



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Papua New Guinea III & New Britain Extension Trip Report

13th to 30th August 2010



Tour Leader: Erik Forsyth

Some of the top birds as voted by participants:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. King-of-Saxony BOP 2. NG Flightless Rail 3. Crested Satinbird 4. Flame Bowerbird 5. Chestnut-backed Jewel Babbler | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Raggiana BOP 7. Southern Crowned Pigeon 8. Feline Owlet-Nightjar 9. Wallace’s Fairywren 10. Male Brown Sicklebill |
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Tour Summary

We started off with a short flight to New Britain for the pre-tour extension, spending three enjoyable days at the stunning Walindi Resort in Kimbe Bay. Nearby we visited several large forested areas and saw a wide range of endemic and scarce birds, including the highly sought after Black Honey Buzzard, many Melanesian Megapodes at their large nesting colony, huge Blyth’s Hornbill, Blue-eyed Cockatoo, Finch’s (Growling) Imperial Pigeon, Black Imperial Pigeon, Song Parrot, smart Black-headed Paradise Kingfisher, Long-tailed Myna and Buff-bellied Mannakin. A visit to the Islands in Kimbe Bay produced Lesser Frigatebirds, Brown Booby, Black Noddy, Black-naped and Swift Terns and Island specialists that included the much wanted Nicobar Pigeon, Island Imperial Pigeon, Mackinlay’s Cuckoo Dove, the stunning Beach Kingfisher and Sclater’s Myzomela, to name a few. Spinner and Risso’s Diolphin were also seen during the crossing. The snorkelling here was amazing and even a small reef shark was seen!

Our mainland tour kicked off with a visit to the Pacific Adventist University near Port Moresby. We walked to various dams and enjoyed good sightings of Spotted Whistling Duck, the scarce Radjah Shelduck, confiding Nankeen Night Heron, Pied Heron and stunning Comb-crested Jacanas. A casual stroll around the manicured gardens saw us finding Orange-fronted Fruit Dove, huge Papuan Frogmouth, Fawn-breasted Bowerbird, Rufous-banded Honeyeater, localized Black-backed Butcherbird and Australasian Figbird. This rounded off a superb start to this 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, stunning Wompoo, Pink-spotted and Dwarf Fruit Doves, Pheasant Coucal, incredibly close looks at Painted Quail-thrush, Barred Owlet-nightjar peering out of its roosting hole, endemic Brown-headed 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 Rusty and Hooded Pitohui. We had simply magnificent sightings of the splendid Raggiana Bird-of-paradise – several males performed their incredible displays showing off their spectacular red plumed feathers. This was a very special experience and one that every birder should get to see! At a nearby site we also found a pair of the rare Great-billed Mannikin.



Bidding farewell to the highlands, we then made our way to Tabubil where we enjoyed many memorable sightings, including stunning looks at a Chestnut-backed Jewel Babbler that landed on the pipe at Dablin Creek.....amazing! We also saw a Long-tailed Honey-Buzzard soaring effortlessly nearby, a perched pair of the rarely seen Pesquet's Parrot, stunning scope looks at a male Magnificent Bird of Paradise, Papuan Boobook, Black-billed Coucal sunning itself, Salvadori's Teal, Spotted Honeyeater, Mountain Peltops, magnificent Golden Cuckooshrike and scope looks at the highly sought-after Shovel-billed Kookaburra!

Heading into the true lowlands around Kiunga, we explored the lush rainforest trails where we found the scarce Grey-headed Goshawk, Beautiful Fruit Dove, Zoe Imperial Pigeon, tiny Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot, Black-capped Lory, Red-flanked Lorikeet, dazzling Flame Bowerbird seen flying across the road (and even scoped on two occasions!), lovely Emperor Fairywrens and Golden Monarch. A highlight here was visiting a calling tree where we saw several male Greater Bird-of-paradise dancing and displaying to attendant females.

Next we took an exciting boat trip up the Elevala River and its tributaries where we were treated to some very special sightings. These included the New Guinea Flightless Rail – a pair watched for several minutes as they fed on insects attracted to fermenting Sago Palm fruit, Stephan's Emerald Dove, magnificent Southern Crowned Pigeon, huge Palm Cockatoo, Channel-billed Cuckoo – the size of which has to be seen to be believed, Long-billed Cuckoo, scope views of both the shy Hook-billed Kingfisher and Little Paradise Kingfisher, Azure 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.

A most unexpected highlight of our time in Kiunga was of a superb sighting of Forest Bittern, a species that is very seldom encountered.

Leaving Kiunga we then made our way to Mount Hagen. Here we enjoyed a good deal of time watching the constant procession of birds coming and going to the lodge's bird feeder. Brown Sicklebill was one of the regular visitors and we were treated to a stunning iridescent male; its amazing machine-gun-like call was heard close by. Another favourite was Archbold's Bowerbird, a species that is generally shy and retiring, while a pair of Crested Berrypeckers was regularly seen feeding on fruiting trees around the feeder. On another occasion we had a Chestnut Forest Rail and a Bronze Ground Dove 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 a stunning male Crested Satinbird near the lodge and good looks at Lesser Melampitta. Other highlights in the area included Black-mantled Goshawk, Goldie's and Papuan Lorikeets, Rufous-throated Bronze Cuckoo, Yellow-breasted Bowerbird, Ornate Honeyeater, the bizarre Wattled Ploughbill, Lesser Bird of Paradise, Red-collared Myzomela and Mountain Firetail. A night walk here



proved to be a highlight with excellent close looks at Feline and Mountain Owlet-nightjar, and Greater Sooty Owl heard.

Moving into the highlands, our next stop was the famous Ambua area. The number of Birds-of-paradise species in this area is something to behold: we were treated to an incredible nine species during our time here! Highlights included Short-tailed Paradigalla on numerous occasions, Lawes's Parotia feeding in a fruiting tree, a male King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise with his elaborate headplumes bouncing on a branch and showing off to a nearby female for all to enjoy, Loria's, Superb and Blue Birds-of-paradise giving good views, and scope views of a male Black Sickbill on a distant ridge.



Covering the forest trails on the lower slopes of Tari Gap, with its areas of open grassland, saw us amass an impressive number of species. Apart from the BOP's, we were treated to great looks at Ribbon-tailed and Princes Stephanie's *Astrapia*, Plum-faced Lorikeet, a pair of Marbled Frogmouth, magnificent Sooty Owl, MacGregor's Bowerbird, stunning Tit Berrypecker, Black-breasted Boatbill, nuthatch like Black Sittella, poisonous Blue-capped Ifrita, smart Little Red Lorikeet, Papuan Logrunner and Lesser Ground Robin.

Whew! So many highlights, too many to mention... This brought another fabulous tour to an end to one of the most remarkable birding destinations in the World!

Photo Credits: Southern Crowned Pigeon by Simon Woolley, Raggiana Bird-of-paradise by Nigel Voaden, Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher by Erling Krabbe, New Guinea Flightless Rail by David Hoddinott and Crested Satinbird (Bird-of-paradise) by Adam Riley.

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

PAU- Pacific Adventist University

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. We had good looks at two birds walking on the trail in Varirata National Park.

Melanesian Megapode (NE)

Up to thirty birds were seen well at their nesting colony at Pokili Forest on New Britain.



Pheasant, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora*
Good flight views of a bird that flew past the bus at the Tari Gap.

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

Spotted Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*

Four of these scarce birds were seen at Pacific Adventist University.

Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

A singleton was seen at the PAU.

Raja (White-headed) Shelduck *Tadorna radja*

One of these beauties was found at PAU.

Salvadori's Teal (NG) *Salvadorina waigiensis*

Niel found us this bird at Ok Menga.

Green Pygmy Goose *Nettapus pulchellus*

Fourteen of these attractive birds were scoped near the Brown River.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

At least seventy were seen at the PAU, two on the Fly River and two on New Britain.

Grebes Podicipedidae

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

Five were seen at Pacific Adventist University and a singleton near the Brown River.

Ibis, Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*

Eight at PAU and five near the Brown River.

Hérons, Bitterns Ardeidae

Forest Bittern *Zonerodius heliosylus*

We had superb views of a bird along the Elevala River. This is a very rarely recorded species in PNG.

Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis*

A single bird was seen briefly on New Britain.

Nankeen (Rufous) Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

Two birds were seen daily on our pre-dawn on New Britain.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

Two birds were seen well along the Elevala 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*

We had excellent looks along the Fly River en route to Kwatu Lodge.

[Eastern] Great Egret *Ardea modesta*

Seen in small numbers in the lowlands.

Intermediate (Yellow-billed) Egret *Egretta intermedia*

Small numbers seen at PAU and Brown River.

Pied Heron *Egretta picata*

We saw ten of these herons at PAU.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

We observed one near Tabubil and another on the Fly River.



Pacific Reef Heron*Egretta sacra*

Daily sightings at our resort on New Britain.

Frigatebirds Fregatidae**Lesser Frigatebird***Fregatta ariel*

We saw up to forty birds while travelling by boat in Kimbe Bay, New Britain.

Gannets, Boobies**Brown Booby***Sula leucogaster*

We had good looks at four birds while travelling by boat in Kimbe Bay, New Britain.

Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae**Little Pied Cormorant***Microcarbo melanoleucos*

Seen in Port Moresby, Brown River and along the Fly River.

Little Black Cormorant*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Seen in Port Moresby, Brown River and along the Fly River.

Anhingas, Darters Anhingidae**Australian Darter***Anhinga novaehollandiae*

A singleton seen near Brown River.

Ospreys Pandionidae**[Eastern] Osprey***Pandion cristatus*

Three birds were seen in Kimbe Bay, New Britain

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae**Pacific Baza (Crested Hawk)***Aviceda subcristata*

This attractive raptor was first seen at Brown River with further sightings along the Elevala River.

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 Honey Buzzard (NB)*Henicopernis infuscatus*

A singleton of this rare raptor was seen at Pokili Forest on New Britain.

Black-shouldered (Australian) Kite*Elanus axillaris*

We had good views of a perched bird on the drive from Mt Hagen to the Tari Valley.

Black Kite*Milvus migrans*

Up to twenty birds were seen daily in the Mt. Hagen area and several daily in the Port Moresby region.

Whistling Kite*Haliastur sphenurus*

Several birds were seen in the Port Moresby area and on or drive from Mt Hagen to the Tari Valley.

Brahminy Kite*Haliastur indus*

Seen regularly throughout the tour with especially nice views during our river trip.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle*Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Two of these huge fish-eating eagles was seen in flight at Kiunga and a singleton on New Britain.

Papuan (Eastern Marsh) Harrier (NG)*Circus spilothorax*

Singleton's were seen at Lae, Mt Hagen, Brown River and near the Tari Valley.

Variable (Grey) Goshawk*Accipiter hiogaster*

Widespread and seen throughout the tour.

Black-mantled Goshawk (NG)

Accipiter melanochlamys

Our first sighting was of a bird carrying prey in the Tabubil area, a low elevation for this species. We had two more sightings near Kumul Lodge near Mt Hagen.

Grey-headed Goshawk

Accipiter poliocephalus

We had good views singletons along the Elevala River and along the Boystown Road.

Collared Sparrowhawk

Accipiter cirrocephalus

We had superb scope views of one at Mt Hagen and flight views at Tabubil.

Meyer's Goshawk (NG)

Accipiter meyerianus

A single bird seen by Marcel at Ambua Lodge.

Papuan (New Guinea) Eagle

Harpyopsis novaeguineae

Heard calling at Varirata NP.

Little Eagle

Hieraaetus morphnoides

Good views at Varirata NP.

Falcons Falconidae

Brown Falcon

Falco berigora

We had superb views of one at Tabubil and another at Lae.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

Chestnut Forest Rail (Crake) (NG)

Rallina forbesi

We had great looks at a bird below the feeding table at Kumul Lodge.

Forbes Forest Rail (Crake) (NG)

Rallina forbesi

Heard calling above Ambua Lodge.

Pale-vented Bush Hen

Amaurornis molluccana

Heard on Dablin Creek Road.

New Guinea (Papuan) Flightless Rail (NG)

Megacrex inepta

We had fantastic views of a pair near the Kwatu River. We were particularly fortunate to encounter this very rarely seen species!

Purple Swamphen

Porphyrio porphyrio

At least twenty birds were recorded in the vicinity of Port Moresby with excellent views at the Pacific Adventist University.

Dusky Moorhen

Gallinula tenebrosa

Six were seen at Pacific Adventist University.

Buttonquail Turicidae

Red-backed Buttonquail

Turnix maculosus

After hearing the bird call from a bank, we managed to flush it out for all to see.

Plovers & Lapwings Charadriidae

Masked Lapwing

Vanellus miles

We had superb views at PAU and at Lae Airport.

Little Ringed Plover

Charadrius dubius

We had great views of one near Tabubil.

Jacanas Jacanidae

Comb-crested Jacana

Irediparra gallinacea



A superb ten birds were found at the PAU and three at the Brown River.

Sandpipers , Snipes Scolopacidae

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

Singleton's along the Fly River and at Lae Airport.

Gulls, Terns and Skimmers Sternidae

Black Noddy

Anous minutes

Great looks at a bird feeding near our boat in Kimbe Bay, New Britain.

Swift Tern

Thalasseus bergii

Common in Kimbe Bay, New Britain.

Black-naped Tern

Sterna sumtrana

Two birds were seen in Kimbe Bay, New Britain.

Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

Small numbers in Kimbe Bay, New Britain.

Pigeons, Doves Columbidae

Common Pigeon

Columba livia

Several were seen around Port Moresby and Mt Hagen.

Metallic (White-throated) Pigeon

Columba vitiensis

Good flight views of a bird at Varirata NP.

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.

Mackinlay's Cuckoo Dove (BA)

Macropygia mackinlayi

Marcel spotted this bird for the whole group to see as we were leaving Restorf Island!

Great Cuckoo Dove

Reinwardtoena reinwardtii

Good looks at Varirata NP, Kiunga and the Tari Valley.

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

Two of these widespread birds were seen at the PAU.

Bar-shouldered Dove

Geopelia humeralis

Three birds were seen at PAU.

Nicobar Pigeon

Caloenas nicobarica

Good flight views were had of this highly sought after bird in Kimbe Bay, New Britain.

White-breasted Ground Dove (NG)

Gallicolumba jobiensis

A bird flew past at eye-level on Dablin Creek Road.

Bronze Ground Dove (NE)

Gallicolumba beccarii

This shy forest bird was seen twice at Kumul Lodge.

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, this amazing bird did not let us down. We had fantastic prolonged views of two birds in the evening.



- Wompoo (Magnificent) Fruit Dove** *Ptilinopus magnificus*
Two of these beautiful birds were 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*
Heard near Kumul Lodge. A scarce species on our route.
- Orange-fronted Fruit Dove (NG)** *Ptilinopus aurantiifrons*
We scoped two perched birds on our first afternoon at the PAU.
- Superb Fruit Dove** *Ptilinopus superbus*
Good looks at Pokili Forest on New Britain.
- Coroneted Fruit Dove** *Ptilinopus coronulatus*
We had scope views of three in Varirata NP.
- Beautiful Fruit Dove** *Ptilinopus pulchellus*
We had amazing views of several of these stunning birds at Varirata NP and in Kiunga.
- White-bibbed Fruit Dove** *Ptilinopus rivoli*
Good looks at Tabubil, Mt Hagen and at Pokili forest on New Britain.
- Orange-bellied Fruit Dove (NG)** *Ptilinopus iozonus*
Good numbers were seen at Varirata NP and along the Elevala River.
- Knob-billed Fruit Dove (BA)** *Ptilinopus insolitus*
Good looks at Tove Forest, New Britain.
- Dwarf Fruit Dove (NG)** *Ptilinopus nanus*
We enjoyed great scope views of several in Varirata NP and two along the Elevala River.
- Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon (NE)** *Ducula rufigaster*
Two were seen along the Elevala River.
- Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeon (BA)** *Ducula rubricera*
This stunner was commonly seen on New Britain.
- Finch's Imperial Pigeon (BA)** *Ducula finchii*
A singleton was seen in flight and several heard at Tove Forest, New Britain.
- Island (Floury) Imperial Pigeon (BA)** *Ducula pistrinaria*
Commonly seen on our visit to the islands in Kimbe Bay, New Britain.
- Pinon's Imperial Pigeon (NG)** *Ducula pinon*
We observed several daily in the Kiunga and Elevala areas.
- Black Imperial Pigeon (BA)S** *Ducula melanochroa*
Excellent find by Marcel on the ridge at Tove Forest, New Britain.
- Collared (Black-collared) Imperial Pigeon (NG)** *Ducula mullerii*
Fairly common along the Elevala and Fly rivers.
- 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.
- Torresian Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula spilorrhoea*
Small numbers seen in the Port Moresby area.
- Yellowish Imperial Pigeon (BA)** *Ducula subflavescens*
Good numbers seen on New Britain.
- 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 in the Kiunga area.

Cockatoos Cacatuidae



Palm Cockatoo (NE)*Probosciger aterrimus*

This magnificent species was encountered 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, Kiunga and along the Fly River where it was fairly common.

Blue-eyed Cockatoo (BA)*Cacatua ophthalmica*

Small numbers seen daily while on New Britain.

Parrots Psittacidae**Pesquet's (Vulturine) Parrot (NG)***Psittarchas fulgidus*

We were afforded good views of two pairs near Tabubil, a tricky species to find.

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

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

Buff-faced Pygmy Parrot (NG)*Micropsitta pusio*

Heard at Varirata NP.

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

Three of these tiny parrots were seen feeding in tall trees near Tabubil.

Yellowish-streaked Lory (NG)*Chalcopsitta sintillata*

First seen at Brown River and several birds were seen in the Kiunga area and along the Elevala River.

Dusky Lory (NG)*Pseudeos fuscata*

Large 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)*Psitteteles goldiei*

We found this species in the highlands of Mount Hagen and at Tabubil.

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

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

(Eastern) Purple-bellied Lory (NG)*Lorius hypoinochrous*

This stunner was seen daily on New Britain.

Red-chinned Lorikeet (BA)*Charmosyna rubrigularis*

Two birds were seen in a fruiting tree on New Britain.

Striated (Streaked) Lorikeet (NG)*Charmosyna multistriata*

Six birds were seen flying near Kiunga.

Red-flanked Lorikeet (NE)*Charmosyna placensis*

Good views on New Britain with other sightings at Varirata NP and at Kiunga.

Fairy (Little Red) Lorikeet (NG)*Charmosyna pulchella*

Excellent scope looks at a fruiting tree near Ambua Lodge.

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 a number of small flocks of this stunning species near Kumul and Ambua Lodge.

Yellow-billed Lorikeet (NG)*Neopsittacus musschenbroekii*

Small numbers were seen in the Ambua and Kumul Lodge area.

Orange-billed Lorikeet (NG)*Neopsittacus pullicauda*

Several birds seen at Mt Hagen.



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

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. A further two were seen at Ambua Lodge.

Red-cheeked Parrot (NE)*Geoffroyus geoffroyi*

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

Blue-collared Parrot (NG)*Geoffroyus simplex*

Two birds were seen in flight overhead at Dablin Creek Road.

Song Parrot (BA)*Geoffroyus heteroclitus*

A great find by Niel on the ridge at Tove Forest, New Britain.

Eclectus Parrot (NE)*Eclectus roratus*

Common on New Britain and then seen regularly in small numbers in lowlands on the mainland.

Papuan King Parrot (NG)*Alisterus chloropterus*

Three seen briefly at Varirata NP and then an excellent look at a flyby at Ambua Lodge.

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*Clycopsitta diophthalma*

We had several sighting in the lowlands near Kiunga.

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

We saw this scarce parrot in flight daily along the Elevala River.

Cuckoos Cuculidae**White-necked (Pied) Coucal (BA)***Centropus ateralbus*

Recorded at Pokili Forest and at our lodge in Walindi, New Britain.

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

We heard this species on several occasions in the lowlands and had a brief sighting near Tabubil.

Violaceous Coucal (BA)*Centropus violaceus*

These vocal birds were seen at Pokili Forest, New Britain.

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

We had great views of two in the Tabubil area.

Pheasant Coucal*Centropus phasianinus*

Numerous birds seen during the first few days of the tour in the Port Moresby surroundings.

Pacific (Australian) Koel*Eudynamys orientalis*

We enjoyed good views of one along the Elevala River.

Channel-billed Cuckoo*Scythrops novaehollandiae*

Several of these massive birds were observed along the Elevala and Fly Rivers with a further sighting of two on New Britain.

Long-billed Cuckoo (NG)*Chrysococcyx megarhynchus*

We managed fantastic scope views of three birds in the Kiunga area.

Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx basalis*

This scarce migrant was seen at Varirata NP.

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

Recorded at Varirata NP.

Shining Bronze Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx lucidus*

On New Britain we scoped an individual eating small caterpillars.

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 Kwatu Lodge near 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*

Seen in flight on two days at Varirata NP.

Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo (NE)*Cacomantis castaneiventris*

We saw one flying across the road at Ok Menga.

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. Also heard at Kumul Lodge.

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

One bird was seen in the spot light at Tabubil with another heard at Ambua Lodge.

New Britain Boobook (BA)*Ninox odiosa*

Two birds were seen briefly (as they flew off from a day roost) at dusk on New Britain. Frustrating!

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

We had excellent scope looks at a pair found at a roost in the Tari Valley.

Papuan Frogmouth*Podargus papuensis*

We had excellent scope looks at a single bird at the Pacific Adventist University and two at Variarata NP. We heard and saw another bird at Ambua Lodge.

Owlet-nightjars Aegothelidae**Feline Owlet-Nightjar***Aegotheles insignis*

Fantastic close looks at a bird found by Marcel at Kumul Lodge.

Mountain Owlet-nightjar (NG)*Aegotheles albertisi*

Good close looks at Kumul Lodge.

Barred Owlet-nightjar (NG)*Aegotheles bennettii*

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

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

We enjoyed superb views at Varirata NP, Kiunga and Tabubil.

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

Very common, especially in the hills and mountains.

Mountain Swiftlet (NG)*Aerodramus hirundinaceus*

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

White-rumped Swiftlet*Aerodramus spodiopygius*

Several birds were seen at Tove Forest ridge on New Britain

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 on the Boystown Road, Kiunga.

Rollers Coraciidae

Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

Seen regularly in the lowlands with up to thirty per day along the Elevala River.

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 as it flew across the road twice at Brown River – a stunning and memorable species.

Little Paradise Kingfisher (NG) *Tanysiptera hydrocharis*

We had good views of this attractive species in the Elevala River forest area.

Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher *Tanysiptera sylvia*

Three birds were seen in Varirata NP.

Brown-headed (Russet) Paradise Kingfisher (PNG) *Tanysiptera danae*

We obtained great views of this stunning bird at Varirata National Park.

Shovel-billed Kookaburra (NG) *Clytoceyx rex*

We enjoyed magnificent scope views of one near Tabubil.

Blue-winged Kookaburra *Dacelo leachii*

Our first sighting was near PAU with further sightings at Varirata NP.

Rufous-bellied Kookaburra (NG) *Dacelo gaudichaud*

Seen and heard in the lowlands and hills on several different days including stunning scope views at Varirata NP.

Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii*

We had superb views of a pair near Varirata NP.

Beach Kingfisher *Todiramphus saurophagus*

Fantastic perched and flight views at Restorf Island, New Britain

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.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Seen at Kimbe Bay, New Britain and at Varirata NP.

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 ten birds. It was also recorded daily on New Britain.

Pittas Pittidae

Hooded Pitta

Pitta sordida

We heard this species regularly along the Elevala River.

Red-bellied (Blue-breasted) Pitta

Pitta erythrogaster

We heard it at Km17 near Kiunga.

Bowerbirds Ptilonorhynchidae

White-eared Catbird

Ailuroedus buccoides

A bird was seen by Marcel on a forest trail along the Elevala River.

Archbold's Bowerbird (NG)

Archboldia papuensis

A female was seen regularly around Kumul Lodge.

MacGregor's Bowerbird (NG)

Amblyornis macgregoriae

We had brief views of one near Ambua Lodge.

Flame (Masked) Bowerbird (NG)

Sericulus ardens

We found our first golden male flying over the road near Kiunga and were lucky to see several birds perched.

Yellow-breasted Bowerbird (NG)

Chlamydera lauterbachi

We enjoyed great views of several near the town of Mt Hagen.

Fawn-breasted Bowerbird (NE)

Chlamydera cerviniventris

Seen at PAU and at Varirata NP.

Australasian Wrens Maluridae

Wallace's Fairywren (NG)

Sipodotus walacii

We enjoyed excellent close looks at a pair on Dablin Creek.

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 (NG)

Clytomias insignis

Up to four birds were seen in forest above Ambua Lodge.

Honeyeaters Meliphagidae

Spotted Honeyeater

Xanthotis polygrammus

We had good scope looks at two on Dablin Creek.

Tawny-breasted Honeyeater (NE)

Xanthotis flaviventer

Common in lowlands and hills, this species was seen on several days in the Tabubil area.

Black-throated Honeyeater (NG)

Lichenostomus subfrenatus

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

Obscure Honeyeater (NG)

Lichenostomus obscurus



- A single bird was seen well 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 in the Tabubil area and below Kumul Lodge.
- Scrub (White-eared) Honeyeater (NG)** *Meliphaga albonotata*
Several were seen along the Dablin Creek Road.
- Mimic Honeyeater (Meliphaga) (NG)** *Meliphaga analoga*
Seen at Varirata National Park and at Brown River.
- Elegant Honeyeater** *Meliphaga cinereifrons*
Recorded at Varirata NP.
- Yellow-gaped Honeyeater** *Meliphaga flavirictus*
Two birds were seen at the Boystown Road, Kiunga.
- Puff-backed Honeyeater** *Meliphaga aruensis*
Seen at Brown River, Tabubil and Kiunga.
- White-throated Honeyeater** *Melithreptus albogularis*
We enjoyed great views of several in Varirata NP.
- Plain Honeyeater (NG)** *Pycnopygius ixoides*
Three at Varirata NP and five 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, Tabubil and Kiunga.
- Meyer's Friarbird (NG)** *Philemon meyeri*
Heard near Kiunga.
- New Guinea (Helmeted) Friarbird** *Philemon novaeguineae*
Common in the lowlands, where recorded throughout the tour.
- Common Smoky Honeyeater (NG)** *Melipotes fumigatus*
Common in the high mountains, with up to thirty 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*
Mostly below the elevation zone dominated by Belford's Melidectes, we saw several at 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*
Seen at lower elevations below Kumul Lodge.
- Rufous-backed Honeyeater (PNG)** *Ptiloprora guisei*
A singleton was seen Ambua Lodge.
- Grey-streaked (Black-backed) Honeyeater (NG)** *Ptiloprora perstriata*
Common around Kumul and above Ambua Lodges.
- Long-billed Honeyeater (NG)** *Melilestes megarhynchus*
A few scattered sightings near Tabubil.
- Rufous-banded Honeyeater (NE)** *Conopophila albogularis*
Six birds were seen at PAU.
- Ashy Myzomela (BA)** *Myzomela cineracia*
Seen in forests on New Britain.
- (Papuan) Black Myzomela (NG)** *Myzomela nigrita*



Four birds were seen at the edge of the forest in Varirata National Park.

Mountain (Midget) Myzomela (NG) *Myzomela adolphinae*

We had several nice sightings of this attractive species in the highlands at Mt Hagen.

Sclater's (Scarlet-bib) Myzomela (BA) *Myzomela sclateri*

Six birds were seen on Restorf Island, New Britain.

Black-bellied Myzomela (BA) *Myzomela erythromelas*

Three birds were seen on New Britain

Red-collared Myzomela (NG) *Myzomela rosenbergii*

We enjoyed several sightings of this very attractive honeyeater in the highlands.

Australasian Warblers Acanthizidae

Rusty Mouse-warbler (NG) *Crateroscelis murina*

Three birds were seen briefly at Varirata NP.

Mountain Mouse-warbler (NG) *Crateroscelis robusta*

Several seen daily near both Kumul and Ambua lodges.

Pale-billed Scrubwren (NG) *Sericornis spilodera*

We had brief views of two in Varirata NP.

Papuan Scrubwren (NG) *Sericornis papuensis*

Seen daily at Kumul Lodge, Mt Hagen.

Large Scrubwren (NG) *Sericornis nouhuysi*

We enjoyed good views of this confiding species at Mt Hagen.

Buff-faced Scrubwren (NG) *Sericornis perspicillatus*

Seen on several occasions at Ambua Lodge.

Grey-green Scrubwren (NG) *Sericornis arfakianus*

A singleton of this scarce species was seen by Cecilia and Erik at Dablin Creek. Not recorded on a tour here before.

Brown-breasted (Treefern) Gerygone (NG) *Gerygone ruficollis*

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.

Large-billed Gerygone *Gerygone magnirostris*

Several pairs was seen along the Elevala River.

Yellow-bellied Gerygone (NG) *Gerygone chrysogaster*

A bird of the lowlands, one was seen in Varirata NP and another along a forest trail near Kwatu lodge.

Ashy (Grey) Gerygone (NG) *Gerygone cinerea*

Three birds were seen in the Tari Valley.

Green-backed Gerygone (NE) *Gerygone chloronotus*

Two birds were seen in woodland close to PAU. Its distinctive song was heard frequently in the lowlands and hills in Varirata NP.

Fairy Gerygone *Gerygone palpebrosa*

A male was seen in Varirata associating with a mixed flock.

Australasian Babblers Pomatostomidae

Papuan (Rufous) Babbler (NG) *Garritornis isidorei*

Their cryptic behavior made it a challenge and we finally saw a flock of four near Kiunga.

Logrunners Orthonychidae

Papuan (Northern) Logrunner *Orythonix novaeguineae*

Brief sightings of this megaskulker above Ambua Lodge.



Satinbirds Cnemophilidae

Loria's Satinbird (Bird-of-paradise) (NG) *Cnemophilus loriae*

Numerous males and females were seen in the vicinity of the Ambua Lodge especially around the fruiting tree, and again near the Kumul Lodge.

Crested Satinbird (Bird-of-paradise) (NG) *Cnemophilus macgregorii*

A stunning male and a female were seen at close range at Kumul Lodge.

Berrypeckers, longbills Melanocharitidae

Obscure Berrypecker (NG) *Melanocharis arfakiana*

We had good looks at several birds on Dablin Creek.

Black Berrypecker (NG) *Melanocharis nigra*

Several were seen at Varirata National Park.

Fan-tailed Berrypecker (NG) *Melanocharis versteri*

A few birds were seen in the highlands including some stellar males.

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

One bird was sighted in a mixed flock in Varirata NP.

Pygmy Longbill (NG) *Oedistoma pygaeum*

We had good looks at this fast moving and minute creature around Kiunga!

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

We had brief but good looks at Kwatu Lodge.

Painted Berrypeckers Paramythiidae

Tit Berrypecker (NG) *Oreocharis arfaki*

Several were seen in the Mt Hagen area and a few more near Ambua Lodge.

Crested Berrypecker (NG) *Paramythia montium*

Small numbers were seen daily around Kumul Lodge offering incredible views of this colorful species.

Whipbirds, Jewel-babblers, Quail-thrushes Psophodidae

Spotted Jewel-babbler (NG) *Ptilorrhoa leucosticta*

Frustratingly, heard only at Mt Hagen and Ambua Lodge.

Blue Jewel-babbler (NG) *Ptilorrhoa caerulescens*

Good looks at this gem in the Kiunga area.

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

Cracking looks at a bird that landed on the “pipeline” at Dablin Creek. Voted Bird of the Trip by a few participants!

Painted Quail-thrush (NG) *Cinclosoma ajax*

We enjoyed fantastic looks at this shy species at Varirata NP. Also heard at Kiunga.

Boatbills Machaerirhynchidae

Yellow-breasted Boatbill *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*

Heard only at Kiunga.

Black-breasted Boatbill (NG) *Machaerirhynchus nigripectus*

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

Butcherbirds & Allies Cracticidae

Black Butcherbird *Cracticus quoyi*



We had superb views of many noisy birds in the Tabubil area with another sighting in the Tari Valley .

Black-backed Butcherbird (NE) *Cracticus mentalis*

Several of these localized birds were seen at the PAU, Varirata NP and at Tabubil.

Hooded Butcherbird (NG) *Cracticus cassicus*

Conspicuous, by both sight and sound at Varirata, around Kiunga, and along the Elevala River.

Lowland Peltops (NG) *Peltops blainvillii*

One found by Marcel near Kiunga was our only sighting of the tour.

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*

Common 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

Stout-billed Cuckooshrike (NG) *Coracina caeruleo-grisea*

We had superb views of several at Varirata NP and at Tabubil.

Barred (Yellow-eyed) Cuckooshrike *Coracina lineata*

Our only sighting was of two birds at Tove Forest, New Britain.

Boyer's Cuckooshrike (NG) *Coracina boyeri*

Fairly common between sightings at Varirata, Tabubil, and the Kiunga areas.

White-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina papuensis*

Seen in small numbers in Varirata NP and near Tabubil.

Black-shouldered Cicadabird (Cuckooshrike) (NG) *Coracina incerta*

We found this species on several occasions near Tabubil.

Grey-headed (Black-tipped) Cuckooshrike (NG) *Coracina schisticeps*

Several nice sightings in the Tabubil and Kiunga areas.

Black-bellied Cuckooshrike (NG) *Coracina montana*

We had great views of this species at Dablin Creek.

Golden Cuckooshrike (NG) *Campochaera sloetii*

We saw a beautiful pair at Tabubil and at Kiunga.

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*

Regularly encountered in the lowlands and foothills throughout the tour in small numbers.

Sittellas Neosittidae

Black Sittella (NG) *Daphoenositta miranda*

A flock of at least eight birds was seen very well near Ambua Lodge. We enjoyed watching them feeding nuthatch-like along the branches.

Family Uncertain Incertae Sedis

Wattled Ploughbill (NG) *Eulacestoma nigropectus*

We were elated to see a stunning male bird on a steep trail at Mt Hagen.

Whistlers & Allies Pachycephalidae

Mottled Whistler (NG) *Rhagologus leucostigma*



We enjoyed some nice sightings of the often scarce species at the Ambua Lodge.

Brown-backed Whistler (PNG) *Pachycephala modesta*

Two birds seen near Kumul Lodge, Mt Hagen.

Grey (Grey-headed) Whistler (NE) *Pachycephala simplex*

Two birds were seen in woodland at Varirata NP.

Slater's Whistler (NG) *Pachycephala soror*

This attractive whistler was seen on three occasions in the highlands near Kumu and Ambua Lodges.

Mangrove Golden Whistler *Pachycephala melanura*

Three birds were seen on our trip to New Britain.

Regent Whistler (NG) *Pachycephala schlegelii*

Another attractive whistler that was seen regularly in the highlands with sightings at Kumul Lodge.

Black-headed Whistler (NG) *Pachycephala monacha*

Seen first near Tabubil with other sightings at Kiunga and Ambua.

White-bellied Whistler (NE) *Pachycephala leucogastra*

We had great views of this uncommon species in the open savannah of Varirata.

Little (Rufous) Shrikethrush *Colluricincla megarhyncha*

Three at Varirata NP and another bird at Mt Hagen.

Grey Shrikethrush *Colluricincla harmonica*

Good looks at a pair near Brown River.

Variable Pitohui (NG) *Pitohui kirhocephalus*

Three seen at Kiunga.

Hooded Pitohui (NG) *Pitohui dichrous*

Several seen at Varirata National Park and at Tabubil. This aposematically-colored bird is the traditional “poisonbird” as it was the first bird species discovered to possess poisonous compounds in its tissues.

White-bellied Pitohui (NG) *Pitohui incertus*

We were fortunate to see several along the Elevala River.

Rusty Pitohui (NG) *Pitohui ferrugineus*

Several were seen at Varirata NP and in Kiunga.

Crested Pitohui (NG) *Pitohui cristatus*

We heard its remarkably long pulsing song in Varirata NP and had good but brief looks at two birds.

Rufous-naped Whistler (NG) *Aleadryas rufinucha*

This distinctive whistler was seen nearly every day in the highlands around Kumul and Ambua Lodges; at Kumul they were particularly confiding.

Shrikes Laniidae

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*

Regularly encountered in the highlands in open grassland.

Figbirds, Orioles Oriolidae

Australasian Figbird *Sphecotheres vieilloti*

We had great views of up to ten birds at PAU.

Brown Oriole (NG) *Oriolus szalay*

Small numbers encountered daily at Varirata and around Tabubil.

Drongos Dicruridae

Pygmy (Papuan) Drongo (NG) *Chaetorhynchus papuensis*

We heard this rather scarce species in Varirata NP.



Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*
Encountered almost every day in the lowlands and lower hills.

Fantails Rhipiduridae

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*
Very widespread, being seen every day throughout the trip.

Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris*
Seen in the Tabubil area and also on our New Britain extension.

Sooty Thicket Fantail (NG) *Rhipidura threnothorax*
Excellent looks at Varirata NP.

Black Thicket Fantail (NG) *Rhipidura maculipectus*
We heard one calling along the Elevala River.

White-bellied Thicket Fantail (NG) *Rhipidura leucothorax*
Good but brief looks at Tabubil.

Black Fantail (NG) *Rhipidura atra*
Seen on most days in the highlands with some excellent encounters of both males and females.

Chestnut-bellied Fantail (NG) *Rhipidura hyperythra*
Several 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.

Dimorphic Fantail (NG) *Rhipidura brachyryncha*
A female bird was seen briefly near Kumul Lodge.

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.

Spot-winged Monarch (NG) *Symposiachrus guttula*
Recorded in Varirata NP, Kiunga and near Ambua Lodge.

Hooded Monarch (NG) *Symposiachrus manadensis*
Three of these scarce monarchs were seen in the forest near Kwatu Lodge.

Black-tailed (Bis. Pied) Monarch (BA) *Symposiachrus verticalis*
A pair were seen briefly at Pokili Forest on New Britain.

Island Monarch (BA) *Monarcha cinerascens*
A pair were seen briefly on our boat trip in Kimbe Bay, New Britain.

Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis*
Good views of three in Varirata NP.

Golden Monarch (NG) *Carterornis chrysomela*
Two birds were seen in the Kiunga area.

Frilled Monarch (NG) *Arses telescopthalmus*
We enjoyed several sightings of this attractive monarch in Varirata followed by further encounters in the lowlands near Kiunga.

Torrent-lark (NG) *Grallina bruijni*
A singleton was seen briefly at Tabubil and two pairs at Mt Hagen.

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*
A male was seen in Varirata NP.



Shining Flycatcher*Myiagra alecto*

Common along the Elevala River where several males and females were seen. Also seen in New Britain.

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.

Bismarck Crow (BA)*Corvus insularis*

Common seen on New Britain.

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

Good views at Kumul Lodge and heard also above Ambua.

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

Found by Niel at Kumul Lodge and other sightings above Ambua 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 seen well in the Kiunga area.

Crinkle-collared Manucode (NG)*Manucodia chalybatus*

We had good sightings at Varirata NP and Kiunga.

Trumpet Manucode (NE)*Phonygammus keraudrenii*

We found several in forest near Kiunga.

Short-tailed Paradigalla (NG)*Paradigalla brevicauda*

Several of these bizarre birds were seen daily in the garden at Ambua Lodge.

Ribbon-tailed Astrapia (PNG)*Astrapia mayeri*

Our first sightings of this amazing bird were at Kumul Lodge with further sightings at Ambua Lodge. 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*

These magnificent birds were first seen around Mt Hagen with further sightings around the Ambua area.

Lawes's Parotia (PNG)*Parotia lawesii*

A couple of birds were seen near Ambua lodge including a stunning male.

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

We watched a male calling from an exposed perch atop large trees below Kumul Lodge and also another male above Ambua Lodge. These observations included the males’ characteristic ‘radio static’ song and incredible ‘swinging on a branch’ displays with their two unreal head plumes!

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.

Magnificent Riflebird (NE)*Ptiloris magnificus*

A female was seen well in flight near Kiunga.



Growling Riflebird (NG)*Ptiloris intercedens*

Brief but good looks at a male 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 and saw others above Ambua Lodge. The adult male's 'machine-gun burst' calls always impress.

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

We had stunning views of a male feeding in a fruiting tree on Dablin Creek.

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

A pair were seen briefly at Km17 near Kiunga and an 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 Elevala and Fly Rivers.

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

We saw this species in flight at a few sites near Tabubil we also witnessed the amazing display of this species with full plumaged males at Kiunga and nearby a similarly splendidly adorned Raggiana Bird-of-paradise male.

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

This is the national bird of Papua New Guinea, endemic to PNG. Waiting under the lek trees in Varirata National Park during the morning, we were treated to the spectacle of several prime males displayed briefly, dancing and shivering their rich reddish flank plumes every time a female appeared. We also saw this species in the Kiunga area.

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

Great looks at a male and three females in the Mt Hagen area.

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

We scoped a superb adult male at Mt Hagen and saw several females very well in the Ambua area.

Australasian Robins Petroicidae**Ashy (Grey-headed) Robin (NE)***Heteromyias albispecularis*

A bird was seen briefly in the highland forests near Ambua Lodge. Also heard at Mt Hagen

Black-sided Robin (NG)*Poecilodryas hypoleuca*

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

Black-throated Robin (NG)*Poecilodryas albonotata*

We enjoyed great views near Ambua 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 looks at this often tough species near Tabubil.

Torrent Flyrobin (NG)*Monachella muelleriana*

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



Canary Flyrobin (NG) *Microeca papuana*

We had regular sightings throughout the highlands.

Lemon-bellied Flyrobin (NE) *Microeca flavigaster*

A pair seen well at Varirata NP and further sightings at Dablin Creek.

Garnet Robin (NG) *Eugerygone rubra*

We enjoyed excellent views of a pair at Kumul Lodge.

Northern Scrub Robin *Drymodes superciliaris*

Good but brief views of two birds on Dablin Creek.

Lesser Ground Robin (NG) *Amalocichla incerta*

One seen well along a forest trail, near Ambua Lodge.

Swallows, Martins Hirundinidae

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*

This is the common swallow of the region and it is very widespread throughout the lowlands and in the montane valleys.

Leaf Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae

Island Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus poliocephalus*

Small numbers were seen at Varirata NP and near Mt Hagen.

Grassbirds and allies Megaluridae

Papuan (Tawny) Grassbird *Megalurus macrurus*

We had good looks at a bird in grassland not far from the Lesser BOP site at Mt Hagen.

Cisticolas and allies Cisticolidae

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

We had good views of one near Varirata NP.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

Papuan (New Guinea) White-eye (NG) *Zosterops novaeguineae*

We only found this species in the Port Moresby, Mt Hagen and Tari Valley areas.

Starlings Sturnidae

Metallic Starling (NE) *Aplonis metallica*

We found this colonial starling to be common along the Elevala River. Also seen on New Britain.

Yellow-eyed Starling (NG) *Aplonis mystacea*

A few birds were seen near Kiunga.

Singing Starling (NE) *Aplonis cantoroides*

We saw this species in Port Moresby and others near Mt Hagen.

Yellow-faced Myna (NG) *Mino dumontii*

Seen almost daily in the lowlands with our largest numbers in the Kiunga region.

Long-tailed Starling (BA) *Mino kreffti*

Seen daily in forested areas on New Britain.

Golden Myna (NG) *Mino anais*

We enjoyed nice perched views of this colorful species along the Elevala River near Kiunga.



Thrushes Turdidae**Island Thrush***Turdus poliocephalus*

First seen at Kumul Lodge fruit table with further sightings at the Tari Gap.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae**Pied Bush Chat***Saxicola caprata*

Recorded in altitudinal grasslands at Tabubil, Mt Hagen and the Tari Valley.

Flowerpeckers Dicaeidae**Red-capped Flowerpecker (NG)***Dicaeum geelvinkianum*

Widespread in small numbers throughout the lowlands, hills, and mountains, with some great views of striking males.

Red-banded (Bis) Flowerpecker (BA)*Dicaeum eximium*

Seen daily at forests on New Britain.

Sunbirds Nectariniidae**Black Sunbird***Leptocoma sericea*

Fairly common in the lowlands, we enjoyed good sightings near Tabubil.

Olive-backed Sunbird*Cinnyris jugularis*

Only recorded at Tabubil and on our New Britain extension.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae**House Sparrow***Passer domesticus*

Seen at the Port Moresby Area.

Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae**Mountain Firetail (NG)***Oreostruthus fuliginosus*

Great views at Kumul Lodge and a singleton at Ambua.

Blue-faced Parrotfinch*Erythrura trichroa*

We heard this shy species in the highlands near Ambua Lodge.

White-spotted Mannikin (Munia) (NG)*Lonchura leucosticte*

Five birds were seen on the Boystown Road, Kiunga.

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*

Seen in the highlands on several days.

Chestnut-breasted Mannikin (Munia)*Lonchura castaneothorax*

Fifteen birds were seen near Varirata NP.

Buff-bellied Mannikin (Munia) (BA)*Lonchura melaena*

Five birds were seen well in Kimbe Bay, New Britain.

Annotated Checklist of Mammals Recorded

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.

Big-eared Flying-fox (NG)*Pteropus macrotis*

We found good numbers flushing from a roost tree along the Elevala River, a spectacular and characteristic sight of that part of the world.

Spinner Dolphin*Stenella longirostris*

We had distant looks at two jumping out of the water in Kimbe Bay, New Britain.

Risso Dolphin*Grampus griseus*

Good looks at four playing in the water in Kimbe Bay, New Britain

Annotated Checklist of Reptiles**New Guinea Crocodile (NG)***Crocodylus novaeguineae*

Spotted by Niel, we had a brief sighting of this endemic freshwater crocodile along the Elevala River. This is a small crocodile, as the maximum length recorded is about ten feet.

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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