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MURUK



VOLUME 7 NUMBER 3 DECEMBER 1995

JOURNAL OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA BIRD SOCIETY

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EDITORIAL

We are pleased to publish in this issue, the final one for Volume 7, a miscellany of material : A Check List for Mount Gahavisuka Provincial Part, a variety of observations from the Bismarcks and Manus, including nest data on the Black Imperial Pigeon, papers documenting birds from the little known middle Fly region, a travelogue from Myola, speculation on future additions to the PNG list, an undescribed plumage morph of Grey-headed Goshawk, nesting observations on the little known Grey Crow, a Bat Hawk sighting from Irian Jaya and a summary of significant observations in 1993 and 1994. We welcome this variety and are grateful to our sponsors, Ok Tedi Mining for their continued support in 1995. We hope to continue with three issues per year, but are dependent on contributions for the publishing schedule which is of necessity flexible.

Contributors of sightings have been very few in recent years, and we encourage both residents and visitors to submit their records.

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 excerpts would be used only 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 : Phil Gregory.

Please continue to send submissions (preferably on disk in the specified format) to :

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Phone (675) 589310 or fax (675) 589641

All contributions will be acknowledged.

Muruk is published by the Papua New Guinea Bird Society and is available as part of society membership. Back numbers are K4 each plus postage and packing. Volume one (1986) was reprinted in 1990 and is available for K8. Please note the revised 1995 membership rates.

Membership rates are : Local (within PNG): K12 individual K19 family K8 junior

Overseas K16 (A\$32) surface mail; K18 (A\$36) airmail to Australia, NZ and Singapore

Distant (all other countries) surface K19 (A\$38), K24 (\$A48) airmail

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Cover : *Southern Cassowary head study by Jones Hiaso*

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MT. GAHAVISUKA PROVINCIAL PARK: A Check List of Birds

by Tom Coles

Overview

Mt. Gahavisuka Provincial Park and Lipizauga Botanical Sanctuary is noted primarily for its unique orchard and rhododendron species. Species are on display in the Sehoka and Lipizauga Orchard Houses. The goals of the park focus around recreation, conservation, scientific research, education and tourism.

The park is located 11 km. from the centre of Goroka Town, Eastern Highlands Province. It can be reached by 4-wheel drive vehicle. After crossing over the bridge on the Mt. Hagen side of Goroka, turn off the Okuk Highway, onto the road on the right, opposite the Okiufa Community School (look for the park sign at the turn off). Transportation can be arranged by the Park Director (cost negotiable) or through the Bird of Paradise Hotel in Goroka at a fixed rate. Melanesian Tours has plans to build a bungalow type hotel off the road just below the park gate.

Entry into the park is free. There is a donation box at the information centre next to the car park. There is no fixed time for entering or leaving the park, although early arrivals may have to park their vehicle outside of the park gate if it is locked (only a short walk from the car park). The park land was leased from the people of nearby Nagamiza village in April 1983. There are plans for expanding the boundary of the park, currently covering 77.4 hectares (200 acres). Due to village involvement in managing the park, security is good. The park staff are friendly, helpful and knowledgeable.

Arrangements can be made to overnight at the park for individuals or small groups interested in night walks, exploring for nocturnal marsupials and birds. One medium sized marsupial species, which had just been decapitated by a Sooty Owl (*Tyto tenebricosa*), was found on the main track by the author and Park Director. Bring your own bedding, food, torch, rain gear and mosquito repellent if planning an overnight stay. Water is available at the park. Because forest wallabies are crepuscular (dawn and dusk) animals, the Common Mountain Forest Wallaby (*Dorcopsulus vanheurni*), can be seen at the 'Lake,' often on the little island in the centre (most frequently seen in the late afternoon if one is very quiet).

Check List

Of the 708 verified species of birds of New Guinea and its neighbor islands (Principe 1991), 138 are listed for the park of which 33 species are listed as questionable due to their habitat requirements and altitude distribution. The one exception is the Superb Bird of Paradise (*Lophorina superba*) which was seen by the author at its upper altitude limit of 2300 meters. Since birds do not read bird books, they are often able to adapt to different habitat. Expanded altitude distribution for different species continues to be noted in *Muruk* (Journal of the Papua New Guinea Bird Society). Of the 40 Birds of Paradise listed for the country, eleven (11) species are listed for the park (the presence of three species is questionable). This list will most likely undergo future revision. It has been compiled from observations made by the author, the park staff and other birders. Information was also compiled from the listed references. Notes concerning confirmation of the species listed as questionable or of species not listed should be passed on to the Park Director or the author.

Species	Altitude	1	2	3
<i>PHASIANIDAE</i>				
Brown Quail	<i>Coturnix australis</i> S-2600/3600	*	*	?
<i>TURNICIDAE</i>				
Red-backed Button-Quail	<i>Turnix maculosa</i> S-2500	*	?	
<i>RALLIDAE</i>				
Buff-banded Rail	<i>Rallus philippensis</i> S-3350	*	*	*
Lewin's Rail	<i>Rallus pectoralis</i> 1040-2600	*	*	*
Forbes' Forest-Rail	<i>Rallina forbesi</i> 1100-3000	*	*	*
Spotless Crane	<i>Porzana tabuensis</i> S-3150	*	*	*
Baillon's Crane	<i>Porzana pusilla</i> L-1500-2450		*	
<i>SCOLOPACIDAE</i>				
Common Sandpiper	<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i> S-3200	?	?	?
Latham's (Japanese) Snipe	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i> S-3550	?	?	?
Swinhoe's (Chinese) Snipe	<i>Gallinago megala</i> S-3720	?	?	?
Rufous Woodcock	<i>Scelopax saturata</i> S-3720	?	?	?
<i>COLUMBIDAE</i>				
White-throated Pigeon	<i>Columba vitiensis</i> S-2750	*	*	
Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia nigrirostris</i> S-2600	*	*	
Great Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Reinwardtoena reinwardtii</i> S-3380	*	*	*
Bronze Ground-Dove	<i>Gallicolumba beccarii</i> 1200-2700	*	*	
White-bibbed Ground-Dove	<i>Gallicolumba jobiensis</i> L-2300	*		
Ornate Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus ornatus</i> 200-1350/3260	?	?	?
White-breasted Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus rivoli</i> 300/1000-3260	*	*	*
Rufescent Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula chalconota</i> 1000-2400	*		
Papuan Mountain Pigeon	<i>Gymnophaps albertsii</i> S-3350	*	*	*
<i>PSITTACIDAE</i>				
Dusky Lory	<i>Pseudeos fuscata</i> L-2400	*		
Goldie's Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus goldiei</i> L-2750	*	*	
Little Red Lorikeet	<i>Charmosyna pulchella</i> 750-2300	*		
Papuan Lorikeet	<i>Charmosyna papou</i> 1500-2800	*	*	
Plum-faced Lorikeet	<i>Oreopsittacus arfaki</i> 1700/2650-3650		*	*
Yellow-billed Lorikeet	<i>Neopsittacus musschenbroekii</i> 1100-2800	*	*	*
Orange-billed Lorikeet	<i>Neopsittacus pullicauda</i> 2180/2300-3660	*	*	*
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita</i> S-1500/2400	?		
Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrot	<i>Micropsitta bruijnii</i> 500-2300	*		
Brehm's Tiger-Parrot	<i>Psittacella brehmi</i> 1600-2800	*	*	*
Painted Tiger-Parrot	<i>Psittacella picta</i> 2450-3680	?	*	*
Madaras's Tiger-Parrot	<i>Psittacella madaraszii</i> 1150-2500	*	?	
Papuan King-Parrot	<i>Alisterus chloropterus</i> S-2300	*		
<i>CUCULIDAE</i>				
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis flabelliformis</i> 1300/1500-2900/3700	*	*	*
Rufous-throated Bronze-Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx ruficollis</i> 1300-3230	*	*	*

Species	Altitude	1	2	3
<i>TYTONIDAE</i>				
Grass Owl	<i>Tyto capensis</i> 1000-2500	?		
Sooty Owl	<i>Tyto tenebricosa</i> L-3660	*	*	*
Papuan Boobook	<i>Ninox theomacha</i> L-2500	*	?	
<i>AEGOTHELIDAE</i>				
Feline Owlet-Nightjar	<i>Aegotheles insignis</i> 80/1150-2800	*	*	*
Mountain Owlet-Nightjar	<i>Aegotheles albertsi</i> 800-2900	*	*	*
<i>HEMIPROCINIDAE</i>				
Mountain Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia hirundinacea</i> L-4000	*	*	*
Glossy Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia esculenta</i> S-3600/4500	*	*	*
<i>ALCEDINIDAE</i>				
Shovel-billed Kingfisher	<i>Clytoceyx rex</i> L-2400	*		
<i>MEROPIIDAE</i>				
Rainbow Bee-eater	<i>Merops ornatus</i> S-1600/3960	?	?	?
<i>HIRUNDINIDAE</i>				
Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i> S-2200/2700	?	?	
<i>MOTACILLIDAE</i>				
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i> 600-2800	*	*	*
<i>CAMPEPHAGIDAE</i>				
Hooded Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina longicauda</i> 1300/2100-2800/3700	*	*	*
Stout-billed Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina caeruleogrisea</i> 600-1700/2450		?	
Black-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina montana</i> 770/1000-2450/2800	*	?	?
<i>LANIIDAE</i>				
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i> 400/1000-2650	*	*	
<i>TURDIDAE</i>				
Pied Chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i> L/1200-2300/2850	*	?	?
Island Thrush	<i>Turdus poliocephalus</i> 1980/2300-4120/4500	*	*	*
<i>ORTHONYCHIDAE</i>				
Log-runner	<i>Orthonyx temminckii</i> 1980-2840/3550	?	?	?
Spotted Jewel-babbler	<i>Ptilorrhoa leucosticta</i> 1200-2700	*		
Lesser Melampitta	<i>Melampitta lugubris</i> 1150/2000-2800/3500	*	*	*
Blue-capped Ifrita	<i>Ifrita kowaldi</i> 1460/2000-2900/3680	*	*	*
<i>SYLVIIDAE</i>				
Great Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i> S-2300	?	?	?
Tawny Grassbird	<i>Megalurus timoriensis</i> S-3850	?	?	?

Species	Altitude	1	2	3
Golden-headed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola exilis</i> S-1250/2225	?		
Island Leaf-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trivirgatus</i> 640/1200-1800/2400	*		
MALURIDAE				
White-shouldered Fairy-wren	<i>Malurus alboscapulatus</i> L-2150/2500	*		
Orange-crowned Fairy-wren	<i>Clytomyias insignis</i> 1200/1700-2800	*	*	*
ACANTHIZIDAE				
Bicoloured Mouse-Warbler	<i>Crateroscelis nigrorufa</i> 1200-2500		*	
Mountain Mouse-Warbler	<i>Crateroscelis robusta</i> 1250-3680	*	*	*
Large Scrub-wren	<i>Sericornis nouhuysi</i> 1200/1400-3500	*	*	*
Buff-faced Scrub-wren	<i>Sericornis perspicillatus</i> 850/1500-2450/2850	*	?	?
Papuan Scrub-wren	<i>Sericornis papuensis</i> 1500/2000-3500	*	*	*
Grey Gerygone	<i>Gerygone cinerea</i> 1000/2000-2800	*	*	*
Brown-breasted Gerygone	<i>Gerygone ruficollis</i> 1100/1400-2450/3300	*	?	?
RHIPIDURIDAE				
Dimorphic Fantail	<i>Rhipidura brachyrhyncha</i> 2000-3680/3900	*	*	*
Black Fantail	<i>Rhipidura atra</i> 700/1000-2150/3200	?	?	?
Friendly Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albolimbata</i> 1130/1370-3600	*	*	*
Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i> S-850/2800	?		
MYIAGRIDAE				
Black Monarch	<i>Monarcha axillaris</i> 700/800-2350	*		
Black-breasted Boatbill	<i>Machaerirhynchus nigriceps</i> 850/1130-2750		*	*
EOPSALTRIIDAE				
Torrent Flycatcher	<i>Monachella muelleriana</i> 450-2300/2600	*	?	
Yellow-legged Flycatcher	<i>Microeca griseiceps</i> 550-1400/2300	?		
Canary Flycatcher	<i>Microeca papuana</i> 1100/1800-2500/3500	*	?	?
Garnet Robin	<i>Eugerygone rubra</i> 1400/1700-2500/3680	*	?	?
Lesser Ground-Robin	<i>Amalocichla incerta</i> 900/1200-2750	*	*	
Ashy Robin	<i>Poecilodryas albispectularis</i> 1400/1700-2400/2600	*	?	
Black-throated Robin	<i>Poecilodryas albonotata</i> 1150/1800-2750	*	*	
White-winged Robin	<i>Peneothello sigillatus</i> 2150/2400-3900	?	*	*
Blue-gray Robin	<i>Peneothello cyanus</i> 900/1500-2500/2750	*	?	
PACHYCEPHALIDAE				
Mottled Whistler	<i>Rhagologus leucostigma</i> 820/1500-2550/2900	*	?	?
Slater's Whistler	<i>Pachycephala soror</i> 350/1000-2000/2450	?		
Regent Whistler	<i>Pachycephala schlegelii</i> 1300/1850-3650	*	*	*
Brown-backed Whistler	<i>Pachycephala modesta</i> 1130/1830-3600	*	*	*
Rufous-naped Whistler	<i>Pachycephala rufinucha</i> 1200/1400-2600/3600	*	*	?
Little Shrike-thrush	<i>Colluricincla megarhyncha</i> L-1850/2300	?		
Black Pitohui	<i>Pitohui nigrescens</i> 1000/1600-2000/2600	?	?	
Wattled Ploughbill	<i>Eulacestoma nigropectus</i> 1250/1950-2850	*	*	?

Species	Altitude	1	2	3
NEOSITTIDAE				
Varied Sitella	<i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i> 1075/1400-2200/2650	?	?	
Black Sitella	<i>Daphoenositta miranda</i> 2000/2450-3700	?	*	*
DICAEIFIDAE				
Fan-tailed Berrypecker	<i>Melanocharis versteri</i> 1250/1700-3680	*	*	*
Streaked Berrypecker	<i>Melanocharis striativentris</i> 550/1150-2300/2600	*	?	
Spotted Berrypecker	<i>Rhamphocharis crassirostris</i> 850/1150-2300/2700	*	?	
Tit Berrypecker	<i>Oreocharis arfaki</i> 1400/2200-2700/3000	*	*	?
Crested Berrypecker	<i>Paramythia montium</i> 2150/2450-3800/4100	?	*	*
Papuan Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum pectorale</i> L-1700/2350	?		
ZOSTEROPIDAE				
New Guinea White-eye	<i>Zosterops novaeguineae</i> 700/1200-2400/2600	*	?	
MELIPHAGIDAE				
Olive Straightbill	<i>Timeliopsis fulvigula</i> 1100-2450/2700	*	?	
Slaty-chinned Longbill	<i>Toxorhamphus poliopterus</i> 500-2000/2450	?		
Red-collared Myzomela	<i>Myzomela rosenbergii</i> 600/1200-3700/3950	*	*	*
Sooty Melidectes	<i>Melidectes fuscus</i> 2000/3000-3700	?	?	?
Belford's Melidectes	<i>Melidectes belfordi</i> 1400/1600-3550/3800	*	*	*
Yellow-browed Melidectes	<i>Melidectes rufocrissalis</i> 1100/1400-2400		*	
Black-throated H.	<i>Lichenostomus subfrenatus</i> 1070/1350-2000/3680	?	?	?
Rufous-backed Honeyeater	<i>Ptiloprora guisei</i> 1340/1800-2450/2900	*	?	?
Grey-streaked Honeyeater	<i>Ptiloprora perstriata</i> 1650/2500-3750	*	*	
Common Smoky Honeyeater	<i>Melipotes fumigatus</i> 1100/1400-2800/3400	*	*	*
ESTRILDIDAE				
Blue-faced Parrot-Finch	<i>Erythrura trichroa</i> 1000-3000		*	*
Hooded Mannikin	<i>Lonchura spectabilis</i> L-2450		*	
ARTAMIDAE				
Great Wood-swallow	<i>Artamus maximus</i> 600-2600/2800		*	*
CRATICIDAE				
Mountain Peltops	<i>Peltops montanus</i> 600/750-1680/2800	?	?	?
PTILONORHYNCHIDAE				
Spotted Catbird	<i>Ailuroedus melanotis</i> 600-1700/2250		?	
Macgregor's Bowerbird	<i>Amblyornis macgregoriae</i> 1950/1600-2300/2800	*	?	?
PARADISAEIDAE				
Crested Bird of Paradise	<i>Cnemophilus macgregorii</i> 2300/2600-3500/3650	?	*	*
Loria's Bird of Paradise	<i>Cnemophilus loriae</i> 1200/2000-2800/3500	*	*	*
Short-tailed Paradigalla	<i>Paradigalla brevicauda</i> 1400/1570-2380/2580	*		
Buff-tailed Sickiebill	<i>Epimachus albertsi</i> 600/1100-1900/2250	?		
Black Sickiebill	(*) <i>Epimachus fastuosus</i> 1280/1800-2150/2550	?		
Brown Sickiebill	(*) <i>Epimachus meyeri</i> 1525/1900-2900/3200	*	*	*

Species	Altitude	1	2	3
Stephanie's Astrapia	<i>Astrapia stephaniae</i> 1280/1500-2800/3500	*	*	*
Superb Bird of Paradise	<i>Lophorina superba</i> 1000/1650-1900/2300	*		
Lawes' Parotia	<i>Parotia lawesii</i> 500/1200-1900/2300	?		
King of Saxony BOP	<i>Pteridophora alberti</i> 1400/1800-2500/2850	*	?	?

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(Received September 1995)

BIRDS OF WILD DOG, EAST NEW BRITAIN

by Chris Eastwood

Will Glynn, Mark Walker & I visited the mining camp of Wild Dog over the Easter weekend of 1995. We arrived at midday on the 14th of April and left on the morning of the 17th. Wild Dog is situated almost exactly in the centre of the Gazelle peninsula approximately 2 hours drive south west of Kokopo, which itself is just south of Rabaul. The camp is at an altitude of approximately 950 metres asl and currently consists primarily of just one building. The mine is not yet at the development stage and the surrounding bush is largely untouched apart from a number of vehicular tracks and a few small areas where some exploration activity has occurred.

We stayed at the camp courtesy of David Lindley, of Gold Mines of Niugini Holdings Pty Limited. If anybody is interested in visiting the area they should contact David on 96 4827 (tel/fax) or write to him at Box 808, Rabaul.

Species List

Underlining denotes a species endemic to the Bismarck (and Admiralty) or Solomon Islands.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)

A single bird flying over the camp (approximately 50 kilometres from the sea) on two different days (one an immature?).

Oriental Hobby (*Falco severus*)

A pair was resident at the camp.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

One bird perched by the track as we returned to Kokopo.

Brown Cuckoo-Dove (*Macropygia amboinensis*)

Single birds seen on most days.

Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove (*Macropygia nigrirostris*)

Only one bird positively identified.

White-breasted Fruit-Dove (*Ptilinopus rivoli*)

A pair were seen in some casuarina saplings.

Red-knobbed Fruit-Dove (*Ptilinopus insolitus*)

Fairly common and small numbers were seen every day.

Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeon (*Ducula rubricera*)

The second most common pigeon or dove and small numbers were seen every day; particularly vocal.

Finsch's Imperial Pigeon (*Ducula finschii*)

Two birds were seen perched by the side of the road - very dumpy looking pigeons appearing large eyed.

Black Imperial Pigeon (*Ducula melanochroa*)

Single birds occasionally flying over; one perched bird by the camp on our last morning.

Pied Imperial Pigeon (*Ducula bicolor*)

The commonest pigeon or dove - several birds had a pale cream wash and a green bill.

Rainbow Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus*)

Small numbers seen on two days.

Eastern Black-capped Lory (*Lorius hypoinochrous*)

A few pairs seen flying past.

Red-chinned Lorikeet (*Charmosyna rubrigularis*)

Small flocks of presumably this species were seen in flight on two days.

Blue-eyed Cockatoo (*Cacatua ophthalmica*)

Mainly single birds seen, although on one day a flock of at least 10 birds were in the valley below the camp.

Song Parrot (*Geoffroyus heteroclitus*)

Only single birds seen, although a small flock was also heard on one day.

Eclectus Parrot (*Eclectus roratus*)

Just one bird seen flying over.

Violaceous Coucal (*Centropus violaceus*)

Single birds were seen almost every day along the track, though they were more often heard than seen.

White-necked Coucal (*Centropus ateralbus*)

Only one bird seen.

Glossy Swiftlet (*Collocalia esculenta*)

Small numbers.

Moustached Tree-swift (*Hemiprocne mystacea*)

A pair was resident near the camp.

White-mantled Kingfisher (*Halcyon albonotata*)

One bird seen well on one day - we had heard a kingfisher calling in the evening but were unable to track it down; we returned to the site the next morning and eventually found it; it would perch for long periods of time, calling almost continuously. A bird was seen again in the afternoon. Another bird was also heard in a different area.

Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*)

Small numbers on two days.

Blyth's Hornbill (*Rhyticeros plicatus*)

A pair was resident near the camp and were often seen flying past.

Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina lineata*)

Seen on one day.

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina papuensis*)

Fairly common.

Cicadabird (*Coracina temirostris*)

The commonest cuckoo-shrike and seen every day.

Varied Triller (*Lalage leucomela*)

Common.

Bismarck Pied Monarch (*Monarcha verticalis*)

Seen several times on two days in different areas.

Bismarck Rufous Fantail (*Rhipidura dahlia*)

Only one bird seen on our first afternoon, although it was occasionally heard calling particularly in the bush behind the camp.

Northern Fantail (*Rhipidura rufiventris*)

Fairly common.

Golden Whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*)

Seen on two days.

Bismarck Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum eximium*)

Quite common but more often heard than seen.

Black Sunbird (*Nectarinia aspasia*)

Small numbers present.

Black-headed White-eye (*Zosterops hypoxantha*)

Fairly common (usually in small parties).

Ashy Myzomela (*Myzomela cineracea*)

Small numbers.

Red Myzomela (*Myzomela cruentata*)

Present on most days near one particular flowering tree.

New Britain Red-headed Myzomela (*Myzomela erythromelas*)

Present on most days near one particular flowering tree.

New Britain Friarbird (*Philemon cockerelli*)

Small numbers; one bird was building a nest in a tree by the camp.

Metallic Starling (*Aplonis metallica*)

Small numbers.

Yellow-faced Myna (*Mino dumontii*)

Small numbers but fairly vocal (the call being quite unlike that of the mainland birds).

Spangled Drongo (*Dicrurus hottentottus*)

Small numbers.

Torresian Crow (*Corvus orru*)

Small numbers.

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(Received October 1995)

MEMORABLE MYOLA October 1995

by Phil Gregory

The party arrived at 0700 on Sunday October 8th, and departed at 1000 on Tuesday October 10th. The PNGBS used to visit this site regularly but have not done so for a few years. Myola village lies on the lower slopes of the Owen Stanley Range at 2080m and consists of about 15 huts, with a basic camp staff of Mark, his wife and a boy; It is beautifully sited in a grass and swampland basin set about by forested hills rising up to 2800m +, just a 25 minute flight from Port Moresby. The next village is about 4 hours walk away. MBA cancelled the charter flight set for Saturday but we got away at first light on Sunday, only to find Myola had been dry all week and we could have got in. I suspect the pilots had a golf game scheduled...

Cloud and rain by mid-afternoon Sunday after a wonderful sunny morning. Rain overnight Sunday and at dawn, but cleared away to a high overcast on Monday with rain again by late pm. Tuesday dawn was clear, but clouding up by the time we left.

Participants: Chris Eastwood, Phil Gregory, Arlene Johnson, Ian Richardson, Yasuhisa Tanaka, Mark Walker, and bush-walkers Richard and Emma. Camp cook Mark from Myola. MBA Islander coming in and a Twin Otter going out.

Sunday was really a recce of the village area and adjacent trails, with next day focusing on the key sites, which for me were mostly the trail to the west. Tuesday again saw me along there, with a detour around the airstrip and gardens before catching the flight.

Birding was splendid, with Monday 9th one of the best birding days I've had in PNG:

Composite List

New Guinea Harpy-Eagle 1 heard 8.10. calling from slopes west of the village.

King Quail 1 pair 9.10. 1 male 10.10.

Forbes' Forest-Rail 3 on 9.10. (1 male, 1 female)

Spotless Crane 1+ late pm on 8.10 and heard on the other two dates.

Lewin Rail 1 on 8.10. Dashed over the track, slightly larger than Spotless, not black, reddish crown and nape. Also flushed by IR on 9.10.

Rufous Woodcock 1 9.10 (PG)

Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove 1 on 8.10. 2 on 9.10. 3 on 10.10. and heard

Great Cuckoo-Dove heard

White-breasted Fruit-Dove 1 male on 8.10 and heard.

Papuan Mountain Pigeon 12 on 8.10 and 2 on 10.10. and heard

Bronze Ground -Dove 1 9.10 CE

Goldie's Lorikeet daily, max. 50 on 10.10. Flight call like a higher pitched version of Dusky Lory. Whiskered Lorikeet CE

Brehm's Tiger-Parrot 1 9.10.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo frequent by camp, max. 4 birds, and also heard in the forest. MW saw a juv.

Papuan Boobook 1 calling briefly on 8.10.

* Mountain Nightjar 1 flying over by village along forest edge at dusk on both 8 & 9.10. Identified as this species by habitat and altitude. Gave a quiet guttural flight note. Flying in quite heavy rain on 9.10.

Mountain Swiftlet max. 15

Glossy Swiftlet max. 6. Both *Collocalia* species were even flying amongst trees along forest margins.

* Shovel-billed Kingfisher 1 male on 9.10 (and again on 10.10 MW /YT)
Pacific Swallow 1 or 2 around village
Island Thrush daily in small numbers.
* Log-runner 1 male on 9.10.
Lesser Melampitta 1 glimpsed on 10.10., also heard calling. 1 by AJ in bamboo near the camp same day.
Blue-capped Ifrita 2 on 9.10. CE
Tawny Grassbird common in boggy grassland & sedge.
Island Leaf Warbler 1 8.10 2 9.10. 1 10.10.
Orange -crowned Fairy-wren 3 small groups seen by CE and AJ on 9 & 10.10.
Bicoloured Mouse-Warbler 1 9.10 by YT. 1 probable also on 9.10.
Mountain Mouse-Warbler Daily in small numbers.
Large Scrub-wren common
Buff-faced Scrub-wren 1 10.10.
Papuan Scrub-wren 1+ adults on 9.10. with a juv. which had a prominent yellowy supercilium and rather greenish upperparts, superficially resembling Island Leaf Warbler.
Grey Gerygone A flock of 5 on 9.10.
Brown-breasted Gerygone 25 on 8.10 and common daily, one of the most abundant small birds at Myola.
Dimorphic Fantail 3 seen daily.
Black Fantail 1 pr. at nest daily.
Friendly Fantail common.
Black Monarch 2 daily.
Black -breasted Boatbill 1 by CE.
Canary Flycatcher 1 by CE.
Garnet Robin 1 m 8.10 1 f/imm 10.10.
Ashy Robin 1 pr. and a juv. daily, another by the Forest-rail site and often heard, giving a quiet "yeeb" call reminiscent of the contact call of a Bullfinch.
Lesser Ground-robin heard daily, 1 or 2 birds.
Mottled Whistler 1 male on 10.10. by CE/YT
Regent Whistler 1 male on 8.10.
Brown-backed Whistler 1 on 9.10.
Rufous-naped Whistler heard daily and 1 seen 10.10.
Wattled Ploughbill 1 seen by AJ on 10.10.
Varied Sittella 9 on 10.10. including a juvenile bird that had a yellowy base to the black bill.
Fan-tailed Berrypecker up to 6 daily, males and females.
Tit Berrypecker heard daily
New Guinea White-eye 1 on 8.10. Lemon yellow chin and throat, no black lores, white breast and belly, yellow under tail coverts. Altitude would indicate this species. No call heard.
Red-collared Myzomela 4 males and 1 female on 8.10 2 males on 9.10.
Black-throated Honeyeater 1 on 8.10 and heard daily
Grey-streaked Honeyeater 1 on 8.10.
Rufous-backed Honeyeater 1 on 9.10.
Belford's Melidectes common. Black bill, blue eye patch.
Common Smoky Honeyeater 1 or 2 daily
Blue-faced Finch 2 on 8.10 and heard daily. A fine view of one feeding along the edge of a mixed *Lonchura* flock at the forest edge in the village on 8.10. Clearly associating with the flock when near trees as it came back after being flushed several times.
Grey-headed Mannikin 50 on 8.10 150 on 9.10 40 on 10.10

* Eastern Alpine Mannikin 6+ on 8.10 9 on 9.10. 7 on 10.10.
Macgregor's Bowerbird 1 on 10.10. by CE/YT
Brown Sicklebill 2 f / imm. 9.10.
Stephanie's Astrapia 2 on 8.10 3 on 9.10 2 on 10.10.
Superb Bird-of-Paradise heard

Notes on particular species

Eastern Alpine Mannikin *Lonchura monticola*

I heard mannikins calling as we got off the plane, and dumped the bags to go and check out a flock of Grey-headed Mannikin (*Lonchura caniceps*), which proved to have 4 Eastern Alpine amongst them. Excellent views on the fence and even on wires in camp, later seen feeding on the short turf in the village with about 50 Grey-headed and a Blue-faced Finch associating, the latter keeping near the forest edge but feeding beside the mannikins on the grass, seen 3 times that afternoon in the same situation over a 2 hour period. Present each day, up to 12 birds.

L. monticola is similar in size to *L. caniceps* but has a black face and chin, brown upperparts with a tinge of rusty to the flight feathers, a yellowy-buff rump and upper tail and dark outer tail. Underparts white except for black pectoral band which extended on down the flanks, giving a horseshoe -shaped effect. This flank band was continuous, not broken up like the Beehler illustration. The call was a quite harsh, rather nasal and buzzy "tee tee", different to the plaintive note of *L. caniceps*. The birds were quite approachable, often perched in bushes or on fence posts. Altitude here is 2080m, rather low for this species and saving me a 4 hour slog up to the tree-fern forest where they are usually found.

We watched the very wet track through the bog by the camp near dusk, and had 3 sightings of Spotless Crake. Very small and appearing all blackish with a short bill. Also heard calling from the long grass and sedge, as well as a crake with a sharp "kik kik kik" call which I suspect is Lewin's Rail. I had a very brief view of a small crake with the impression of a reddish top of head and neck, not black in colour and similar in size to Spotless, but just got the bins on it as it ran, almost a tickable view

Mountain Nightjar *Eurostopodus archboldi*

A fairly small nightjar with a quiet guttural call flew directly over Chris and I at dusk on the forest edge. Presumed to be this species on altitude, which is above the usual limits for Large-tailed Nightjar, and forest margin habitat. Also seen again in the same place in heavy rain the next night.

During the dusk forest edge vigil, I also had a strong suspicion that I could hear a Woodcock roding, some 10 times I heard an incisive but quiet "tsick" type note which seemed to be coming from up in the air. Once I glimpsed a broad winged bird low over the trees, which may very well have been Rufous Woodcock. Its also the right time of year as Aug-Sept is down as the display period for this species. A strong probable.... later events tending to confirm.

Shovel-billed Kingfisher *Clytoceyx rex*

Chris pointed out the area where 6 years ago he had seen this species here, the only bird person ever to do so ! Later that afternoon I glimpsed a biggish bird fly off through the bamboo, and the

antennae quivered..... Next morning, about an hour after dawn, I was first along the trail and reaching the crest of the track along the hillside again flushed from the ground a biggish bird which landed in a tree not far away. It took me about 5 minutes to pick it up, but shifting position I suddenly got an eyeful of the orangey underparts, white chin and throat and huge bill of a **Shovel-billed Kingfisher**, regarding me with its large dark eye ! I watched it hardly daring to move for about 5 minutes, then saw Arlene climbing over the dead tree back along the track. I beckoned her up and got her on to it, then went back myself to shout for Chris, who also arrived in time to get splendid views of the beast.

Rather like Rufous-bellied Kookaburra (*Dacelo gaudichaud*), but with the weird, broad and deep shovel bill relatively short and entirely pale horn in colour, resembling one of those paper snapper things we used to make as kids. Underparts dull orangey, with the white of the chin and throat often not visible as the bird sat rather hunched up close to the main trunk. Upperparts dull brownish, with a hint of bluish iridescence on the wing coverts and the faintest sheen of same on the dark tail, indicating the bird as a male. A broad orangey buff collar extended right over the nape, and a there was narrow stripe of this colour and the base of the bill. A rusty fairly narrow eyestripe extended from behind the eye. Legs and feet pinkish in colour. The blue rump was not seen, the bird was mostly facing us about 30m away and 10m up the tree, turning round once for a couple of minutes view of the back before it flew off upslope. Dull early morning light.

Interestingly, later that day the big rotten stump in the path here had 3 large woodpecker- like holes gouged out of it, with chips scattered about the ground. Could it be the Shovel-bill ? We also suspected it calling late afternoon. Possible call of *Clytoceyx rex* a far carrying, powerful whistled "wer" series, upslurred at the end of each note, given anywhere between 7 and 17 times and particularly late pm. First heard mid afternoon on 9.10. One calling from near where I found the bird in the morning and about 3 individuals along the stretch of track from the Forest-Rail site to camp (1 km).

A cracking start to the day, one of the great New Guinea mystery birds nailed, seen by just a handful of people in recent years (Beehler's site at Lakekamu, Chris Doughty at Ambua in 1994, Chris Eastwood's previous record here and Greg J. from the POM botanical gardens in 1992 !)

Mark and Ian had seen the Forbes' Forest-Rail well yesterday, so I spent some time along that section of track, with both Chris and Arlene having it run across but me missing it. We did hear what we think was it calling, a croaking, grunting rail-like series that went on for several minutes but stayed well out of view.

I had one mystery bird, a *Crateroscelis* with Large Sericornis (*S. nouhuysi*) that has a rich red chin and throat but rather brown upperparts as far as I could see; I'm pretty sure it must be *C. nigorufa* at this altitude, and its by far the brightest of the mouse warblers I've seen; the brown colour of the head seems strange though and I did not see it for long, maybe its an imm. ? Yasuhisa had adults of Bicoloured (or Biocoloured as Beehler has it !) Mouse-Warbler by the Shovel-bill site. I'd like a confirmatory view. It seems unlikely *murina* would be this high and sympatric with the two other species.

That afternoon I decided to take a walk down the rough grass beside the airstrip after King Quail, flushing a pair near the end of the strip:

King Quail *Coturnix chinensis*

A very small *Coturnix*, female rather greyish tinged and the male with bright yellow feet and rusty

under tail coverts. We flushed a male again next day, this time seeing the large white chin and throat as it flew by me. Rather different to the Blue Quail (*C. adansonii*) of Zambia, lacking the wine red wings and very dark appearance of the male.

A good beginning to the walk. I then went back to the Forest-Rail area, and had a curiously strong hunch to stay by one particular spot where there were fair views under the vegetation. After about 10 minutes a bird stepped into view, and to my amazement proved to be a male **Logrunner** (*Orthonyx temminckii*), a rare NG bird and not previously known from Myola. I had excellent views at 4 m range, seeing the big white throat, greyish pectoral bands at sides of throat / chest, strange raggedy tail with spiky tips to the rectrices and mottled upperparts. The bird was scratching about under bamboo, just like the Australian birds do, and looked very similar if somewhat larger. No call heard.

It vanished and I then heard a quiet note off to my left. I glimpsed a bird by a pandan root, and saw it come behind a tree bole. I waited for it to emerge and had a glimpse of a barred and mottled back, too big for Log-runner which was what I half expected. I then thought, maybe female Forest-Rail ? It stepped in to clear view not 3m away, for one of the biggest shocks of my birding career, of a species I'd long wanted but had scant hope of finding:

Rufous Woodcock *Scolopax saturata*

A diminutive woodcock, not nearly as dark and rufous as the Beehler plate. It looked to be shuffling along on its belly, pale feet barely visible, progressing rather like a rail along the forest floor and probing with its long dark slender beak. Large dark eye, upperparts closely barred and chequered black on brown, underparts paler and whitish on the belly with heavy black transverse bars across. Forehead also broadly barred with black. It came within 2m of me, then turned to shuffle along parallel, partly hidden by the vegetation. Watched for about two minutes, at point-blank range and oblivious of me. No rufous noted in the plumage in the dull light of the forest floor.

At this point Ian and Mark appeared and I beckoned them to come up slowly, with them reaching me as the bird went behind a clump of trees, never to be seen again. Consolation however was the reappearance of the Log-runner, again giving cracking views.

I was stunned, this was one of the biggest surprises of my birding career as its a species I'd virtually no hope of finding, one of those NG mysteries that seemed likely to stay that way without a dazzling stroke of luck like this.

Good birds continued as Mark picked up a male **Brehm's Tiger-Parrot** feeding in typical quiet, unobtrusive Psittacella fashion in a small tree. Excellent views of a species I saw just briefly but well at Tari Gap a couple of years ago. Brownish head, chin and upper throat, with prominent yellow side of neck semi-collar, chest and underparts pale bright unbarred lemony- green, scarlet undertail coverts. Upperparts a bright lemony-green colour with fine black barrings on mantle, rump and uppertail. Bill grey on upper mandible, paler on lower.

Forbes' Forest-Rail *Rallina forbesi*

We were just about to leave at 5.20 pm when two small rails with short slender bills suddenly materialized where the Log-runner had been, running quickly about like clockwork toys. I clapped the bins on one and saw a rufous red head and chest and throat with dark mantle, before it ducked away, whilst a third bird was moving to my left where the woodcock had been. This individual was making a quiet very distinctive frog-like croaking grunt, audible only at close range, but I only glimpsed it walking along.

A terrific couple of days, with some 66 species recorded by the group and everyone seeing at least some of the megabirds of the trip. Our thanks to Mark at Myola for a memorable stay, and to Yasuhisa for organizing it. The PNGBS really should do this more often.

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(Received October 1995)

THE NEST OF THE BLACK IMPERIAL PIGEON (*Ducula melanochroa*).

by Michael Hedemark

A *Ducula melanochroa* nest was found on 30 January 1994 in the Hans Meyer Range of New Ireland Province during a rapid biological survey conducted by the Department of Environment and Conservation, Conservation International and Smithsonian Museum. The nest was found at an altitude of 1760 metres at the approximate position of E 152 57.0', S 04 26.2'. The nest was discovered when an adult bird flew from the nest as a member of the expedition walked underneath the limb of the tree. The adult bird flew to a nearby tree where it was identified.

A single white egg was collected and is housed in the Smithsonian Museum, Washington DC (specimen number 48140). The egg was entirely white with measurements 5.3 cm X 3.4 cm. The egg appeared to have been freshly laid as there was no sign of chick development. The nest was located approximately 4 metres off the ground in a broad saddle formed by two large limbs in a robust but stunted moss covered tree. The diameter at breast height (dbh) of the tree was 49 cm. The nest had the shape of a shallow platter, 23 cm in diameter and was made of layered sticks. There were no feathers nor finer nest lining of moss or fine twigs.

The tree was located at the edge of a steep cliff. The forest type in the immediate area (from 1600 m to 2300 m) is high elevation cloud forest. The 10-20 m canopy is dominated by *Metrosideros salomanensis* (Myrtaceae) making up 75% of the trees with diameters of greater than 30 cm. The dominant medium sized tree (10-30 cm dbh) is *Ascarina* (Chloranthaceae) (Robin Foster in press).

The adult bird was not seen at the tree on subsequent visits.

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(Received August 1995)

MORE FROM MANUS

by Phil Gregory

I was able to visit Manus from 6 July to 9 July 1995 and present edited highlights of the trip. All the endemics, with the exception so far of the almost unknown Manus Masked Owl (*Tyto (novaehollandiae) manusi*), can be found within 5 km of Lorengau, and excellent guides are available at Rossau Village if you contact Aaron Joseph (c/o PO Box 374 Lorengau) or Luke Genaton (c/o Highway Enterprises phone 409051, PO Box 138 Lorengau). The Harbourside Hotel in Lorengau was very helpful with transport and arranging a boat to Tong Island.

My trip really commenced with 20 a minute stopover at Kavieng, time enough to find my first Bismarck endemic, Hunstein's Mannikin (*Lonchura hunsteini*) on the fence near the terminal building. The call was a metallic, rather plaintive "see" series, with a flat tone, different to other *Lonchura* spp. and not described in any of the standard textbooks.

Arriving on Manus, a quick trip out along the road to Rossun gave the amazingly noisy Manus Friarbird (*Philemon albitorques*) or "chowka", aptly named from the noise it makes and the Black-headed White-eye (*Zosterops hypoxantha*). This species has an unusual piercing sibilant "sip sip" call, and a quiet more typically *Zosterops*-like chatter. Meek's Pigmy-Parrot (*Micropsitta meeki*) was also seen.

Next day saw us off before dawn to Tong Island, a 2 hour sea-trip which proved very rewarding. The Manus Rufous Fantail (*Rhipidura semirubra*) was quite common in the scrub beneath coconut palms, with a total of 12 seen during the course of the morning. There was no trace of it where I was on the main Manus Island, and there seem to be no recent records from there. Maybe no-one is looking in the right areas or has it died out? Tong, San Miguel and Sibisa Islands are the only sites with current information about its continued presence, maybe it is a small island species like the Bismarck Black Myzomela (*M. pammelaina*), Island Monarch (*Monarcha cinerascens*) and Mackinlay's Cuckoo-Dove (*Macropygia mackinlayi*)?

An Oriental Hobby (*Falco severus*) may have been a new species for the Admiralty group, whilst Yellow-bibbed Fruit-Dove (*Ptilinopus solomonensis*) was quite common, as was the Grey Imperial-Pigeon (*Ducula pistrinaria*). I had glimpses of what was probably Mackinlay's Cuckoo-Dove but not enough to confirm, but Island Monarch was easy and Bismarck Black Myzomela common at coconut flowers. Curiously enough we did not find this species on Manus proper, it really does seem to be a small island specialist here.

The afternoon back on Manus was spent checking sites for Superb Pitta (*Pitta superba*); about 5 pm we went to an area of old gardens beyond the waterfall, owned by Luke's cousin. The boys began imitating the call of the pitta, a quite deep toned mournful "cou cou", the first note slightly higher pitched than the second. The bird began responding quite quickly, and having got a bearing on it we headed into the thickets. By continually imitating it we lured it in close, then suddenly I caught a movement and the Superb Pitta flew through and perched on a bamboo branch not 3m from us: A magnificent large pitta, jet black in colour with a red belly and iridescent pale blue wing coverts. Every time it called it half-squatted down and pumped its wings as if forcing the sound out. Luke reckons they have bronze on the top of the head but I did not see this. Some 3 birds were calling in this area.

Next day we spent some while along the waterfall stream, having brief views of River Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), and much better ones of the splendid Admiralty Pied Monarch (*Monarcha infelix*). This striking species has an almost completely white tail with a narrow dark tip and really reminded me of nothing so much as a Torrent-lark (*Grallina bruijnii*).

A drive out along the road beyond Rossun, primarily to look for possible Whitehead's Swiftlet (*Collocalia whiteheadi*) suspected by Hicks (1992) gave us chance to check out some Cuckoo-doves, which proved to be the Brown *M. amboinensis*, and have excellent views of Claret-breasted fruit-Dove (*Ptilinopus viridis*) first listed as being on Manus by Hicks (1992) and where both Chris Eastwood (Eastwood 1995) and I have now found it. The Manus Boobook (*Ninox meeki*) was the next target, and for this we went to an area where a local woman had heard it

calling at dusk the day before ("Owl he cry cry cry at 6 o'clock"). He did too, an extraordinary grunting, coughing series of 4 notes, quite unlike anything I'd heard before. We heard at least 4 birds in this area, one calling really close and two seemingly answering each other, but all obstinately staying out of view. I decided to try out at Rossun village at 8.30 where one was calling the night before, but timed my arrival to miss it by five minutes, hear three others more distantly and encounter a heavy storm. None too encouraged, we scrounged a rather temperamental spotlight and drove back along the road to Lorengau, picking out 3 of the Admiralty Cuscus (*Spilocuscus kraemeri*), an attractive endemic but not the one I was after. We had no sightings, so turned back to drop the lads off, spot-lighting on the way which was a good move as we picked out a Manus Boobook high on a dead branch near the big water-tank about a kilometre out of Lorengau along the Rossun road. We got quite reasonable views via the spot-light, thus finding all the endemics bar the Fantail within a 3 km. distance of Lorengau. I left a description of the Masked Owl with Luke and Aaron, with a request to look for it, so the next birder through could do worse than follow that one up too, it must be there somewhere!

Manus Trip list highlights July 6-9 1995

* denotes a Bismarck or Admiralty endemic. A species underlined is endemic to Manus or the Admiralty Islands.

Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) 1 by the waterfall track 9.7.
 Oriental Hobby (*Falco severus*) 1 on Tong Island 7.7.
 Common Sandpiper (*Tringa hypoleucos*) 1 at the waterfall on 8.7. and 1 in Lorengau on 9.7.
 * Pied Cuckoo-Dove (*Reinwardtoena browni*) 2 together and then a single flying over forest along the waterfall track on 9.7. Rather smaller than Great Cuckoo-Dove (*Reinwardtoena reinwardtoeni*) but similar shape, with black upperparts, whitish chin, throat and chest, under-tail coverts appearing chestnut. Legs and feet pinkish.
 Grey Imperial-Pigeon (*Ducula pistrinaria*) 4 on Tong Island 7.7. 2 along Rossun-Lorengau road 7.7. 4 10 km beyond Rossun 8.7.
 Claret-breasted Fruit-Dove (*Ptilinopus viridis*) 1 male 10 km beyond Rossun 8.7.
 Superb Fruit-Dove (*Ptilinopus superbus*) 1 male 10 km beyond Rossun 8.7.
 Yellow-bibbed Fruit-Dove (*P. solomonensis*) 6 males and 5+ females Tong Island 7.7.
 Stephan's Ground-Dove (*Chalcophaps stephani*) 2 on 8.7. and 1 on 9.7.
 Brown Cuckoo-Dove (*Macropygia amboinensis*) Fairly common on Manus
 (Mackinlay's Cuckoo-Dove) *M. mackinlayi* 2 probables on Tong 7.7.
 River Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) 1 black billed bird along waterfall stream 8.7.
 Sacred Kingfisher (*Halcyon sancta*) 2 on Tong Island on 7.7.
 Dollarbird (*Eurystomus orientalis*) 1 near waterfall 8.7. Not listed for the Admiralty Islands in Coates (1985).
 Eastern Black-capped Lory (*Lorius hypoinochrous*) 2 near Rossun 6.7. Not listed from Manus by Coates (1985).
 * Meek's Pigmy-Parrot (*Micropsitta meeki*) 1 near Lorengau 6.7., 1+ beyond Rossun 8.7. and 3+ near the waterfall same day; 6+ near the waterfall on 9.7. Aaron showed me what may well have been a nest hole of this *Micropsitta* about 4m up in a tree-ant mud cluster. The call is louder and more sibilant than *M. bruijnii* of the mainland, and more often given as a single isolated note rather than a series.
 Brush Cuckoo (*Cacomantis variolosus*) Juv. being fed by Yellow-bellied Sunbird (*Nectarinia jugularis*) on 6.7.
 White-rumped Swiftlet (*Collocalia podiopygia*) Quite common.
 Glossy Swiftlet (*Collocalia esculenta*) Nearly all birds had a white rump patch.

* Manus Boobook (*Ninox meeki*) 7+ heard and 1 seen 8.7. Rossun road.
 * Superb Pitta (*Pitta superba*) 1 seen and 2 heard beyond waterfall 7.7. 1 heard waterfall turn-off from Rossun road 9.7.
 * Admiralty Pied Monarch (*Monarcha infelix*) 1 on 9.7. only.
 * Manus Rufous Fantail (*Rhipidura semirubra*) 12+ on Tong Island on 7.7.
 * Manus Friarbird (*Philemon albitorques*) common on Manus, up to 30 in total a day.
 * Bismarck Black Myzomela (*Myzomela pammelaina*) 50 on Tong Island on 7.7. None seen on Manus.
 * Black-headed White-eye (*Zosterops hypoxantha*) 5 on 6.7. 3 on 7.7. 2 on 8.7.

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Eastwood C. 1995. Manus : A Trip Report. **Muruk** Vol 7 (2) pp. 53-55.
 Hicks R. 1992. Whitehead's Swiftlet *Collocalia whiteheadi* on Manus ? **Muruk** Vol. 5 (2) p. 64.

MOULT IN BIRDS OF PARADISE

by William S. Peckover

In his "Notes on the Display Behaviour of a Fully-plumed male Blue Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea rudolphi*," Muruk Vol. 7 (2):72. Richard Whiteside refers to "A female plumaged Blue Bird of Paradise with an uneven tail was seen advertising and heard chattering on 24 December 1993. It was assumed that this was a mature male in eclipse plumage, as a plumed male was observed advertising from this territory several times earlier in 1993 and again in 1994".

From Richard's excellent detailed descriptions of the location, calls, plumage condition and time of the year, the bird in question was undoubtedly an adult male at an early stage of its annual moult. Birds of Paradise do not have an "eclipse" plumage- see below. Also, on the basis of these descriptions I disagree with the Editor's comment that it may have been an immature male or a visiting female.

Male dimorphic birds of paradise are known to moult annually, according to Shaw Mayer (Personal communication) for most species this usually commences in December and they acquire their complete dress of new plumage by early May. With the Lesser Bird of Paradise (*Paradisaea minor*), the flank display plumes are dropped first (personal observation); this is likely to be the same with other species, including the *P. rudolphi* described by Richard.

With regard to Richard's comment that "If females were present, then the male would draw them with him from one display site to the next, and he would display for short spells at each site" needs an explanation of how he determined the birds drawn with the male were females, not immature males or a mixture of both.

The comment "That perhaps the 'intense phase' of the display lasts longer if a female shows enough interest" seems logical and may well be correct in many instances, however, the presence of a female in the vicinity of the displaying male is not obligatory for that phase to continue for up to fifteen minutes (numerous personal observations from mid-1964).

Eclipse Plumage

Eclipse plumage is very well defined in the latest revision of Alfred Newton's 1896 classic work "A dictionary of Birds" (Campbell and Lack 1985) which reads:

“ECLIPSE: a post-nuptial plumage stage occurring in some species. It is characterized by being of much shorter duration than the winter (or non-breeding) plumage in most species that show marked seasonal change, as well as by being dull in comparison with a conspicuous breeding dress. Notably, the males of many of the Anatidae are in full breeding plumage for the greater part of the year but have a dull plumage during the latter part of the summer (while a simultaneous moult of the remiges may render them temporarily flightless)”.

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(Received August 1995)

AN UNDESCRIBED PLUMAGE MORPH OF THE GREY-HEADED GOSHAWK (*Accipiter poliocephalus*)

by Phil Gregory

Whilst birding along the Ok Ma road near Tabubil, Western Province on 28th July 1992 with a tour group from Field Guides Incorporated, we had two separate sightings of what appears to be an undescribed plumage form of the Grey-headed Goshawk. Both individuals were perched in trees by the roadside, and allowed good views, one at km 7 and the other near km 5. They were medium size accipiters with entirely blackish-slate plumage and the characteristic orangey red cere and legs of this species. The second bird had some dark bars on the outer tail feathers and some dark barring on the underwing flight feathers. Melanistic morph Variable Goshawk (*A. novaehollandiae*), which is the common medium sized accipiter here, would show a yellow cere and legs, as would the larger Meyer's Goshawk *A. meyerianus*.

I have had no subsequent sightings of this morph, and no records of any other melanistic phase accipiter locally either. Clearly the form is rare, whilst normal plumage Grey-headed Goshawks remain uncommon residents in the area. Reference is made in del Hoyo et al (1994) to reports of a possible melanistic morph in this species, probably referring to these sightings which are now duly documented.

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(Received Sept. 1995)

LITTLE BITTERNS (*Ixobrychus minutus*) IN THE MIDDLE FLY WETLANDS

by Roger Jaensch

Background The Australasian subspecies *dubius* of the Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* primarily occurs in Australia and New Guinea (Marchant & Higgins 1990). Its known breeding strongholds are in south-western and south-eastern Australia, while in tropical Australia breeding is known from only one site, in the north-west (Jaensch 1988). It is probably migratory: most birds apparently leave southern Australia in autumn-winter and there is some evidence of movement across Torres Strait (Marchant & Higgins 1990), but the principal wintering grounds have not been identified.

Little Bitterns occur regularly near Port Moresby (Moitaka) from November to April and are possibly resident there but are seldom seen at other times of the year (Coates 1985). There is one published record from Western Province, one bird, ready to lay, collected in September in 1936 at Lake Daviumbu via Rand (Coates 1985, Archbold and Rand 1940). The similar Yellow Bittern (*I. sinensis*) occurs regularly in the northern watershed of New Guinea and in the islands to the east (Coates 1985).

Recent sightings: On 12th June 1994 I heard 4 Little Bitterns, presumably adult males, calling at 0700 h and several again at 0900 h in flooded vegetation at the channel of Lake Pangua, Middle Fly region, Western Province. A pair were flushed, one bird being a black-backed male, the other (with brown back and dark grey primaries) probably an adult female. Habitat was clumps of reed *Phragmites karka* and pit-pit *Saccharum robustum* with surrounding floating mats of the wetland grasses *Leersia* sp. and *Echinochloa* sp. The wetland was fully inundated.

During December 2-4 1994, single Little Bitterns were seen by Phil Gregory and myself at three locations in the Middle Fly wetlands, though none were heard calling. A single brown phase female or immature bird was glimpsed when flushed from tall lotus *Nelumbo nucifera* in Lake Daviumbu on December 2 (RJ). A brown phase bird was seen flying along the bank of the Fly River opposite Obo station at 0630 h on 3 December (PG); it disappeared in swampy tall reed and pit-pit behind the bank. An immature, streaked below and with grey-brown primaries and mottled back, was flushed from floating grass (? *Leersia* sp.) in remnant water in a tie-channel joined to lake Ambuve around mid-day on 4 December. In December 1994 most of the floodplain was dry and extensively burnt, or holding remnant shallow water, whereas lakes and ox-bows were still deeply flooded.

The Middle Fly lake, ox-bow and floodplain sites surveyed in December 1994 were revisited by Phil Gregory, Paulus Kulmoi and myself in April 1995. An adult male Little Bittern was flushed from pit-pit and reed fringing a tie-channel (joining the Fly River channel) of Lake Ambuve in the morning of 25 April and was seen by all observers. An adult female was seen briefly (PG, RJ) as it rose from a field of dense tall wild rice *Oryza* sp. on nearby floodplain later that morning. The wetlands were fully inundated in April 1995.

Conclusions: All birds seen in 1994-95 were identified as Little Bitterns on the basis of either black backs or (if brown-backed) grey-brown primaries that did not contrast strongly with upperwing coverts. Yellow Bittern does not show a black back in any phase and all phases display black primaries that contrast markedly with pale upperwing coverts (RJ pers. obs. in field and from museum skins).

The recent records of Little Bittern in the Middle Fly wetlands were from four habitats: reed/pit-pit, lotus beds, wild rice and floating grass mats. All four such habitats are extensive in these wetlands and collectively would offer year-round refuge except in severe drought years.

Little Bitterns have now been recorded in the Middle Fly wetlands in each of four austral seasons. Thus it is unlikely that the species occurs only as a winter migrant from Australia. Confirmation of occurrence of migrants would require marking and recapture of individuals, or systematic sampling of genetic material.

Although nests or nestlings have not been observed in the Middle Fly, Rand's specimen and the calling birds in June 1994 imply that breeding probably occurs there. Vigorous calling (the "advertising call") is done by males and is closely associated with the breeding process (pers. obs.; Hancock and Elliott 1978).

Breeding of this species occurs primarily in spring-summer in Australia. However, breeding seasons of the same species may differ between equatorial and temperate regions. In equatorial Malaysia, *Ixobrychus* species bred throughout the year (Medway and Wells 1976). Food supply for nestlings may be the main determinant of timing of breeding, and food (e. g. tadpoles: pers.

obs.) is more likely to be abundant once floodplain water-levels start to fall. In the seasonal Middle Fly wetlands, that scenario would begin in about May-June and continue for perhaps six months, which is consistent with the June and September data suggestive of breeding.

It is now apparent that the vast reed beds and other floodplain vegetation of the Middle Fly region, and possibly other parts of southern New Guinea, could indeed support the entire Australian population of Little Bittern if that population is truly migratory. However, for the present we can only conclude that there is a resident breeding population of this species in New Guinea, which may be seasonally augmented by southern migrants.

Acknowledgements Thanks are due to Ok Tedi Mining Limited, helicopter pilots, boat crews, supporting biologists and local guides for making the Middle Fly surveys possible. My participation in the surveys was supported by Asian Wetland Bureau as part of its contribution to training for wetland inventory by the Government of Papua New Guinea.

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- (Received July 1995)

NOTES ON THE BLACK MANNIKIN (*Lonchura stygia*) AND OTHER MANNIKINS (*Lonchura* spp.) AT LAKE OWA MIDDLE FLY RIVER

by Phil Gregory

During the course of a survey of the Middle Fly wetland habitats in April 1995, Roger Jaensch and I observed the rarely encountered Black Mannikin (*Lonchura stygia*) at just a single site, Lake Owa near Lake Ambuve. These are interconnected valley floor lakes joined to the Fly River via a narrow tie-channel some 192.5 river miles (ARM) from the coast. We did not find the species at either Lake Daviumbu, nor Lake Pangua despite extensive similar looking habitat. During December 1994 we failed to find it at all three of these sites, which suggests the species must be locally nomadic as grass seed abundance and water levels dictate. The Black Mannikin is endemic to the western Trans-Fly, where it is known from the Kurik and Mandum area (near the lower Digul river, Irian Jaya) east to Lake Daviumbu which was the only Papua New Guinea locality previously known (Coates 1990). Few ornithologists have had the chance to observe the species.

We initially saw the Black Mannikin in flight, two birds over the floating grass as we neared Owa village, Lake Owa. Then we saw a few individuals and groups of two in this general area, and small parties of 4 or 5 as we punted back to the main lake system. The total for the day was about 30+ birds. Most, with a maximum flock of 6, were with Grey-crowned Mannikin (*L. nevermanni*) at the floodplain end of the tie-channel. These birds exhibited a variety of plumages:

Adult: All black, with a yellowish rump and tail, the outer third of the tail with darker central feather streaks on a yellowy-orange background. The legs were blue-grey, the eye dark, and the massive bill bright blue-grey in colour. The birds resembled a melanistic Grand Mannikin *L. grandis* in shape. Some birds had a brownish tint to the colour of the upperparts.

An immature or moult plumage was highly variable:

1. Generally blackish in colour but extensively blotched with light brown and rump not yellowy, with a dark tail, dark facial area and paler nape.
2. Mainly blackish but with some pale blotches on the belly and with a pale greyish-brown nape collar.
3. A mystery Mannikin had a blackish face and whitish underparts with black blotches on the belly. Brown upperparts with black blotches on the wing coverts. This may have been a hybrid Black Mannikin x *Lonchura* sp.

Another mannikin was entirely rich tawny-orange, presumably an imm. Grey-crowned as it was always with flocks of that species and had a similar shape. Other curious *L. nevermanni* had no black throats and heads streaked with white, but with orangey rump and tails, perhaps hybrids with the White-spotted Mannikin *L. leucosticta*.

The Black Mannikins were invariably in floating or emergent grass, especially *Oryza* and *Echinochloa* spp. in full seed head, and were clearly feeding on the heads of *Echinochloa* sp. (probably *praestens*) like their congener the Grey-crowned Mannikin.

The Grey-crowned Mannikin was quite common at Lake Owa and Ambuve (max. 50 in a flock) and rather less common at the Lake Pangua (max. 10) site, as well as being occasionally seen from the boat along the river banks. We noted a distinct difference in the calls of Grey-crowned and White-spotted Mannikins, the former having a musical "tink tink" whilst the latter had a thin, plaintive "see". *L. leucosticta* was scarce, we found just a single party of 10 birds feeding on the

seeds of *Echinochloa* sp. at Lake Daviumbu and a small flock of 6 at Lake Ambuve similarly.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to OTML for their sponsorship of the waterbird survey in Dec. 94 and April 95, and to the villagers and guides of the areas surveyed for permission to visit their land. Also to Roger Jaensch for constructive comments on this note.

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(Received July 1995)

OBSERVATIONS ON THE FLY RIVER GRASSBIRD (*Megalurus albolimbatus*)

by Phil Gregory and Roger Jaensch

The Fly River Grassbird is a little known restricted range species endemic to the Papua New Guinea Trans-Fly region where it was previously known from the Bensbach area and the middle Fly including Lake Daviumbu (Coates 1990). Few ornithologists have had the chance to observe it due to the remote range and the inaccessible nature of its habitat.

During the course of the waterbird survey of the middle Fly sponsored by OTML for the Asian Wetland Bureau, Roger Jaensch and I found the species at some 3 sites. Being decidedly cryptic and similar to Tawny Grassbird (*M. timoriensis*) identification is not easy, but we found the following characters helpful:

Unstreaked bright tawny-orange crown, with a white supercilium and whitish underparts. The bird appears somewhat smaller and cleaner than a Tawny Grassbird, with an orangey rump, and the tail rather gently rounded and not long and raggedy like a Tawny Grassbird. The tertials were black prominently edged white, a very good field character.

Caution! The female of the local race of White-shouldered Fairy-wren (*Mahurus alboscapulatus*) inhabits similar habitat and has a whitish supercilium and white underparts. This has initially fooled several very skilled ornithologists.....

A frequently heard call was a monotonous, quiet rising whistled "zeeee", which appeared to be characteristic. PG has heard this call from birds at Wando near Bensbach and we also heard it at Lake Ambuve.

The habitat was *Echinochloa* and *Leersia* sp. at Deep Creek lagoon, Lake Pangua, in the midst of a flooded plain, accessible only by boat at this time of year. Besides these two sites, we heard the Fly River Grassbird calling from floating *Echinochloa* grass beds near the entrance to Lake Daviumbu. The habitat at Bensbach seems to be much more tied to patches of sedge *Cyperus* sp. which is largely absent at these middle Fly localities.

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(Received July 1995)

MYSTERIES, AND ADDITIONS TO THE BIRDS OF AMBUE AND TARI DISTRICTS, SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS PROVINCE

By Joseph Tano

(Joseph is the naturalist at Ambue Lodge, he knows the birds of the area very well and is particularly helpful with calls. Birding visitors should arrange to contact him prior to arrival as he is quite busy. Editor)

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*

One landed in a *Nothofagus* tree at the Tari Gap, not previously recorded.

[Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*]

Reported by Joseph as nest building (a mud cup) near the Dauli Teacher's College about a metre away from a hydro intake. The species is a northern winter migrant to Papua New Guinea in greatly increased numbers in recent years, but there has never been any suggestion of nesting and I quote the report above just in case (Editor).

Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris*

Not found in the area, but recorded in the Tari valley about a km. from the airport on 25 /1/ 95. Joseph also reports a mysterious species as follows: First recorded on 16 August 1992, a species Joseph has never seen before. A daily visitor to the trees and bamboo in front of the big waterfall, keeping company with a male Sclater's Whistler (*Pachycephala soror*). A robin-shaped bird usually keeping in cover but at times comes and perches right in the open. Wholly black with red breast, and white in the tail; flicks its tail when perched and spends much time on the *Homolanthus* tree branch and clinging to the side of the tree. The site is continually misty and cloudy.

Any visitors with the time to check out this report could be in for a surprise! Please let us know what it is, Joseph reckons it is most like the Snow Mountain Robin (*Petroica archboldi*).....

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NESTING OBSERVATION OF GREY CROW (*Corvus tristis*) AT VARIRATA NATIONAL PARK NOVEMBER 1994

By William F. Glynn

Site Location

Varirata National Park is located thirty five kilometres east of Port Moresby at the south west corner of the Sogeri plateau. It is bounded on the south and west by escarpments. Elevation at Varirata lookout, which is above the western escarpment, is 833 metres.

Location of Nest

The nest was located approximately thirty metres below and sixty metres west of the lookout in rain forest in a pinkish-orange smooth barked deciduous tree estimated to be twenty five metres high. At the time the tree did not have any leaves. The nest was constructed about twenty metres above the ground close to the end of a horizontal branch. The nest which appeared to be above the canopy was sheltered from the south east trade winds, which occur from June to December, by the escarpment.

The Nest

The nest was constructed from thin sticks supported by two or three thin outer members of the branch beyond the last main fork in the branch. The nest was a platform estimated to be 750 mm by 600 mm by 150 mm deep. The distance to the nest from the observation point was too far to allow a detailed examination of the nest.

Young Grey Crows

When first observed on the 26th and 27th of November 1994 there were four nearly fully fledged young on the nest being fed at short regular intervals by what appeared to be only two adults. Observation times were around 4 pm on the 26th and 10 am on the 27th.

At the next observation of the young on the 3rd of December, they were flexing their wings preparing to leave the nest. This time they were being fed infrequently. Observation time was between 9.30 am and 10.30 am.

The site was visited again on the 18th of December and the nest was found to be vacated. Grey crows could be heard about one kilometre away to the south.

It was noted in May 1995 that the top ten metres of the tree was in full thick foliage and the location of the nest could not be observed from the lookout.

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(Received July 1995)

BAT HAWK (*Macheiramphus alcinus*) SIGHTING FROM KOBAKMA, IRIAN JAYA, INDONESIA ON 8TH DECEMBER 1990.

By William F. Glynn.

This is to record the sighting of a Bat Hawk (*Macheiramphus alcinus*) at Kobakma in the Wamena Government District, Irian Jaya, Indonesia on the 8th of December 1990. Kobakma, (elevation 975m) is twenty minutes by a Cessna 185 or a two day walk, north of Wamena (elevation 1525m), the government administration centre for the Baliem Valley region. There were no roads to Kobakma in 1990. The immediate area around (three to four kilometres) Kobakma has cleared areas with regrowth rain forest, beyond this is rain forest. Kobakma is situated on a flat ridge top.

The Bat Hawk was sighted at 8 am about four kilometres east of the air strip (in the centre of Kobakma) above the main walking track to Pasvalley and Wamena. The Bat Hawk was flying in a westerly direction about 100m above the ground. It appeared to be flying direct to a definite location. The sky was clear at the time of sighting. (Editor's note: Will Glynn knows the species from Papua New Guinea and is certain of his identification, though no field notes were made at the time. It is not known from Irian Jaya, but occurs in Java and Borneo and its occurrence in this province of Indonesia is not altogether unexpected.)

Other species sighted between the 4th and 9th of December included: Brown Quail, Grey Gos-hawk (white phase), Collared Sparrow hawk, Crested Hawk, Little Eagle (pale phase and dark phase). Buff-banded Rail, White-browed Crane (Heard), Bush-Hen (Heard), Victoria Crowned Pigeon (fleeting glimpse), Pheasant Pigeon, Papuan Mountain Pigeon, Wompoo Fruit Dove,

Orange-bellied Fruit Dove, Rainbow Lorikeet, Sulphur Crested Cockatoo, Bronze Cuckoo sp., Brush Cuckoo, Pheasant Coucal, Yellow Billed Kingfisher, Dollar Bird, Blyth's Horn bill, Great Wood-Swallow, Mountain Swiftlet, Boyer's Cuckoo Shrike, Brown Oriole, Helmeted Friarbird, Meyer's Friarbird, Black-browed Triller, White-shouldered Fairy Wren, Northern Fantail, Chestnut-bellied Fantail, Mountain Peltops (sitting on nest), Black-sided Robin, Grey Wagtail, Grey Shrike-thrush, Dwarf Whistler, Black-headed Whistler, Hooded Pitohui, Black Berrypecker, Black-fronted White-eye, Papuan Flowerpecker, Long-billed Honeyeater, Dwarf Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Myna, Yellow-breasted Bower-bird, Lesser Bird of Paradise, Grey Crow, Singing Starling.

The Mountain Peltops was nesting about six metres above the main walking track to Pasvalley. It's mate kept watch close by. The Grey Wagtail was at an elevation of 880m on the bank of a very fast flowing river.

Reference: B. M. Beehler (1985). **Birds of New Guinea.**
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SPECULATION : ADDITIONS TO THE AVIFAUNA OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

by Phil Gregory

I have a checklist of New Guinea birds published by Bill Principe (1991), which details 708 species definitely known to have occurred on the mainland of New Guinea as a whole including the nearby islands, and lists a further 58 as either undocumented, with uncertain taxonomic status or which the author expects to occur. This latter category is unusual in being included in a lighter type face in the main body of the list rather being in an appendix, which can make for confusion. Some of the predictions I find surprising, and with this in mind have decided to speculate on a list of my own.

Basically almost anything which has occurred as a vagrant to Australia is a fair bet, and a few Australian dispersives are possible. Seabirds form the largest body of potential candidates, and given the limited pelagic observations from New Guinea seas so far we can expect a lot of additions in due course. Long distance migrants form the next major category.

Bill's predicted list is given below, and is followed by my own. Other scryers of the crystal ball are welcome to join in ! The Papua New Guinea list is currently 665 from the mainland and nearby islands, with an additional 94 from the Bismarck Archipelago, Admiralty Islands and North Solomons (based on Chris Eastwood's latest pocket check list, PNGBS 1994). The grand total is thus 759 species.

Bill Principe's Predictions * Denotes species now reported from PNG.

Cape Petrel	<i>Daption capense</i>
Hawaiian Petrel	<i>Pterodroma phaeopygia</i>
White-necked Petrel	<i>Pterodroma exsul</i>
Phoenix Petrel	<i>P. alba</i>
Mottled Petrel	<i>P. inexpectata</i>

Solander's Petrel	<i>P. solanderi</i>
Kermadec Petrel	<i>P. neglecta</i>
Cook's Petrel	<i>P. cookii</i>
Gould's Petrel	<i>P. leucoptera</i>
Stejneger's Petrel	<i>P. longirostris</i>
Black-winged Petrel	<i>P. nigripennis</i>
Fiji Petrel (Macgillivray's)	<i>Bulweria macgillivrayi</i>
Bulwer's Petrel	<i>Bulweria bulwerii</i>
Buller's Shearwater	<i>Puffinus bulleri</i>
Manx Shearwater	<i>P. puffinus</i>
Hutton's Shearwater	<i>P. huttoni</i>
* Audubon's Shearwater	<i>P. l'herminieri</i> . Recorded by Palliser between Buka and Kieta on 28.12.87. (Coates 1990)
White-faced Storm-Petrel	<i>Pelagodroma marina</i>
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel	<i>Fregatta tropica</i>
White-throated Storm-Petrel	<i>Nesofregatta fuliginosa</i>
Swinhoe's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma monorhis</i>
Leach's Storm-Petrel	<i>O. leucorhoa</i>
Matsudaira's Storm-Petrel	<i>O. matsudairae</i>
Chinese Egret	<i>Egretta eulophotes</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Javan Pond-Heron	<i>Ardeola speciosa</i>
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
von Schrenk's Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus eurhythmos</i>
Cinnamon Bittern	<i>I. cinnamomeus</i>
Japanese Night-Heron	<i>Gorsachius goisagi</i>
Malay Night-Heron	<i>G. melanolophus</i>
* Yellow-billed Spoonbill	<i>Platalea flavipes</i> . Now documented from PNG at Bensbach (Gregory 1994, Bishop 1995).
Pied Harrier	<i>Circus melanoleucus</i>
Grey Falcon	<i>Falco hypoleucus</i> . Reported from Bensbach (Stronoch 1981). Listed in Coates as possible. Included in the PNGBS check-list.
Nordmann's Greenshank	<i>Tringa guttifer</i>
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>T. flavipes</i>
Upland Sandpiper	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>
Hudsonian Godwit	<i>Limosa haemastica</i>
Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>
White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>C. fuscicollis</i>
* Baird's Sandpiper	<i>C. bairdii</i> . Documented from Kanosia Lagoon, Central Province, PNG by Finch (1986)
Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>
* Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i> . Documented from Aroa Lagoon, Central Province, PNG by Finch (1984)
* Pin-tailed Snipe	<i>Gallinago stenura</i> . Recorded from the Port Moresby area on a number of occasions. Requires documenting.
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicaria</i>
South Polar Skua	<i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>

Grey-backed Tern	<i>Sterna lunata</i> . Reported far offshore from Madang (Bailey 1992) and by Burrows (<i>in litt.</i>) off New Ireland.
Spice Finch	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i> . Port Moresby records are regarded as escapes (Coates 1990).

Taxonomic uncertainty : As listed by Principe (1991)

Torres Strait Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula spilorrhoa</i> . Split by Sibley and Monroe from <i>D. bicolor</i> .
Malay Bronze-Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx malayanus</i> . Included with <i>C. russatus</i> by Coates (1985)
Gould's Bronze-Cuckoo	<i>C. russatus</i> . Included with <i>C. malayanus</i> by Coates (1985)
Biak Paradise-Kingfisher	<i>Tanysiptera riedelii</i> . Sometimes treated as a subspecies of Common Paradise-Kingfisher <i>T. galatea</i> .
Kofiau Paradise-Kingfisher	<i>T. ellioti</i> . Sometimes treated as a subspecies of <i>T. galatea</i> .

Phil Gregory's predictions:

Many cold water seabirds are possible but I am sticking to the more widely dispersing commoner species:

Phoenix Petrel	
Black-winged Petrel	
Buller's Shearwater	
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i> . Reported by Greensmith (1975) from the Bismarck Sea but possible confusion with Heinroth's Shearwater has denied general acceptance so far.
Hutton's Shearwater	Tentatively reported off Cape Suckling by Finch (1983).
Christmas Shearwater	<i>Puffinus nativitatus</i> . Two likely sightings are given in Coates (1990)
Swinhoe's Storm-Petrel	
Matsudaira's Storm-Petrel	
Purple Heron	
Black-crowned Night Heron	
Sarus Crane	<i>Grus antigone</i>
Chestnut Teal	<i>Anas castanea</i> . A female specimen from the Bensbach area is reported by Stronoch (1980).
Red-legged Crake	<i>Rallina fasciata</i>
Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
Red-capped Dotterel	<i>Charadrius ruficapillus</i>
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> . Recorded from New Ireland by Burrows (<i>in litt.</i>) and should turn-up on the mainland.
Lesser Yellowlegs	
Nordmann's Greenshank	
Spoon-billed Sandpiper	<i>Eurhynchus pygmaeus</i> . A long shot, but.....
White-rumped Sandpiper	
Hudsonian Godwit	
Grey Phalarope	
Bristle-thighed Curlew	<i>Numenius tahitiensis</i> . Most likely from the islands region.
Franklin's Gull	<i>Larus pipixcan</i>
Black-tailed Gull	<i>Larus crassirostris</i>
Grey-backed Tern	
Christmas Island Frigatebird	<i>Fregata andrewsi</i> . Reported as probables from the Fly River estuary by Capt. D. Simpson and very likely to occur. Scrutinize Frigates !

South Polar Skua	
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis (nipalensis)</i>
Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>
White Wagtail (Black-backed races)	<i>M. alba (lugens)</i>
Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Spice Finch (Nutmeg Mannikin)	

For purely Papua New Guinea list additions, I would predict Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*), Grey-faced Buzzard (*Butastur indicus*), which was reported from Varirata in 1994 but with an inadequate description (PNGBS N/L 283 June 1995), and Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus*).

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Book Review: *Cuckoos, Nighthirds and Kingfishers of Australia*, edited by Ronald Strahan. 1994. Angus and Robertson. Price \$95.

This is volume 9 in The National Photographic Index of Australian Wildlife, and despite the title actually covers 17 families of both non-passerines and passerines. These include pittas, lyrebirds, scrub-birds, larks, swallows, pipits, wagtails cuckoo-shrikes, trillers and bulbuls. One can see why a succinct and accurate title for the book was not possible !

The photographs are of a high standard and include some outstanding shots, the nestling Pheasant Coucals on p.44 being quite superb as are many of the night-birds and cuckoos.

The text is pleasantly generalized and includes many informative digressions into the history of the species. I learned that the use of birds as messengers began during the second Punic War in 218-201 BC, and marking, of the same species, the Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*, is mentioned in Pliny. It avoids the dry, purely scientific boredom of Birds of the Western Palearctic, which is almost unreadable, and makes no pretence of being as comprehensive. It is a book to dip into and enjoy rather than being the fount of all wisdom about a species.

That said, I have some difficulty reconciling a \$95 price tag with some major errors in presentation and inconsistencies in the text. The worst example is the Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus* on p125 which is actually a White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*, probably the same bird as that shown in the account of this species since the photographer and dates are the same ! The Tawny Frogmouth flight shot on p.90 is captioned from Baiyer River, Papua New Guinea, if so the first record of the species from this country. The Rufous Scrub-bird on p.196 has a photo beneath it of a Noisy Scrub-bird from Two People Bay in WA and it is at best unclear as to which species it is referring. All such errors are surely avoidable on a careful proof read, and spoil the effect of this major undertaking.

The text is also not without fault. Little Swift *Apus affinis* is mentioned in the general account as a vagrant, but gets no mention under the vagrants section at the end of the book. The accounts of Glossy Swiftlets *Collocalia esculenta* are not really convincing, lacking major field characters, and the photo fails to do the species justice, I would hesitate to identify the species shown here. Fairy Martin is a vagrant to Tasmania, but is marked on the map as found in half the island. Grem-lins have also hit the Latin names, as *Merops orientalis* mentioned on p.164 is emphatically not the European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* which is the intended species. The Brown Pigeon *Macropygia amboinensis* gets a q instead of a p twice, those spell-checkers really have a problem with scientific names !

The ever vexatious Australian taxonomy also rears its head, with lots of new or resurrected genera appearing (*Todiramphus*, *Cecropis*, *Cheramoeca* etc.). Just when you thought Lesser Sooty Owl *Tyto multipunctata* was here to stay, it again gets demoted to *T. tenebricosa* despite a pretty convincing text argument for the differences. The Norfolk Island Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae* gets its own treatment as that form, but is also listed under Southern Boobook as *N. boobook rufulata*, which I suppose hedges the bets.

It is a pity that such inconsistencies were not avoided, too many creep in for such a major work at a major price and detract from the high quality of the project. Books written by committees or teams of authors face a difficult situation, but surely a prestige project like this could get its act together ? Better luck with volume 10, the final one and a grab-bag of everything not already covered in the series, I look forward to the title with interest.

Phil Gregory

Additions and corrections to previous issues of Muruk:

Volume 6:3

My thanks to Rolf Jensen for pointing out an error in the article on Bat Hawk (*Macheiramphus alcinus*) by Chris Eastwood in Vol. 6:3 p. 13. The measurements of the nest should be in mm not cm, thus 700 mm in diameter and 200 mm in depth. Author and editor apologize for this oversight (which would surely refer to a Roc's nest if left in cm !)

Volume 7:1

Papuan Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum pectorale*) was inadvertently omitted from the article by Phil Gregory on the Birds of the Ok Tedi Area. The species is common in the area up to about 2200m, usually seen singly or two birds together and mostly in the forest canopy.

Volume 7:2

Peter Rowland has been kind enough to forward the following clarifications concerning forms listed in his article "*Birds Collected in the Southern Sandaun Province, PNG*" in *Muruk* Volume 7:2 p. 60- 70 :

Lowland Peltops (*Peltops blainvillii*). The record of a bird at 1000m given in the article is in the region of overlap in wing measurements between Mountain (*P. montanus*) and Lowland Peltops, and should not be regarded as a definite new altitude record for the latter species (P. Rowland *in litt.*) The wing of this specimen measured 102mm which is at the top end of the scale for *P. blainvillii* and right at the bottom end for *P. montanus*.

The Broad-billed Fairy-wren are of the nominate subspecies *Malurus grayi grayi*, identified on colour.

The Friiled Monarch specimen available is *Arses insularis*, not the Ochre-collared Monarch *A. telescopthalmus*

INTERESTING SIGHTINGS DURING 1993 & 1994

Contributed by Chris Eastwood (CE.) and Phil Gregory (PG).

R Denotes a rarely recorded species M = migrant E = range extension

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* E
30 at great height over Tabubil on 12/10/94 were new for the Ok Tedi area, eventually heading off south down the valley (PG).

Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana* R
4 along Bensbach River 14/6/93 (PG); Bensbach on 7/10/94 & 8/10/94 (CE)

Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*
1 imm. captured in an emaciated condition at Ok Menga 13/9/93, died next day (PG).

Yellow-billed Spoonbill *Platalea flavipes* E
A single bird with Royal Spoonbills at Fishing Spot No. 2, Bensbach on 14/6/93 (PG) Documented by Gregory (1993).

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*
200+ Bensbach Plains 14/6/93 (PG).

Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*
500+ Bensbach Plains 14/6/93 (PG).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* M
20 Bensbach Plains 14/6/93 (PG)

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*
30+ Bensbach Plains 14/6/93 (PG)

Brolga *Grus rubicunda* R
60 Bensbach Plains 14/6/93 (PG)

Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* R
4 Bensbach Plains 14/6/93 (PG)

Australian Bustard *Ardeotis australis* R
5 Bensbach Plains 14/6/93 (PG)

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus* M
80+ Bensbach Plains 14/6/93 (PG)

Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus* R
Nesting pair present throughout 1993 and early 1994 at Sankwep Road (CE)

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus* R
Sankwep Road on 29/7/93 (2); Independence Drive, Lae (near Unitech) 22/8/93 & 23/1/94; I at Tigipa near Tari 25/9/93 (PG)

Papuan Harrier *Circus spilonotus*
Nadzab on 15/1/93 & 13/9/94; 3 separate birds during drive between Lae and Kainantu on 23/5/93; Moitaka on 30/10/94 (CE)

Doria's Hawk *Megatriorchis doriae* R
Sankwep Road on 10/7/93 (CE)

New Guinea Harpy-Eagle *Harpyopsis novaeguineae* R
1 presumed male (relatively small size) caught in Tabubil on 15.3.93. having been knocked out of a tree by a stone at Ok Menga a few days earlier. The bird had a broken leg and was flown down to the vet in Port Moresby, where the leg was pinned and splinted. Many families in the town were saying prayers for the recovery of "Balus" as he came to be known. A full recovery was made and the individual was eventually released at Mt. Stolle Research station in August. Thanks to Warwick of the Port Moresby Veterinary service for his interest and expertise, and to Ok Tedi Mining for transport. An amazing saga ! (PG); I heard calling on the slopes of the Hindenburg Range at Ok Tit GR 362293 Sheet 7187 on 29/3/93. (PG); I heard calling Bailey Bridge area Ambua 27/9/93 (PG). I heard calling at Km 8 on the Ok Ma road on 29/1/94 and 6/2/94.(PG). I heard calling at km 10, Bewani Road, Vanimo 12/6/94 (CE/PG)

Gurney's Eagle *Aquila gurneyi* R
2 in Lae on 10/7/93; 1 at Wutung near Vanimo on 12/6/94 (CE/ PG)

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax* R
Bensbach on 8/10/94 (CE)

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*
1 immature female flushed from the carcass of a Variable Goshawk on the main Kiunga road near Ok Menga 14/2/94 (PG); 1 Mt. Binnie 15/5/93; 1 Ok Menga 27/3/94 (PG).

Australian Kestrel *Falco cenchroides* M
1 Tabubil 15/5/93; 1 on 19/5/93; 2 on 28/6/93. Seems to be an erratic migrant in recent years, formerly more regular. Maybe tied to the occurrence of other austral winter migrants like Australian Hobby and White-throated Nightjar around this time (PG).

Oriental Hobby *Falco severus*
1 Ok Ma Road 28/2/93 (PG); 1 Ok Menga 23/5/93 (PG & HW); 1 at Wasu 19/1/94; 1 Vanimo 12/6/94 (PG)

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis* M
1 at Tabubil on 1/5/93 was unusual (PG), only a single previous record here. 1 Port Moresby 12/7/93 (PG), 2 at Waigani 31/7/93 (PG); 1 Kiunga 20/8/94 (PG).

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*
350 Bensbach Plains 14.6.93 (PG). Bensbach on 8/10/94 & 10/10/94 (singles only) (CE)

Green Pigmy-goose *Nettion pulchellus*
Flocks of 160, 120, 110 and some small groups gave a total of over 500 on the Bensbach Plains 14.6.93 (PG).

Salvadori's Teal *Anas waigiuensis* R
1 on the Ok Menga River 23/5/93 (PG & HW). Wonderful views of the bird perched on a rock in mid-stream, the chest a surprisingly bright unmarked pinky-buff colour. 3 Ok Menga intake mid August 93 (David Simon); 1 there 27/3/94 and 2 on 12/8/94 (PG)

Radjah Shelduck *Tadorna radjah*
30 at Moitaka on 14/11/93

Spotted Whistle-Duck *Dendrocygna guttata*
100 Bensbach Plains 14.6.93, including one with tiny ducklings (PG)

Wandering Whistle-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata* M
300 Bensbach Plains 14/6/93 (PG); 15 over Tabubil in low cloud on 5/10/93 (PG) were very unusual here.

Australian Wood Duck (Maned Duck) *Chenonetta jubata* E
1 f. on flooded fields near PAC 5/3/94 and 13/3/94 (PG / Ian Burrows) Ref. Coates Muruk 1994 Vol. 7:2.

Melanesian Scrubfowl *Megapodius eremita*
2 at Kimbe on 8/6/93; 2 at Umboi on 10/9/93 & 30/12/94; Manus on 2/10/94

Brown-collared Brush-turkey *Talegalla jobiensis*
Heard sporadically on Sankwep Road throughout 1993, but only seen once (CE).

Bare-eyed Rail *Eulabeornis plumbeiventris* R & E
1 found dead at Folomian, 2200m Ok Tedi mine on 9/8/93 (PG). 1 injured at Folomian on 6/9/93, broken leg set at the OTML Haus Sik but the bird died later (PG). 1 with an injured leg captured at Tabubil on 17/9/94, and later released (PG).

Chestnut Forest-Rail *Rallina rubra* R
1m and 1 f near Bailey bridge, Ambua 27/9/94 and 1 m there 28/9/94 (PG)

Bush-hen *Amaurornis olivaceus*
2 at Sankwep Road on 29/8/93; 1 on 7/11/93 & 23/1/94

Coot *Fulica atra* R
1 at Lake Wangbin 15/8/93 (per Ian Schofield); 4 at Lake Wangbin 19/9/93 (PG); 5 ad and 4 juv. Lake Wangbin on 14/5/94 (CE / PG)

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa* E
1 at Lake Wangbin 19/9/93 was new for the Ok Tedi area (PG).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
1 at Wasu, Huon 23/1/94 (PG); 8 adults of the local race *dubius*, Tabubil airstrip 17/8/94 (PG). Calls are quite distinct from those of the Eurasian form *curonicus*, being a sharp plaintive upward inflected "peeee" or "keee", repeated two, three or four times as well as given singly and the usual flight note. Also an incisive rather pratincole-like "kik" with crowned feathers raised and body stretched up whilst bobbing. Base of lower mandible pink and legs dull pale fleshy-pink.

Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus* M
3 Tari Airstrip 25/9/93 (PG)

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* M
1 on the Tabubil Golf Course 12/9/93 (PG and Ian Schofield); 2 there 12/9/94 (PG).

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* R/M
1 Tabubil rugby pitch 8/10/93 was new for the area (PG)

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* M
6 juv. Tabubil rugby pitch 8 & 9/10/93 (PG).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* R & M
1 Moitaka ponds 30/12/93 and 1/1/94 (PG / Ian Burrows)

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* E & M
2 Tabubil rugby pitch 9/10/93 were new for the area (PG); 1 Tabubil airstrip 17/8/94 (PG)

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* M
3 Tabubil airstrip 18/9/93; 3 over Tabubil town 30/9/93; 1+ Tabubil airstrip 5/10/93 (PG). 4 Vanimo Airstrip on 13/6/94 were unexpected (PG). 1 with Little Whimbrel 6/10/94 (PG)

Little Whimbrel *Numenius minutus* M
13 Tabubil golf course area 30/9/93; 12 there on 5/10/93(PG). 1 with Whimbrel 8/10/94 (PG)

Chinese Snipe *Gallinago megala* M
2 Tabubil airstrip 30/9/93; 8 there on 5/10/93 (PG)

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* M
1 at Moitaka on 30/10/94

Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella* M
6 at Nadzab on 10/6/93 (CE); 1 Tari airstrip 28/9/93 (PG); Kiunga airstrip on 16/5/94 (CE); 3 Tabubil airstrip 27/6/94, 8 on 22/7/94 and 5 on 17/9/94 (PG); Daru airstrip on 7/10/94 (CE).
Winters regularly in small numbers at Tabubil and Kiunga.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* M
2 pale phase off Wasu, Huon on 23/1/94 (PG).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* R/M
1 typical heavy-set, deep chested dark phase bird off Bird Island, Madang 13/4/94 (PG).

Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata* M
1 adult moribund at Tabubil airstrip 29/9/93 was the second for the area, the first being in the 1970's (PG).

Pheasant Pigeon *Otidiphaps nobilis* R
Varirata on 24/7/94 & 18/9/94; Heard at Ok Ma Road Feb. 93 and Ok Menga May 93 (PG)

Southern Crowned Pigeon *Goura scheepmakeri* R
3 Elevala River 2/4/94 (PG)

White-throated Pigeon *Columba vitiensis*R
3 singles of this seldom recorded species flying over Ok Menga on 16.5.93 were unusual (PG)

Nicobar Pigeon *Caloenas nicobarica* R/E
1 imm. flushed from a thicket on Bird Island, Madang on 13/4/94, flying back and landing to permit excellent close views (PG).

White-bibbed Ground-Dove *Gallucolumba jobiensis* R
1 imm. in the grounds of Ambua Lodge 27/9/93 (PG).

Ornate Fruit-dove *Ptilinopus ornatus*
4th Street, Lae on 20/3/94 (CE)

Yellow-bibbed Fruit-dove *Ptilinopus solomonensis*
3 or 4 on Tong island, Manus on 5/10/94 (CE)

White-breasted Fruit-dove *Ptilinopus rivoli*
Umboi on 10/9/93 (CE)

Claret-breasted Fruit-dove *Ptilinopus viridis*
Manus on 2/10/94 (CE)

Orange-bellied Fruit-dove *Ptilinopus iozonus*
4th Street, Lae on 20/3/94 (CE)

Red-knobbed Fruit-dove *Ptilinopus insolitus*
Kavieng on 23/1/93 & 24/1/93; 20+ at Numundo on 6/6/93; also singles seen regularly on Umboi September 1993, February & December 1994 (CE)

Dwarf Fruit-dove *Ptilinopus nana*
Sankwep Road on 1/1/93 (only one sighting in 15 months) (CE)

Rufescent Imperial Pigeon *Ducula chalconota* R
2 above Satop, Huon 20/1/94 (PG); 1 Dablin Creek 19/7/94, altitude about 800m (PG)

Black -collared Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula muellerii*
100+ Elevala River 2.4.94 (PG)

Grey Imperial Pigeon *Ducula pistrinaria*
Manus on 4/10/94 & 5/10/94 (CE)

Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula rubricera*
20+ at Numundo on 6/6/93; several on Umboi on 9/9/93 & 10/9/93 and in February & December 1994 (CE)

Greater Streaked Lory *Chalcopsitta scintillata*
80+ Elevala River 2/4/94 (PG)

Brown Lory *Chalcopsitta duivenbodei* R
10 at Bewani Road, Vanimo on 11/6/94, 4 on 12/6 & 6 on 13/6/94 (CE/ PG).

Dusky Lory *Pseudeos fuscata*
4th Street, Lae on 6/2/93 (CE)

Goldie's Lorikeet *Trichoglossus goldiei*
Veimauri on 4/12/94 (CE)

Streaked Lorikeet *Charmosyna multistriata* R
A total of 125 flying east in small flocks between 1700-1800 at Dablin Creek near Tabubil on 9/5/93. This is the maximum count to date. There is a regular late afternoon flyover here, always of flocks heading east up into the hills and in all months, though there is least activity in the wet and misty months of July and August. 5 there on 8/8/93 and c.40 on 12/8/93 (PG). 30 there 30/1/94; 7 on 19/7/94; 20 11/8/94; 40 + 25/9/94 (PG)

Red-chinned Lorikeet *Charmosyna rubrigularis*
Kavieng on 24/1/93 (at sea level)

Pigmy Lorikeet *Chamosyna wilhelminae* R
4 Ok Ma Road 28/2/93 (PG)

Little Red Lorikeet *Chamosyna pulchella*
c.250 flying north in small groups at Dablin Creek 8/8/93; 5 there on 12/8/93; 20 at Ok Menga 15/8/93; 20 Dablin Creek 11/8/94 (PG)

Modest Tiger-Parrot *Psittacella modesta* E
1 female Ok Tit, slopes of Hindenburg Range at GR 362293 Sheet 7187 on 28/3/93; another there next day 29/3/93. (PG)

Palm Cockatoo *Probosciger aterrimus*
Vanimo on 10/6/94, 11/6/94 & 12/6/94; Bensbach on 7/10/94 & 8/10/94; Veimauri on 4/12/94 (CE)

Little Corella *Cacatua pastinator* R
6+ near Wando, Bensbach 12/6/93 (PG)

Blue-eyed Cockatoo *Cacatua ophthalmica*
Fairly common around Kimbe & Walindi (CE)

Red-breasted Pigmy-Parrot *Micropsitta bruijnii*
50 of the "Masked" Ok Tedi form Ok Menga 13/5/94; 50+ Dablin Creek 15/5/94; 30 there on 19/7/94; 60+ flying north Ok Menga 11/9/94 and 25 feeding in an *Albizzia* the same day (PG). A common bird in the Ok Tedi area.

Buff-faced Pigmy-Parrot *Micropsitta pusto*
Group of 6 at Brown River on 14/11/93 (CE)
Meek's Pigmy-parrot *Micropsitta meeki*
Manus on 2/10/94 (CE)

Edward's Fig-Parrot *Psittaculirostris edwardsii*
5+ at Gain on the Boana Road 24/1/94 (PG); Gain on 30/1/94 (CE); 4 at Bewani Road, Vanimo on 11/6/94, 3 on 12/6/94 & 4 on 13/6/94, inspecting holes in a branch on 12/6; 2 near Wutung 12/6/94 with a single Double-eyed Fig-Parrot (CE/ PG);

Double-eyed Fig-Parrot *Cyclopsitta diophthalma*
Sankwep Road on 31/1/93, 4 on 10/7/93 & 1 on 20/11/93 (CE); Quite common Bewani Road, Vanimo with a flock of 8 on 10/6/94 (PG/CE)

Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geffroyi*
Pair resident at 4th Street, Lae during 1993 & 1994 (CE)

Blue-collared Parrot *Geoffroyus simplex*
Quite often seen or heard flying over in the Tabubil area, generally at a great height above ground ! 4+ seen at Ok Menga at the same time as Red-cheeked Parrot (12+) on 23.5.93. though not in the same flock (PG). 15 and a flock of 40+ Ok Menga 27.3.94 (PG); 70+ Lake Wangbin 14/5/94 (CE/PG)

Vulturine Parrot *Psitttrichas fulgidus* R
Sankwep Road on 17/10/93 (CE); 2 nearly fledged juvs. brought to Tabubil 23/12/93 (PG). Still occurs in small numbers in the Ok Tedi area. 5 Ok Menga 13/5/94 (PG). 4 near Satop, Huon 20/1/94 (PG)

Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus*
Bensbach on 7/10/94, 8/10/94 & 10/10/94 (CE)

Papuan Hanging Parrot *Loriculus aurantiifrons* R & E
1 flyover at Dablin Creek on 9/5/93 (PG); 1 male at Bewani Road, Vanimo on 12/6/94 (CE & PG). 1 male Ok Menga 7/8/93, superb views of it actually hanging motionless upside-down in an *Albizzia* for several minutes; I heard Dablin Creek 8/8/93; 1 at km 119 on the Kiunga-Tabubil road on 21/8/93 (PG). 1 heard Ok Ma road 20/3/94.

Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis* M
Bensbach on 8/10/94 (CE)

White-crowned Koel *Caliechthrus leucolophus*
Sankwep Road on 9/5/93; Varirata on 13/11/93; Veimauri on 25/9/94; Goldie River road on 13/11/94 (CE)

Dwarf Koel *Microdynamis parva*
Sankwep Road on 29/7/93 & 2 on 20/11/93; heard at Sankwep Road on 5/12/93 (CE); 1 f. Dablin Creek 27/1/94; 1 male Dablin Creek 15/5/94 (PG).

Common Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea* M
1 f. type on Pig Island, Madang 13/4/94 and 2 females on Bird Island the same day, not of the Australian form subcyanocephala (PG). One of these birds had a long buff supercilium not unlike Long-tailed Koel (*E. taitensis*), a pale malar stripe and a dark mottled throat.

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae* M
4th Street, Lae 1 on 30/3/93, 7 on 8/4/93, 2 on 19/4/93, 4 on 21/4/93, 3 on 30/4/93; at least 6 around Niugini Tablebirds at Lae on 18/5/93 and 8+ on 23/5/93; Sankwep Road on 17/10/93; Umboi on 28/2/94 (CE)

Violaceous Coucal *Centropus violaceus*
Kimbe on 8/6/93 (CE)

White-necked Coucal *Centropus ateralbus*
Fairly common around Kimbe & Walindi (even in oil palm plantations) also seen on Umboi on 9/9/93 & 10/9/93 and in February & December 1994 (CE)

Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae* R
Bensbach on 8/10/94 (a bird roosting during the day) (CE/ Ian Burrows)

Papuan Boobook *Ninox theomacha*
Heard 4th Street, Lae on 25/1/94 (CE)

Papuan Frogmouth *Podargus papuensis*
 1 rufous phase bird in Tabubil town 6/9/93 (PG); Bensbach on 7/10/94 & 8/10/94 (CE)

Marbled Frogmouth *Podargus ocellatus* R
 Bensbach on 7/10/94 (CE); 1 flushed from the ground in a *Pandanus* thicket at Varirata 25/1/94 (PG)

Feline Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles insignis* R & E
 1 trapped and photographed at 1300m on Mt. Robinson, Tabubil 23/7/94 (PG/ Ian Burrows) and also heard calling.

Archbold's Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles archboldi* R & E
 1 trapped and photographed at 1350m on Mt. Robinson January 1994 (Ian & Roger Burrows).

White-throated Nightjar *Eurostopodus mystacalis* E
 1 flying north at dusk over Tabubil swimming pool on 29/4/93. A new record for the area (PG).

Papuan Nightjar *Eurostopodus papuensis*
 Bensbach on 9/10/94 (CE); 1 along the Varirata approach road at dusk on 29/12/93 (PG)

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* M
 Sankwep Road on 3/1/93; Brown River on 14/11/93 (CE); 1 Elevala River 2/4/94 (PG)

Hook-billed Kingfisher *Melidora macrorrhina*
 Heard 4th Street, Lae on 6/2/93 & on 30/4/93 (CE)

Shovel-billed Kingfisher *Clytoceyx rex* R & E
 Ambua 7/94 along the waterfall trail (per Chris Doughty of Peregrine Bird Tours)

Spangled Kookaburra *Dacelo tyro* R
 2 on 12/6/93 and 4 on 13/6/93 at Bensbach (PG). Bensbach on 7/10/94, 8/10/94 & 10/10/94 (CE)

Beach Kingfisher Halcyon saurophaga
 Rabaul on 2/3/93 (CE); 2 on Bird Island, Madang 12/4/94 (PG); Tong Island, Manus on 5/10/94 (CE)

Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sancta* M
 The first of that season's wintering birds was at Tabubil on 8/4/93. (PG)

Red-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera nympha* R
 Heard fairly often at Sankwep Road but only seen on 7/11/93 & 5/6/94 (CE)

Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera sylvia* M & E
 1 first-winter bird on back veranda of house in Tabubil, another first winter on the veranda of school building Tabubil on the same day 13/5/94, with a third immature individual killed by a cat given to me later that day ! (CE/ PG). An unprecedented influx and confirming the species from the Ok Tedi area, where recorded as a probable by Murray (1988). 1 immature Tabubil 21/5/94; 1 on school veranda there again on 22/7/94, tail now about half grown (PG). An adult at school on 14/10/94 may conceivably have been one of the earlier immatures moulted into full plumage.

Black-headed Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera nigriceps*
 1 at Kimbe on 7/6/93 & 2 on 8/6/93; 2 at Umboi on 10/9/93 and 1 on 30/12/94 (CE)

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*
 Nadzab on 11/9/93, 13/9/94 & 24/11/94; Vanimo on 10/6/94; Bensbach on 7/10/94 & 8/10/94 (CE)

Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus*
 Regularly seen in small numbers around Sankwep Road during 1993; also a few seen in the Kimbe area in June 1993 and at Veimauri on 21/8/94, 4/9/94 & 25/9/94 (CE)

Superb Pitta *Pitta superba* R
 Manus on 4/10/94 (CE)

Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor* R
 Bensbach on 8/10/94 (CE)

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica* M
 18 on wires in the Tabubil lay-down area 28/2/93 (PG); 5 Tabubil 21/2/94 and 4 there on 4/3/94 (PG); Finschhafen on 23/3/94 (CE)

Fairy Martin *Hirundo ariel* R
 1 Tabubil rugby pitch 9/10/93, a vagrant to PNG (Gregory 1993).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* R
 1 Tabubil rugby pitch 9/10/93; 1 there 29/3/94 (PG)

Golden Cuckoo-shrike *Campochaera sloetii*
 Vanimo on 12/6/94; Veimauri on 4/9/94 (CE); Frequent in the Ok Tedi area (PG)

Log-Runner *Orthonyx temminckii* R
 Heard at Tari Gap 27/9/93 (PG and Joseph Tano)

Papuan Whipbird *Androphobus viridis* R
 1 probable female Ambua waterfall trail 29/9/94 (PG and Joseph Tano). Regrettably I had only a partial view of the bird, which was well seen in mid stratum by Joseph, and identified as such by him. A small berrypecker type but with the upperparts quite a bright green, an unusual shade, and the head unlike a *Melanocharis* berrypecker as the bill was too long and pointy, not the normal stubby, blunt berrypecker effect. Dark eye, and Joseph saw grey underparts. I did not recognize the species from what I saw and strongly suspect Joseph is correct. It would be good to document the occurrence of this species from Ambua, where 4 or five reliable observers have seen it.

Fly River Grassbird *Megalurus albolimbatus* R
 1 near Wando, Bensbach on 14/6/93 (PG); Bensbach on 8/10/94 (CE)

Pale-billed Scrubwren *Sericornis spilodera* E
 1 on Bird Island, Madang on 12/4/94 was unexpected (PG).

Manus Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura semirubra* R
Fairly common on Tong Island, Manus on 5/10/94 (CE)

Island Monarch *Monarcha cinerascens*
1 Bird Island, Madang 13.4.94 (PG); Several on Tong Island, Manus on 5/10/94 (CE)

Spectacled Monarch *Monarcha trivirgatus*
Bensbach on 9/10/94 (CE)

Admiralty Pied Monarch *Monarcha infelix* R
Manus on 2/10/94, 3/10/94 & 4/10/94 (CE)

Bismarck Pied Monarch *Monarcha verticalis*
Single birds at Kimbe on 8/6/93; Umboi on 9/9/93 & 10/9/93 (CE)

Hooded Monarch *Monarcha manadensis*
Regularly seen at Sankwep Road during 1993 (CE); 2+ Elevala River N. of Kiunga 2/4/94 (PG)

Golden Monarch *Monarcha chrysomela*
Kavieng on 23/1/93 & on 24/1/93 (CE)

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca* M
1 male Bird Island, Madang 12/4/94 (PG).

Torrent Flycatcher *Monachella muelleriana*
Resident on the Sankwep River (CE); a pair and an open cup lichen nest 15m up a dead tree overhanging the Ok Tedi at Km 119 on the Kiunga-Tabubil road.

Mangrove Robin *Eopsaltria pulverulenta*
Hisiu on 7/8/94 & 3/9/94 (CE)

Black-throated Robin *Poecilodryas albonotata*
Ambua on 19/2/93 (CE)

Banded Yellow Robin *Poecilodryas placens* R
1 seen and 1 heard at Veimaui on 4/9/94 (CE/PG) & 25/9/94 (CE)

White-rumped Robin *Peneothello bimaculatus* R & E
Ok Ma Road, Tabubil on 15/5/94 (CE/PG); Veimaui on 12/11/94 & 4/12/94 (CE)

Lesser Ground-robin *Amalocichla incerta* R
1 seen Ambua 26/9/94, 3 heard there on 27/9/94, 1 seen and 1 heard 28/9/94 (PG);

Dwarf Whistler *Pachycare flavogrisea*
Fairly common at Varirata during 1994 (CE)

Rusty Whistler *Pachycephala hyperythra*
1 at Sankwep Road on 23/10/93 (CE)

Black-headed Whistler *Pachycephala monacha* E
Gain on 11/7/93 (CE); 1 male at Ok Menga on 23/5/93 was a new species for the area and may well be a recent colonist as the habitat is degraded and becomes suitable (PG).

Sclater's Whistler *Pachycephala soror*
1 female Dablin Creek at 750m on 19/7/94 was at an unusually low altitude (PG).

Golden-backed Whistler *Pachycephala aurea* R
3 birds at the usual site in riparian *Albizzia* dominated scrub at Km 120 on the Kiunga/Tabubil road on 2/5/93. They were calling and singing, with one individual putting its head right back with the bill held vertical whilst calling. Perhaps some sort of display as another bird was calling nearby? 1 adult and a juv. there on 21/8/93 (PG).

Mangrove Golden Whistler *Pachycephala melanura*
2 males and 1 female, Bird Island, Madang 12/4/94 (PG); Some controversy exists over the exact identity of the form of Golden Whistler occurring here, they may be the Bismarck form of *P. pectoralis*. The birds today had blackish tails and prominent pale edgings to the secondaries of both sexes, but the calls are rather different to those of *P. melanura* from Hisiu (PG *pers obs.*)

Rufous-naped Whistler *Pachycephala rufinucha*
Mt Hagen (Haus Poroman) on 24/7/93 (CE)

Black Pitohui *Pitohui nigrescens*
Ambua on 20/2/93 (CE); 1 male near Hydro 28/9/94 (PG)

White-bellied Pitohui *Pitohui incertus*
2+ with a brown and black bird flock in forest along the Elevala River north of Kiunga 2/4/94 (PG). The first sighting for some time of this rare and elusive but readily overlooked species.

Wattled Ploughbill *Eulacestoma nigropectus* R
Ambua on 20/2/93 (CE); 1 male Ambua Lodge 28/9/93 (PG).

Berrypecker sp. *Melanocharis* sp.
1 singing Dablin Creek 8.8.93 See Gregory (1993) for initial reports of this form. 2 there on 27/1/94 and 2 there 19/7/94, one of which was collected by Bret Whitney;

Bismarck Flowerpecker *Dicaeum eximium*
Kavieng on 23/1/93 & on 24/1/93; Kimbe on 7/6/93 (CE)

Black-headed White-eye *Zosterops hypoxantha*
Manus on 3/10/94 (CE)

Olive Straightbill *Timeliopsis fulvigula* R
2 at Ok Tit, southern slopes of Hindenburg Range 28/3/93. (PG)

Green-backed Honeyeater *Glycichaera fallax*
2 at Bewani Road, Vanimo on 12/6/94 (CE/PG)

- Slater's Myzomela *Myzomela sclateri*
Umboi on 27/2/94 (not previously reported from such a "large" island) (CE)
- Bismarck Black Myzomela *Myzomela melanocephala*
Common on Tong Island, Manus on 5/10/94 (CE)
- Ashy Myzomela *Myzomela cineracea*
Kimbe on 8/6/93; Umboi on 9/9/93 & 10/9/93 and during February & December 1994 (CE)
- Varied Honeyeater *Lichenostomus versicolor*
Regular in and around Lae during 1993 (CE)
- Ornate Melidectes *Melidectes torquatus*
Kainantu on 23/5/93 (CE)
- Cinnamon-browed Melidectes *Melidectes ochromelas*
2 near Satop, Huon 19/1/94 and 10+ above Satop on 20/1/94 (PG).
- Marbled Honeyeater *Pyconpygius cinereus*
1 near Satop, Huon on 20 & 21/1/94 (PG)
- New Britain Friarbird *Philemon cockerelli*
2 at Walindi on 18/5/93 & 5/6/93; Kimbe on 8/6/93; single birds seen or heard Umboi on 10/9/93 & 11/9/93 and during February and December 1994 (particularly vocal after dark. CE)
- Manus Friarbird *Philemon albitorques*
Common on Manus during October 1994 (CE)
- Leaden Honeyeater *Ptiloprora plumbea* R & E
4 at Lake Wangbin 14/5/94 (PG), first reported by Burrows in January 94 and new for the Ok Tedi area.
- Spangled Honeyeater *Melipotes ater*
3 near Satop, Huon 19/1/94 and 6+ above Satop on 20/1/94 (PG)
- Rufous-banded Honeyeater *Conopophila albogularis*
Nadzab on 15/1/93 (CE)
- Torrent-lark *Grallina bruijni*
2 at Veimauroi on 4/9/94 were along a stream at 300m altitude (PG)
- Grand Mannikin *Lonchura grandis*
Gain on 11/7/93; 10 + near Gain 24/1/94 (PG); Sogeri on 18/9/94 (CE)
- Hunstein's Mannikin *Lonchura hunsteini* R
Common at Kavieng Airport on 23/1/93 & 24/1/93 (CE)
- White-spotted Mannikin *Lonchura leucosticta* R & E
8 on 12/6/93 near Wando, Bensbach. 4 on 13/6/93 near the airstrip at Bensbach (PG). 1 at Rumgenai near Kiunga 1/4/94 represents a slight northward range extension from Kiunga (PG).
- Crimson Finch *Neochmia phaeton* E
2 in pit-pit grass at Rumgenai near Kiunga on 1/4/94 represent a large range extension from the middle Fly (PG).
- Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus* M
Bensbach on 7/10/94 (CE)
- Yellow Oriole *Oriolus flavocinctus*
Bensbach on 8/10/94 (CE)
- Paradise Drongo *Dicrurus megarhynchus*
Kavieng on 23/1/93 & 24/1/93 (CE)
- Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen* R
Bensbach on 8/10/94 & 10/10/94 (only two birds; CE). Not seen in September 93 (PG)
- White-eared Catbird *Ailuroedus buccoides*
Heard fairly regularly and seen occasionally on the Sankwep Road (northern race with brown cap); Varirata on 27/11/94 (CE)
- Flame Bowerbird *Sericulus aureus* R
1 male at the usual Magazine Road site, near Kiunga 3/4/93 (PG)
- Archbold's Bowerbird *Archboldia papuensis* R
Tari Gap on 27/3/93 (at bower; CE)
- Crested Bird-of-Paradise *Cnemophilus macgregoriae*
1 male near Bailey Bridge, Ambua 27/9/94 (PG)
- Loria's Bird-of-Paradise *Cnemophilus loriae*
1 imm. male Mt. Robinson 23/7/94 had orangey soles of the feet.
- Huon Astrapia *Astrapia rothschildi*
6+ above Satop, Huon 19/1/94 and 10+ there 20/1/94, all female/immature plumaged.
- Wahnes Parotia *Parotia wahnesi*
1 male near Satop 19/1/94, 1 female 20/1/94 and 1 male 21/1/94 (PG).
- Short-tailed Paradigalla *Paradigalla brevicauda*
2+ Lake Wangbin 19/9/93 (PG)
- Splendid Astrapia *Astrapia splendidissima* R & E
1 male and 1 female Ok Tit, southern slopes of Hindenburg Range at GR 362293 (Sheet 7187) on 28/3/93; 2 male and 1 female 29/3 and a single male on 30/3. (PG)
- Buff-tailed Sicklebill *Epimachus albertisi* R
Ambua on 20/2/93 (on path to Hydro scheme; CE); Heard calling there 28/9/94 (PG)

Pale-billed Sicklebill *Epimachus bruijnii* R
1 male Bewani Road (Km 14) near Vanimo on 11/6/94 (PG and CE)

Black Sicklebill *Epimachus fastuosus*
1 male seen and 2 heard Lake Wangbin 19/9/93 (PG). 3 heard there 14/5/94 (PG/CE)

Brown Sicklebill *Epimachus meyeri*
Ambua on 19/2/93 (CE); 1 female plumage Ok Tit, southern Hinderburg Range 29/3/93 (PG)

Magnificent Bird-of-Paradise *Diphyllodes magnificus*
Heard at Gain on 11/7/93 and at Sankwep Road on 24/10/93 (the Sankwep Road site is only about 500 metres above sea level); Sankwep Road on 23/1/94 & 27/3/94 (CE)

Emperor Bird-of-Paradise *Paradisaea guilielmi*
Heard daily below Satop, Huon 19-20/1/94 (PG); 1 male and 3 f/imm Gain 24/1/94 (PG); Gain on 11/7/93 (probably the most accessible site for birders; CE)

Greater Bird-of-Paradise *Paradisaea apoda*
2 males, 2 imm. males & 1 female plumage bird Ok Ma road 1.3.93. 1 female type at 800m at Dablin Creek Sept. 94 was at an unusually high altitude (PG). Female plumage birds are common in the Ok Tedi area but fully plumed males are sparse due to hunting pressure.

Contributed by Chris Eastwood (CE) and Phil Gregory (PG), with Harriet Whitehead (HW).

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Fig. 1 Location of places mentioned in this issue

