



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Papua New Guinea II

### *Trip Report*

*23<sup>rd</sup> July to 13<sup>th</sup> August 2010*



**Tour Leader:** Erik Forsyth

**Some of the top birds as voted by participants:**

1. Southern Crowned Pigeon
2. New Guinea Flightless Rail
3. Ribbon-tailed Astrapia
4. Painted Quail Thrush
5. Crested Satinbird
6. King-of-Saxony BOP
7. Flame Bowerbird
8. Lawes Parotia
9. Papuan Frogmouth
10. Brown Sicklebill
11. Shovel-billed Kookaburra

## Tour Summary

We started off our tour with a visit to the Pacific Adventist University. Here we enjoyed good sightings of Wandering Whistling Duck, confiding Nankeen Night Heron, superb Pied Heron and numerous dainty Comb-crested Jacanas. A casual stroll around the manicured gardens saw us finding Fawn-breasted Bowerbird, Rufous-banded Honeyeater, localized Black-backed Butcherbird, Australasian Figbird and eventually, after a bit of search, the cryptic Papuan Frogmouth at its day roost. In the afternoon we birded a coastal area with mixed woodland and mangroves near Port Moresby, adding the huge White-bellied Sea Eagle, Orange-fronted Fruit Dove, White-throated Gerygone, Bar-shouldered Dove, the shy Black Thicket Fantail and the large and striking Blue-winged Kookabura. This rounded off a superb start to a fabulous tour!



From here we journeyed into the fabulous mid-elevation forests of Varirata National Park. Our time spent in this species rich reserve was most enjoyable. Traversing the network of trails and forest edges we were delighted with sightings of Black-billed Brushturkey, Red-bellied Pitta, smart Pink-spotted, Beautiful and Dwarf Fruit Doves, the stunning but shy Chestnut-backed Jewel Babbler, a superb pair of Marbled Frogmouth, Barred Owlet-nightjar peering out of its roosting hole, fabulous Brown-headed and Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher, huge Blue-winged and Rufous-bellied Kookaburras, Forest and Yellow-billed Kingfishers, White-throated and Streak-headed Honeyeaters, Papuan Black Myzomela, Black Berrypecker and Hooded Pitohui. We had simply magnificent sightings of the splendid Raggiana Bird-of-paradise – several males performed their incredible displays showing off their red plumed feathers. At a nearby site we found good numbers of the rare Great-billed Mannikin. A most unexpected highlight of our time in Varirata was brief views of a superb Papuan (New Guinea) Eagle, a species that is very seldom encountered.

Moving into the highlands, our next stop was the famous Ambua area. The number of species of Birds-of-paradise in this area is something to behold: we were treated to an incredible ten species during our time here. Incredibly, eight species were seen in one fruiting tree in the lodge grounds! Highlights included Short-tailed Paradigalla, Superb and Blue Birds-of-paradise on numerous occasions, fantastic views of a Ribbon-tailed Astrapia male with full length tail, Princess Stephanie's Astrapia, Loria's Satinbird, male Lawes's Parotia with splendid headdress, two seldom seen Buff-tailed Sicklebill chasing each other around – all giving outstanding scope views! Just a short distance from here we saw a male King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise showing off his head-plumes for all to enjoy, and the scarce Black Sicklebill was scoped across the valley from a favourite perch. Brilliant!



Covering the forest trails, Tari Gap with its areas of open grassland and the lower slopes saw us amass an impressive number of species. Apart from the BOP's we were treated to good looks at Great



Woodswallow, Collared Sparrowhawk, Meyer's Goshawk, Ornate Melidectes, magnificent Sooty Owl, confiding Papuan Boobook, MacGregor's Bowerbird, stunning Tit Berrypecker, elusive Blue-faced Parrot Finch, Black-breasted Boatbill, nuthatch like Black and Varied Sittella and smart Garnet Robin.

Leaving Ambua we made our way to Mount Hagen. We enjoyed a good deal of time watching the constant procession of birds coming and going to the bird feeder. Brown Sicklebill was one of the regular visitors and we were treated to a stunning male which was heard giving it's machine-gun like call right in front of us. Another favourite was Archbold's Bowerbird, a species that is generally shy and retiring; a female feeding a youngster showed particularly well at the feeder. A pair of Crested Berrypeckers was regularly seen feeding on fruiting trees around the feeder. On another occasion we had a Chestnut Forest Rail scratching around the scraps below the feeder. All this whilst relaxing in the comfort of the lodge and enjoying tea or coffee and cookies!



Working the forest trails was particularly rewarding, and we had some very special sightings. These included stunning male Crested Satinbird (we also saw a fluffy chick in a nest on a mossy branch!) and Lesser Melampitta. Other highlights in the area included Brown Falcon, Goldie's and Papuan Lorikeets, smart Blue-capped Ifrita, Archbold's Nightjar, Yellow-breasted Bowerbird, Magnificent Bird-of-paradise – a stunning pair at eye level, the bizarre Wattled Ploughbill, Red-collared Myzomela and Mountain Firetail. Our visit to the Lesser Bird-of-paradise site was another highlight and included good views of a male in the scope.

Bidding farewell to the highlands, we then made our way to Tabubil, which was unusually dry during our stay this year. We enjoyed many memorable sightings in the area including scope looks at the rare Doria's Hawk, Long-tailed Honey-Buzzard soaring effortlessly nearby, good flight views of Pesquet's Parrot, a pair of Carola's Parotia, numerous flocks of Dusky Lory, great looks at the scarce Salvadori's Teal, Torrent Lark, Mountain Peltops, magnificent Golden Cuckooshrike, and elusive Obscure Berrpecker and the highly sought after Shovel-billed Kookaburra showing well for all!



Heading into the lowlands around Kiunga we explored the area's lush rainforest. Stealthily walking along a forest trail we came to a display area of Greater Bird-of-paradise and were treated to an absolutely marvellous show. Up to six males were seen dancing and displaying to attendant females for several minutes, and we watched them in total awe. Here we were very lucky to find the cryptically colored Painted Quail-Thrush on the nest, a bird that is more often heard than seen. Other notable species seen during our forays around Kiunga included the scarce Forest Bittern (flushed from a roadside pool!), Grey-headed Goshawk, Zoe

Imperial Pigeon, tiny Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot, Black-capped Lory, Dwarf Koel, dazzling Flame Bowerbird, Emperor Fairywren and Golden Monarch.



Next we took a boat trip up the Elevala River and its tributaries where we were treated to some very special sightings. These included the mythical New Guinea Flightless Rail – a pair watched for several minutes as they fed on insects attracted to fermenting Sago Palm fruit (of which fewer than 50 birders have seen before!), magnificent Southern Crowned Pigeon – voted as one of the birds of the trip, huge Palm Cockatoo, Channel-billed Cuckoo, the rare Long-billed Cuckoo, stunning close looks at Blue Jewel Babbler, scope views of the shy Hook-billed Kingfisher, both Common and Little Paradise Kingfisher, beautiful Blyth's Hornbill, Lowland Peltops, Hooded Monarch, King Bird-of-paradise dancing at his display area, Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise atop his display pole, Black-sided Robin and Golden Myna....



All in all, another fantastic tour to one of the most remarkable birding destinations in the World!

## Annotated Checklists of Birds

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC 2.5 List of: Gill, F. and M. Wright. 2010. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.

### Key to endemic/near endemic abbreviations

NG – endemic to New Guinea

PNG – endemic to Papua New Guinea

NE – near endemic to New Guinea

### Megapodes Megapodiidae

#### **Black-billed (Yellow-legged) Brushturkey (NG)** *Talegalla fuscirostris*

Heard regularly in lowland areas and nest mounds were also seen at Varirata and Kwatu Lodge. Some of us were fortunate to see one in Varirata National Park.

#### **Wattled Brushturkey (NG)**

We heard one calling at Ambua.

### Pheasant, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae

#### **Brown Quail**

*Coturnix ypsilophora*

We saw four flying across a road and landing in taller grass while we travelling back to Port Moresby. We stopped the bus and flushed a single bird for good flight views.

### Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

#### **Wandering Whistling Duck**

*Dendrocygna arcuata*

About ten birds were seen at the Pacific Adventist University.

#### **Salvadori's Teal**

*Salvadorina waigiensis*

A singleton was spotted by Michael on our first afternoon. Surprisingly, a high total of five were seen the next day, including birds below the dam wall, allowing good close looks.

#### **Pacific Black Duck**

*Anas superciliosa*

At least thirty were seen at the Pacific Adventist University.



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### Grebes Podicipedidae

**Australasian Grebe***Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

Six were seen at Pacific Adventist University.

### Ibises and Spoonbills

**Australian White Ibis***Threskiornis molucca*

Six birds were seen at a wetland near PAU.

### Hérons, Bitterns Ardeidae

**Forest Bittern***Zonerodius heliosylus*

A singleton was seen by three of our group as it flushed from a river alongside the Boystown Road!

**Nankeen (Rufous) Night Heron***Nycticorax caledonicus*

A singleton was seen at the Pacific Adventist University and two on the Elevala River.

**Striated Heron***Butorides striata*

Two birds were flushed along the Fly River.

**[Eastern] Cattle Egret***Bubulcus coromandus*

Good numbers seen in the Port Moresby region with a few scattered sightings thereafter.

**Great-billed Heron***Ardea sumatrana*

A singleton was seen briefly along the Fly River.

**[Eastern] Great Egret***Ardea modesta*

Seen in small numbers in the lowlands.

**Intermediate (Yellow-billed) Egret***Egretta intermedia*

Small numbers seen at PAU.

**Pied Heron***Egretta picata*

These beautiful herons were seen at PAU and some nearby wetlands.

**Little Egret***Egretta garzetta*

Seen around Port Moresby and on the Fly River.

### Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae

**Little Pied Cormorant***Microcarbo melanoleucos*

Seen at PAU and along the Fly River.

**Little Black Cormorant***Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Common in the Port Moresby area with numerous sightings at PAU.

### Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

**Pacific Baza (Crested Hawk)***Aviceda subcristata*

This attractive raptor was first seen at Varirata NP and almost daily in the Kiunga and Elevala River areas.

**Long-tailed Honey Buzzard (NE)***Henicopernis longicauda*

A few of these distinctive birds were seen in flight and perched in the Tabubil to Kiunga areas with especially nice perched views at the Dablin Creek road.

**Black-shouldered (Australian) Kite***Elanus axillaris*

A singleton was seen flying across the Mt Hagen airstrip.

**Black Kite***Milvus migrans*

Up to twenty birds were seen daily in the Mt. Hagen area and one or two per day in the Port Moresby region.



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|--|--------------------------------|
| <b>Whistling Kite</b>  | <i>Haliastur sphenurus</i>     |
| Two birds were seen in the Port Moresby area.  |                                |
| <b>Brahminy Kite</b>   | <i>Haliastur indus</i>         |
| Seen regularly throughout the tour with especially nice views during our river trip.   |                                |
| <b>White-bellied Sea-Eagle</b>   | <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>  |
| A pair of these huge fish-eating eagles was seen in flight near Port Moresby.  |                                |
| <b>Papuan (Eastern Marsh) Harrier (NG)</b>   | <i>Circus spilothorax</i>      |
| Two were seen quartering low over grasslands near Mt Hagen including a stunning male.  |                                |
| <b>Variable (Grey) Goshawk</b>   | <i>Accipiter hiogaster</i>     |
| Widespread and seen along the Elevala River and Kiunga area.   |                                |
| <b>Black-mantled Goshawk</b>   | <i>Accipiter melanochlamys</i> |
| This scarce raptor was seen briefly at Kumul Lodge, Mt Hagen.  |                                |
| <b>Grey-headed Goshawk</b>   | <i>Accipiter poliocephalus</i> |
| We had good views of one near Kiunga.  |                                |
| <b>Collared Sparrowhawk</b>  | <i>Accipiter cirrocephalus</i> |
| We had superb views of two birds, the first was seen en route from Mt Hagen to the Tari Valley and another in the Tari Valley. |                                |
| <b>Meyer's Goshawk (NG)</b>  | <i>Accipiter meyerianus</i>    |
| Another great bird, Cecilia saw one bird soaring overhead at the Ambua Lodge.  |                                |
| <b>Doria's Goshawk (NG)</b>  | <i>Megatriorchis doriae</i>    |
| An immature bird was seen twice on Dablin Creek including good scope looks.  |                                |
| <b>Papuan (New Guinea) Eagle</b>   | <i>Harpyopsis novaeguineae</i> |
| Part of the group were lucky to see this bird in the scope at Varirata NP.   |                                |
| <b>Little Eagle</b>  | <i>Hieraetus morphnoides</i>   |
| We enjoyed good sightings of singletons at Varirata, Tari Valley, Tabubil and Kiunga   |                                |

### Falcons Falconidae

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| <b>Brown Falcon</b>                                       | <i>Falco berigora</i> |
| We had good looks at a fly by near Kumul Lodge, Mt Hagen. |                       |

### Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| <b>Chestnut Forest Rail (Crake) (NG)</b>  | <i>Rallina forbesi</i>     |
| Tony found this gem for us below the feeding table, Kumul Lodge.  |                            |
| <b>Forbe's Forest Rail (Crake) (NG)</b>   | <i>Rallina forbesi</i>     |
| Heard only near Kumul Lodge.  |                            |
| <b>New Guinea (Papuan) Flightless Rail (NG)</b>   | <i>Megacrex inepta</i>     |
| We had fantastic views of a pair near the Kwatu River. We were particularly fortunate to encounter this very rarely seen species! |                            |
| <b>Purple Swamphen</b>  | <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i> |
| At least thirty birds were recorded in the vicinity of Port Moresby with excellent views at the Pacific Adventist University.     |                            |
| <b>Dusky Moorhen</b>  | <i>Gallinula tenebrosa</i> |
| Eight were seen at Pacific Adventist University.  |                            |

### Plovers & Lapwings Charadriidae

|                                       |                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Masked Lapwing</b>                 | <i>Vanellus miles</i> |
| We had superb views of twenty at PAU. |                       |



**Little Ringed Plover***Charadrius dubius*

We had great views of three near Tabubil.

**Jacanas Jacanidae****Comb-crested Jacana***Irediparra gallinacea*

Ten birds were found at the Pacific Adventist University.

**Sandpipers Scolopacidae****Common Sandpiper***Actitis hypoleucos*

A singleton was heard and seen on the Fly River.

**Pigeons, Doves Columbidae****Slender-billed (Brown) Cuckoo-Dove***Macropygia amboinensis*

This species was widespread and common in small numbers from the lowlands up to mid-level mountains.

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

Seen mostly in the highlands near Mt. Hagen.

**Great Cuckoo Dove***Reinwardtoena reinwardtii*

Good looks at a singleton at Kwatu Lodge.

**Stephan's Emerald Dove (NE)***Chalcophaps stephani*

A few scattered sightings near Kiunga and along the Elevala River with a great perched view whilst watching New Guinea Flightless Rail.

**Peaceful Dove***Geopelia placida*

Several of these widespread birds were seen at the PAU.

**Bar-shouldered Dove***Geopelia humeralis*

Two were seen at PAU.

**White-breasted Ground Dove***Gallicolumba jobiensis*

Heard at Ambua.

**Pheasant Pigeon (NG)***Otidiphaps nobilis*

Heard only in Varirata National Park.

**Southern Crowned Pigeon (NG)***Goura scheepmakeri*

Always one of the main target birds along the Elevala River. We had fantastic prolonged views of nine birds before dusk.

**Wompoo (Magnificent) Fruit Dove***Ptilinopus magnificus*

One of these beautiful birds was seen in Varirata NP.

**Pink-spotted Fruit Dove (NG)***Ptilinopus perlatus*

This commonest fruit-dove on this tour and seen regularly in the lowlands.

**Ornate Fruit Dove (NG)***Ptilinopus ornatus*

We had distant scope views of a bird on Dablin Creek road. A scarce species on our route.

**Orange-fronted Fruit Dove (NG)***Ptilinopus aurantiifrons*

Eight birds were seen in mangroves near Port Moresby.

**Superb Fruit Dove***Ptilinopus superbus*

Only heard at Tabubil.

**Beautiful Fruit Dove***Ptilinopus pulchellus*

We had amazing views of several of these stunning birds including a male at Dablin Creek and two more birds at Kiunga.

**White-bibbed Fruit Dove***Ptilinopus rivoli*

A female on a nest at Tari Gap and a male seen briefly at Ambua.

**Orange-bellied Fruit Dove (NG)** *Ptilinopus iozonus*

Good numbers were seen at Varirata NP and along the Elevala River.

**Dwarf Fruit Dove (NG)** *Ptilinopus nanus*

We enjoyed great scope views of several in Varirata NP and the Elevala River.

**Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon (NE)** *Ducula rufigaster*

A singleton was seen near Kwatu Lodge.

**Pinon's Imperial Pigeon (NG)** *Ducula pinon*

We observed several daily in the Kiunga and Elevala areas.

**Collared (Black-collared) Imperial Pigeon (NG)** *Ducula mullerii*

Fairly common along the Elevala and Fly rivers, with up to twenty estimated daily.

**Zoe's Imperial Pigeon (NG)** *Ducula zoeae*

Small numbers of this distinctive species with a black chest band were encountered at Varirata NP and along the Elevala River.

**Papuan Mountain Pigeon (NE)** *Gymnophaps albertisii*

Widespread and sometimes seen in large flocks, not only in the mountains but also in lowland areas.

We observed many along the Elevala River.

### Cockatoos Cacatuidae

**Palm Cockatoo (NE)** *Probosciger aterrimus*

This magnificent species was first encountered at Kiunga where Cecilia found a bird at KM 17 and almost daily in the lowlands along the Elevala River where we enjoyed amazing perched views.

**Sulphur-crested Cockatoo** *Cacatua galerita*

Observed in the lowlands of Port Moresby and along the Fly River where it was fairly common.

### Parrots Psittacidae

**Pesquet's (Vulturine) Parrot (NG)** *Psitttrichas fulgidus*

We were afforded flight views of several birds near Tabubil, a tricky species to find.

**Orange-fronted Hanging Parrot (NG)** *Loriculus aurantiifrons*

Heard at Tabubil.

**Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot (NG)** *Micropsitta keiensis*

Several of these tiny birds were seen in flight near Kiunga.

**Red-breasted Pygmy Parrot (NG)** *Micropsitta bruijnii*

Several of these tiny birds were seen in flight near Tabubil.

**Yellowish-streaked Lory (NG)** *Chalcopsitta sintillata*

Several birds were seen in the Kiunga area and along the Elevala River.

**Dusky Lory (NG)** *Pseudeos fuscata*

Small flocks were seen in the Tabubil and Kiunga areas.

**Coconut (Rainbow) Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus haematodus*

Common and widespread in the lowlands and hills.

**Goldie's Lorikeet (NG)** *Psitteuteles goldiei*

We found this species above Ambua at the Tari Gap.

**(Western) Black-capped Lory (NG)** *Lorius lory*

This gorgeous bird was common through the lowlands and hills in small numbers.

**Red-flanked Lorikeet (NE)** *Charmosyna placentis*

Good views especially at Varirata NP and in the Kiunga area.

**Papuan Lorikeet (NG)** *Charmosyna papou*



Small numbers were seen in the mountains including some nice perched views; this must rate as one of the world's most beautiful parrots!

**Plum-faced (Whiskered) Lorikeet (NG)** *Oreopsittacus arfaki*

We found small numbers of this stunning species near Ambua and Kumul Lodge.

**Yellow-billed Lorikeet (NG)** *Neopsittacus musschenbroekii*

Small numbers were seen in the Ambua Lodge area.

**Orange-billed Lorikeet (NG)** *Neopsittacus pullicauda*

Several birds seen near Ambua Lodge.

**Brehm's Tiger Parrot (NG)** *Psittacella brehmii*

A singleton at Ambua and up to six seen daily at Kumul Lodge, most often feeding obligingly on the fruit at the bird feeder. This is the largest and most-common tiger parrot but it is always charming to watch.

**Modest Tiger Parrot (NG)** *Psittacella modesta*

A bird was seen briefly at Mt Hagen.

**Red-cheeked Parrot (NE)** *Geoffroyus geoffroyi*

Common throughout the tour in lowland areas with our first sighting at the Varirata and in the Kiunga – Elevala River areas.

**Eclectus Parrot (NE)** *Eclectus roratus*

The male and females are dimorphically different. First seen at Mt Hagen, Tabubil and Kiunga.

**Papuan King Parrot (NG)** *Alisterus chloropterus*

We heard one calling near Mt Hagen.

**Orange-breasted Fig Parrot (NG)** *Clycopsitta guliemitertii*

Fairly common in the lowlands and foothills, especially in the Tabubil area where we scoped numerous birds.

**Double-eyed Fig Parrot** *Cyclopsitta diophthalma*

We had several sighting in the lowlands near Kiunga.

**Large (Flame-headed) Fig Parrot (NG)** *Psittaculirostris desmarestii*

Good sightings were had along the Elevala River.

### Cuckoos Cuculidae

**Ivory-billed (Greater Black) Coucal (NG)** *Centropus menbeki*

Excellent views at Km 17, Kiunga.

**Black-billed (Lesser Black) Coucal (NG)** *Centropus bernsteini*

We had great views of two in the Tabubil area.

**Pheasant Coucal** *Centropus phasianinus*

Only recorded on the Boystown Road, Kiunga.

**Dwarf Koel (NG)** *Microdynamis parva*

We had good scope views of a male near Kiunga.

**Pacific (Australian) Koel** *Eudynamis orientalis*

We enjoyed good views along the Elevala River.

**Channel-billed Cuckoo** *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

Several of these massive birds were observed along the Elevala and Fly Rivers.

**Long-billed Cuckoo (NG)** *Chrysococcyx megarhynchus*

We managed fantastic scope views of one along the Boystown Road and at Kwatu Lodge.

**Rufous-throated Bronze Cuckoo (NG)** *Chrysococcyx ruficollis*

After hearing this species we finally managed nice perched views in the Mt Hagen area.

**White-eared Bronze Cuckoo (NG)** *Chrysococcyx meyerii*



We enjoyed exceptional views of this attractive cuckoo on several occasions in the Tabubil area.

**Little Bronze Cuckoo***Chrysococcyx minutillus*

One bird was seen very well at Kiunga. This species is often split into two species, the northern Malay Bronze-Cuckoo *C. peninsularis* and the nominate and southern Gould's Bronze-Cuckoo. The form we saw this year represented the former grouping.

**White-crowned Cuckoo (Koel) (NG)***Cacomantis leucolophus*

Heard only.

**Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo (NE)***Cacomantis castaneiventris*

Good Scope looks at Ok Menga .

**Fan-tailed Cuckoo***Cacomantis flabelliformis*

A flyby near Kumul Lodge.

**Brush Cuckoo***Cacomantis variolosus*

A common bird that was seen occasionally and frequently heard.

**Barn Owls Tytonidae****(Greater) Sooty Owl (NE)***Tyto tenebricosa*

We all had spectacular daylight views of this stunning species in the Tari Valley.

**Owls Strigidae****Papuan (Jungle) Boobook (NG)***Ninox theomacha*

A pair was seen in the spot light at the Ambua Lodge.

**Frogmouths Podargidae****Marbled Frogmouth***Podargus ocellatus*

Two were seen at a daytime roost in Varirata NP.

**Papuan Frogmouth***Podargus papuensis*

A pair was seen at the Pacific Adventist University and a singleton at Varirata NP. We scoped this astounding bird in intimate detail.

**Nightjars Caprimulgidae****Archbold's (Mountain/Cloud Forest) Nightjar (NG) *Eurostopodus archboldi***

Seen near Kumul Lodge.

**Owlet-nightjars Aegothelidae****Barred Owlet-nightjar (NG)***Aegotheles bennettii*

One scoped daily at its daytime roost hole in Varirata National Park.

**Treeswifts Hemiprocnidae****Moustached Treeswift (NE)***Hemiprocne mystacea*

We enjoyed superb views of one in Varirata NP, Tabubil and Kiunga.

**Swifts Apodidae****Glossy Swiftlet***Collocalia esculenta*

Seen almost daily especially in the hills and mountains.

**Mountain Swiftlet (NG)***Aerodramus hirundinaceus*

This endemic was also abundant through our time in the higher areas of the tour.



- Uniform Swiftlet** *Aerodramus vanikorensis*  
 Very common in the lowlands and hills, where seen virtually every day.
- Papuan Spine-tailed Swift (NG)** *Mearnsia novaeguineae*  
 Small numbers were found above the Kiunga area and Elevala River.

### Rollers Coraciidae

- Oriental Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis*  
 Excellent looks along the Boystown Road, Kiunga.

### Kingfishers Alcedinidae

- Hook-billed Kingfisher (NG)** *Melidora macrorrhina*  
 One of New Guinea's most elusive kingfishers, we were delighted when a bird finally showed itself along an Elevala River forest trail.
- Common (Galatea) Paradise Kingfisher (NE)** *Tanysiptera galatea*  
 One seen exceptionally well along the Elevala River – a stunning and memorable species.
- Little Paradise Kingfisher (NG)** *Tanysiptera hydrocharis*  
 We managed some excellent views of this attractive species in the Elevala River forest area.
- Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher** *Tanysiptera sylvia*  
 Good close looks of a bird that Robin found in Varirata NP.
- Brown-headed (Russet) Paradise Kingfisher (PNG)** *Tanysiptera danae*  
 We were thrilled to obtain unbelievable views of a pair at Varirata National Park.
- Shovel-billed Kookaburra (NG)** *Clytoceyx rex*  
 We enjoyed magnificent views of this mythical creature near Tabubil.
- Blue-winged Kookaburra** *Dacelo leachii*  
 Two of these massive kingfishers was seen in Varirata NP.
- Rufous-bellied Kookaburra (NG)** *Dacelo gaudichaud*  
 Seen and heard in the lowlands and hills on several different days including stunning views of a pair at Varirata NP.
- Forest Kingfisher** *Todiramphus macleayii*  
 We had superb views of a singleton near Varirata NP.
- Sacred Kingfisher** *Todiramphus sanctus*  
 This common wintering bird from Australia was widespread and frequently seen in the lowlands and hills.
- Yellow-billed Kingfisher (NE)** *Syma torotoro*  
 We enjoyed superb views of this species in Varirata National Park.
- Mountain Kingfisher (NG)** *Syma megarhyncha*  
 We heard this species on several occasions near Ambua Lodge.
- Azure Kingfisher** *Ceyx azureus*  
 Three were seen very well along the Elevala River.

### Bee-eaters Meropidae

- Rainbow Bee-eater** *Merops ornatus*  
 This Australasian migrant was fairly common throughout the tour, especially in the lowlands.

### Hornbills Bucerotidae

- Blyth's Hornbill** *Rhyticeros plicatus*



This species is always most common along the Elevala and Fly rivers, where we saw it daily in numbers up to twenty.

### Pittas Pittidae

#### **Hooded Pitta**

*Pitta sordida*

We heard this species regularly along the Elevala River.

#### **Red-bellied (Blue-breasted) Pitta**

*Pitta erythrogaster*

A pair were seen in Varirata NP and heard also at Kiunga.

### Bowerbirds Ptilonorhynchidae

#### **Archbold's Bowerbird (NG)**

*Archboldia papuensis*

A pair was seen briefly at a fruiting tree at Tari Gap. An immature showed well at the feeding table, Kumul Lodge.

#### **MacGregor's Bowerbird (NG)**

*Amblyornis macgregoriae*

We had brief but good flight views of one near Ambua Lodge.

#### **Flame (Masked) Bowerbird (NG)**

*Sericulus ardens*

We found our first stunning male flying over the road near Kiunga and a female was seen in the same area.

#### **Yellow-breasted Bowerbird (NG)**

*Chlamydera lauterbachi*

We enjoyed great views of a singleton near the town of Mt Hagen.

#### **Fawn-breasted Bowerbird (NE)**

*Chlamydera cerviniventris*

We saw at least ten+ birds at Pacific Adventist University.

### Australasian Wrens Maluridae

#### **Wallace's Fairywren**

*Sipodotus wallacii*

A singleton was seen briefly by Michael and Erik at Dablin Creek Road.

#### **Emperor Fairywren (NG)**

*Malurus cyanocephalus*

A magnificent pair was seen near Kiunga.

#### **White-shouldered Fairywren (NG)**

*Malurus alboscapulatus*

Fairly widespread and seen at several sites below Kumul Lodge, at Varirata, and in the Kiunga lowlands.

#### **Orange-crowned Fairywren**

*clytomylas insignis*

A singleton was seen on the King of Saxony Trail, near Kumul Lodge.

### Honeyeaters Meliphagidae

#### **Spotted Honeyeater**

*Xanthotis polygrammus*

Seen well at Dablin Creek.

#### **Tawny-breasted Honeyeater (NE)**

*Xanthotis flaviventer*

Common in lowlands and hills, this species was seen on several days in the Tabubil and Kiunga areas

#### **Black-throated Honeyeater (NG)**

*Lichenostomus subfrenatus*

This canopy-loving species was seen well near Ambua Lodge.

#### **Obscure Honeyeater (NG)**

*Lichenostomus obscurus*

Recorded on the Boystown Road near Kiunga.

#### **Yellow-tinted Honeyeater (NE)**

*Lichenostomus flavescens*

Several were seen at the Gateway Hotel, Port Moresby.

#### **Mountain (Hill-forest) Honeyeater (NG)**

*Meliphaga orientalis*

Seen below Kumul Lodge.



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- Scrub (White-eared) Honeyeater (NG)** *Meliphaga albonotata*  
Several were seen along the Dablin Creek Road.
- Mimic Honeyeater (Meliphaga) (NG)** *Meliphaga analoga*  
Several sightings in the lowland areas throughout the tour with our first birds recorded at Varirata National Park.
- Puff-backed Honeyeater** *Meliphaga aruensis*  
Two birds were seen in the Kiunga area.
- White-throated Honeyeater** *Melithreptus albogularis*  
We enjoyed great views of several in Varirata NP.
- Plain Honeyeater (NG)** *Pycnopygius ixoides*  
A singleton at Varirata and two birds were seen near Kiunga.
- Marbled Honeyeater (NG)** *Pycnopygius cinereus*  
Several of these scarce birds were seen below Kumul Lodge.
- Streak-headed Honeyeater (NG)** *Pycnopygius stictocephalus*  
Seen in Varirata National Park and Kiunga.
- Meyer's Friarbird (NG)** *Philemon meyeri*  
This is often an elusive species; we had good views of one near Kiunga.
- New Guinea (Helmeted) Friarbird** *Philemon novaeguineae*  
Common in the lowlands, where recorded throughout the tour.
- Common Smoky Honeyeater (NG)** *Melipotus fumigatus*  
Common in the high mountains, with up to twenty daily at Kumul and Ambua lodges. The Kumul Lodge bird feeder provided many opportunities for close views of their faces blushing from yellow to red and back again, often in odd blotchy patterns.
- Yellow-browed Melidectes (NG)** *Melidectes rufocrissalis*  
Fairly common around Ambua Lodge.
- Belford's Melidectes (NG)** *Melidectes belfordi*  
Common at high elevations and heard constantly with dozens in the Kumul Lodge and Ambua areas.
- Ornate Melidectes (NG)** *Melidectes torquatus*  
First seen at the Lesser Bird of Paradise site with others at the Mt Hagen golf course where we had fabulous views of several of these attractive birds.
- Rufous-backed Honeyeater (PNG)** *Ptiloprora guisei*  
Small numbers seen daily around Ambua Lodge.
- Grey-streaked (Black-backed) Honeyeater (NG)** *Ptiloprora perstriata*  
Recorded daily at Ambua and Kumul Lodges.
- Long-billed Honeyeater (NG)** *Melilestes megarhynchus*  
A few scattered sightings near Tabubil and Kiunga.
- Rufous-banded Honeyeater (NE)** *Conopophila albogularis*  
Several birds were found at the Pacific Adventist University.
- (Papuan) Black Myzomela (NG)** *Myzomela nigrita*  
Recorded at Variarata NP, Mt Hagen and at Kiunga.
- Mountain (Midget) Myzomela (NG)** *Myzomela adolphinae*  
We had several nice sightings of this attractive species in the highlands with our best views at Mt Hagen.
- Red-collared Myzomela (NG)** *Myzomela rosenbergii*  
We enjoyed several sightings of this very attractive honeyeater in the highlands.

### Australasian Warblers Acanthizidae



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|--|----------------------------------|
| <b>Rusty Mouse-warbler (NG)</b>  | <i>Crateroscelis murina</i>      |
| Recorded at Varirata NP and at Dablin Creek.   |                                  |
| <b>Mountain Mouse-warbler (NG)</b>   | <i>Crateroscelis robusta</i>     |
| Several seen daily near both Kumul lodge.  |                                  |
| <b>Pale-billed Scrubwren (NG)</b>  | <i>Sericornis spilodera</i>      |
| We had brief views of one in Varirata NP.  |                                  |
| <b>Papuan Scrubwren (NG)</b>   | <i>Sericornis papuensis</i>      |
| Seen daily at Ambua Lodge.   |                                  |
| <b>Large Scrubwren (NG)</b>  | <i>Sericornis nouhuysi</i>       |
| We enjoyed good views of several groups at Kumul Lodge.  |                                  |
| <b>Buff-faced Scrubwren (NG)</b>   | <i>Sericornis perspicillatus</i> |
| Seen on several occasions at Ambua and Kumul Lodges.   |                                  |
| <b>Brown-breasted (Treefern) Gerygone (NG)</b>   | <i>Gerygone ruficollis</i>       |
| Heard almost daily and seen in the mountains near both Kumul and Ambua Lodges; its song is one of the beautiful and characteristic sounds of the montane forest. |                                  |
| <b>Large-billed Gerygone</b>   | <i>Gerygone magnirostris</i>     |
| A pair was seen along the Elevala River.   |                                  |
| <b>Yellow-bellied Gerygone (NG)</b>  | <i>Gerygone chrysogaster</i>     |
| A bird of the lowlands, seen in Varirata NP and another along a forest trail near Kwatu lodge.   |                                  |
| <b>Ashy (Grey) Gerygone (NG)</b>   | <i>Gerygone cinerea</i>          |
| Two in the Tri Valley was our only sighting.   |                                  |
| <b>Green-backed Gerygone (NE)</b>  | <i>Gerygone chloronotus</i>      |
| Its distinctive song was heard frequently in the lowlands and hills and a singleton was seen in Varirata NP.   |                                  |
| <b>White-throated Gerygone</b>   | <i>Gerygone olivacea</i>         |
| Two were seen in woodland near Port Moresby.   |                                  |
| <b>Fairy Gerygone</b>  | <i>Gerygone palpebrosa</i>       |
| A male was seen well in Varirata NP associating with mixed flocks.   |                                  |
| <b>Goldenface (Dwarf Whistler)</b>   | <i>Pachycare flavogriseum</i>    |
| A bird was heard at Varirata and another seen briefly at Boystown Road, Kiunga.  |                                  |

### Satinbirds Cnemophilidae

|  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| <b>Loria's Satinbird (Bird-of-paradise) (NG)</b>   | <i>Cnemophilus loriae</i>      |
| Numerous males and females were seen in the vicinity of the Ambua Lodge especially around the fruiting tree, and again near the Kumul Lodge. |                                |
| <b>Crested Satinbird (Bird-of-paradise) (NG)</b>   | <i>Cnemophilus macgregorii</i> |
| A phenomenal adult male and a female were seen at Kumul Lodge. Another female was seen at Ambua.   |                                |

### Berrypeckers, longbills Melanocharitidae

|   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>Obscure Berrypecker (NG)</b>   | <i>Melanochari arfakiana</i>   |
| A singleton of this species was seen on Dablin Creek Road.                    |                                |
| <b>Black Berrypecker (NG)</b>   | <i>Melanocharis nigra</i>      |
| Several were seen at Varirata National Park and again behind the Kwatu Lodge. |                                |
| <b>Mid-mountain (Lemon-breasted) Berrypecker (NG)</b>                         | <i>Melanocharis longicauda</i> |
| A singleton was seen at Ambua Lodges.   |                                |
| <b>Fan-tailed Berrypecker (NG)</b>  | <i>Melanocharis versteri</i>   |



Fairly common this year with almost daily sightings in the highlands including some stellar males.

**Dwarf (Plumed) Longbill (NG)** *Oedistoma iliolophus*

Four birds were seen feeding in a flowering tree in Varirata NP.

**Yellow-bellied (Green-crowned) Longbill (NG)** *Toxorhamphus novaeguineae*

A singleton was seen at Kiunga.

**Slate-headed (Chinned) Longbill (NG)** *Toxorhamphus poliopterus*

A singleton was seen below Kumul Lodge, Mt Hagen

### Painted Berrypeckers Paramythiidae

**Tit Berrypecker (NG)** *Oreocharis arfaki*

Seen daily in a fruiting tree at Ambua Lodge and three at Kumul Lodge.

**Crested Berrypecker (NG)** *Paramythia montium*

Small numbers were seen daily around Kumul Lodge and above Ambua Lodge .

### Whipbirds, Jewel-babblers, Quail-thrushes Psophodidae

**Spotted Jewel-babbler (NG)** *Ptilorrhoa leucosticta*

Briefly seen at Mt Hagen

**Blue Jewel-babbler (NG)** *Ptilorrhoa caerulescens*

Cracking close looks in the Kiunga area.

**Chestnut-backed Jewel-babbler (NG)** *Ptilorrhoa castanonota*

Good looks at Varirata NP.

**Painted Quail-thrush (NG)** *Cinclosoma ajax*

A bird was seen briefly in Varirata NP but we all had excellent looks at a bird on the nest at Kiunga.

### Boatbills Machaerirhynchidae

**Yellow-breasted Boatbill (NG)** *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*

A singleton seen at Kiunga.

**Black-breasted Boatbill (NG)** *Machaerirhynchus nigripectus*

This attractive species was seen almost daily around Ambua and Kumul Lodge.

### Butcherbirds & Allies Cracticidae

**Black Butcherbird** *Cracticus quoyi*

We had superb views of vocal birds in the Mt Hagen, Tabubil and Kiunga area.

**Black-backed Butcherbird (NE)** *Cracticus mentalis*

Several of these localized birds were seen at the Pacific Adventist University and in the Tari Valley.

**Hooded Butcherbird (NG)** *Cracticus cassicus*

Conspicuous, by both sight and sound, at Varirata, Tabubil and around Kiunga.

**Lowland Peltops (NG)** *Peltops blainvillii*

Singleton's seen daily in the Kiunga area.

**Mountain Peltops (NG)** *Peltops montanus*

Fairly conspicuous this year with several nice sightings between the Ambua and Tabubil areas.

### Woodswallows Artamidae

**White-breasted Woodswallow** *Artamus leucorhynchus*

Recorded in the Port Moresby area and lowlands.

**Great Woodswallow (NG)** *Artamus maximus*



Conspicuous at the Ambua Lodge and a few elsewhere in the highlands.

### Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

- Black-faced Cuckooshrike** *Coracina novaehollandiae*  
Two birds were seen at PAU.
- Stout-billed Cuckooshrike (NG)** *Coracina caeruleo-grisea*  
Among New Guinea's cuckooshrikes, this large bird is particularly impressive. We had superb views of several at Varirata and near Tabubil.
- Barred (Yellow-eyed) Cuckooshrike** *Coracina lineata*  
Three were seen very well at Varirata NP.
- Boyer's Cuckooshrike (NG)** *Coracina boyeri*  
Sightings at Tabubil and the Kiunga areas.
- White-bellied Cuckooshrike** *Coracina papuensis*  
Seen in small numbers in Varirata NP.
- Black-shouldered Cicadabird (Cuckooshrike) (NG)** *Coracina incerta*  
We found this species on the Boystown Road near Kiunga.
- Grey-headed (Black-tipped) Cuckooshrike (NG)** *Coracina schisticeps*  
Several nice sightings in the Tabubil area.
- Black-bellied Cuckooshrike (NG)** *Coracina montana*  
A singleton in the Kiunga area
- Golden Cuckooshrike (NG)** *Campochoera sloetii*  
This is always a popular bird and we saw several near Tabubil and at Kiunga.
- Varied Triller** *Lalage leucomela*  
Regularly encountered in the lowlands at Varirata NP and in Kiunga.

### Sittellas Neosittidae

- Papuan (Varied) Sittella** *Daphoenositta papuensis*  
Good looks at five birds in the Tari Valley.
- Black Sittella (NG)** *Daphoenositta miranda*  
A flock of at least fifteen birds was seen very well on two occasions near Ambua Lodge. We enjoyed watching them feeding nuthatch-like along the branches.

### Family Uncertain Incertae Sedis

- Wattled Ploughbill (NG)** *Eulacestoma nigropectus*  
Excellent close looks at a pair near Mt Hagen.

### Whistlers & Allies Pachycephalidae

- Mottled Whistler (NG)** *Rhagologus leucostigma*  
We enjoyed some nice looks at this often scarce species at the Ambua Lodge.
- Brown-backed Whistler (PNG)** *Pachycephala modesta*  
We encountered this whistler several times in the highlands, especially above Ambua and at Mt Hagen.
- Grey (Grey-headed) Whistler (NE)** *Pachycephala simplex*  
One bird was seen in Varirata NP.
- Sclater's Whistler (NG)** *Pachycephala soror*  
This attractive whistler was seen on several occasions in the highlands near Ambua Lodge.
- Regent Whistler (NG)** *Pachycephala schlegelii*  
Another attractive whistler that was seen regularly in the highlands with sightings at Kumul Lodge.



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| <b>Black-headed Whistler (NG)</b><br>A pair were seen at a nest on Dablin Creek.  | <i>Pachycephala monacha</i>      |
| <b>White-bellied Whistler (NE)</b><br>Heard calling in the open savannah of Varirata.   | <i>Pachycephala leucogastra</i>  |
| <b>Little (Rufous) Shrikethrush</b><br>Seen at Varirata NP, Ambua and in Kiunga .   | <i>Colluricincla megarhyncha</i> |
| <b>Grey Shrikethrush</b><br>One seen at Varirata NP.  | <i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>   |
| <b>Variable Pitohui (NG)</b><br>Seen near Tabubil and Kiunga.   | <i>Pitohui kirhocephalus</i>     |
| <b>Hooded Pitohui (NG)</b><br>Several seen at Varirata National Park. This aposematically-colored bird is the traditional “poisonbird” as it was the first bird species discovered to possess poisonous compounds in its tissues. | <i>Pitohui dichrous</i>          |
| <b>White-bellied Pitohui (NG)</b><br>We were fortunate to see two along the Elevala River.  | <i>Pitohui incertus</i>          |
| <b>Rusty Pitohui (NG)</b><br>Three were seen at Varirata NP.  | <i>Pitohui ferrugineus</i>       |
| <b>Crested Pitohui (NG)</b><br>We heard its remarkably long pulsing song in Varirata NP.  | <i>Pitohui cristatus</i>         |
| <b>Rufous-naped Whistler (NG)</b><br>This distinctive whistler was seen nearly every day in the highlands around Kumul and Ambua Lodges; at Kumul they were particularly confiding.   | <i>Aleadryas rufinucha</i>       |

### Shrikes Laniidae

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| <b>Long-tailed Shrike</b><br>Regularly encountered in the highlands in open grassland. | <i>Lanius schach</i> |
|--|----------------------|

### Figbirds, Orioles Oriolidae

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|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Australasian Figbird</b><br>We had great views of up to six birds at PAU.                | <i>Sphecotheres vieilloti</i> |
| <b>Brown Oriole (NG)</b><br>Small numbers encountered daily at Varirata and around Tabubil. | <i>Oriolus szalayi</i>        |

### Drongos Dicruridae

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|---|----------------------------|
| <b>Spangled Drongo</b><br>Encountered almost every day in the lowlands and lower hills. | <i>Dicrurus bracteatus</i> |
|---|----------------------------|

### Fantails Rhipiduridae

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|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>Willie Wagtail</b><br>Very widespread, being seen nearly every day throughout the trip.       | <i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>   |
| <b>Black Thicket Fantail (NG)</b><br>A singleton was seen briefly in mangroves near Port Moreby. | <i>Rhipidura maculipectus</i> |
| <b>White-bellied Thicket Fantail (NG)</b><br>Heard in Tabubil and Kiunga.                        | <i>Rhipidura leucothorax</i>  |
| <b>Black Fantail (NG)</b><br>Two females were seen at Mt Hagen and a male at Tabubil.            | <i>Rhipidura atra</i>         |
| <b>Chestnut-bellied Fantail (NG)</b>   | <i>Rhipidura hyperythra</i>   |



Two were seen at Varirata National Park.

**Friendly Fantail (NG)***Rhipidura albolimbata*

Relatively common in the highlands, with numerous sightings almost daily around Kumul and Ambua Lodges.

**Rufous-backed Fantail (NG)***Rhipidura rufidorsa*

Two of these scarce fantails were seen in a mixed flock near Kiunga.

**Monarchs Monarchidae****Black Monarch (Fantail Monarch) (NG)***Symposiachrus axillaris*

This species was observed at the Ambua Lodge and at Dablin Creek.

**Spot-winged Monarch (NG)***Symposiachrus guttula*

Singles seen twice in Kiunga area.

**Hooded Monarch (NG)***Symposiachrus manadensis*

A singleton of this scarce monarchs were seen in the forest near Kwatu Lodge.

**Black-faced Monarch***Monarcha melanopsis*

Recorded once near Kwatu Lodge.

**Golden Monarch (NG)***Carterornis chrysomela*

A male was seen in the Kiunga area.

**Frilled Monarch (NG)***Arses telescopthalmus*

We enjoyed several sightings of this attractive monarch in Varirata NP and in Kiunga

**Torrent-lark (NG)***Grallina bruijni*

Three birds were seen near Tabubil.

**Leaden Flycatcher***Myiagra rubecula*

A singleton was seen in Varirata NP.

**Shining Flycatcher***Myiagra alecto*

Common along the Elevala River where several males and females were seen.

**Crows, Jays Corvidae****Grey (Bare-eyed) Crow (NG)***Corvus tristis*

Seen regularly in the lowlands and foothills near Tabubil and Kiunga.

**Torresian Crow***Corvus orru*

This species was common in the Port Moresby region.

**Family Uncertain Incertae Sedis****Lesser Melampitta (NG)***Melampitta lugubris*

Good views of a confiding bird at Kumul Lodge.

**Greater Melampitta (NG)***Melampitta gigantean*

We heard this species calling at Dablin Creek.

**Blue-capped Ifrita (Ifrit) (NG)***Ifrita kowaldi*

Seen very well near Kumul Lodge. This is another of the ‘poison-birds’ and is believed to be the most poisonous of them all. In any case, it is a unique bird with a distinctive charm.

**Birds-of-paradise Paradisaeidae****Glossy-mantled Manucode (NG)***Manucodia ater*

This species was recorded daily in the Kiunga area.

**Crinkle-collared Manucode (NG)***Manucodia chalybatus*

We had a good sighting of one near Tabubil en route to Kiunga.

**Trumpet Manucode (NE)***Phonygammus keraudrenii*

We found this noisy manucode near Tabubil.

**Short-tailed Paradigalla (NG)***Paradigalla brevicauda*

Several of these bizarre birds were seen daily in a fruiting tree near Ambua Lodge.

**Ribbon-tailed Astrapia (PNG)***Astrapia mayeri*

Several birds were first sighted near the Ambua including a glorious male that we watched for almost thirty minutes. At Kumul Lodge we watched individuals visiting the fruit feeder. The adult males have the longest tail in proportion to body size of any bird in the world! This PNG endemic has a very limited range and was the last recognized species of bird-of-paradise to be discovered in 1938.

**Princess Stephanie's Astrapia (PNG)***Astrapia stephaniae*

Several of these magnificent birds including some nice males were seen around the Ambua and a few around Kumul Loge.

**(Queen) Carola's Parotia (PNG)***Parotia carolae*

One male and female were seen on Dablin Creek. This is the only site where we record this beauty

**Lawes's Parotia (PNG)***Parotia lawesii*

Excellent scope looks in a fruiting tree at Ambua Lodge.

**King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise (NG)***Pteridophora alberti*

We watched a male calling from an exposed perch atop large trees above Ambua and also saw a number of females in this area as well as below Kumul Lodge. Another male was seen well near Kumul Lodge.

**Superb Bird-of-paradise (NG)***Lophorina superba*

We enjoyed some great views of this species in the highlands including scope views of males displaying iridescent frontal feathers.

**Growling Riflebird (NG)***Ptiloris intercedens*

We saw two in flight and briefly perched in Varirata NP.

**Black Sicklebill (NG)***Epimachus fastuosus*

A male was seen sitting up in a line of trees on the ridge and scoped from the Ambua Lodge.

**Brown Sicklebill (NG)***Epimachus meyeri*

This species was an entertaining visitor to the Kumul Lodge feeders including a fully adorned male, and we heard others above Ambua Lodge. The adult male's 'machine-gun burst' calls always impress.

**Black-billed (Buff-tailed) Sicklebill (NG)***Drepanornis albertisi*

Two of these rare birds were seen daily at a fruiting tree in Ambua Lodge.

**Magnificent Bird-of-paradise (NG)***Diphylloides magnificus*

We had stunning views of a pair below Kumul Lodge.

**King Bird-of-paradise (NG)***Cicinnurus regius*

The adult male faithfully attended the canopy tangle of a display tree by the Elevala River. Although often difficult to see, his repeated movements within a small and predictable area gave us many striking views of his gleaming red-orange and white plumage with unique green tail rackets. This is the smallest bird-of-paradise but also one of the brightest and most unique.

**Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise (NG)***Seleucidis melanoleucus*

Typically active in the early morning, and occasionally late afternoon, this species treated us to a good show along the Fly River.

**Greater Bird-of-paradise (NG)***Paradisaea apoda*

We saw this species at a few sites near Kiunga, we also witnessed the amazing display of this species with full plumaged males at a favorite lek at Km17.

**Raggiana Bird-of-paradise (PNG)***Paradisaea raggiana*

This is the national bird of Papua New Guinea. Waiting under the lek trees in Varirata National Park during the morning, we were treated to the spectacle of several prime males displaying, dancing and shivering their rich reddish flank plumes every time a female appeared. Without a doubt, this must be one of the most memorable spectacles of the tour. We also saw this species in the Kiunga area.

**Lesser Bird-of-paradise (NG)** *Paradisaea minor*

We visited Kampestan Village, below Kumul Lodge and were to good scope looks at this superb bird.

**Blue Bird-of-paradise (PNG)** *Paradisaea rudolphi*

We saw several females very well in the Ambua area. A striking male was seen below Kumul Lodge.

### Australasian Robins Petroicidae

**Black-sided Robin (NG)** *Poecilodryas hypoleuca*

This tiny black and white robin was seen well near Kwatu Lodge.

**Black-throated Robin (NG)** *Poecilodryas albonotata*

We enjoyed good looks near Kumul Lodge.

**White-winged Robin (NG)** *Peneothello sigillata*

We had some superb sightings around Kumul Lodge.

**Slaty (Blue-grey) Robin (NG)** *Peneothello cyanus*

We enjoyed great views of this species in the vicinity of Ambua Lodge.

**White-rumped Robin (NG)** *Peneothello bimaculata*

We had good views of this often tough species near Tabubil.

**White-faced Robin** *Tregellasia leucops*

Heard daily at Variarata NP.

**Torrent Flyrobin (NG)** *Monachella muelleriana*

We had great views of several near Mt Hagen and Tabubil.

**Canary Flyrobin (NG)** *Microeca papuana*

We had regular sightings throughout the highlands.

**Lemon-bellied Flyrobin (NE)** *Microeca flavigaster*

Two at both Varirata NP and Dablin Creek.

**Garnet Robin (NG)** *Eugerygone rubra*

We enjoyed excellent views of a pair near Ambua Lodge.

**Northern Scrub Robin** *Drymodes superciliaris*

Two were seen briefly at Varirata NP.

**Lesser Ground Robin (NG)** *Amalocichla incerta*

Heard near Ambua Lodge.

### Swallows, Martins Hirundinidae

**Pacific Swallow** *Hirundo tahitica*

This common is very widespread throughout the lowlands and in the montane valleys.

### Leaf Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae

**Island Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus poliocephalus*

Small numbers were seen in the Tari Valley.

### Grassbirds and allies Megaluridae

**Papuan (Tawny) Grassbird** *Megalurus macrurus*

Three were seen at Tari Gap



**Cisticolas and allies Cisticolidae**

**Golden-headed Cisticola** *Cisticola exilis*  
We had good views of one near Varirata NP.

**White-eyes Zosteropidae**

**Black-fronted White-eye (NG)** *Zosterops minor*  
Four birds were seen at Dablin Creek.

**Capped (Western Mtn) White-eye** *Zosterops fuscicapilla*  
Fifteen birds were seen near Ambua Lodge.

**Papuan (New Guinea) White-eye (NG)** *Zosterops novaeguineae*  
First recorded at Variarata NP with further sightings in the Mt Hagen area.

**Starlings Sturnidae**

**Metallic Starling (NE)** *Aplonis metallica*  
First recorded between Tabubil and Kiunga, we found this colonial starling to be common along the Elevala River.

**Yellow-eyed Starling (NG)** *Aplonis mystacea*  
A few birds were seen near Kiunga area.

**Singing Starling (NE)** *Aplonis cantoroides*  
We saw this species at PAU.

**Yellow-faced Myna (NG)** *Mino dumontii*  
Seen almost daily in the lowlands with our largest numbers in the Kiunga region.

**Golden Myna (NG)** *Mino anais*  
We enjoyed nice perched views of this colorful species along the Elevala River.

**Thrushes Turdidae**

**Island Thrush** *Turdus poliocephalus*  
First seen at the Tari Gap and later seen as a regular visitor to the Kumul Lodge fruiting table.

**Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae**

**Pied Bush Chat** *Saxicola caprata*  
Commonly seen throughout the highlands.

**Flowerpeckers Dicaeidae**

**Red-capped Flowerpecker (NG)** *Dicaeum geelvinkianum*  
Widespread in small numbers throughout the lowlands, hills, and mountains, with some great scope views of striking males.

**Sunbirds Nectariniidae**

**Black Sunbird** *Leptocoma sericea*  
Fairly common in the lowlands, we enjoyed good sightings near Tabubil and Kiunga.

**Old World Sparrows Passeridae**

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*  
Seen at the Port Moresby Airport.



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### Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae

- Mountain Firetail (NG)** *Oreostruthus fuliginosus*  
 Several birds were seen at different times at Kumul Lodge.
- Blue-faced Parrotfinch** *Erythrura trichroa*  
 We had a couple brief sightings of this shy species in the highlands near Ambua Lodge.
- White-spotted Mannikin** *Lonchura leucosticte*  
 A flock of fifteen birds were seen on the Boystown Road.
- Great-billed Mannikin (Munia) (NG)** *Lonchura grandis*  
 We were treated to stunning views of this rare species near Varirata NP.
- Grey-headed Mannikin (Munia) (PNG)** *Lonchura caniceps*  
 Several birds were seen in the Varirata area.
- Hooded Mannikin (Munia) (NG)** *Lonchura spectabilis*  
 Small groups were seen in the Mt Hagen area.

### Annotated Checklist of Mammals Recorded

- Rusa Deer** *Rusa timorensis*  
 Four were seen early one morning at Varirata NP. It is an introduced species from Java.
- Padamelon sp.**  
 We had good looks at a padamelon at the entrance to Kumul Lodge one morning
- Speckled Dasyure (NG)** *Neophascogale lorentzii*  
 Two or three of these little animals were seen in the immediate vicinity of the Kumul Lodge.
- Black-tailed Giant Rat (NG)** *Uromys anak*  
 We watched a couple of these giant rats eating leftover fruit on the bird feeder at Kumul Lodge after dark. This is the only giant rat of New Guinea's high elevations.
- Great Flying-fox (NG)** *Pteropus neohibernicus*  
 We found good numbers flushing from a roost tree along the Elevala River, a spectacular and characteristic sight of that part of the world.

### Annotated Checklist of Reptiles

- Tropical House Gecko** *Hemidactylus frenatus*  
 We saw this ubiquitous tropical commensal of man in many of our lodgings but especially at Cloudlands Hotel in Tabubil, where several appeared each night outside our rooms.

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**Photo Credits:** King Bird-of-paradise by Nancy Bell, Raggiana Bird-of-paradise by Nigel Voaden, King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise by David Shackelford, Crested Satinbird (Bird-of-paradise) by Adam Riley, New Guinea Flightless Rail by David Hoddinott & Brown Sickelbill by Eric Molgaard.

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