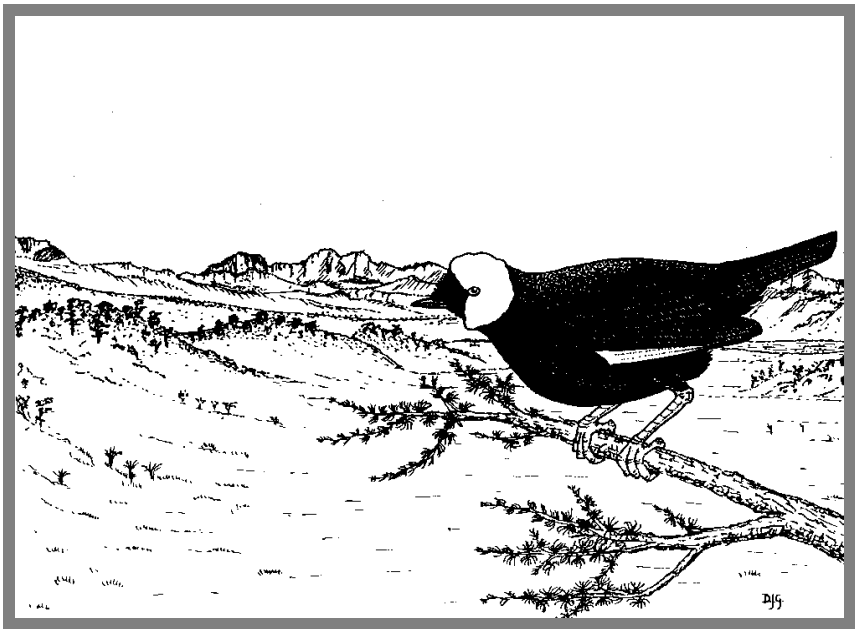


**WEST PAPUA (Irian Jaya),
INDONESIA.**



A birdwatchers site guide

David Gibbs

**WEST PAPUA (Irian Jaya),
INDONESIA.**

21 January - 12 March

1996.

A site guide for
birdwatchers.

Fully revised edition.

Compiled from annual trips 1991-1996.

by

David Gibbs.

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SUMMARY.

This report is based on five trips to Irian Jaya from 1991 to 1996 during which I visited most significant birding areas except the southern lowlands. Most time was spent in forested habitats from lowland swamp forest at sea level to alpine grassland above 3000m. Also coastal habitats, secondary scrub and cleared farmed sites visited. Over 380 species recorded, including 31 of the potential 39 Irian endemics, 23 of the potential 27 Birds of Paradise and all 5 endemic Birds of Paradise.

The area visited is driest May to August (to July at Wamena) but much dependent on local topography so some rain can be expected any time.

Irian Jaya is much more expensive than west Indonesia, mainly transport costs, but still compares well with PNG.

Tourism is still very limited but all required facilities present. Permits required, readily obtainable from the police in Jayapura Sorong or Biak; usually free. Travel depends mainly on flying with Merpati who are not as efficient as one might hope but delays of more than a few hours are rare. Charter of boats and mini-buses presents no problem. If you wish to organise your trip via local travel agents the following can help, CHANDRA NUSANTARA Tours & Travel can deal with Jayapura-Nimbokrang-Wamena; SENTOSA TOSIGA Tours & Travel Ltd. Biak-Manokwari-Sorong. Kris Tindige in Sorong is particularly useful for travel in the Sorong area and can also organise tours throughout Irian (deceased but Nature Irian might still exist). All useful names and addresses listed in Appendix 1.

A healthy country (except for malaria). Security problems very limited and crime relatively non-existent. The recent problem of kidnapping of foreigners may lead to problems obtaining permission to travel in some areas.

Good hotels can be found in all the towns. Huts exist on Batanta, Mokwam and Wamena/Lake Habbema. If you wish to stay near the forest at Nimbokrang you will have to camp. Food excellent assuming no aversion to rice. On treks diet limited. Beer banned in highlands.

Because of the very steep terrain and in places rough trails only reasonably fit people who enjoy trekking, up to 15 km a day and climbing 1000m at Mokwam, should embark on a trip to Irian Jaya. I consider that a trip of about a month is sufficient to visit most representative sites. However considerable forward planning and the use of local agents would be necessary for such a short trip. Six weeks to two months should be sufficient if organising it all yourself.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Irian Jaya is Indonesia's new frontier and until recently just getting there involved much bureaucratic hassle to obtain the required permit or *surat jalan*. Relations with Papua New Guinea are now much improved and security problems sporadic and very unlikely to affect the tourist. "Visit Indonesia Year 1991" has seen some attempts to promote tourism and make things easier. A *surat jalan* is still required outside the main towns and one is expected to report to the local police when arriving at each destination. *Surat jalan* to cover all the places required can be obtained from Jakarta or Jayapura and are issued quickly and usually free. Two photos and a copy of passport are required.

Despite this, tourism is still at a very low level and almost entirely confined to Jayapura and the Baliem Valley and to a lesser extent Biak and the Asmat area. Organised wildlife tourism is still a novelty

Money

The rupiah was trading at about 2000rp.=US\$1 and is fairly stable. On the treks large supplies of small denomination notes (1000, 5000, 10000 rp) are needed. US\$ AmEx T.C. readily changed in all towns but others may not be accepted.

Costs.

Irian Jaya is considerably more expensive than Java but much cheaper than adjacent PNG. Good air-con. double rooms are about \$25-40. Mini-bus charter \$50-70 a day. Internal flights are the main expense. Food and wages comparable with the rest of Indonesia. In two months I used about \$1600 Jakarta-Jakarta (1991).

Transport.

There are direct daily flights with Garuda from Jakarta to Sorong, Biak or Jayapura and three times weekly from Los Angeles/Honolulu to Biak (possibly discontinued). Biak is a 'no visa required' entry port.

Irian Jaya's infrastructure is very embryonic and the incredibly steep rugged terrain dictates that this will be the case for a long time to come. Where asphalt or reasonable dirt roads exist there is no shortage of transport. All long distances have to be flown or walked. Merpati operate numerous, usually frequent, flights to many destinations. Unfortunately their few planes are of the more delapidated kind. Consequently cancellations due to bad weather or servicing cause delays to many flights. Flights to the main destinations rarely fail to leave on the appropriate day but delays of 2-5 hours can be expected. Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) and other missionary carriers fly into just about everywhere that a five-seater Cessna can land.

These planes and even helicopters are readily chartered given sufficient notice.

Climate.

Difficult to predict because climate very much influenced by local topography. However in the north the main influence is the NE Trades bringing rain from October to April. In the Snow Mountains at Wamena the rains start in August. In the Vogelkop rain patterns are even more complex but in August rain should be minimal and rivers low.

The lowlands can get very hot, particularly Biak during my first visit. In the mountains it can get very cold at night or with bad weather. Sleeping bag and some warm clothing necessary.

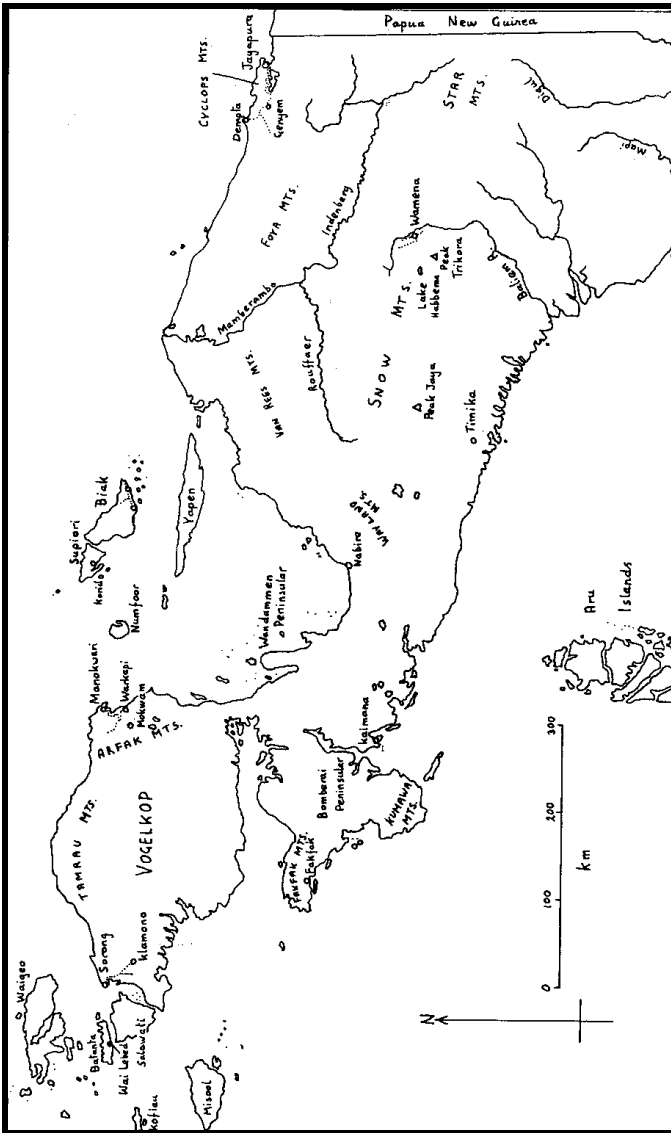
Health & Safety.

All the normal precautions for tropical countries should be taken. Malaria is very much the greatest health risk. Alan Hatfield with whom I was travelling in 1991 caught malaria (probably at Nimbokrang) despite religiously taking Paludrin and Alvoclor. Mefloquin is now normally recommended. In July/August the forest here should be much dryer and, hopefully, the risk of malaria reduced. You are strongly advised to be equipped with a mosquito net and adequate supplies of insect repellent which is also efficacious against harvest ticks in coastal grassy areas. Leeches very rare. Tropical ulcers are a potential problem, antibiotic creams readily available in most chemists in Irian work well. Drinking water is always boiled, or, on the treks, from mountain streams so chemical sterilisation is unnecessary. Sunburn must be guarded against in the open alpine grasslands.

The Indonesians will not allow tourists to venture anywhere where they may get a whiff of the insurgency which still continues at a low level. The heavy missionary influence has essentially eliminated cannibalism and tribal warfare. Although the local tribesmen occasionally kill each other with little provocation, tourists are welcomed with typical Indonesian and Papuan hospitality. Violent crime is practically non-existent and theft very rare and restricted to towns and some transmigration camps.

Accommodation.

A variety of hotels exist in all the relevant towns. On the treks and on Batanta one can stay in bush huts or camp. Tarpaulins are easily purchased in towns and can be very useful on treks.



Map of West Papua (Irian Jaya)

Food & Drink.

Excellent Indonesian food is available in all towns, most top range hotels have their own restaurant. Elsewhere food must be ported and cooks hired. Vegetables and sweet potatoes can be bought at Mokwam and in the Ibele Valley. The difficulty of transporting and cooking food on the treks will probably dictate a rather monotonous diet. Beer is expensive and sometimes unavailable in towns and banned in the highlands.

The Birds.

As in Papua New Guinea the birds of Irian Jaya do not show themselves readily. Together with the steep terrain this makes for some really challenging birding. The avifauna appears rather less profuse than across the border. In 8 weeks in 1991 I recorded 294 species as compared to 371 in 9 weeks in PNG. This discrepancy is due to:-

1. Spending 2 weeks on the impoverished islands of Batanta and Biak.
2. The greater difficulty of seeing birds along walking trails rather than driveable roads.
3. Absence of a moon and much rain rendering nocturnal birding a failure.
4. Southern watershed not visited.
5. Much less information.

I am sure my total could readily be achieved in half the time. As with most tropical forest birding a tape-recorder and microphone are essential equipment. Nocturnal birding with a tape can be productive but very difficult and frustrating. Despite the lower total list as compared to PNG the reduced hunting pressure in Irian means some large and spectacular species, difficult in PNG, are still readily seen. Also the 39 species endemic to Irian, of which I saw 28 in 1991 and 3 more since, include some exciting and rarely seen species. Many more species including the breath-taking Macgregors Bird of Paradise are so difficult or expensive to see in PNG that they are practically Irian endemics. So whether sampling Papuan avifauna for the first time or returning for those little known endemics where few birders have yet ventured, Irian Jaya offers some exciting birding.

In this report I outline what I did and saw, annotating where useful. Taxonomy and nomenclature follows Sibley & Monroe (1990), where this differs from Bheeler *et al.* (1986), this is mentioned in Appendix 2. These species are indicated by a superscript number in the site lists. Numbers of birds seen are not included because they do not usefully indicate the seeability of species in rainforest. I try to impart this information for each site separately by a star rating ** difficult (only one seen or heard); * probable (seen more than once at this site), no star; likely. H=heard only.

SORONG.

The main airport for large aircraft is on an island half hour off shore, taxi boat to town should cost 5000rp., a new airport on the mainland may be open in 1997. Hotel Batanta or Irian Beach are relatively cheap but Cendrawasih Hotel best if rather expensive, many others around some of cheap losmen type. Some good birding can be found inland from Sorong, the Klamalu-Kalamono road 24 km from Sorong is best reached by chartering a taxi for early morning and coming back on public transport. Forest starts about 25 km from Sorong along sealed road. It is well worth contacting Nature Irian c/o Cendrawasih Hotel to arrange transport etc.

Sorong.

Black-headed Gull; 2 at Pelabuan.

Singing Starling; town.

Klamalu-Kalamono road

Black Lory common flying over in the morning.

Rufous Night Heron *	Papuan Spinetail
Cattle Egret	Blue-breasted Pitta H
Crested Hawk	Hooded Pitta H
Brahminy Kite	White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike
Grey-headed Goshawk *	Brown Oriole
Oriental Hobby *	Helmeted Friarbird ²
Bush-hen ¹ * H.	Emperor Fairy-Wren
Snipe sp.	White-bellied Thicket-Fantail
Orange-bellied Fruit-Dove	Shining Flycatcher
Pinon Imperial Pigeon	Golden Monarch *
Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon *	Rusty Pitohui
Western Black-capped Lory	Olive-crowned Flowerpecker ³
Rainbow Lorikeet	Yellow-bellied Sunbird
Eclectus Parrot	Scrub White-eared Meliphaga
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Tawny-breasted Honeyeater
Red-cheeked Parrot	Long-billed Honeyeater
Lesser Black Coucal *	Streak-headed
Mannikin	
Yellow-billed Kingfisher * H	Yellow-faced Myna
Rufous-bellied Kookaburra	Spangled Drongo ⁴
Blyth's Hornbill	Glossy-mantled Manucode
Moustached Tree-Swift	Hooded Butcherbird
Uniform Swiftlet	Black Butcherbird
Glossy Swiftlet	

Much more could be expected here. Species recorded by T.Andrews include Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Black-browed Triller, Meyer's Friarbird, Streak-

headed Honeyeater, Sacred Kingfisher, Mimic Meliphaga, Great Black Coucal, Long-tailed Buzzard, Yellow-bellied Longbill. Deforested hills behind Sorong; Grey Goshawk, Golden Myna, Singing Starling, White-breasted Woodswallow. Coast north of Pelabuan, fishponds and marsh; Gray's Grasshopper Warbler, White-headed Shelduck, Greenshank, Striated Heron, Buff-banded Rail, Ruddy Turnstone, Brush Cuckoo, Terek Sandpiper, Great Egret, Varied Honeyeater, Eastern Reef-Egret, Sanderling, Grey-tailed Tattler, Pacific Golden Plover, Greater Sandplover, Greater Frigatebird, Lesser Frigatebird, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Beach Kingfisher, Red-necked Stint, Sooty-headed Bulbul (feral).

Sorong-PT.Intimpura logging area; km 18.

Easily reached by taxi from Sorong, closer than the Klomono road and likely to produce all the same birds and more. Unauthorised vehicles cannot enter the area but the road can be walked as far as the logging camp. No good forest close to the road but flyover parrots etc. are readily seen. To enter the forest beyond the camp written permission must be obtained from PT Intimpura Timber Co. Jl. Melati No. 9, SORONG, IRIAN JAYA

Specialities.

FOREST BITTERN *resident for a year or two on the pools beside the road.

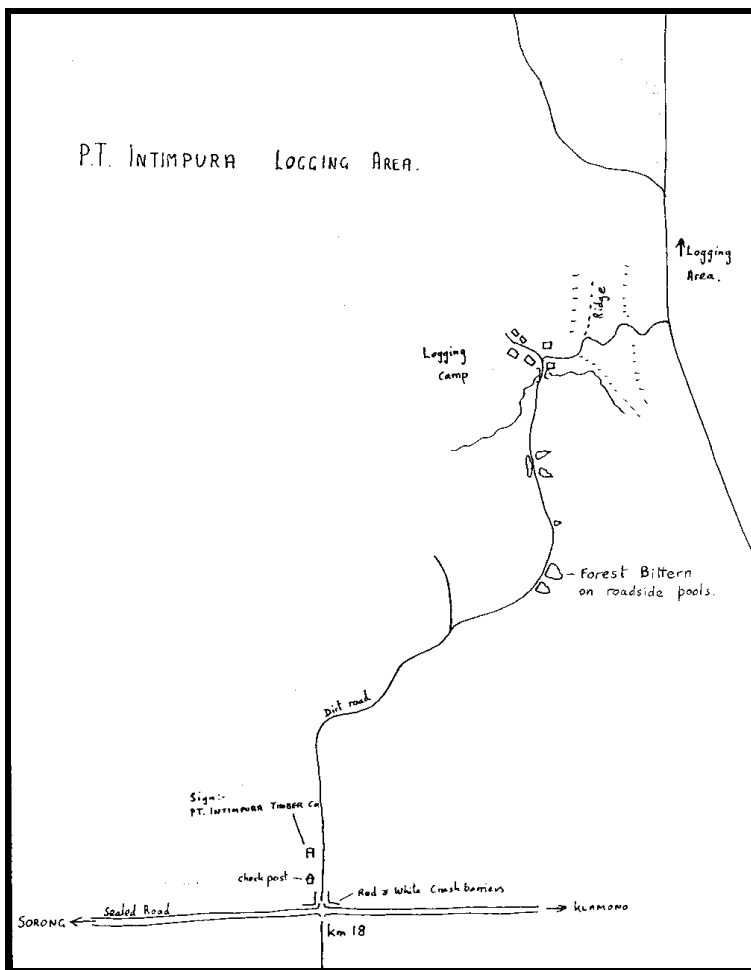
Little Grebe	Red-billed Brush-Turkey H
Little Pied Cormorant	Black Lory
Spotted Whistling Duck	Channel-billed Cuckoo *
Black Bittern	Golden Myna
Grey-headed Goshawk	

Neil Bostock and Alan Lewis spent several days birding here about a month before me and managed to get into the logging area. Cassowary sp., Western Crowned Pigeon, Large Fig-Parrot and Vulturine Parrot were some of their better records.

At about Km 14 or 16 is a small Tamam Wisata (wooded park) on the left hand side of the road coming from Sorong. This is an area of secondary woodland where Red-breasted Paradise Kingfisher has been seen.

BATANTA.

A wide range of longboats and other types are available for hire in Sorong, if you want to risk a small one with a single Johnson 40 it will cost 300000 - 400000 rp. for three days including petrol. A larger two engine boat will cost closer to one million rp. All supplies can be brought in Sorong. The trip take about three hours to Wai Lebed, it is a good idea to call in at Yennenes to pay a call to the Kepala Desa and check to make sure Anton Dei is at Wai Lebad. He is now there most of the year and will be eager to act as your



Map of Sorong Area

guide. In Wai Lebed you can stay in the lodge near the village for 10000rp per person per night and hire the locals to cook etc.

Just behind Wai Lebed the forest has been cleared for gardens but the forest is close by and reaches the sea not far from the village. A trail leads up from the west end of the village and another from behind the lodge, ultimately to the summit of Gunung Batanta. Red Bird of Paradise can be seen in the lowlands near the coast and Andon knows a couple of display trees. Wilson's BoP can be seen at about 300m asl. approximately 2 hours from the coas on ridges on the flank of Gunung Batanta. Set off very early to arrive by 8am. They can also be seen in the afternoon but less certainly. A small leaf built hide is very worth while to get excellent close views. All birds recorded at Wai Lebed unless otherwise stated.

Specialities.

Northern Cassowary; ** one juv. caught by the dogs which came with us on our first afternoon. One adult seen c. 500m behind lodge.

Doria's Hawk ** one near lodge.

Pheasant Pigeon ** frequently heard but shy.

Wilson's Bird of Paradise frequent and often heard even at low altitude. Only seen at terrestrial display grounds where one or more males and up to 6 females can be present between 7.30-10.00 am. Not shy but usually sing from dense cover. Responded to tape, particularly females.

Red Bird of Paradise common, heard everywhere 3 males and 5 females seen, displaying males skulk in the canopy of tall forest trees but show themselves toward evening.

Lesser Frigatebird from boat.

Striaten heron Yenneses.

Australian Ibis⁵ ** once

Long-tailed Buzzard *

White-bellied Sea-Eagle

Dusky Scrubfowl⁶ *

Common Tern from boat.

Black-naped Tern from boat.

Wompoo Fruit-Dove

Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon *

Western Black-capped Lory

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

Eclectus Parrot

Common Paradise-Kingfisher *

Azure Kingfisher *

Hook-billed Kingfisher *

Dollarbird *

Papuan Frogmouth H.

Hooded Pitta * trail bhind lodge.

Barn Swallow

Brown Booby * from boat.

Eastern Reef-Egret Yenneses.

Osprey *

Brahminy Kite

White-headed Shelduck

Red-necked Phalarope

Little Tern from boat

Crested Tern; from boat.

Pinon Imperial Pigeon

Rainbow Lorikeet

Palm Cockatoo

Yellow-capped Pygmy-Parrot *

Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo *

Beach Kingfisher * Yenneses

Dwarf Kingfisher *

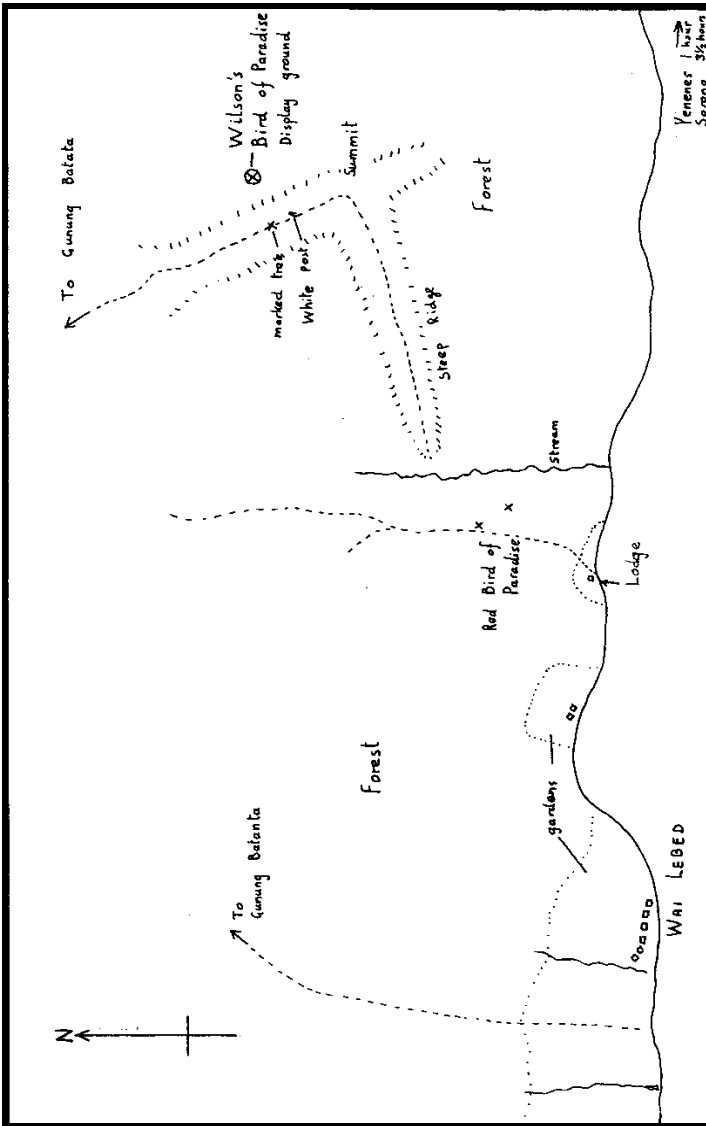
Chestnut-breasted Kookaburra

Blyth's Hornbill

Red-bellied Pitta

Pacific Swallow

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike



Map of Wai Lebed, Batanta.

Black Thicket-fantail * skulker	Northern Fantail
Frilled Monarch	Spot-winged Monarch *
Rusty Pitohui	Little Shrike-thrush
Mimic Meliphaga	Puff-backed Meliphaga
New Guinea Friarbird ²	Singing Starling Yennenes.
Yellow-faced Myna	Brown Oriole
Spangled Drongo ⁴	Hooded Butcherbird
White-eared Catbird *	Glossy-mantled Manucode

Additional records include; Crested Hawk, Varied Honeyeater, White-breasted Woodswallow, Pale-billed Scrubwren, Green-backed Honeyeater, Golden Monarch (T. Andrews); Dwarf Fruit-Dove, Moluccan King-Parrot, Great Cormorant, Orange-fronted Fruit-Dove, Spice Imperial Pigeon, Grey Crow (P. Hurrell). A Dutch group recorded Kofiu Monarch here!

SALAWATI.

Just a short hop across the channel from Batanta this is an excellent place for Western Crown Pigeon. They can be seen at several areas, if you leave Wai Lebed before dawn you can see these birds on the way back to Sorong or on a mornings trip from Batanta.

Kalisi and Wai Bon.

Wai Bon is the better site, a bit difficult to access, wading ashore then up a stream through secondary growth. Forest now much reduced.

Specialities.

Western Crowned Pigeon * Wai Bon, fairly readily flushed up into a tree where they perch in full view for several minutes before flying further into the forest.

Eastern Reef-Heron Kalisi.	Northern Fantail Kalisi.
Stephan's Ground-Dove * Kalisi	Golden Monarch *
Kalisi.	
Wompoo Fruit-Dove Kalisi.	Olive-crowned Flowerpecker ³
	Kalisi.
Eclectus Parrot Wai Bon.	Black Sunbird Kalisi.
Palm Cockatoo Kalisi.	Long-Billed Honeyeater
Kalisi.	
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo Wai Bon.	King Bird of Paradise * Kalisi

Additional species recorded by T. Andrews, probably at Wai Bon; Bare-eyed Rail, Pale-billed Scrubwren, Grey Whistler⁷, Black Berrypecker, Yellow-bellied Longbill.

Kaliam.

This is the village directly opposite Wai Lebed which is a good base for anyone wanting to spend a little longer on Salawati. Excellent forest can be accessed by taking a sampan along the beach a few hundred metres to the west or you can walk the old quarry road behind the village.

Specialities.

Northern Cassowary ** one adult

Cinnamon Ground-Dove * once

Western Crowned-Pigeon not uncommon, seen at two localities.

King Bird of Paradise eight displaying males found in one week.

Red-billed Brush-Turkey H **

Wompoo Fruit-Dove

Zoe Imperial Pigeon

Pinon Imperial Pigeon

Moluccan King Parrot

Eclectus Parrot

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

Palm Cockatoo

Rufous-bellied Kookaburra

Papuan Hornbill

Marbled Frogmouth * H

Hooded Pitta H

Yellow-bellied Gerygone.

Frilled Monarch

Spot-winged Monarch

Northern Fantail

Grey Whistler

Black Berrypecker

Dwarf Honeyeater

Tawny-breasted Honeyeater

Puff-backed Meliphaga

Long-billed Honeyeater

Grey Crow

From sorong there are daily flights to Ambon, Jakarta, Biak and Jayapura and flights to Manokwari on Saturday.

MANOKWARI.

Perched in the top right hand corner of the Vogelkop, Manokwari provides access to the Arfak Mountains. It is possible to fly into Mokwam or Minyabou, 20 minutes flight from Manokwari, with MAF. If you wish to do this you must book well in advance and even then the weather may prevent your flight. Our guides/porters were arranged through Duncan Neville, the WWF representative. He has now left but Hermon at WWF may be able to help. Alternatively Yoris Wonggai who can be contacted via the Hotel Mutiara will be able to help. Porters cost 10000-15000rp. per day. A surat jalan is obtainable from the police to travel inland and another from Departemen Kehutanan to enter the conservation area, no charge made. All food supplies etc. can be bought in town. To get an early start on the trail you can stay in Warmare.

While in Manokwari a few hours birding in the morning on Gunung Meja just behind the town may provide a few ticks

Gunung Meja.

Lesser Frigatebird	Black Butcherbird
Osprey *	Northern Fantail
Stephan's Ground-Dove *	Friilled Monarch
Dusky Lorikeet *	Black Berrypecker
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Tawny-breasted Honeyeater
Yellow-capped Pygmy-Parrot *	New Guinea Friarbird ²
Moluccan King-Parrot *	Brown Oriole
Hook-billed Kingfisher ** H.	Singing Starling
Rufous Babbler	Spangled Drongo ⁴
Rusty Mouse-Warbler H.	Lesser Bird of Paradise * H.

Warmare.

One evening spent birding in secondary growth and gardens.

Stephan's Ground-Dove *	Hooded Pitta H.
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Blue-breasted Pitta *
Blyth's Hornbill	

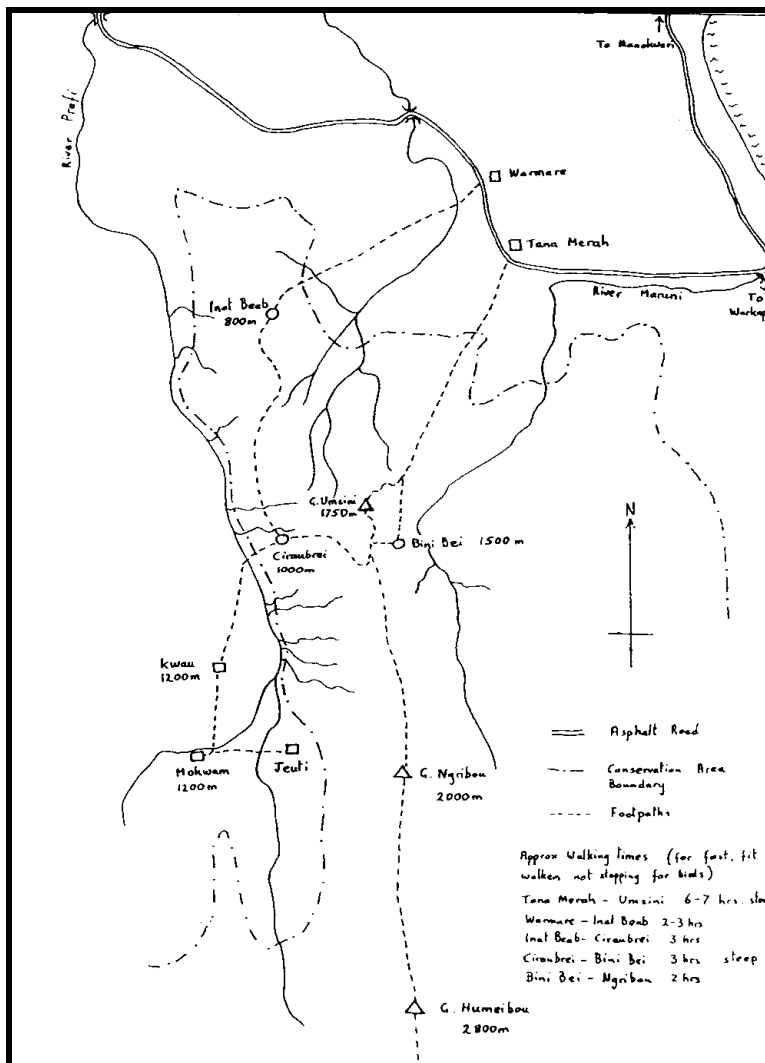
ARFAK MOUNTAINS-MOKWAM.

The Arfak Mountains rise steeply up from the sea deeply dissected by roaring torrents in spectacular sheer-walled valleys. Crossing these mountains to Mokwam gave us a taste of real trekking. These mountains should not be attempted by those who are unfit or dislike walking. Some of the trails are unbelievably steep, narrow, slippery and treacherous. Trails start in Tanah Merah, Warmare and Praphi. The easiest trail starts at Warmare via Ciroubri. Many different routes can be taken which cover most altitudes and enable a good range of birds to be seen. Three examples of routes are given below.

1. All walking. Warmare to Ciraubri to Mokwam, bird around Mokwam spending a night on Gn. Indon, Mokwam to Bini Bei to Tanah Merah.
2. All walking. Warmare to Ciraubri to Bini Bei to Gn. Nggribou to Bini Bei to Tanah Merah.
3. Fly Manokwari Minayambou. Walk Minayambou to Gn. Indon via Sioubri to Mokwam. Bird around Mokwam. Mokwam to Ciroubri to Gn. Umcen to Tanah Merah. This last is probably the best for a short stay especially for anybody not superbly fit.

A road is being built to Minayambou and in 1995 had been bulldozed 14km. into the forest to over 1300m. The road starts in Prafi but is only drivable for the first 6km., beyond the road a trail continues to Minayambou and a branch trail down to Mokwam.

In Mokwam you can stay in the WWF hut, limited food supplies available in kios and no shortage of vegetables and sweet potatoes. It costs 5000rp a night but you should also pay someone to cook for you etc. If you want to



Map of Mokwam area, Arfak Mountains.

camp in the forest bring a big tarpauline to sleep under, camping on Gunung Indon is particularly productive. While birding around Mokwam you must employ Zeth Wonggor, a local hunter turned guide whose knowledge of local birds is unsurpassed. He does not speak English but is learning the bird names fast. To try and save money by not employing him would be a false economy.

Specialities.

New Guinea Harpy Eagle ** a pair resident on Gn. Indon.

Red-billed Brush-Turkey ** Tempat Conservasi, one came in to playback.

Wattled Brush-Turkey ** many mounds near Mokwam are in use at least August-December.

White-striped Forest-Rail ** one or two mais at Soiti 1600m near Mokwam.

Rufous Woodcock * regularly roding 2100m. near Gn. Indon summit trail.

New Guinea Bronzewing ** single seen 2100m. Indon-Siouabri trail.

Pygmy Lorikeet * seen once above Mokwam.

Feline Owlet-nightjar * a resident pair at Soiti, also seen Mokwam.

Wallace's Owlet-nightjar ** a roost intermittently occupied at Chiroubri.

Barred Owlet-nightjar ** irregular roost at Queng Goi.

MountainOwlet-nightjar * regular roost on Gn. Indon, others seen at Soiti.

Mountain Nightjar * breeds in open heathy country near summit of Gn. Indon and certainly elsewhere. First discovered here 1995.

Logrunner ** Soiti.

Chestnut-backed Jewel-Babbler common Queng Goi to Tempat Conservasi.

Vogelkop Scrubwren common

Perplexing Scrubwren * probably not uncommon at appropriate altitude but excellent views of well marked birds needed to confirm identification.

Black-chinned Robin * Warmare-Inat Beab

Northern Scrub-robin * Tempat Conservasi.

White-rumped Robin * Inat Beab, Ciroubri.

Smokey Robin only on high ridges where common.

Green-backed Robin * Ciraubri-Bini Bei, Soiti.

Mottled Whistler * Soiti and higher.

Vogelkop Whistler * Below Gn. Umcen and near Soiti, a relatively small lightly built dull plumaged whistler.

Crested Pitohui * resident at Tempat conservasi wher often heard and may be attracted with playback.

Rufous-sided Honeyeater very common.

Vogelkop Melidectes Bini Bei, Piadip.

Western Smoky Honeyeater common.

Vogelkop Bowerbird shy but common and frequently seen and heard.

Several very impressive bowers near Mokwam, particularly Soiti.

Flame Bowerbird * Particularly frequent between Queng Goi and Tempat Conservasi where bowers may be found close to the path (with extreme difficulty). More easily seen in feeding flocks and at fruiting trees near latter site.

Long-tailed Paradigalla * This little known bird, only rediscovered by P. Hurrell in 1989, is probably not uncommon but a special effort is needed to dee them. Bini Bei clearing and environs seem to be

particularly good. Also near Mokwam. Gives a powerful monotone whistle and has the noisy swishing wing beats typical of many birds of paradise.

- Magnificent Riflebird * frequently heard on lower slopes Tanah Merah to above Tempat Conservasi but not easily seen.
- Buff-tailed Sicklebill ** Locally frequent but very elusive, upper slopes of Gn. Umcen, Gn. Indon and especially Sioubri hold the species. At the latter site the display perch has been located by Zeth. The male's whimbrel-like song is far carrying, males sometimes react strongly to playback.
- Black Sicklebill * Frequent at higher altitudes but adult male difficult to see. There are at least three known display perches within a few hours walk of Mokwam, Gn. indon being the best. To see them displaying you must use a hide and be in place before dawn (5am.). Both males and females can be baited with pandanus fruits.
- Arfak Astrapia * females and immature males fairly frequent along ridge to Gn. Ngribou above 1800m. and on Gn. Indon. Males in full plumage appear to be exceedingly rare but have occasionally been seen on Gn. Indon and below Sioubri.
- Western Parotia females readily seen but males scarce and shy. Several display grounds near Mokwam and Minyanbou at which they can be seen displaying if a hide is used. Even without a hide males will often descend to their display ground if you remain very still.
- Magnificent Bird of Paradise * frequent at mid-altitude below Mokwam but males difficult to see away from display courts.
- Superb Bird of Paradise; not uncommon, males more often seen than females.
- Lesser Bird of Paradise; Display trees near Inat Baeb and Tempat Conservasi.

Long-tailed Buzzard	Gurney's Eagle * near Inat Baeb
Grey Goshawk	Black-mantled Goshawk *
King Quail	White-throated Pigeon *
Stephan's Ground-Dove H.	Bronze-winged Ground-Dove *
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove
White-breasted Fruit-Dove	Ornate Fruit-Dove
Pink-spotted Fruit-Dove *	Claret-breasted Fruit-Dove
Superb Fruit-Dove *	Zoe Imperial Pigeon
Rufescent Imperial Pigeon	Papuan Mountain Pigeon
Pheasant Pigeon * Tempat Consevasi.	Papuan Lorikeet
Little Red Lorikeet	Plum-faced Lorikeet
Dusky Lory	Yellow-billed Lorikeet
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Palm Cockatoo H
Red-breasted Pygmy Parrot	Brehm's Tiger-Parrot
Modest Tiger-Parrot *	Moluccan King-Parrot *
Blue-collared Parrot	Vulturine Parrot * Bini Bei
Common Koel	White-eared Bronze-Cuckoo
Rufous-throated Bronze Cuckoo	Comm. Paradise-Kingfisher H.
Hook-billed Kingfisher ** H.	Rufous-bellied Kookaburra
Blyth's Hornbill	Sooty Owl *

Papuan Boobook *
Marbled Frogmouth ** Queng Goi.
Mountain Swiftlet
Blue-breasted Pitta Tempat Konservasi.
Stout-billed Cuckoo-shrike *

Black-breasted Cuckoo-Shrike
Lesser Melampitta * Gn. Indon
Tawny Grassbird
Orange-crowned Fairy-wren
Rusty Mouse-Warbler
Grey-green Scrubwren *
Large Scrubwren higher altitudes
Yellow-bellied Gerygone
Brown-breasted Gerygone
Rufous-backed Fantail *
Dimorphic Fantail
Friendly Fantail
Fringed Monarch
Torrent Flycatcher * along River Prafi.
Canary Flycatcher
Garnet Robin
Black-throated Robin
Blue-grey Robin
Sclater's Whistler
Grey Whistler⁷ *
Rufous-naped Whistler
Variable Pitohui
Papuan Treecreeper
Varied Sitella
Fan-tailed Berrypecker
Tit Berrypecker *
Black-fronted White-eye
Long-billed Honeyeater
Red Myzomela

Red-collared Myzomela
Black-throated Honeyeater
Marbled Honeyeater
Ornate Melidectes
Streak-headed Mannikin
Torrent-lark *
Mountain-lark
Trumpet Manucode Inat Beab-Ciraubri

Papuan Frogmouth Mokwam.
Large-tailed Nightjar Mokwam.
Glossy Swiftlet
Grey Wagtail
Black-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike
Spotted Jewel-babbler *
Grey's Grasshopper Warbler
Island Leaf-Warbler⁸
White-shouldered Fairy-Wren
Mountain Mouse-Warbler H.
Pale-billed Scrubwren *
Grey Gerygone
Fairy Gerygone
Sooty Thicket-Fantail
Chestnut-bellied Fantail
Black Fantail
Black Monarch
Black-breasted Boatbill
Yellow-legged Flycatcher *
White-faced Robin *
Ashy Robin
Lesser Ground-Robin *
Dwarf Whistler
Regent Whistler
Rusty Whistler *
Little Shrike-thrush
Hooder Pitohui
Black Pitohui
Mid-mountain Berrypecker
Olive-capped Flowerpecker³
Western Mountain White-eye
Olive Straightbill
Dwarf Honeyeater
Mountain Red-headed
Myzomela
Mountain Meliphaga
Tawny-breasted Honeyeater
Cinnamon-browed Melidectes
Blue-faced Parrot-Finch
Mountain Drongo
Great Woodswallow
Spotted Catbird
Grey Crow

WARKAPI.

(this site may now be destroyed?)

This is a patch of lowland forest behind Warkapi village 45 km, about two hours by public taxi, south of Manokwari. The road is sealed most of the way but some bridges are yet to be completed. I have not visited the locality for some years but I understand it is now largely destroyed for coffee plantations. Similar areas of forest still exist close by, Yoris Wanggai knows these areas.

Ask permission to enter the area from the Kepala Desa, he will probably be able to find accommodation for you and find a guide. We spent two days and a morning along the forest trail and the coast road.

Specialities.

Red-billed Brush-Turkey ** H

Large Fig-Parrot common in pairs or flocks of up to 30 or more but not easy to get good views of, 'scopes will make it much more readily ticked.

Wallace's Fairy-wren * a pair of these superb little Fairy-Wrens in lower story of forest.

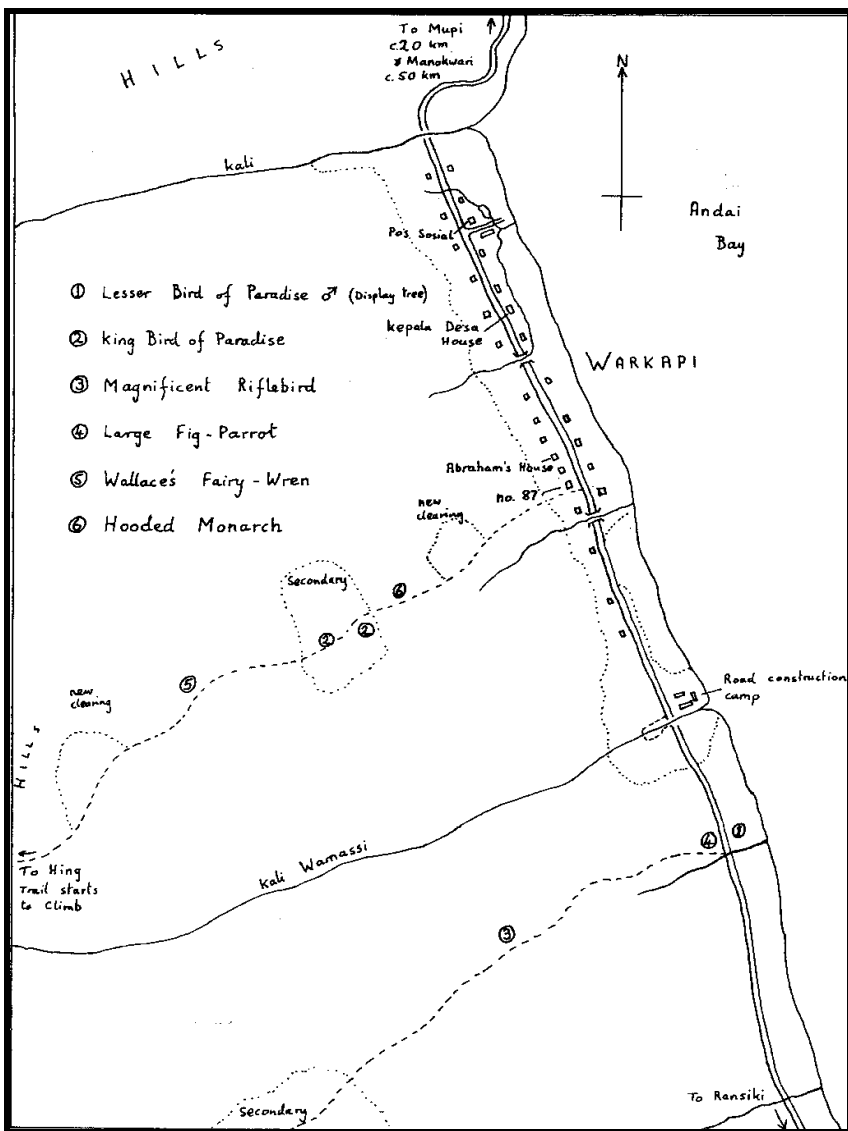
Hooded Monarch * 1+ of this scarce bird found along forest trail.

Magnificent Riflebird * common and vocal but not easily seen. Good views of one male and one female.

King Bird of Paradise; an excellent site for this species, with lush displaying males may be found.

Lesser Bird of Paradise; females frequent; one displaying male seen in evening close to road south of Warkapi

Frigatebird sp.	Long-tailed Buzzard
Brahminy Kite	Grey Goshawk
Bush-hen ¹ *	Brown Cuckoo-Dove
Stephan's Ground-Dove	Wompoo Fruit-Dove *
Zoe Imperial Pigeon	Pinon Imperial Pigeon
Rainbow Lorikeet	Western Black-capped Lory
Palm Cockatoo H	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Yellow-capped Pygmy-Parrot *	Red-cheeked Parrot
Eclectus Parrot	Moluccan King-Parrot
Oriental Cuckoo	Brush Cuckoo
Lesser Black Coucal *	Moustached Tree-Swift
Glossy Swiftlet	Uniform Swiftlet
Common Paradise-Kingfisher	Hook-billed Kingfisher ** H
Yellow-billed Kingfisher *	Chestnut-breasted Kookaburra
Dollarbird	Blyth's Hornbill
Blue-breasted Pitta H.	Hooded Pitta H.
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	Boyer's Cuckoo-shrike
Black Cuckoo-shrike *	Rufous Babbler
Gray's Grasshopper Warbler *	Fairy Gerygone
Northern Fantail	Spot-winged Monarch *



Map of Warkapi

Frilled Monarch
Yellow-breasted Boatbill *
Grey Whistler⁷
Varied Pitohui
Papuan Flowerpecker³
Tawny-breasted Honeyeater
Yellow-faced Myna
Spangled Drongo⁴
Black Butcherbird
Torrisian Crow

Shining Flycatcher
Black-sided Robin; often heard
Little Shrike-thrush
Black Berrypecker *
Yellow-bellied Longbill *
New Guinea Friarbird²
Brown Oriole
Hooded Butcherbird
Grey Crow

Oransburi.

If you have time and can find a guide who knows the way you might consider trekking up into the mountains behind Warkapi or from one of the other coastal villages. These trails often go all the way to the upland villages so it is possible to join up with the Mokwam trail thus back to Manokwari or vice versa. I trekked for a short way up the coastal slope from and saw the following.

Thick-billed Ground-Pigeon *
Western Crowned Pigeon
Chestnut-backed Jewel-babbler *
Crested Pitohui ** H
Sooty Thicket-Fantail

White-bellied Thicket-Fantail
Olive Flycatcher
Scrub White-eared Meliphaga
Red-throated Myzomela
Pygmy Honeyeater

HUNKU, ANGGI LAKES.

In 1995 acting on information from Will Betes I trekked into the Arfaks from Ransiki to Anggi in search of the elusive and almost legendary Shovel-billed Kingfisher. I took a public taxi to Ransiki then chartered it on the village of Myubi at the beginning of the trail. The Kepala Desa here gave us a place to sleep and I found some porters. There are two routes to Anggi, the best is Jalan Trikora which follows the new road then the old Japanese road to Danau Gita. Cross by outrigger then over the ridge to Danau Gigi and around the lake to Anggi. This is a two day walk up and one and half days down. You can fly into Anggi two days a week but flights are highly weather dependent and often cancelled. Here the police will put you up at their post, they are very helpful so have some presents for them. There are some small shops in Anggi and a market three times a week but come prepared with all your supplies other than vegetables.

The birding site is at the hamlet of Hunku about an hours walk from Anggi across the bog. Here ask Joseph Seiber for permission to stay, the best idea is to camp just inside the forest above his house. You can pay him to look after you and show you around. Thomas was my guide when I saw the Kingfisher.

Specialities.

Lewins Rail ** H. common in marsh but extraordinary elusive refusing to come into the open even in response to playback.

Shovel-billed Kingfisher * two seen. They call early morning and late evening and can be stimulated to call mid-day in response to tape. Two to three pairs probably live in the vicinity of Hunku. They keep to the swampy pandanus forest and gullies leading into the forest but are absent from the higher forest away from the flat ground.

Grey-banded Mannikin very common in marshy grasslands around Danau Gigi but unknown at Danau Gita.

Little Grebe
Egret sp.
Pacific Black Duck
Wattled Brush-Turkey **
Pacific Golden Plover
Snipe sp.
Black-mantled Goshawk 1300m.
Brown Cuckoo-Dove
Wompoo Pigeon
Papuan Mountain Pigeon
Papuan Lorikeet
Little Red Lorikeet
Moluccan King Parrot
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Brush Cuckoo
Yellow-billed Kingfisher H.
Papuan Hornbill
Papuan Boobook * H.
Large-tailed Nightjar H. 1850m.
Mountain Swiftlet
Barn Swallow
Yellow Wagtail
Chestnut-backed Jewel-Babbler *
Hooded Pitta H.
Black-browed Triller
Grey's Grasshopper-Warbler
Tawny Grassbird
Mountain Mouse-Warbler
Large Scrubwren
Dimorphic Fantail
Friendly Fantail
Mountain Peltops
Blue-grey Robin H.
Ashy Robin
Garnet Robin
Canary Flycatcher
Sclater's Whistler

Little Pied Cormorant
Yellow Bittern lake fringe.
Red-billed Brush-Turkey ** H.
Spotless Crake abundant, marsh.
Common Sandpiper
Long-tailed Buzzard
Pheasant Pigeon * H.
Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove
White-breasted Fruit-Dove
Zoe Imperial Pigeon
Yellow-billed Lorikeet
Dusky Lory
Blue-collared Parrot H.
Brehem's Tiger-Parrot
Fan-tailed Cuckoo H.
Hook-billed Kingfisher * H.
Sooty Owl * H
Feline Owlet-nightjar ** H.
Uniform Swiftlet
Glossy Swiftlet
Grey Wagtail
Spotted Jewel-babbler * 1850m.
Lesser Melampitta H.
Black-bellied Cuckoo-shrike H.
White-shouldered Fairy-Wren
Clamorous Reed-Warbler
Rusty Mouse-Warbler H.
Brown-breasted Gerygone
Vogelkop Scrubwren
Black Fantail
Black Monarch
Smoky Robin
Black-throated Robin
Lesser Ground-Robin
Torrent Flycatcher nr. Myubi.
Mottled Whistler H.
Regent Whistler

Rufous-naped Whistler
Variable Pitohui
Fan-tailed Berrypecker
Black-fronted White-eye
Red-collared Myzomela
Mountain Meliphaga
Cinnamon-browed Melidectes
Streak-headed mannikin
Vogelkop Bowerbird
Black Sicklebill 1800-1900m.
Western Parotia H. 1700-1900m.
Superb Bird of Paradise H.

Great Wood Swallow
Black Pitohui
Western Mountain White-eye
Papuan Treecreeper
Rufous-sided Honeyeater
Western Smoky Honeyeater
Long-billed Honeyeater
Flame Bowerbird 580-1200m.
Lesser Bird of Paradise 580m.
Buf-tailed Sicklebill 1900m.
Magnificent Bird of Paradise H.
Torrent Lark 1300m.

There are daily flights from Manokwari to Biak, Jayapura and once a week to Sorong.

WAMENA.

Plane leave Jayapura for Wamena at least daily. Many hotels to choose from the Losmen Lestari was 27,000rp. for a twin in 1991. I walked to Habbema with several porters led by Girian (Freddy) Koya, prices nowadays will start at 10000rp. a day. You will have to report to police here. all supplies can be bought in the market eg. food, jerry can, kerosine, candles, cigarettes (unlike Mokwam locals, all the porters here smoke), cooking pot, utensils etc. Total cost for 9 days about 250,000 rp.

IBELE VALLEY & LAKE HABBEMA.

There is now a road to Habbema so you are probably best off hiring a 4x4 vehicle and birding the road. Unfortunately this has opened up this remote area to incommers with guns so some species are now much rarer. I walked for 9 days, the trek starts in the heavily cultivated Grand Baliem Valley at c1000m. Easy walking along the good if rather muddy trail up the beautiful Ibele valley to the montane and moss forest. Here the trail narrows and gets a bit difficult but is not too steep. Beyond the forest the alpine grasslands provide a spectacular panoramic view against the backdrop of the rugged snow-capped peaks of the Jayawijaya (Snow) Mountains. Beyond the pass at 3200m the walking is flat and boggy. Our route along the south side of the Ibele valley was much more difficult than our return journey along the north side. If you do this trek I recommend that you go both ways along the northern route.

My hopes to trek to the flanks of Peak Trikora for Snow Mountain Robin were soon dropped when I saw how far away it was. At least 1½ days would be needed to reach the appropriate altitude and a full day to return. Should only be attempted in dry period (or by helicopter).

Specialities.

Salvadori's Teal resident on Lake Habbema but has become rarer since the arrival of the road.

Snow Mountain Quail ** resident at low density on the alpine grassland but few records since arrival of road and may no longer occur here.

Meyer's Goshawk ** one above Yaubougema.

Painted Tiger Parrot * fairly frequent below pass at limit of trees.

Mountain Nightjar ** near pass but very elusive.

Alpine Pipit common in alpine grassland.

Island Thrush abundant in alpine grassland.

Lesser Melampitta ** H. common but very skulking in upper moss forest.

Blue-capped Ifrit scarce in moss forest.

Mountain Robin * near treeline.

White-eyed Robin in secondary growth below Ibele

White-winged Robin frequent and vocal in upper moss forest.

Lorentz's Whistler frequent at and above timberline particularly on hills south of Lake Habbema. A bright yellow, neat Robin-like whistler with a distinctive song, a pleasant full, fluty, rising and falling whistle.

Black Sitella seen on two occasions below Yaubagema.

Crested Berrypecker common at highest altitudes.

Orange-cheeked Honeyeater common in alpine zone.

Yellowish-streaked Honeyeater ** a pair of this scarce species seen with feeding flock in upper Ibele Valley.

Sooty Melidectes * perhaps just one bird seen several times at the pass. Very confiding allowing excellent views.

Short-bearded Melidectes frequent in alpine shrubbery.

Papuan Parrot-Finch ** above Dyela

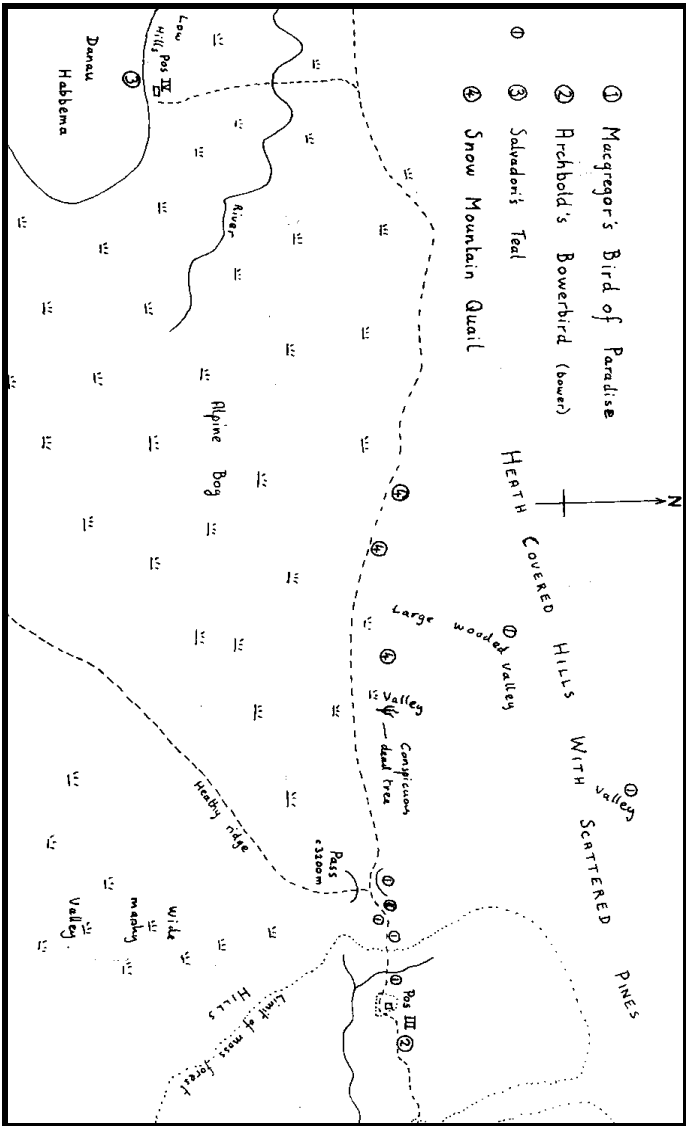
Black-breasted Mannikin common, often in large flocks in cultivation of Baliem and Ibele Valleys.

Western Alpine Mannikin pairs and small flocks frequently encountered in alpine grassland.

Archbold's Bowerbird * one adult male of this very retiring species seen next to its bower just below Pos III. Heard most days when birding the area but not seen again.

Macgregor's Bird of Paradise perhaps New Guinea's strangest and most wonderful Bird of Paradise. Its intense velvety black plumage contrasts strikingly with the brilliant orange/yellow primaries and face wattles. And all set in some of the most splendid mountain scenery this side of the Himalayas. Once regularly seen in early morning at the pass feeding in pines and on the ground, retiring into the hills later in the day. However, since the road arrived its numbers have been severely depleted but small numbers were still present in 1994 in quieter areas away from the road.

Brown Sicklebill * Scarce but can be found from Yaubagema to near treeline.



Map of Danau Habbema area.

Splendid *Astrapia* females and immature males encountered from upper Ibele valley to timber-line. Adult males frequent around Yaubagama and Yaloye, readily located morning and evening by their song, a dry 'plik...plik-plik'. Superb Bird of Paradise; frequent in patches of forest in upper Ibele Valley.

King of Saxony Bird of Paradise frequent below Yaubagama and displaying males may be found along the new road The strange spluttering song often heard morning and evening.

Loria's Bird of Paradise * near treeline in fruiting trees.

Spotted Marsh harrier * one over bog.

Australian Kestrel a resident pair.

Pacific Black Duck * 2 below Ibele.

Buff-banded Rail *

Eurasian coot on Lake.

Brown Cuckoo-Dove

Great Cuckoo-Dove *

Superb Fruit-Dove *

Plum-faced Lorikeet

Orange-billed Lorikeet near timberline.

Modest Tiger-Parrot *

Fan-tailed Cuckoo

Glossy Swiftlet

Grey Wagtail

Pied Bushchat

Tawny Grassbird

Island Leaf-Warbler⁸ *

Mountain Mouse-Warbler

Buff-faced Scrubwren.

Brown-breasted Gerygone

Black Fantail

Black-breasted Boatbill *

Black-throated Robin

Common Golden Whistler

Rufous-naped Whistler

Mid-Mountain Berrypecker

Papuan Flowerpecker³

Olive Straightbill

Red-collared Myzomela

Grey-streaked Honeyeater

Ornate Melidectes cleared areas.

Torrent-lark

Brown Falcon

Black-mantled Goshawk *

King Quail upper Ibele valley.

Spotless Crake * Habbema

Swinhoes Snipe

Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove *

White-breasted Fruit-Dove

Papuan Lorikeet

Yellow-billed Lorikeet

Brehm'S Tiger-Parrot *

Rufous-throated Bronze Cuckoo

Mountain Swiftlet

Pacific Swallow

Stout-billed Cuckoo-shrike *

Clamorous Reed-Warbler * H.

Golden-headed Cisticola

White-shouldered Fairy-Wren

Large Scrubwren

Papuan Scrubwren

Dimorphic Fantail

Friendly Fantail

Canary Flycatcher

Garnet Robin *

Regent Whistler

Papuan Treecreeper *

Fan-tailed Berrypecker

Western Mountain White-eye

Slaty-chinned Longbill * Ibele.

Black-throated Honeyeater Ibele

Belford's Melidectes

Common Smoky Honeyeater

Great Woodswallow * scarce.

Additional records include; Rufescent Imperial Pigeon, Pygmy Lorikeet, Sooty Owl⁹ H, Grass Owl¹⁰, Papuan Boobook, Black-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, Black-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike¹¹, Papuan Whipbird, Perplexing Scrubwren, Blue-grey Robin, Rusty Whistler, Wattled Ploughbill, Varied Sitella, Tit Berrypecker, Marbled Honeyeater, Rufous-sided Honeyeater, Blue-faced Parrot-Finch, Mountain Firetail, Mountain Peltops (P. Hurrell); Rufous

Woodcock (D. Yong); Greater Ground Robin, New Guinea Thornbill, Crested Bird-of-Paradise, Short-tailed Paradigalla, Madaraz's Tiger-Parrot, Streaked Berrypecker (N. Bostock & A. Lewis).

NIMBOKRANG I.

In an effort to find a site for Pale-billed Sicklebill we obtained a surat jalan from the police in Jayapura for Genyem where the map indicated flat lowlands and, we were assured, forest remained. Genyem is about 3 hours from Jayapura beyond an army check-point manned by some rather unhelpful characters. In Genyem the local police were very helpful and suggested we stay at the Police Post at Nimbokrang I, a transmigration camp, and seek out a local bird-trapper, Jamil. As soon as we started talking to Jamil we knew we had come to the right place. He has a genuine interest in birds and was obviously familiar with many of the species we sought even knowing the English names of some. This impression was confirmed when we went into the field with him, he knew most medium to large sized birds by call and his ability to navigate by compass through featureless flat forest with no trails was uncanny.

It is well worth hiring Jamil as a guide although he is rather expensive. He can show you all the sites along the Korean road, the main access to the good forest. The forest was often ankle deep in mud and water and heavy rain-showers frequent. However in July/August it should be dry underfoot.

If you wish to stay closer to the birding area you can camp near the Korean road. However you will need permission from the Kepala Desa of Berap and bring all your own food. Jamil will be able to help here.

Specialities.

Northern cassowary ** H Jamil knows a site where Cassowaries are so common you only need to sit down for a while and one will walk by. This site is a two hour walk from a road but a river has to be swum.

Spotted Tree-Duck * several around old sawmill site.

Brown-collared Brush-turkey ** common and regularly heard especially well away from habitation but exceedingly wary and elusive. Mounds active but waiting by one was unproductive although one flushed from mound in afternoon. Seen well by extremely careful stalking of a strongly calling pair.

Red-necked Rail ** good views of one adult and a downy chick in swamp forest 2 hours east of Korean road.

Victoria Crowned Pigeon * Frequent but increasingly hunted and trepped close to access roads. Flush with explosive wing clapping to perch in tall tree. By following up their very deep low 'hoom' contact call and occasional pulsating 'bup-bup-bup' song good views can be obtained. Much shyer than Western Crowned Pigeon.

Brown Lory frequently seen flying over morning and evening and in fruiting trees.

Salvadori's Fig-Parrot this little known species proved quite common and easily seen at nesting and fruiting trees.

Blue Jewel-babbler * seen twice, skulker.

Yellow-gaped Meliphaga * probably not uncommon but difficult to get adequate views.

Jobi Manucode * only one seen well enough to certainly identify, smaller and more compact with shorter bill than last sp.

Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise female plumage birds frequent. Adult males scarce and very shy but Jamil knows display perches and can call them in.

Pale-billed Sicklebill Almost an Irian endemic, this is the main speciality of the site. Can be very difficult to find but at times they are quite vocal, while feeding utters a contact call, a short high 'yow', song a far carrying yaffle. Sometimes easily seen when they perch on prominent open snags, Jamil probably knows displaying areas.

Brown-headed Crow this apparently rare Irian endemic, not previously known further east than the Mamberambo River, 270 km to the west as the crow flies, proved quite common here. Noisy and readily identified by blue eye, heavy bill, call and distinctive behaviour when calling, tail depressed, wings flapped upward with each call.

Papuan Nightjar * several over the Kali Grime, Jalan Korea.

Vulturine Parrot Km 45, Jalan Korea. Readily seen when commuting to and from roost.

Black Bittern * one

Long-tailed Buzzard.

Brahminy Kite

Brown Falcon *

Pacific Golden Plover¹²

Great Cuckoo-Dove *

Superb Fruit-Dove *

Coronrted Fruit-Dove *

Pinon Imperial Pigeon

Papuan Mountain Pigeon

Western Black-capped Lory

Palm Cockatoo

Buff-faced Pygmy-Parrot *

Red-cheeked Parrot

Oriental Cuckoo

Lesser Black Coucal

Papuan Frogmouth H

Uniform Swiftlet

Common Paradise-Kingfisher *

Rufous-bellied Kookaburra

Dwarf Kingfisher *

Barn Swallow

Great Egret

Whistling Kite* one

Grey Goshawk white phase.

Oriental Pratincole

Wood Sandpiper

Wompoo Fruit-Dove

Orange-bellied Fruit-Dove

Beautiful Fruit-Dove *

Zoe Imperial Pigeon

Rainbow Lorikeet

Red-flanked Lorikeet

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

Double-eyed Fig-Parrot *

Eclectus Parrot

Brush Cuckoo

Rufous Owl ? H.

Moustached Tree-Swift

Papuan Spine-tailed Swift

Hook-billed Kingfisher ** H

Yellow-billed Kingfisher * H

Blyth's Hornbill

Pacific Swallow

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike
Boyer's Cuckoo-shrike
Golden Cuckoo-shrike
Rufous Babbler
Emperor Fairy-Wren
Yellow-bellied Gerygone
Sooty Thicket Fantail
Northern Fantail
Frimled Monarch¹³
Spectacled Monarch * one adult
Shining Flycatcher
Little Shrike-thrush
Rusty Pitohui *
Streak-headed Honeyeater *
New Guinea Friarbird²
Golden Myna
Metallic Starling
Spangled Drongo⁴
Lowland Peltops
King Bird of Paradise H.
Lesser Bird of Paradise

Black Cuckoo-Shrike *
Grey-headed Cuckoo-shrike *
Black-browed Triller
Golden-headed Cisticola
Rusty Mouse-Warbler H
Fairy Gerygone
White-bellied Thicket-Fantail
Willie Wagtail
Spot-winged Monarch *
Golden Monarch *
Black-sided Robin
Variable Pitohui
Black Sunbird
Meyer's Friarbird *
Streak-headed Mannikin
Yellow-faced Myna
Brown Oriole
Black Butcherbird
Glossy-mantled Manucode
Magnificent Bird-of-Paradise *
Grey Crow

In addition Blue-black Kingfisher seen by several recent visitors.

LAKE SENTANI.

Open country a few km west of Sentani.

Great Egret.
Grey Teal¹⁴
Comb-crested Jacana
Channel-billed Cuckoo
Blue-tailed Bee-eater
Tree Martin
Metallic Starling
Fawn-breasted Bowerbird

Pacific Black Duck
Dusky Moorhen
Orange-fronted Fruit-Dove
Lesser Black Coucal
Rainbow Bee-eater
Singing Starling
White-breasted Woodswallow

The Cyclops Mountains might provide some good birding but they are incredibly steep. Several trails go up into the forest near the east end of Lake Sentani but the lower slopes are heavily hunted so unlikely to be productive. Seeing the good birds will necessitate camping at higher altitude. I did not survey this area.

GEELVINK BAY ISLANDS.

These are oceanic islands, Biak and its twin Supiori with 8 endemics (3 of them also found on Numfor) and Numfor harbouring one more. Additionally two endemic taxa (Biak Scops-Owl & Biak Gerygone) are considered full species by some authorities. Flights to Biak daily.

Kota Biak and bay west of town.

Specialities.

Beach Kingfisher common on the cliffs & reefs west of the town, readily accessible by outrigger.

Black-headed Gull; 8 at Pelabuan.

Uniform Swiftlet

Pacific Swallow

KORIDO - SOUTH SUPIORI.

Following information gleaned from Collar & Andrew, I decided to go to Supiori for the best chance of finding the endemics. The PPA people suggested Korido as the most accessible village close to forest. Hired a perahu with Johnson 40 outboard for 5 days 150,000 rp. Biak to Korido was a very wet uncomfortable 5 hour trip. Korido looked a promising place with forested hills backing the village and still much flat primary forest near the coast. I was well looked after at the Police station. Spent three days searching the forest.

Specialities.

Dusky Scrubfowl⁶ * a pair seen in secondary scrub near river. All blackish/grey, darker above with pointed black crest, reddish about face and with fleshy red legs.

Victoria Crowned Pigeon * excellent views of one flushed up from forest floor.

Spice Imperial Pigeon common and vocal.

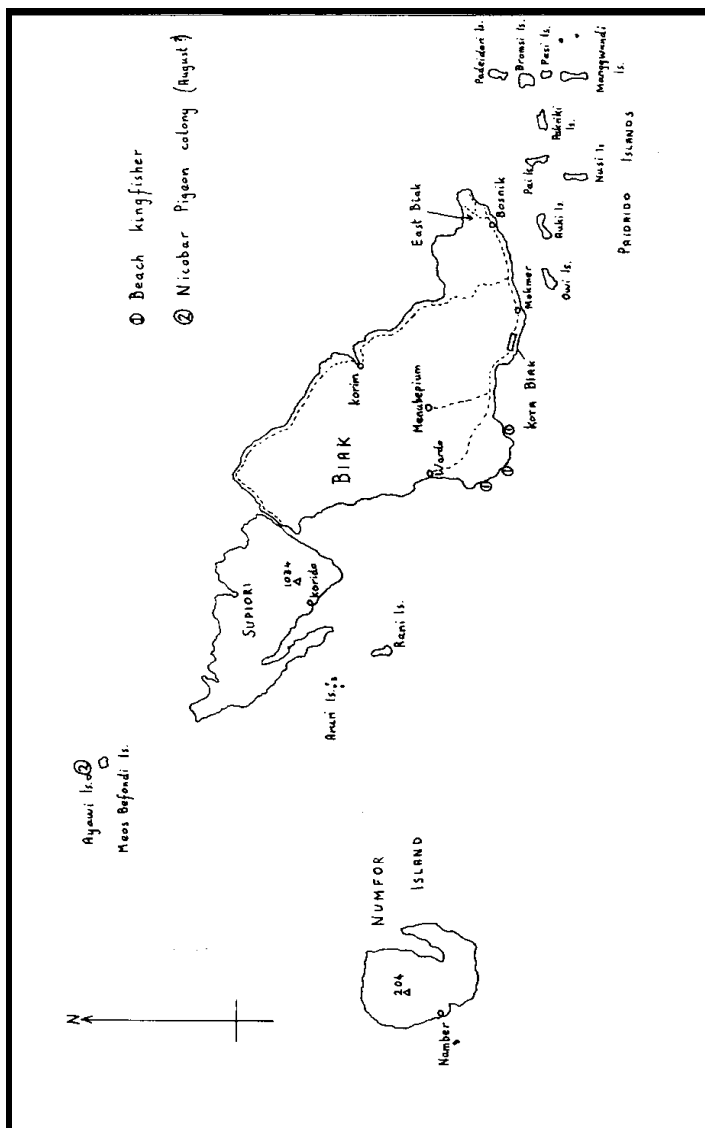
Biak Red Lory common in flat forest and over village.

Red-fronted Lorikeet large flocks in flowering trees.

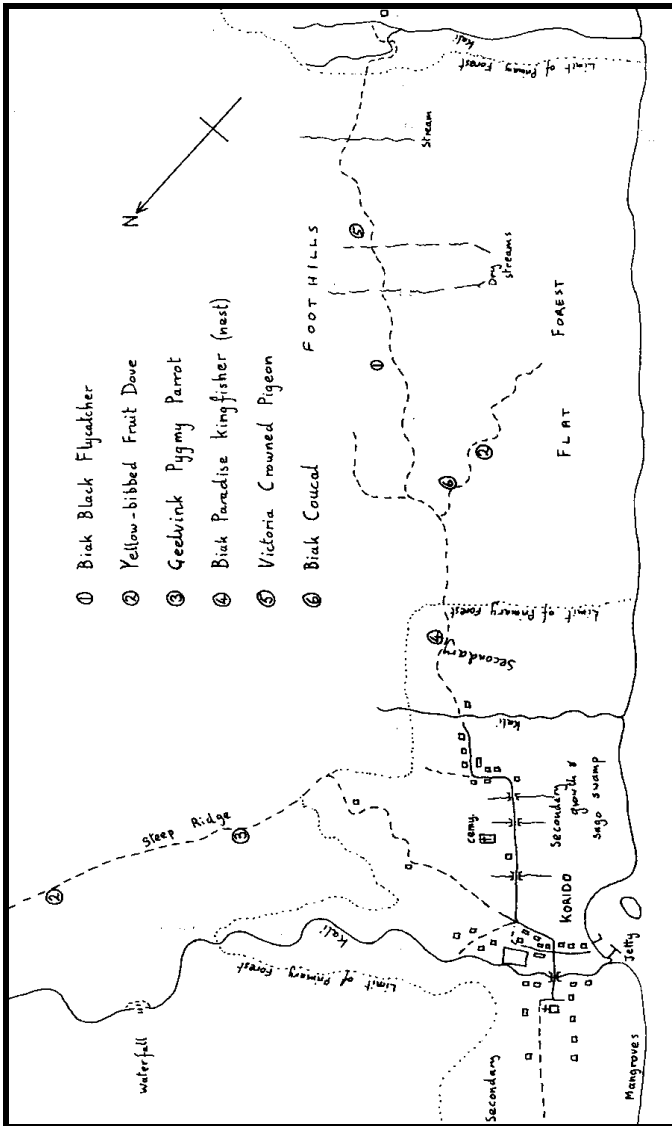
Geelvink Pygmy-Parrot * a pair seen along the ridge behind Korido.

Biak Coucal * one flushed up from floor of primary forest. Probably not uncommon but elusive and not very vocal.

Biak Paradise-Kingfisher¹⁷ contrary to the statements in Collar & Andrew I found this bird common, vocal and easily seen in primary and secondary forest. A nest found in arboreal termitaria about 4m up in secondary growth. Calls of two types 1. like mainland Common P-K but slower, softer without the urgency of delivery. 2. a louder continuous 'teu-teu-teu.....' volume, pitch and spacing of notes constant.



Map of Biak Archipelago



Map of South Supiori

Golden Monarch * a very distinct race. Male brighter with more extensively yellow wings, female very different, all bright yellow (almost as bright as male) with brown primaries and brown marked coverts, almost lacking white eye-spot.

Biak Black Flycatcher a pair seen in sub-canopy of primary forest.

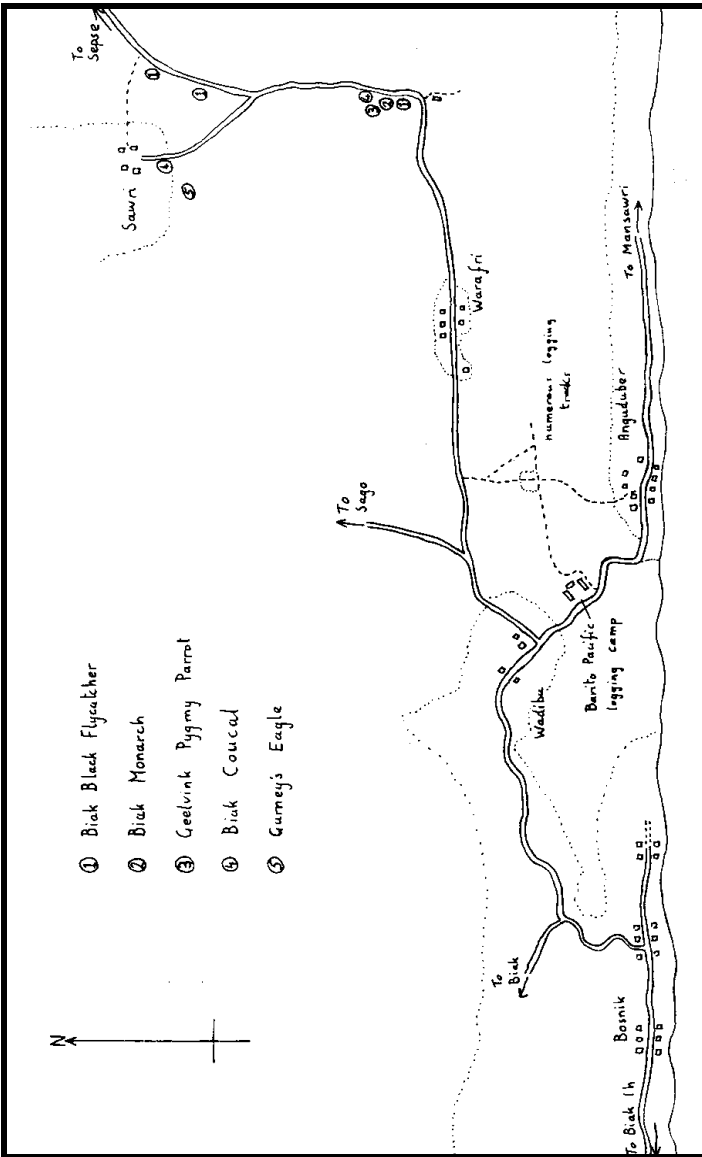
Brahminy Kite	Bush-hen ¹ *
Whimbrel	Common Sandpiper
Crested Tern; from boat.	Brown Cuckoo-Dove
Great Cuckoo-Dove	Emerald Ground-Dove * H.
Yellow-bibbed Fruit-Dove *	Claret-breasted Fruit-Dove
Pied Imperial Pigeon ¹⁶	Rainbow Lorikeet
Western Black-capped Lory	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Red-cheeked Parrot	Eclectus Parrot
Brush Cuckoo	Papuan Frogmouth * abundant
Large-tailed Nightjar * H.	Uniform Swiftlet
Glossy Swiftlet	Azure Kingfisher
Hooded Pitta	Pacific Swallow
Cicadabird	Black-browed Triller
Island Leaf-Warbler ⁸	Emperor Fairy-Wren
Northern Fantail a very distinct race.	Willie Wagtail
Shining Flycatcher	Papuan Flowerpecker ³
Black Sunbird	Yellow-bellied Sunbird
Dusky Myzomela	Long-tailed Starling common
Metallic Starling	Spangled Drongo ⁴
Hooded Butcherbird	Torresian Crow

Apparently August to December there is a large colony of Nicobar Pigeons breeding on Ayawi Island 5-6 hours by boat from Korido. Scrubfowl are common on adjacent Meos Befondi which may also hold Island Monarch and Island Whistler.

WARAFRI - EAST BIAK.

Because Korido produced only 6 of the 8 endemics and is not easily reached I decided to try and find some forest within easy range of Biak town. After finding an immature Nicobar Pigeon in the market I let it be known that I would pay well if somebody could show me the species. So I hired Yisup from the village of Warafri, about an hour on good roads east of Biak. His claims of lots of Nicobar Pigeons proved apocryphal but at least it got me into reasonable habitat. The entire area has been more or less logged, secondary growth alternating with good forest.

Birding proved much easier than at Korido and in a single morning along a 50m stretch of road I found 7 of the 8 endemics, the one missing, much to my surprise, was Biak White-eye. Apparently deforestation has continued apace so this area may not be as productive as it once was.



Map of East Biak

Specialities.

Gurneys Eagle * a pair of these large eagles gliding across the forest.

Yellow-bibbed Fruit-Dove common.

Spice Imperial Pigeon common.

Biak Red Lory; common, usually flying over.

Red-fronted Lorikeet

Geelvink Pygmy-Parrot * three seen in feeding flock.

Biak Coucal * skulking but more readily seen here in the more open habitat than at Korido.

Biak Paradise-Kingfisher¹⁷ common, vocal and easily seen.

Fairy Gerygone * Beehler seems to suggest that the only Gerygone on the Island is the rare Large-billed (Biak) Gerygone. The birds I saw looked like female Fairy Gerygones, small, olive-grey above, washed yellow on belly, pale throat and supra-loral spot and lacking Large-billed's distinctive tail pattern.

Biak Monarch ** two individuals in feeding flock neither fitting description of adult male or female given in Bheeler! Head, throat and mantle dark brown, primaries, secondaries and central tail feathers blackish. Greater and medium coverts pale yellow forming large rectangular pannel, outer tail feathers pale yellow. Underparts rather dirty pale yellow becoming blotched with brown on upper breast where merges with brown throat. Horizontal posture; call short, rasping, not loud, typically monarch-like.

Biak Black Flycatcher five seen mostly in mixed species flocks.

Long-tailed Starling abundant.

Crested Hawk

Brahminy Kite

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *

Emerald Ground-Dove * H.

Great Cuckoo-Dove

Rainbow Lorikeet

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

Eclectus Parrot

Brush Cuckoo

Moustached Tree-Swift

Glossy Swiftlet

Cicadabird

Gray's Grasshopper Warbler H

Northern Fantail

Shining Flycatcher

Papuan Flowerpecker³

Yellow-bellied Sunbird

Spangled Drongo⁴

Torrisean Crow

Long-tailed Buzzard

Grey Goshawk

Common Sandpiper

Brown Cuckoo-Dove

Claret-breasted Fruit-Dove

Western Black-capped Lory

Red-cheeked Parrot

Oriental Cuckoo

Papuan Frogmouth H.

Uniform Swiftlet

Hooded Pitta H.

Black-browed Triller

Emperor Fairy-Wren

Golden Monarch; frequent.

Little Shrike-thrush *

Black Sunbird

Metallic Starling

Hooded Butcherbird

OWI ISLAND.

I visited this Island in the hope of seeing more Scrubfowl and perhaps Island Whistler and Island Monarch. I chartered an out-rigger and stayed just a couple of hours then dashed back before the wind got too strong.

The island looks well forested from Biak but this is an illusion. Behind the fringe of palms is just a narrow strip of rainforest. The centre of the island is low dry scrub, the result of a war-time airfield from which the vegetation has yet to recover.

Specialities.

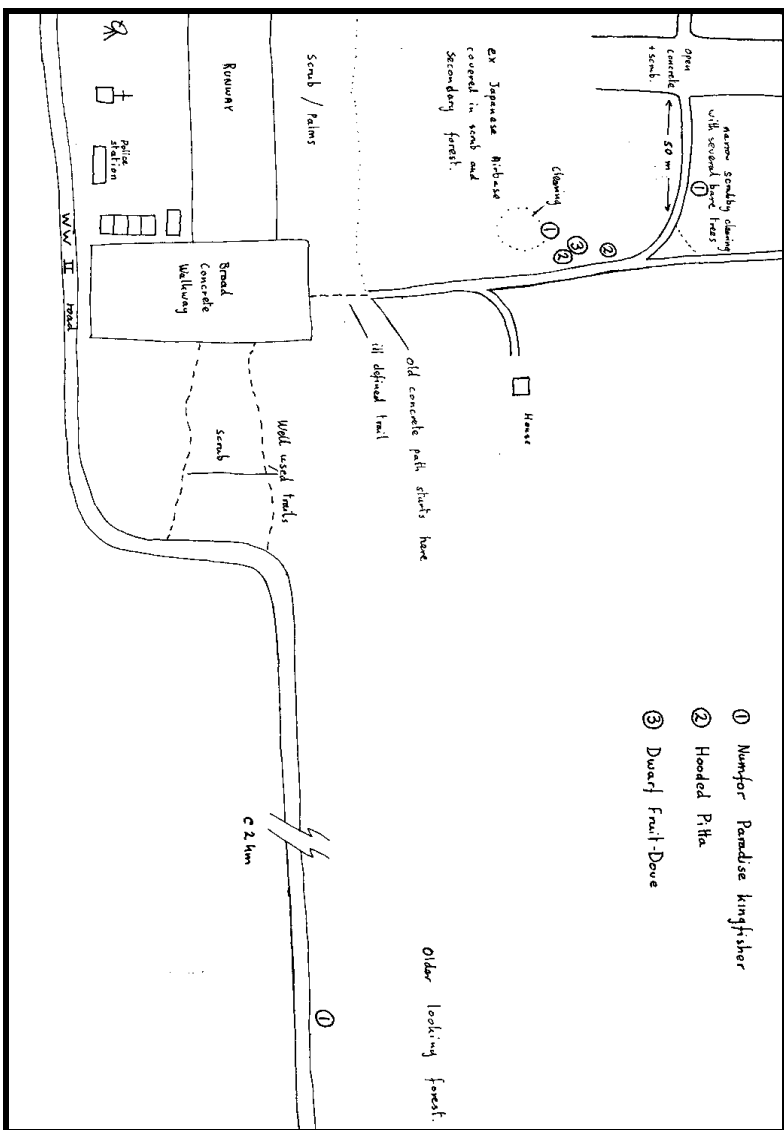
Common Scrubfowl⁶ common but shy. These were dark blackish birds with pointed crest, underparts washed greyish, bill tipped pale yellow, bare facial skin blueish, legs blackish/grey.

Yellow-bibbed Fruit-Dove
Eclectus Parrot
Uniform Swiftlet
Shining Flycatcher
Metallic Starling
Torrisean Crow

Red-cheeked Parrot
Brush Cuckoo
Gray's Grasshopper Warbler
Long-tailed Starling
Hooded Butcherbird

NUMFOR.

Numfor Paradise-Kingfisher is common and easily seen in most habitats close to the airport and main town. They are vocal and readily attracted by playback. Unfortunately there are only two flights a week, Tues. & Fri. 50,000 rp. and boat transport is very unreliable so I could not fit it in.



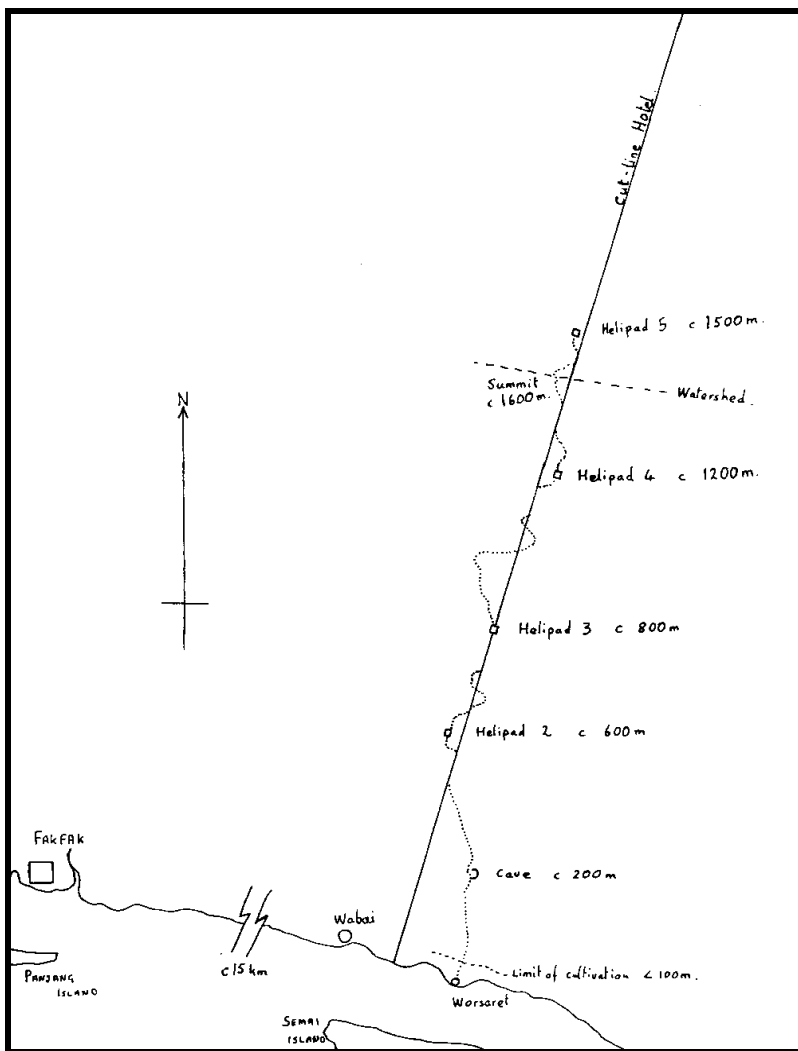
Map of Numfor

THE FAKFAK MOUNTAINS.

The Fakfak Mountains on the Onin Peninsula in south west Irian Jaya are one of the ornithologically least known areas in New Guinea. The highest altitudes have never been explored so many montane species remained undiscovered. The lack of exploration is largely due to the extremely inhospitable nature of these limestone mountains. There is almost no accessible water more than a couple of kilometres inland and the terrain is very steep and broken. Vertical cliffs, sheer-walled fissures and deep sink-holes are frequent features of the landscape. The population of the Fakfak is very low and almost entirely confined to the coast, the mountains are uninhabited and trackless. The local inhabitants don't even venture more than 4-5 km into the hills to hunt.

However in 1991 oil exploration teams cut numerous trails right across the peninsula from coast to coast building helipads at approximately every 2½ km. More important, 44 gallon oil drums have been left at the helipads and allowed to fill with rain-water facilitating travel in these mountains without mounting a large expedition. The cut-line heads straight across the mountains but wherever sheer cliffs or very broken country is encountered, detour trails have been cut. The helipads provide wonderful camp sites with a superb view of the surrounding forest.

From Kota Fakfak with my guide, Eddy (contactable through the Losmen Haranya) I took a dugout to Worsaret, a tiny village about 2 hours east of town. Close to Worsaret is the southern end of 'cut-line Hotel' which I intended to follow to the watershed. With two porters from Worsaret, I set off for my week-long trek. After just half an hours walking we left the cleared area around the village and soon after entered undisturbed forest at about 100m. The first night we camped at Helipad 2 at about 600m. The second day we walked for 10 hours to cover the 6 km to Helipad 4 at about 1200m where I stayed for two nights. On day 4 we walked for 7 hours to cover 3 very difficult and exhausting kilometres to Helipad 5 on the north side of the watershed at about 1500m. The summit, about two hours before Helipad 5, is at approximately 1600m. From here I returned to Worsaret spending another night each at Helipads 4 and 2.



Map of cut-line hotel, Fakfak Mountains.

My main motivation for visiting the Fakfaks was to search for the Greater Melampitta *Melampitta gigantea* which had been discovered here by Diamond in 1981. Unfortunately I failed completely to locate the species not even hearing anything fitting Diamond's description of the call. The Worsaret villagers were not familiar with the Melampitta. This species was considered locally common near Wanggasten by Diamond, just 20 km east of cut-line Hotel. Its absence here may be due to inadequate sink-holes and fissures at the right altitude, although these were more or less present along much of the trail and the area between Helipads 4 and 5 seemed ideal. Alternatively, if the bird is silent at this time of year, (September) it would be almost impossible to locate. It seems likely that this rare bird has very specialist requirements even within the limestone terrain to which it is certainly confined.

Specialities.

Southern Cassowary * much less shy here than Cassowaries usually are.

Red-breasted Paradise Kingfisher * a single bird seen close to the low limit of the forest.

Banded Yellow Robin *

Schlater's Whistler These birds belong to an unnamed race.

Mid-mountain Berrypecker The birds here are quite distinct from those of the Arfak and Central Ranges. Underparts are satiny-white rather than grey more or less washed with lemon-yellow on throat and breast and with lemon-yellow pectoral tufts.

(Rufous-sided) Honeyeater * A honeyeater of this genus was seen daily in small numbers, mostly above Helipad 4.

(Common Smoky) Honeyeater Another very distinct and, as yet, undescribed taxon.

(Vogelkop) Bowerbird Several bowers above Helipad 4. Currently this population is assigned to *A. inornatus*. However birds of the Kumawa and Fakfak Mountains construct a quite different type of bower and are almost certainly a distinct species.

Buff-tailed Sicklebill commoner and more readily seen here than I have found it elsewhere

(Long-tailed) Paradigalla * Two birds, presumably this species, seen close to the highest altitude reached between Helipads 4 and 5. No representative of this genus has previously been found in either the Fakfak or the adjacent Kumawa Mountains. Both birds seen differed from *P. carunculata* in the very much paler yellow/white facial wattle; more swollen, paler blue malar wattle; lack of red malar wattle (this is often not visible in Arfak *P. carunculata*) and shorter, square cut tail extending just 3-4 cm beyond the wing tip. This is about half the length of the graduated tail of typical *P. carunculata*. These birds are very likely an undescribed taxon and have only placed them provisionally with *P. carunculata* because of range. Frith & Frith (1997) suggested that they may belong with *P.c. intermedia* but later (Frith & Beehler 1998) synonymised this name under *P. brevicauda*.

Eastern Reef Egret
 Brahminy Kite
 Grey Goshawk
 Whimbrel
 Crested Tern
 Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove
 Stephans's Ground-Dove
 Wompoo Fruit-Dove
 Superb Fruit-Dove
 Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon *
 Zoe Imperial Pigeon
 Dusky Lory
 Little Red Lorikeet
 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
 Moluccan King Parrot *
 Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo
 Greater Black Coucal ** H
 Rufous Owl ** H
 Marbled Frogmouth ** H
 Glossy Swiftlet
 Rufous-bellied Kookaburra
 Rainbow Bee-eater
 Blue-breasted Pitta * H
 Stout-billed Cuckoo-shrike

Black-bellied Cuckoo-shrike
 Rusty Mouse-warbler
 Pale-billed Scrub-wren
 Grey-green Scrub-wren
 Yellow-bellied Gerygone
 Brown-breasted Gerygone
 Black Fantail
 Northern Fantail
 Black-winged Monarch *
 Golden Monarch *
 Black-breasted Boatbill
 Canary Flycatcher
 Black-sided Robin
 Regent Whistler *
 Rufous-naped Whistler *
 Variable Pitohui
 Rusty Pitohui
 Black Pitohui *
 Olive-crowned Flowerpecker³
 Olive Straightbill *
 Yellow-bellied Longbill
 Red Myzomela
 New Guinea Friarbird²
 Yellow-faced Myna *

Long-tailed Buzzard
 White-bellied Sea Eagle
 Grey-headed Goshawk *
 Common Sandpiper
 Brown Cuckoo-Dove
 Great Cuckoo-Dove
 Western Crowned Pigeon
 Ornate Fruit-Dove
 White-breasted Fruit-Dove
 Pinon Imperial Pigeon *
 Papuan Mountain Pigeon
 Western Black-capped Lory *
 Palm Cockatoo
 Eclectus Parrot
 Brush Cuckoo
 White-eared Bronze-Cuckoo
 Sooty Owl⁹
 Papuan Boobook * H
 Uniform Swiftlet
 Hook-billed Kingfisher * H
 Yellow-billed Kingfisher
 Blyth's Hornbill
 Pacific Swallow
 Black-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike¹¹
 Island Leaf-Warbler⁸
 Mountain Mouse-warbler
 Perplexing Scrub-wren *
 Grey Gerygone
 Fairy Gerygone
 Rufous-backed Fantail *
 Friendly Fantail
 Black Monarch
 Spot-winged Monarch
 Frilled Monarch
 Yellow-legged Flycatcher
 White-faced Robin
 Blue-grey Robin
 Grey Whistler⁷
 Little Shrike-thrush
 Hooded Pitohui
 Crested Pitohui ** H
 Black Berrypecker
 Western Mountain White-eye
 Long-billed Honeyeater *
 Dwarf Honeyeater
 Red-collared Myzomela
 Vogelkop Melidectes *
 Mountain Drongo

Great Wood-swallow
Hooded Butcherbird
Crinkle-collared Manucode *
Magnificent Riflebird
Magnificent Bird-of-Paradise
Grey Crow

Mountain Peltops
Spotted Catbird
Trumpet Manucode * H
King Bird-of-Paradise * H
Lesser Bird-of-Paradise * H

Good luck and please let me know how you got on in Irian Jaya. If you have any comments on the above report of require further information please contact me.

David Gibbs 6 Stephen Street, Redfield, Bristol BS5 9DY.
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D.Gibbs 1996



Dedicated to Kris Tindige, my great friend who did so much to help me
Papuan conservation.

Appendix 1.- Contacts.

Travel Agents:-

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Indonesia. Fax. 0967 22318

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Jalan Ahmad Yani 36
Biak-98111, Tel. (0961) 21398/21956
Irian Jaya, Telex. 76281 SENTOSA IA
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Others:-

WWF- Arfak Project,
P.O. Box 74, Tel. (62-962) 21237
Manokwari 98300, Telex. 76122 AIRFAST IA
Irian Jaya,
Indonesia.

MAF
c/o Kantor TEAM,
Manokwari 98311,
Irian Jaya,
Indonesia.

Jamil.
160/C Nimbokrang,
Genyem, Jayapura,
Irian Jaya, Indonesia.

Appendix 2. Notes on Taxonomy.

1. Bush-hen *Amaurornis olivaceus*: Sibley & Monroe 1990 place birds from Moluccas-Australia with *A. moluccanus* Rufous-tailed Bush-hen. *A. olivaceus*, Plain Bush-hen, is restricted to the Philippines.

2. Helmeted Friarbird *Philemon buceroides*: Papuan birds are split as *P. novaeguineae* New Guinea Friarbird, allo-specifically distinct from the *Philemon buceroides* of the Lesser Sundas and Australia.

3. Papuan Flowerpecker *Dicaeum pectorale*: the nominate *Dicaeum pectorale* Olive-crowned Flowerpecker is restricted to the Vogelkop and West Papuan Islands. Other populations, including those on Biak, are assigned to *D. geelvinkianum* Red-capped Flowerpecker (Sibley & Monroe 1990).

4. Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*: Papuan birds belong with *Dicrurus bracteatus*. *D. hottentottus* Hair-crested Drongo is restricted to Asia.

5. Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*: Sibley & Monroe 1990 split this wide ranging species into four allospecies. New Guinea birds belong with *T. molucca* Australian Ibis.

6. Common Scrubfowl *Megapodius freycinet*: the taxa united under this name by Meyr(1938) are now generally accepted as consisting of 8 allospecies (Sibley & Monroe 1990). Irian Jaya holds three; 1. *M. freycinet* Dusky Scrubfowl on West Papuan Is. and Geelvink Bay Islands. 2. *M. reinwardti* Orange-footed Scrubfowl of west and south New Guinea. 3. *M. affinis* New Guinea Scrubfowl of north New Guinea and off shore islands including the Geelvink Bay Islands. Some birds on the Geelvink Islands may be a separate species *M. geelvinkianum*. Apparently both *M. freycinet* and *M. affinis* occur in close proximity in the Geelvink Islands (White & Bruce) but whether they occur sympatrically or on adjacent islands I don't know. Birds seen on Supiori did not fit the description of either species and perhaps relate to *M. geelvinkianum*.

7. Grey Whistler *Pachycephala simplex*: New Guinea birds belong with *Pachycephala griseiceps* (Sibley & Monroe 1990).

8. Island Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus trivirgatus*: this super-species has been split into five allospecies. Papuan birds belong with *Phylloscopus poliocephala* (Sibley & Monroe 1990).

9. Sooty Owl *T. tenebricosa*: Sibley & Munroe (1990) place New Guinea birds with *T. multipunctata* Lesser Sooty Owl.

10. Grass Owl *T. capensis*: New Guinea birds are separated as Eastern Grass

Owl *Tyto longimembris* (Sibley & Monroe 1990).

11. Black-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina morio*: this superspecies has been split into four allospecies. New Guinea birds belong with *C. incerta* (Sibley & Monroe 1990).

12. Lesser Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*: separated as *P. fulva* Pacific Golden Plover (Sibley & Monroe 1990).

13. Fritted Monarch *Arses telescopthalmus*: birds in the lowlands of north New Guinea from Mamberano to Astrolabe Bay, including Yapen, are separated as *A. insularis* (Sibley & Monroe 1990).

14. Grey Teal *Anus gibberifrons*: New Guinea and Australian birds have been separated from their Asian allospecies under *Anas gracilis* (Sibley & Monroe 1990).

15. Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*: the form concerned belongs with *H. striolata* Striated Swallow (Sibley & Monroe 1990).

16. Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor*: birds from Geelvink Bay eastwards are separated as *D. spilorrhoea* Torresian Imperial Pigeon (Sibley & Monroe 1990).

17. Common Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera galatea*: the island endemic on the Biak, *T. riedelii* Biak Paradise-Kingfishers, is a distinct allospecies (Sibley & Monroe 1990).

Appendix 3. - Mammals.

Very few seen. Nomenclature of land mammals follows Flannery, T. 1990. Mammals of New Guinea. The Australian Museum. Nomenclature of sea mammals follows Corbet & Hill 1991: A World List of Mammalian Species. 3rd edn.

Noephascogale lorentzii Speckled Dasyure; one foraging arboreally near Pos III, Lake Habbema.

Phascosorex dorsalis Narrow-striped Dasyure; One along trail Tanah Merah to Bini Bei.

Antechinus naso Long-nosed Antechinus; fairly common in the forest above Mokwam.

Echymipera kalubu Common Echymipera; rabbit-sized uniform brown animal, ears short. One seen running across road at Warafri, East Biak and one on Batanta.

Phalanger orientalis Common Cuscus; often spotlighted: Batanta, Arfak, Biak. A Cuscus sp. seen in Fakfak Mountains may have been this species.

Phalanger vestitus Stein's Cuscus; a juvenile animal, probably this species being carried to market in Arfak Mountains.

Petaurus breviceps Sugar Glider; one on Batanta.

Pseudocheirus mayeri Pygmy Ringtail; one spot-lighted above Yaubogema, Ibele Valley.

Pteropus neohibernicus Greater Flying Fox; frequent in lowlands.

Sus scrofa Feral Pig; widespread, seen at Nimbokrang.

Tursiops truncatus Bottle-nosed Dolphin; Batanta.

Stenella longirostris Spinner Dolphin; from boat to Batanta and around Biak.