papuan Spine-tailed Swift *Mearnsia novaeguineae*

Kiunga on 27.9.1992. CE/PG

Swiftlet sp. *Collocalia* sp.

A flock of 30 large brown swiftlets at Sagarai near Alotau on 3.1.92. was intriguing and suggests Whitehead's *C. whiteheadi* or Three-toed *C. papuensis* may be in the area. PG

White-throated Needletail *Hirandapus caudacutus*

30 at Kiunga wharf on 27.9.1992 and 40 there next day. CE/PG

Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx lepidus*

Sankwep Road on 1.11.1992. CE

Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azureus*

Kiunga on 28.9.1992. CE/PG

White-collared Kingfisher *Halcyon chloris* B

1 ad and 3 juv in a tree ant mud-nest 6m up in a pandanus on an islet off East Cape, Milne Bay 4.1.92. PG

Forest Kingfisher *Halcyon macleayi* E

1 Tabubil 13.8.92 was new for the Ok Tedi area PG.

Hook-billed Kingfisher *Melidora macrorrhina*

5 calling around km 4 along Ok Ma road 29.8.92. Regularly calls by Cloudlands Hotel in Tabubil town. PG Heard Sankwep Road on 29.11 and 3.12.1992. CE

Dollarbird *Eurystomus glaucurus* M

Many singles (20+) Fly R N of Kiunga 24.5.92, plus hawking flocks of 20 and 30, clearly migrants.

Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus*

3; 1 first, then later a pair at Sankwep Road on 6.9.1992. CE. 21 at Gusiore N of Kiunga on 27.9.92. CE/PG. Tabubil on 1.10.1992. CE/PG. 20 at Sankwep Road on 1.11.1992. CE

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Kanosia on 15.3.1992. CE. Small nos over-winter ar Tabubil PG.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* R

3 at Alotau 1.1.92. 7 at Tabubil 2.2.92. PG. Kanosia on 15.3.1992 CE The species seems to be becoming much more frequently recorded in recent years.

Tree Martin *Hirundo nigricans*

Kanosia on 15.3.1992. CE

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

1 f at Kiunga on 19.4.92 was getting late; Tabubil on 4.10.1992. CE Ambua on 6 and 7.11.1992. CE

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

1 in spring plumage Tabubil 28.3.92. The white supercilium, grey crown and entirely yellow underparts indicate the race *simillima* PG.

Alpine Pipit *Anthus gutturalis*

Mt Wilhelm on 12 and 13.12.1992. CE

Golden Cuckoo-shrike *Campochaera sloetii* G

Quite common around Tabubil, and very vocal. The species seem to particularly like *Albizia* trees which have an abundance of caterpillars at times. PG

Wallace's Fairy-wren *Todopsis wallacei* R

2 at Dablin Creek on 1.10.1992. PG/CE

Grey Gerygone *Gerygone cinerea* E

Ambua on 7.11.1992.

1 Townsville drill site, Ok Tedi 13.9.92. PG. New for the area

Bicoloured Mouse-warbler *Crateroscelis nigrorufa* R

Ambua on 6.11.1992.

Torrent Flycatcher *Monarchella muelleriana*

Sankwep Road on 1.11.1992. CE. Ambua on 7.11.1992. CE. Sankwep Road on 15 and 22.11.1992. CE

Garnet Robin *Eugerygone rubra* R

1 male singing and wing flicking Townsville drill site, Ok Tedi 22.9.92. PG New for the area.

Black-sided Robin *Poecilodryas hypoleuca*

Brown River on 14.3.1992. CE. Sankwep Road on 15.11.1992.

Banded Yellow Robin *Poecilodryas placens* **R**
 Heard Veimauri on 15.3.1992. CE

White-rumped Robin *Peneothello bimaculatu* **R**
 Uncommon at several hill forest localities around Tabubil. PG

Rusty Whistler *Pachycephala hyperythra* **R**
 Tabubil on 1.10.1992. CE/PG A scarce species known from two sites around Tabubil. PG

Golden-backed Whistler *Pachycephala aurea* **R/B**
 At least 2 pairs resident at Km 119 nr. Tabubil with a juv seen in early August.

Mottled Whistler *Rhagologus leucosticta* **R**
 1 ♀ at 1200m below Folomian at Ok Tedi mine 30.7.92. PG.

Black Pitohui *Pitohui nigrescens* **E**
 1 imm Ambua 9.6.92 PG; Ambua on 6.11.1992. CE 1 male Townsville drill site, Ok Tedi 21.9.92. was new for the area. PG.

Varied Sittella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*
 Ambua on 7.6.1992. CE

Mid-mountain Berrypecker *Melanocharis longicauda*
 Ambua on 8.11.1992. CE

Melanocharis sp
 A distinctive yellow billed small high canopy *Melanocharis* at Dablin Creek Tabubil on 1.10.92 may be an undescribed form PG/CE. See *Muruk 1993* Vol 6 : 1 p.33

Green-backed Honeyeater *Glycichaera fallax* **E**
 Tabubil on 1.10.92 at 850m PG, and 5.10.1992. CE

Plain Honeyeater *Pycnopygius ixoides*
 Kiunga on 29.9.1992. CE/PG

Sooty Melidectes *Melidectes fuscus* **R**
 Mt Wilhelm on 13.12.1992. CE

Mountain Firetail *Oreostruthus fuliginosus*
 Tari Gap on 8.6.1992. CE

Yellow-eyed Starling *Aplonis mystacea* **R**
 1 Ok Menga 14.6.92 and 20 (5imm) there on 20.6.92.
 1 Fly R. near Kiunga on 29.9.1992, with *A. metallica* CE/PG. The nasal bristles were a surprisingly useful field character in flight.

Great Wood-swallow *Artamus maximus* **A/B**
 Resident in Tabubil from 500m with 3 groups of about 10 birds.
 11.10.92, Tabubil industrial area, 3 juv in a nest 20 m up in an epiphytic clump on a branch of a dying tree
 Gain on 17.5.1992. CE. An unusually low altitude record at c. 400m at Sankwep Road on 1.11.1992. CE
 Mt Wilhelm on 13.12.1992. CE

White-breasted Wood-swallow *Artamus leucorhynchus* **E**
 1 Tabubil 6.8.92 was new for Ok Tedi.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* **E**
 3m Gordon Market, Port Moresby 27.6.92. The species appears to be colonising the city.

Archbold's Bowerbird *Archboldia papuensis* **R**
 1 male at bower at Tari Gap on 9.6.1992. CE/PG. Ambua on 8.11.1992. CE

Flame Bowerbird *Sericulus aureus*
 1 fnr Kiunga 2.8.92.PG. Male and female near Kiunga on 29.9.1992. CE/PG

Loria's Bird-of-Paradise *Loria loriae*
 Ambua on 6 and 7.6.1992. Also on 6.11.92 CE

Crested Bird-of-Paradise *Cnemophilus macgregorii*
 Tari Gap on 8.6.1992. CE

Yellow-breasted Bird-of-Paradise *Loboparadisaea sericea* **R**
 1 male Townsville drill site, Ok Tedi 19.9.92 PG

Trumpet Manucode *Manucodia keraudrenii*
 31.7.92, 2, 29.9.92, 1 + 2 heard, Magazine road, Kiunga PG.

Twelve-wired Bird-of-Paradise *Seleucidis melanoleuca*
 Calling male near Kiunga on 26 and 28.9.1992. CE/PG

Short-tailed Paradigalla *Paradigalla brevicauda* **E**
 Ambua on 6 and 7.6.1992. Also on 6.11.92 CE. 2+ seen and 4 hrd Townsville drill site Ok Tedi 13.9.92 PG

Buff-tailed Sicklebill *Drepanornis albertisii*
 Briefest of views of a male (?) at Ambua on 8.6.1992. CE

Black Sicklebill *Epimachus fastosus* **R**
 1 male in scope at Benari Road on 9.6.1992. CE/PG. Heard Ambua on 7.11.1992. CE. Still present around Tabubil, heard at Mt Robinson and Townsville Drill site. A skin in the market costs about K180 in 1992.
 Brown Sicklebill *Epimachus meyeri*
 Heard Ambua on 7.11.1992. and seen on 8/11/1992.CE

Ribbon-tailed Astrapia *Astrapia mayeri* R

Tari Gap on 8 and 9.6.1992. CE/PG. Ambua on 7 and 8.11.1992. CE

Stephanie's Astrapia *Astrapia stephaniae*

Ambua on 7.11.1992. CE

Carola's Parotia *Parotia carolae*

3m and 2f/imm "Helsinki" Mt Robinson, Tabubil on 29.7.92 and 2f/imm Geneva ridge Ok Tedi mine site same day PG. 1f/imm Mt Robinson 3.10.1992. CE/PG

King-of-Saxony Bird-of-Paradise *Pteridophora alberti*

Ambua on 7.6.1992. CE/PG. Tari Gap on 8.6.1992. CE/PG. Ambua on 7 and 8.11.1992. CE

Still present around Ok Tedi mine site on Mt Binnie and Mt Akrik Sept 92 PG

King Bird-of-Paradise *Cicinnurus regius*

Heard Sankwep Road on 16.8.92 and 22.11.92 CE

Tabubil is too high for the species (though it occurs in riparian habitats at Km 113). Only a single skin seen both 1992 and 1991 (which came up from Kiunga and cost K5). PG

Magnificent Bird-of-Paradise *Diphylodes magnificus*

Common around Tabubil, males very vocal but hard to see. Land clearance along the tracks is also beginning to have an effect. Rarely hunted for plumes, only a single market specimen in 1992 (for K5). PG

Magnificent Riflebird *Ptiloris magnificus*

Quite common around Tabubil, with a distinctive wolf whistle call unlike the harsh growling disyllabic call of the eastern form. PG. Never seen in the market.

Greater Bird-of-Paradise *Paradisaea apoda*

Females and imm plumaged birds are common around Tabubil, but full plumed males are very elusive and under considerable hunting pressure. PG A good male skin will cost K20 minimum. Most skins on sale are lemon plumed Lesser BoP (*P. minor*) from the Telefomin area.

Miscellaneous records from 1991

Contributed by PG, selected highlights only.

Abbreviations: L=Lake; R=River; NCD=National Capital District (Port Moresby area)

Crested Hawk *Aviceda cristata*

A displaying bird at Tabubil 31.3.91. was reminiscent of European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*, with wings raised to 75 and slowly flapped.

Papuan Harrier *Circus spilonotus*

1 flying north over Tabubil town 23.2.91. was new for the area.

Black-mantled Goshawk *Accipiter melanochlamys*

Singles at 1600m at Townsville Drill Site nr Ok Tedi 15 and 19.9.92.

Gurney's Eagle *Aquila gurneyi* R

28 Apr 91, 1, km 120 on rd to Kiunga from Tabubil.

Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

21 Apr 91, 1, Ok Ma nr. Tabubil.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

27 Jan 91, 1 ad, behind Islander Hotel, NCD.

Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos* M

27 Feb 91, 13 on golf course during a morning of low cloud, Tabubil.

Streaked Lorikeet *Charmosyna multistriata* R

31 Jan 91, 1 feeding with *C. placensis* in a flowering tree by the International School, Tabubil.

Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrot *Micropsitta bruijnii*

24 Mar 91, 2 f/1imm m, Ok Tedi

Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus*

1991: quite frequent in general area of Tabubil, mostly single males in Mar-Apr, but pairs more common in May.

Vulturine Parrot *Psittrichas fulgidus* R

20 Apr 91, 3, Ok Ma (PG); 12 May 91, 4, km 115 Kiunga-Tabubil rd, (PG); 12 May 91, 2 nr Tabubil, (PG). Still not rare around Tabubil, can be seen on most trips out of town, but increasing settlement poses an immediate threat. The species is no longer seen over or near the town itself, whereas 5 years ago it was still possible to find it there.

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus* M

1 12 Feb 92 Tabubil (PG). 4 Apr 91, 1 hepatic phase, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP

Rufous-throated Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx ruficollis* M

4 Apr 91, 4, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP, chasing around the canopy calling a high-pitched, noisy, shrill "peer". Occasionally one would perch and shiver its wings before being chased again

Lesser Black Coucal *Centropus bernsteini*

10 Feb 91, 1, Tabubil

Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sancta* M

21 Apr 91, first record of year in Tabubil. 10 May 91, a bird was stunned by flying into a window at Tabubil. It recovered and was released. Buff spots on coverts suggested a first winter bird.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* M

11 Oct 92, 1 Tabubil.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* M

2+ nr Islander Hotel, NCD 27 Jan 91.

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis* M

22 Mar + 21 Apr 91, singles, Tabubil

Pied Chat *Saxicola caprata* E

21 Mar 91, 1 female, Tabubil airstrip, seemingly a recent colonist of the area.

New Guinea Thornbill *Acanthiza murina*

Quite common around Dokfuma meadow at 3200m in the Star Mts NW of Tabubil, 16.11.91. Gave a noisy, high-pitched, sibilant twittering call, and a 'chwee shtup shtup' buzzy high-pitched song from mid-stratum.

Mountain Róbin *Petroica bivittata* E

2 birds at 3200m Dokfuma meadow, Star Mts 17.11.91 High pitched 'see see see see' call. A considerable range extension, filling an apparent gap between the Snow Mts and central highlands populations (Gregory and Johnston 1993)

Torrent Flycatcher *Monachella muelleriana* B

30 Jan 91, 3 ad + 1 brown-capped juv, Tabubil

Lorentz's Whistler *Pachycephala lorentzi* R

2 birds on 16.11.91 at 3200m, in Dokfuma meadow, Star Mts, one of which was in an undescribed imm plumage (Gregory and Johnston 1993). 3 adults there on 17.11.91.

Sooty Melidectes *Melidectes fuscus* R

2 birds at Dokfuma meadow Star Mts 18.11.91.

Short-bearded Melidectes *Melidectes nouhuysi* E

Not uncommon along forest margins, low down in fringing vegetation at 3200m, Dokfuma meadow, Star Mts 17-19.11.91. The first records for PNG, extending the population east from the Snow Mts. (Gregory and Johnston 1993). The beard was longer than that illustrated in Beehler et al, but not as long as with *M.princeps*. Small golden yellow patch behind eye, paler mottling on belly and under tail, tail often flicked up at 45. Call a metallic 'pwik' and a thin 'weetweet' flight note.

Black Sittella *Daphoenositta miranda*

2 Apr 91, 4, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP. 15 Dokfuma meadow Star Mts 3200m 17.11.91

Torrent-Lark *Grallina bruijni*

5 Apr 91, 1 pr, nr Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP

Mountain Firetail *Oreostruthus fuliginosus*

A female at 3200m Dokfuma meadow Star Mts 16.11.91

Western Alpine Mannikin *Lonchura montana* R/E

8 adults on 16.11.91 at 3200m Dokfuma meadow, Star Mts, and two later sightings of 2 adults on 17/18.11.91. Often seemed to be associated with the Alpine Pipit *Anthus gutturalis*. Call a monotonous 'tyu' series. The only site known in PNG for this species, a range extension from the Snow Mts population, this site was discovered by the mammalogist Tim Flannery in 1987.

Archbold's Bowerbird *Archboldia papuensis* R

2-4 Apr 91, 1 male and up to 2 female plumaged birds, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (PG)

Macgregor's Bird-of-Paradise *Macgregoria pulchra* R

At least 3 birds Dokfuma meadow, 3200m Star Mts 17-19.11.91. Whitish legs and a strange 'nyeh nyeh nyeh' call. Seen eating small green berries from low bushes (Gregory and Johnston 1993).

Black Sicklebill *Epimachus fastuosus* R

4 Apr 91, 1 male, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP, gave explosive "whit-whit-whit" calls in a triple series, not double as per textbooks. Also a strange, deep bubbling call. Picked at dead branches like a Wood-hoopoe (*Phoeniculus sp*) PG.

References

Gregory Phil 1993 An unidentified berrypecker *Melanocharis sp.* from the Ok Tedi area *Muruk* Vol 6:1
Gregory P. A. and Johnston G.J. 1993 Birds of the Cold Tropics *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists Club* Vol 113 No 3.

OBSERVATIONS OF SOME BIRDS OF COASTAL AND LOWLAND WESTERN PROVINCE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

Keith Bellchambers, Elizabeth Adams and Scott Edwards.

INTRODUCTION

From 25 May-7 June, 1990, the authors travelled through parts of coastal and lowland Western Province. The primary objective of this visit was to collect non-destructive samples from Grey-crowned Babbler for biochemical analysis. In the course of this work many other species of birds were noted and are documented here.

THE STUDY SITES

Our observations were made in three main locations; the town of Daru, a Forestry Management Service (FMS) timber lease on the Oriomo River and around the settlement of Morehead (Figure 2).

Daru Is 25-27 May, 31 May.

Habitats include township, gardens, old gardens dominated by kunai grass, small patches of forest, mangroves and tidal mudflats.

Oriomo River: 27-30 May.

Along the lower reaches of the river tall mangroves overhung the water but further upstream the rainforest occurred right to the water's edge with patches of *Nipa* palm. Trees to 30 metres with little light penetration to the forest floor. Away from the river the vegetation varied according to soil type. The major vegetation type was dense primary lowland forest with trees to 30 metres and little understorey. This was found on heavy clay soils.

Small areas of low (10-12m) vegetation were found on deep, waterlogged areas of white sand. Paperbarks were common and small sedges in understorey.

Morehead: 1-7 June

Several vegetation types found in the area dependent on soil type. The major type was a mix of *Myrtaceous* species found on ironstone gravel. Trees to 20m with an open canopy, therefore an understorey of shrubs and grass. A secondary type being low (10-12m) Paperbark woodland on waterlogged sands. Sedges and carnivorous plants in understorey.

METHODS

Observations were generally made while walking through the forest from one Grey-crowned Babbler territory to the next. Records were also kept of species seen when travelling on rivers and when working around camp.

Identifications were made with the naked eye or with the aid of binoculars.

ANNOTATED SPECIES LIST

Southern Cassowary *Casuarius casuarius*

One bird shot by hunters just south of Morehead. Cooked and eaten at a party that evening.

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Single birds seen on several occasions in several different habitats around Morehead. Birds were flushed from Paperbark swamp away from the river and also from deep, still water areas which resulted from river flooding.

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleuca*

Several small flocks seen flying along Morehead River. Largest flock seen consisting of 20 birds, one of which appeared to be carrying nesting material.

Great Egret *Egretta alba*

A few birds feeding on the mown grass areas of the Daru airport along with some Intermediate Egrets. Two birds perched on a dead branch overhanging the Oriomo River several kilometres upstream of its mouth.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*

This species was observed in a number of locations. It was observed feeding on the mown grass areas of the Daru airport, feeding on the mudflats at the mouth of the Oriomo River, perched on an overhanging branch upstream on the Oriomo River near the FMS site, and at Morehead was found feeding along the banks of the Morehead River and the deep, still water areas behind the river.

Rufous Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

A group of three birds observed roosting in a *Nipa* palm overhanging the water on the Oriomo River. Also observed on three occasions around Morehead. On each occasion the birds were flushed from their roosts in Paperbark swamp areas.

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

A single bird flying over Morehead.

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

A single bird flying overhead near Morehead.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

A single bird perched in a dead tree overhanging the river near Morehead.

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

This species was encountered throughout. It was observed scavenging along Daru beach, around the FMS campsite, along the Oriomo River, in open patches in the forest and along the Morehead River near Morehead.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

Observed flying along tidal mudflats at Daru. Also common along Oriomo River. Found singly or in pairs, usually perched in tree overhanging the water.

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax*

An adult bird soaring high above the forest canopy south of Morehead. An immature bird perched in a tall dead tree near the Morehead airstrip.

Common Scrubfowl *Megapodius freycinet*

Shown a bird by a local hunter who had taken it with bow and arrow on the FMS lease. Belonging to *reinwardt* race

Brolga *Grus rubicunda*

A single bird wandering through Morehead town. The bird may have been a pet or semi-domesticated.

Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella*

Common on the mown grass areas of Daru and Morehead airstrips.

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*

Common on the mown grass areas of Daru and Morehead airstrips. Also found in other short grass areas around Morehead town.

Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*

A single bird feeding on tidal mudflats at Daru.

Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae*

Several birds feeding and resting around Daru harbour. (Coates 1990 lists just 3 records for PNG, 2 of these from Daru-Ed.)

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

Several birds quartering the shallow water of Daru harbour. Also over the deeper water between Daru and the mainland.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

A group of 10-15 birds quartering the shallow waters of Daru harbour or roosting on rocks around the harbour.

Brown Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis*

Common around the FMS campsite where it fed in the low shrubs growing in disturbed sites. Less common around Morehead where it was occasionally encountered in the open forest.

Stephan's Ground-Dove *Chalcophaps stephani*

Observed on only one occasion in the rainforest on the FMS lease.

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata*

Commonly heard calling from disturbed areas around FMS camp. Also observed around Morehead.

Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*

Common in the open forest and disturbed areas around Morehead including a group of 16 roosting on a power line in town.

Wompoo Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*

Heard calling occasionally from thick rainforest on FMS lease.

Ornate Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus ornatus*

A common bird of the rainforest canopy on the FMS lease.

Orange-Bellied Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus iozonus*

Found in small flocks in rainforest on FMS lease.

Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon *Ducularufigaster*

Observed on one occasion near FMS camp in an area of disturbed vegetation. Also noted on one occasion near Morehead in the forest canopy.

Zoe Imperial Pigeon *Ducula zoeae*

Common canopy species in rainforest on FMS lease.

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haemotodus*

A very common species throughout the region, occurring in small flocks of 2-8 birds. Appeared more numerous in the open forests around Morehead than the rainforests of the Oriomo River.

Palm Cockatoo *Probosciger aterrimus*

A single bird flying over open forest near Morehead.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*

A common bird throughout the Morehead area, being found in singles, pairs and one flock of 10 birds. Mostly feeding in canopy of forest species or flying high overhead.

Little Corella *Cacatua pastinator*

Several seen in trees in Daru. Also noted flying over canopy upstream on the Oriomo River.

Orange-breasted Fig-Parrot *Cyclopsitta gulielmiterti*

Common in canopy of rainforest of FMS lease being found in small, active flocks.

Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi*

Common along edge of rainforest and in open areas on FMS lease.

Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus*

Widespread throughout the area being found in most habitat types on the FMS lease and Morehead. Individuals and pairs noted.

Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*

Common in Morehead area feeding in the canopy and occasionally closer to the ground. Usually in small flocks of up to 12 birds.

Common Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea*

Single birds seen on several occasions in the Morehead area.

Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianus*

Observed on several occasions in the Morehead area in open areas of the forest with some understorey.

Moustached Tree-swift *Hemiprocne mystacea*

A flock of 6-10 birds that were often observed over the clearing associated with the FMS camp.

Common Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera galatea*

Heard calling in an area of secondary regrowth on the banks of the Oriomo River upstream of the FMS site. Also identified by local people as this species from pictures in field guide.

Spangled Kookaburra *Dacelo tyro*

Observed and heard in the Morehead area.

Blue-winged Kookaburra *Dacelo leachii*

Several birds were found around the FMS lease in open patches of the forest. It was more evident in the Morehead area in the open forest found there.

Blue-black Kingfisher *Halcyon nigrocyanea*

One individual observed near Morehead perched on a dead branch above deep, still water resulting from Morehead River flooding its banks. (Presumably *H.n. stictolaema* of the Fly River--Ed.)

Forest Kingfisher *Halcyon macleayi*

Found only on the FMS lease on the edge of open areas such as around the campsite and along logging roads.

Rainbow Bee-Eater *Merops ornatus*

Occurring in Daru and over open area of FMS camp and along logging roads.

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

One observations of a bird on the Oriomo River perched on a branch overhanging the water. Birds observed in the Morehead area on several occasions, mainly in previously cleared areas.

Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticerosplicatus*

One pair observed flying overhead on Oriomo River.

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*

Observed in several different habitats around the FMS lease and Morehead. Found around the clearing of the FMS camp as well as in the nearby forest. At Morehead found in woodland as well as in old garden areas.

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*

Observed on only a few occasions in the Morehead district. Only found in the flooded woodlands immediately behind the river.

Boyer's Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina boyeri*

A single observation from forest on FMS lease.

Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*

A single observation from forest edge on FMS lease.

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*

Observed on the FMS lease on forest edge and in small disturbed sites within forest.

Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis*

Type specimen of this species recorded at Oriomo River, however, we made no observations of it in the areas we checked. It was a moderately common species in the woodlands around Morehead and was also found in the Paperbark swamps. Group size ranged from 2-7, with the most common size being 3.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

Observed at Morehead in the long kunai grass around the edge of the airstrip and in old gardens.

White-shouldered Fairy-Wren *Malurus alboscapulatus*

Observed on the FMS lease and in Morehead area. On the FMS lease was only found on the edge of forest where the kunai grass and understorey shrubs occurred. At Morehead found in thick kunai grass and understorey shrubs in disturbed areas but was also observed in the woodland areas with understorey.

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

Only observed in Morehead township where it was relatively common.

Golden Monarch *Monarcha chrysomela*

A single observation of a pair of birds in tree canopy overhanging Oriomo River.

Restless Flycatcher *Myiagra inquieta*

In open woodlands around Morehead.

Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*

Common in the Morehead area in woodland. Also found in disturbed areas on the FMS lease.

Rusty Pitohui *Pitohui ferrugineus*

Common on FMS lease especially on forest edge.

Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

A number of observations made of this species foraging in the canopy of trees in the open woodland around Morehead. (*The first records for Papua New Guinea -Ed*)

Black Sunbird *Nectarinia aspasia*

A single observation of a male feeding on the leaves and flowers of a coconut tree on the FMS lease.

Dusky Myzomela *Myzomela obscura*

Foraging in canopy of trees in woodland around Morehead.

Mimic Meliphaga *Meliphaga analoga*

Common in forest on FMS lease feeding on blossoms and leaf gleaning. Also observed in Morehead area foraging through canopy of woodland.

Tawny-breasted Honeyeater *Xanthotis flaviventer*

A single observation in forest of FMS lease.

Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis*

Very common in and around Morehead.

Helmeted Friarbird *Philemon buceroides*

Common on Daru island. Also found on FMS lease in forest edges and less commonly around Morehead where it was a canopy species.

Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus*

A very common species in the Morehead area where it was found in all habitats.

Yellow-Faced Myna *Mino dumontii*

Common around FMS camp and in nearby forest. Less common in the woodlands around Morehead.

Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*

A single observation of a bird taking insects from Paperbark flowers in a small boggy area near Morehead.

Yellow Oriole *Oriolus flavocinctus*

Common in forest in FMS lease. No observations from Morehead area.

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*

Common throughout, more numerous in the woodlands around Morehead.

White-breasted Wood-swallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

Common overhead at Morehead and in open areas nearby.

Hooded Butcherbird *Cracticus cassicus*

Common in woodlands around Morehead. A single observation of 2 birds perched on a tall dead snag at forest edge on FMS lease.

Black-backed Butcherbird *Cracticus mentalis*

Several observations in the woodlands around Morehead.

Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*

In the Morehead area in open grassy areas around town or in the woodland area.

Spotted Catbird *Ailuroedus melanotis*

Observed in forest on FMS lease.

Fawn-breasted Bowerbird *Chlamydera cerviniventris*

Observed in disturbed areas of FMS lease where tall grass and weedy shrubs were dominant. Also recorded around Morehead in the woodland habitat.

Raggiana Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea raggiana*

Female plumaged birds were quite common in forest on FMS lease, males heard much more than sighted.

Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*

Observed at Daru, on FMS lease and around camp and in and around the Morehead area.

DISCUSSION

The Trans-Fly region is unique in Papua New Guinea containing many flora and fauna species in common with Australia. As such it has special biological importance to the country and deserves special conservation attention.

From our experience, the region is under some pressure with resource development taking place, such as timber extraction on the Oriomo River and oil exploration around Morehead.

We hope that any resource development will not be detrimental to the local flora and fauna and is carried out with due regard to environmental considerations.

One species of significance that we noted was the Mistletoebird. According to Beehler et al (1986) this species is only known from the Aru Islands. We have experience of this species in Australia and are confident of our identification. The species was observed foraging in the foliage of woodland trees around Morehead. (*This constitutes the first record of the species for Papua New Guinea. Further work in the area in similar habitat is likely to show the species is regular in this region, in common with a number of other species of primarily Australian distribution that extend into the Trans-Fly savanna biotope- Ed.*)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank Jim Belford, Dr Ng and the management of Forestry Management Services for transporting us to and from their lease on the Oriomo River and for permitting us to use the facilities there.

Alex and Helen Vakenro and family took extremely good care of us on the several occasions we passed through Daru.

The people of Morehead provided accommodation, field assistance and excellent company during our stay in their area.

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

Irian Jaya

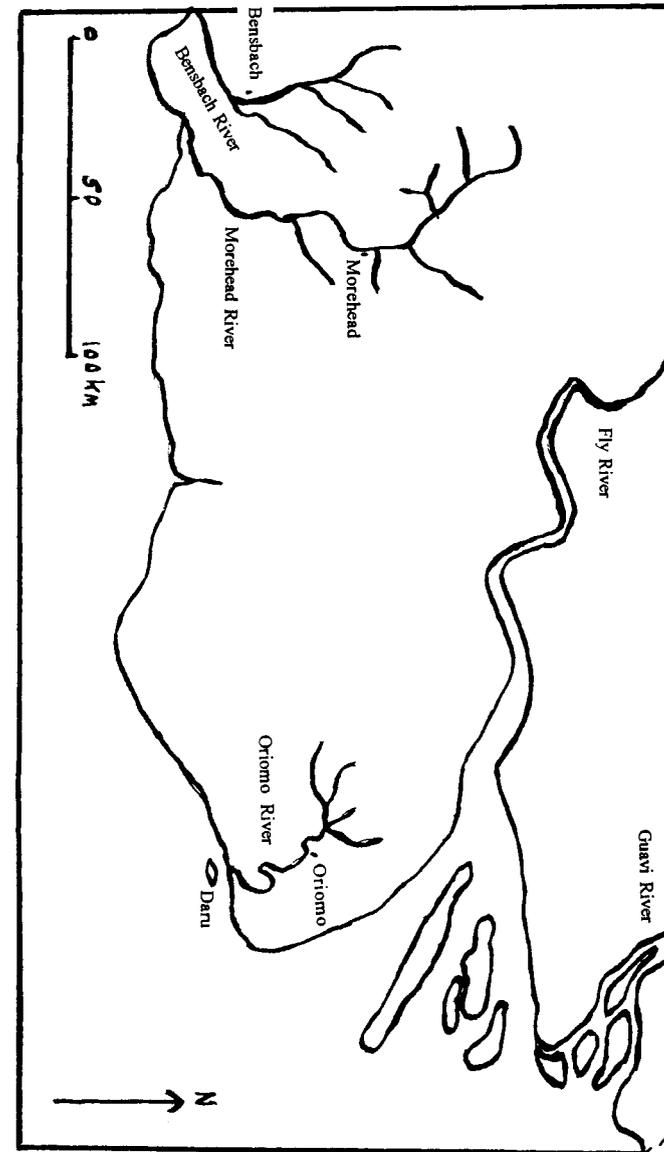


Figure 2
Sketch-map of southern portion of Western Province showing location of places visited and mentioned in the text

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BIRDS SIGHTED IN THE GUAVI-WAWOI LOGGING AREA, WESTERN PROVINCE FROM 25TH NOVEMBER TO 9TH DECEMBER 1993

- (i) Jones Hiaso, John B Sengo, Markson K Yarao
(ii) Christopher Unkau

The list of birds provided in this paper was done as part of an on-going faunal survey by the Department of Environment and Conservation in the Upper Ramu logging area. Currently the area is being logged by Rimbunan Hijau.

Observations started on the first day at Kamusi Base camp (KB) which is situated along the Western side of Guavi River, approximately 7° 30' S, 143° E. Most of the observations were made at camp site 1 (CS1) from 17th November to 2nd December. Additional sightings were made at camp site 2 (CS2), from 40 - 75 metres above sea level. No previous observations from the area have been done, primarily due to the difficulty of access to the area. Recently Burrows (1993) reported observations from the Turama River area in the Gulf Province. The Turama River is the next biggest river east of the Guavi River, and both Burrows (1993) and this report gives some indication of the richness of the bird fauna of these areas.

The listing and naming of birds follow Beehler et al (1986). First sightings only are recorded.

Bird List

Species Name	Date First Sighted	Observations
Southern Cassowary <i>Casuaris casuaris</i>	30th Nov	There were many fresh footprints, but only two adults and two young birds were seen at CS1.
Black-billed Brush-turkey <i>Tallegalla fuscirostris</i>	28th Nov	A mound and four individual seen at CS1. Also calls were heard both during the day, at dusk and pre-dawn.

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* 4th Nov An individual was seen in the Guavi River at CS1.

White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae* 4th Dec An individual was disturbed and it flew to a tree when we arrived at CS2.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia* 25th Nov Two birds were seen foraging at Kamusi Airstrip.

Grey-headed Goshawk *Accipiter poliocephalus* 30th Nov Two were perched close to the road at CS1.

Crested Hawk *Aviceda subcristata* 25th Nov One bird was perched close to the road from Kamusi Base Camp to the various logging plots.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* 4th Dec One bird flew over CS2.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* 4th Nov Seen in the afternoon at CS2 just after a light drizzle of rain.

Southern Crowned Pigeon *Goura scheepmakeri* 28th Nov A group of five were seen in the forest interior. Four more sightings were made of small groups on the 30th, 1st and 5th.

Great Cuckoo-Dove *Reinwardtoena reinwardtii* 5th Dec Four sightings were made at CS2. Two flew across the road and on the 6th about 7:00 am two birds were seen feeding along the road side.

Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia migrirostris* 25th Nov One bird was seen perched in a dry tree at Kamusi Base Camp.

Brown Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis* 29th Nov A calling individual was located just before there was a heavy rain.

Beautiful Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus pulchellus* 2nd Nov At least three were seen feeding on an epiphytic fig at CS1 with Coronetted and Superb Fruit Doves. A calling individual was located at CS2 on the 6th of December.

Ornate Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus ornatus* 4th Dec A pair was chased off from a fig tree by three Blyth's Hornbills.

Woompoo Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus* 29th Nov After hearing calls only, a pair was seen feeding on the 29th November.

Coronetted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus coronulatus* 2nd Dec At least four individuals were seen feeding in an epiphytic fig with Beautiful Fruit Doves.

Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus* 2nd Dec Two birds were seen feeding in an epiphytic fig with Beautiful and Coronetted Fruit-Doves.

Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor* 28th Nov At least five feeding in a large tree. At least one

was seen almost every day CS1. Usually went around in pairs and perched on bare branches in the afternoons. Also seen at CS2.

Zoe Imperial Pigeon *Ducula zoeae* 28th Nov This species was as common as the Pied Imperial Pigeon and about four were seen feeding with the previous species.

Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula rufigaster* An individual was seen early in the morning perched on a low branch about 20 m high.

Pinon Imperial Pigeon *Ducula pinon* 29th Nov A pair was seen in a tree at CS1 and three additional sightings were made at CS2.

Western Black-capped Lory *Lorius lory* 30th Nov Pairs occasionally flew over-head at CS1.

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus* 4th Dec A large flock was present at CS2.

Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus* 25th Nov Very common and were seen almost every day at all sites.

Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi* 30th Nov One bird flew off from the top of a tree with a loud 'screaming' call. The bird is fairly common and occasional calls were heard at CS1 and CS2.

Vulturine Parrot *Psittichas fulgidus* 30th Nov About six birds were seen at CS1 feeding with fruit doves.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita* 25th Nov Very conspicuous due to the birds call and white colour and was seen or heard almost every day.

Palm Cockatoo *Probosciger aterrimus* 29th Nov This bird was seen three times, once flying over-head and twice located through calls.

Large Fig-Parrot *Psittaculirostris desmarestii* 2nd Dec A pair was seen in an emergent tree at CS1.

Double-eyed Fig-Parrot *Cyclopsitta diopthalma* 25th Nov Two birds were seen nesting high in a hollow left by a dead branch in the remains of the logged forest north east of KB.

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae* 25th Nov One bird was seen in a forest clearing at Kamusi Base Camp.

Greater Black Coucal *Centropus menbeki* 6th Dec Two birds were seen along the Guavi River at CS2.

Common Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera galatea* 1st Dec One adult was seen close to a small creek and two juveniles were caught in a mist net from the same area where the adult was seen at CS1.

Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx lepidus* 1st Dec One was caught in a mist net on a ridge at CS1.

Azure Kingfisher *Alcedo azureus* 30th Nov An individual was seen at a creek close to CS1.

Yellow-billed Kingfisher *Halcyon torotoro* 28th Nov Calls were heard many times and an individual was seen at CS1.

Hook-billed Kingfisher *Melidora macrorrhina* 1st Dec Many calls were heard at dusk and at dawn, two sightings at CS1.

Rufous-bellied Kookaburra *Dacelo gaudichaud* 25th Nov This bird was the most common and conspicuous Kingfisher. It was present throughout the whole logging area.

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis* 25th Nov Very vocal in pairs or single, common. At CS1 a male courted a female for the two weeks while we were there, and on two occasions they mated for about 5 seconds

Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus* 25th Nov This bird was common and very vocal. They foraged in small parties or pairs and were aggressive against other birds coming to the same fruit tree.

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta* 4th Dec This species and the Pacific Swallow were common.

Moustached Tree-swift *Hemiprocne mystacea* 4th Dec Two birds were seen perched on a bare branch at CS2.

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica* 25th Nov Common, present throughout the whole area.

Blue Jewel-babbler *Ptilorrhoa caerulescens* 28th Nov Two were spotted in the forest at CS2.

Helmeted Friarbird *Philemon buceroides* 25th Nov Common throughout the whole area.

Yellow-bellied Gerygone *Gerygone chrysogaster* 28th Nov Two were seen with other small birds at CS1.

Rusty Mouse-Warbler *Crateroscelis murina* 30th Nov A small party (at least 3) were seen along the creek at CS1.

Rufous-backed Fantail *Rhipidura rifidorsa* 30th Nov One bird was caught from a net set along the creek at CS1.

Sooty Thicket-Fantail *Rhipidura threnothorax* 1st Dec Three were caught from a net set along a slope at CS1.

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leocophrys* 5th Dec One bird was seen along the Guavi River at CS2.

Spot-winged Monarch *Monarcha guttula* 1st Dec Three were caught in a net set along a slope at CS1 and another was spotted in the forest.

Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto* 6th Dec Two sightings were made along the road at CS2.

- Hooded Monarch *Monarcha manadensis* 30th Nov One was caught in a net set along the creek close to CS1 and two more sightings were made in the forest.
- Lowland Peltops *Peltops blainvillii* 2nd Dec Only a single bird was sighted perched on a bare twig along the road from CS1 to Kamusi.
- Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufiventris* 1st Dec A male was sighted in a tree at the edge of an opening made in the forest by road clearing.
- Little Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla megarhyncha* 28th Nov A small group was sighted along the creek at CS1 and two were caught in the net close to the creek.
- Rusty Pitohui *Pitohui ferrugineus* 29th Nov Three birds were caught in the net along the creek at CS1.
- Papuan Flowerpecker *Dicaeum pectorale* 25th Nov This bird was frequently seen throughout the whole area.
- Black Berrypecker *Melanocharis nigra* 30th Nov Calls were heard occasionally and an individual was seen feeding in the flowers of a cauliflorous *Syzygium* tree.
- Black Sunbird *Nectarinia aspasia* 4th Dec A male and a female were sighted feeding on nectar of paw-paw flowers at CS2.
- Yellow-bellied Longbill *Toxorhamphus novaeguineae* 29th Nov A juvenile and an adult were caught in a net set along a ridge at CS1.
- Dwarf Honeyeater *Oedistoma iliolophus* 30th Nov Also caught in the same net as above at CS1.
- Mimic Meliphaga *Meliphaga analoga* 25th Nov Calls of what was presumed to be this bird were heard throughout the whole area, but could have been other species of Meliphaga.
- Tawny-breasted Honeyeater 2nd Dec Two birds were caught in a net set on a ridge close to CS1.
- Long-billed Honeyeater *Melilestes megarhynchus* 29th Nov A pair was caught in a net along the creek and three more were caught from a net set along a ridge.
- White-spotted Mannikin *Lonchura leucosticta* 4th Dec Two flocks of about 12 and 6 birds were sighted at CS2 in secondary regrowth.
- Yellow-faced Myna *Mino dumontii* 25th Nov This bird was seen occasionally calling from treetops.
- White-eared Catbird *Ailurodeus buccoides* 30th Nov Calls were heard along the creek at CS1 and two were seen in the same area.
- Raggiana Bird of Paradise *Paradisea raggiana* 25th Nov Occasionally heard and seen throughout the whole area.

King Bird of Paradise *Cicinnurus regius* 29th Nov The call of this bird was heard three times before it was sighted on Nov 29th perched in a thickly foliated area.

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus* 29th Nov The Drongo was very common in the forest interior and some clearings made by road-building. Three were caught in the net close to the creek and another from the net on the ridge.

Yellow-eyed Starling *Aplonis mystacea* 25th Nov A small flock of at least eight birds was seen at KB. No other sightings were made at either camp site.

Glossy-mantled Manucode *Manucodia atra* 1st Dec Two birds were followed for at least 20 minutes in a mixed flock with Spangled Drongos and Rusty Pitohuis.

Hooded Butcherbird *Cracticus cassicus* 25th Nov This butcherbird is common throughout the whole area.

Grey Crow *Corvus tristis* 28th Nov Two birds were sighted at CS1 and a large very vocal group flew past the next day. Other subsequent sightings were also made.

REFERENCES

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

Burrows I 1993 Some notes on the Birds seen in the Turama River area, Gulf Province, Muruk Vol 6 Pages 28 - 32.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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(Received March 1994)

YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILL (*Platalea flavipes*) AT BENSBACK

During August 1992 two tour groups (FG Inc led by Jan Pierson and Rose Ann Rowlett, and Victor Emmanuel led by David Bishop) reported Yellow-billed Spoonbill from Bensbach, with the Field Guides Inc group seeing at least 6 individuals. These are the first documented for Papua New Guinea, of a not unexpected vagrant to the Trans-Fly. Roy Edwards of Ou Ou Creek Plantation reports two sightings of this species in the past 25 years, most recently 2 birds on 22.8.91. (*R. Edwards in litt. --ed.*)

Whilst travelling down the Bensbach River on 14th June 1993, at fishing spot number 2, I found a single individual Yellow-billed Spoonbill perched on a treetop with Royal Spoonbills (*P. regia*). The bird was photographed for record purposes but the pale yellow bill made identification straightforward. This individual may have been a leftover from the influx of 1992, or the species may be more regular than previously supposed in these remote and little watched areas.

Phil Gregory, PO Box 69, Tabubil, Western Province, PNG.
(Received December 1993)

FAIRY MARTIN (*Hirundo ariel*) AT TABUBIL

A single Fairy Martin was perched on a fence by the rugby pitch with Pacific Swallows (*H. tahitica*) on 9th October 1993. The small size, striking white underparts, head coloured orangey down to the nape and the white rump made identification obvious.

This is the second Tabubil record, the previous being on 26th September 1986 (Murray A. 1988 Muruk Vol 3 No 3 p. 105), and coincided with an influx of other Australian migrants. The species remains a rare vagrant to PNG but may be more frequent than currently realised along the Fly River drainage system.

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(Received December 1993)

GREAT KNOT (*Calidris tenuirostris*) AT TABUBIL

A single Great Knot frequented the airstrip and rugby pitch at Tabubil from 10th-14th November 1991, the first inland record for the country and entirely unexpected so far from the coast. The whitish scalings on the pale grey upperparts suggest a first year bird, whilst the rather short legs were greenish in colour. The bird was a typical "tubby" knot-shape, slightly larger than Pacific Golden Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*), with a whitish belly and flanks and a streaked chest ending in a distinct gorget. Pale supercilium and white rump, with a narrow whitish wing-bar. Dark slightly drooped medium length bill. The bird foraged on the damp grass of the rugby pitch after moving from the gravelly airport area, sometimes alone but also joining up with Pacific Golden Plovers and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (*Calidris acuminata*).

Phil Gregory, PO Box 69, Tabubil, Western Province, PNG.
(Received December 1993)

INDEX TO PLACES MENTIONED IN THIS ISSUE with province where known.

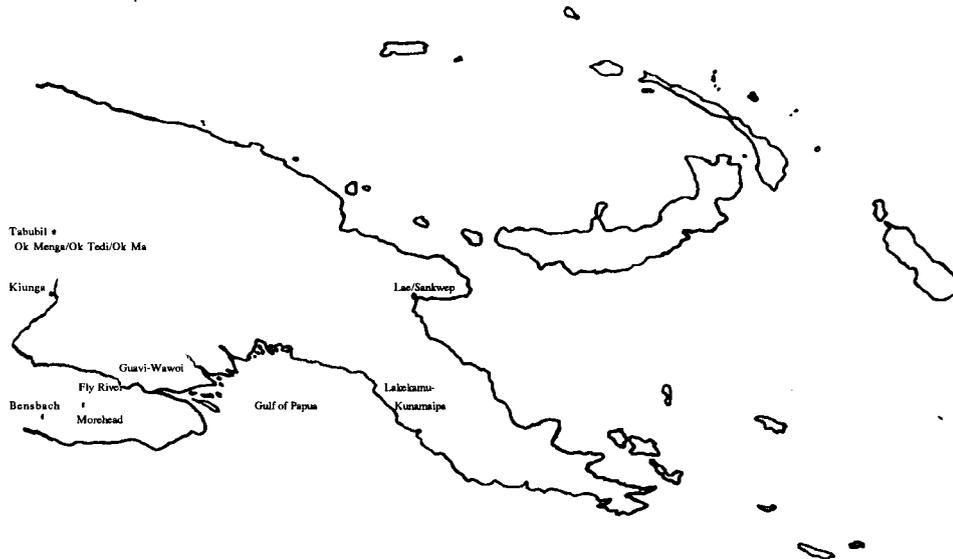
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SHP= Southern Highlands Province
 WP= Western Province
 NCD= National Capital District

Fig.3 Location of places mentioned in this issue



INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Muruk welcomes any contributions which add to the body of knowledge about the birds of the New Guinea region. We welcome scientific papers, travelogues, regional lists and casual notes and observations, particularly from the less well known areas. Please send all contributions to :

Editor, *Muruk*, PNGBS PO Box 1598, Boroko, NCD, Papua New Guinea.

or Editor, *Muruk*, PO Box 69, Tabubil, Western Province, PNG Ph/Fax 675 589310 or fax 589641

Please type all manuscripts, double spaced for easier proof reading. If you have a word processor then we welcome submissions on disk (compatible with IBM standard). We edit initially in Microsoft Word 5, and later compose the final version in Pagemaker 1 V. We can cope with most IBM programmes, but an ASCII version of the document is useful as a back-up.

In general please follow the stylistic conventions as used in *EMU* (or see earlier issues of *Muruk*). Please pay special attention to the correct citation of references. Note the guidelines for reporting records as outlined on the front page of this issue.

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

For place names kindly try to ensure that they can be located using standard maps. If they do not occur on the PNG 1:100,000 series maps then please give the nearest mapped locality. Always give the province after the name, and grid references are useful.

Illustrations should be neatly drawn in black ink and avoiding too much detail. For all maps please submit two copies, one without any annotation and another with the place names marked. Alternatively, mark the place names on a transparent overlay. Line drawings of birds are welcome. Again, use black ink and as few shades as possible. Drawings on the theme of cassowaries are always welcome as potential cover items. Black and white photographs may also be included for possible usage.

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