

The supervisor's review on the Ph.D. thesis of MSc. Kryštof Chmel entitled „The ecology of lowland rainforest bird community in Papua New Guinea “

Presented Ph.D. Thesis of Kryštof Chmel is a result of his long-term research stay at Papua New Guinea that would not be realized without a kind support of the co-supervisor prof. Vojtěch Novotný. The thesis has been initiated by enormous long-term author's interest to study birds, and especially, in a tropical region. During his work he exhibited deep knowledge of studied bird species as well as skills that were needed to successfully finish the field tasks. Especially, I appreciate his innovative approach during installation of mist nets at height nearly 30 m above the ground. He also successfully designed and tested methodology for monitoring birds' nests by cameras and overcame all technical and other obstacles that are typical for work in tropics. He also successfully integrated into local people community and showed great ability to lead small teams of co-workers that helped with detailed monitoring of 50 ha forest block. His never ending enthusiasm led to large datasets that were properly analyzed. His results considerably wide our knowledge on the functioning of little known bird communities in Papua New Guinea that are unique around the world due to extreme rate of endemic species. During the writing, submitting, resubmitting and revising manuscripts he also demonstrated a considerable dose of autonomy, demanding only a little help from supervisor. Additionally, he wrote several publications to local journals and co-authors one study in *Oikos*. Since his other activities related to ornithological research are broad, here I just remember his participation on field lectures at Faculty of Science, other ornithological research projects (e.g. Alaska, Cameroon) and active attendance at conferences. Therefore, I have no concern that Kryštof Chmel is now prepared to successfully defend his Ph.D. thesis and I wish him many interesting results (and less malaria) in future.

Mgr. Jan Riegert, Ph.D.

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