



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Papua New Guinea I

Trip Report

2nd to 19th July 2010



Tour Leader: David Hoddinott

Some of the top birds as voted by participants:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Southern Crowned Pigeon 2. Crested Satinbird 3. King Bird-of-Paradise 4. Ribbon-tailed Astrapia 5. Raggiana Bird-of-Paradise 6. Palm Cockatoo | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise 8. Brown Sicklebill 9. New Guinea Flightless Rail 10. Sooty Owl 11. King of Saxony BOP 12. Forest Bittern |
|---|---|

Tour Summary

We started off our tour with a visit to the Pacific Adventist University. We commenced at the various dams and enjoyed superb sightings of Spotted Whistling Duck, confiding Nankeen Night Herons, beautiful Pied Heron and numerous 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 edge we were delighted with sightings of Black-billed Brushturkey, shy Pheasant Pigeon, stunning Wompoo, Ornate and Dwarf Fruit Doves, Pheasant Coucal, Little Bronze Cuckoo, a superb pair of Marbled Frogmouth, 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, Black Cicadabird 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 and Brown Quail. A most unexpected highlight of our time in

Varirata was of a superb sighting of Forest Bittern, 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 nine species during our time here. Highlights included Loria's Satinbird – last family for Chuck, Short-tailed Paradigalla on numerous occasions, views of a Ribbon-tailed Astrapia male with full length tail for twenty minutes, Princess Stephanie's Astrapia males, Lawes's Parotia feeding in a fruiting tree, King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise male showing off his headplumes for all to enjoy, Superb and Blue Birds-of-paradise making raucous territorial calls and giving outstanding scope views, and the difficult Black Sicklebill. What a feast!!!

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 great looks at the tiny Collared Sparrowhawk, impressive Meyer's Goshawk, Plum-faced Lorikeet, superb views of Painted Tiger Parrot, magnificent Sooty Owl, confiding Papuan Boobook, MacGregor's Bowerbird, stunning Tit Berrypecker, Black-breasted Boatbill, nuthatch like Black Sittella, strange Torrent-lark, poisonous Blue-capped Ifrita, smart Garnet Robin and Lesser Ground 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 two males giving their 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 family group of Chestnut Forest Rails 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 Mountain Owlet-nightjar, stunning male Crested Satinbird, Spotted Jewel-babbler and several Lesser Melampittas. Other highlights in the area included Brown Falcon, Buff-banded Rail, Goldie's and Papuan Lorikeets, Rufous-throated Bronze Cuckoo, Archbold's Nightjar, Yellow-breasted Bowerbird, Magnificent Bird-of-paradise – several stunning males, Ornate Honeyeater, Red-collared Myzomela, Streaked Berrypecker and Mountain Firetail. Our visit to the Lesser Bird-of-paradise site was unfortunately thwarted by local tribal conflict, which meant we were unable to visit the area and were likely to dip out on this great bird. On our return journey to Mt Hagen we were therefore delighted when John shouted, "Stop the bus!"; and to our amazement there were two male Lesser Birds-of-paradise. What a bonus and a wonderful way to wrap up our time at Mount Hagen!



Biding 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 Long-tailed Honey-Buzzard soaring effortlessly nearby, a perched pair of the rarely seen Pesquet's Parrot, a stunning flock of Red-breasted Pygmy Parrots, numerous flocks of Dusky Lory, the "legless" Blue-collared Parrot (so called as it never appears to perch in view!), Black-billed Coucal sunning itself, White-eared Bronze Cuckoo, highly sought after Shovel-billed Kookaburra showing well for all, Green-backed Honeyeater, Mountain Peltops, magnificent Golden Cuckooshrike and elusive Rusty Pitohui.

Heading into the true lowlands around Kiunga saw us stopping en route to enjoy the resident race of Little Ringed Plover. Here we explored the lush rainforest in the lowlands. 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. This was a very special experience and one that every birder should get to see!

Other notable species seen during our forays around Kiunga included the scarce Grey-headed Goshawk, Beautiful Fruit Dove on the nest, Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon, tiny Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot, Black-capped Lory, Red-flanked Lorikeet, Dwarf Koel, dazzling Flame Bowerbird, Emperor Fairywren and Golden Monarch.

Next we took a superb boat trip up the Elevala River and its tributaries where we were treated to some very special sightings. These included the rare Doria's Goshawk, New Guinea Flightless Rail – a pair watched for several minutes as they fed on insects attracted to fermenting Sago Palm fruit (a species I thought I would never see in the wild – only a very few have been privileged to see this near mythical bird!), Stephan's Emerald Dove, magnificent Southern Crowned Pigeon – voted as one of the birds of the trip, huge Palm Cockatoo, Channel-billed Cuckoo – the size of which has to be seen to be believed, Long-billed Cuckoo, White-crowned Cuckoo, scope views of both the shy Hook-billed Kingfisher and Little Paradise Kingfisher, Azure Kingfisher, beautiful Blyth's Hornbill, Papuan Babbler, 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.



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, Forest Bittern by Thomas Heatley, Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher by Erling Krabbe, Crested Satinbird (Bird-of-paradise) by Adam Riley, and New Guinea Flightless Rail by David Hoddinott.

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 or Red-legged Brushturkey (NG)

We heard one calling near Tabubil and our local guide suggested that it was one of these two species.



Pheasant, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora*
We had good views of four near Varirata NP.

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

Spotted Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*
A flock of eleven of these scarce birds was seen at Pacific Adventist University. A further nine were seen along the Fly River.

Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*
About fifteen birds were seen at the Pacific Adventist University.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*
At least fifty were seen at the Pacific Adventist University.

Grebes Podicipedidae

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*
A pair was seen at Pacific Adventist University.

Hérons, Bitterns Ardeidae

Forest Bittern *Zonerodius heliosylus*
We had superb views of one in Varirata NP. This is a very rarely recorded species in PNG.

Nankeen (Rufous) Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*
Three birds were seen at the Pacific Adventist University.

[Eastern] Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*
Good numbers seen in the Port Moresby region with a few scattered sightings thereafter.

[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*
We saw twenty-two of these beautiful herons at PAU.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
We observed one near Tabubil and another on the Fly River.

Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae

Little Pied Cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleucos*
Three birds were seen at PAU.

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 seen almost daily in the Kiunga and Elevala River areas.

Long-tailed Honey Buzzard (NE) *Henicoperis 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*



We had good views of two in the Tari Valley.

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.

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

Several birds were seen in the Port Moresby area.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

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

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

One of these huge fish-eating eagles was seen in flight at Kiunga.

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

A few birds were seen quartering low over grasslands near Mt Hagen.

Variable (Grey) Goshawk *Accipiter hiogaster*

Widespread and seen along the Elevala River and Kiunga area.

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*

A few scattered sightings of this widespread raptor including good views of one near Mt Hagen.

Grey-headed Goshawk *Accipiter poliocephalus*

We had good views of one near Kiunga.

Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrocephalus*

We had superb scope views of one in the Tari Valley.

Meyer's Goshawk (NG) *Accipiter meyerianus*

Another great bird, we saw one bird soaring overhead at the Ambua Lodge and another near Mt Hagen.

Doria's Goshawk (NG) *Megatriorchis doriae*

We had superb views of one along the Fly River.

Falcons Falconidae

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*

We had superb scope views of one near the town of Mt Hagen.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

Chestnut Forest Rail (Crake) (NG) *Rallina forbesi*

Amazing sightings were had this year of this often secretive species in the vicinity of the Kumul Lodge.

Red-necked Crake *Rallina tricolor*

We heard one calling along a forest trail near the Kwatu River.

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*

We had good views of one on the Mount Hagen Golf Course.

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.

Plovers & Lapwings Charadriidae



Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*

We had superb views of eight at PAU.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

We had great views of two near Tabubil.

Jacanas Jacanidae

Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*

A superb nine birds were found at the Pacific Adventist University.

Coursers, Pratincoles Glareolidae

Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella*

Two birds were seen at the Daro airstrip.

Pigeons, Doves Columbidae

Common Pigeon *Columba livia*

Several were seen around the town of Mt Hagen.

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.

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.

New Guinea Bronzewing (NG) *Henicophaps albifrons*

Dale had good views of one near the Kwatu River.

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia placida*

Two of these widespread birds were seen at the PAU.

Pheasant Pigeon (NG) *Otidiphaps nobilis*

Some of us had good views of a female 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 twelve birds in a morning; simply unbeatable!

Wompoo (Magnificent) Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*

One of these beautiful birds was seen in Varirata NP followed by other scattered sightings in the lowlands thereafter.

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 enjoyed wonderful scope views of a pair in Varirata NP. 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 and a further one was seen along the Elevala River.

Superb Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*

Seen briefly along the Elevala River.

Coroneted Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus coronulatus*



We had scope views of one in Varirata NP.

Beautiful Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus pulchellus*

We had amazing views of several of these stunning birds including a male on its nest near Kiunga.

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.

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

A stunning adult was scoped in the Kiunga area and several more seen along the Elevala River.

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 thirty estimated daily.

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

Small numbers of this distinctive species with a black chest band were encountered 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 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 Kiunga and along the Fly River where it was fairly common.

Parrots Psittacidae

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

We were afforded scope views of a magnificent pair near Tabubil, a tricky species to find.

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

Some of us were fortunate to see one of these scarce parrots flying in the Ok Menga area of 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*

A large flock of these tiny parrots were seen feeding in tall trees 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*

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) *Psitteuteles goldiei*

We found this species in the highlands of Mount Hagen.

(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 placensis*
Fairly numerous this year in the lowlands with some excellent scope views especially in the Kiunga area.
- Fairy (Little Red) Lorikeet (NG)** *Charmosyna pulchella*
Two birds were seen near Kiunga.
- 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 Ambua 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 Kumul and Ambua Lodges.
- 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 but it is always charming to watch.
- Painted Tiger Parrot (NG)** *Psittacella picta*
One was seen incredibly well at the forested roadside in the Tari area. The field guide color plate has the labels for male and female transposed for this species.
- 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*
At least a dozen of these vocal birds were seen in flight overhead at Dablin Creek Road.
- Eclectus Parrot (NE)** *Eclectus roratus*
Seen regularly in small numbers on the mainland, though no more than fifteen per day.
- 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 including some fine perched scope views of this tiny but attractive species at the Mt Hagen golf course.
- Large (Flame-headed) Fig Parrot (NG)** *Psittaculirostris desmarestii*
We saw this scarce parrot in flight along the Elevala River.

Cuckoos Cuculidae

- Ivory-billed (Greater Black) Coucal (NG)** *Centropus menbeki*
We heard this species on several occasions in the lowlands.
- 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.
- Dwarf Koel (NG)** *Microdynamis parva*
After an extensive search we were finally rewarded with good scope views of one near Kiunga.



- 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.
- Long-billed Cuckoo (NG)** *Chrysococcyx megarhynchus*
We managed fantastic scope views of one along the Kwatu River.
- Rufous-throated Bronze Cuckoo (NG)** *Chrysococcyx ruficollis*
After hearing this species we finally managed nice perched scope 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 Varirata during the afternoon. 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*
We had superb views of a single bird perched and calling along the Elevala River.
- Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo (NE)** *Cacomantis castaneiventris*
We saw one along the Dablin Creek Road.
- Fan-tailed Cuckoo** *Cacomantis flabelliformis*
Heard in the highlands 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*
One bird was seen in the spot light at the Ambua Lodge.

Frogmouths Podargidae

- Marbled Frogmouth** *Podargus ocellatus*
Two of these gigantic night birds were seen at a daytime roost in Varirata NP.
- Papuan Frogmouth** *Podargus papuensis*
A single bird was seen at the Pacific Adventist University. We scoped this astounding bird in intimate detail.

Nightjars Caprimulgidae

- Archbold's (Mountain/Cloud Forest) Nightjar (NG)** *Eurostopodus archboldi*
Seen at close range in the spotlight near Kumul Lodge.

Owlet-nightjars Aegothelidae

- Mountain Owlet-nightjar (NG)** *Aegotheles albertsi*
Heard nightly around Kumul Lodge and seen very well by some.
- Barred Owlet-nightjar (NG)** *Aegotheles bennettii*



One scoped 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.

Swifts Apodidae

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*

Abundant birds 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*

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 along the Elevala River – a stunning and memorable species.

Little Paradise Kingfisher (NG) *Tanysiptera hydrocharis*

We managed some excellent views of an adult and juvenile of this attractive species in the Elevala River forest area.

Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher *Tanysiptera sylvia*

We heard this species near Varirata NP.

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

We were thrilled to obtain unbelievable views of this stunning bird at Varirata National Park.

Shovel-billed Kookaburra (NG) *Clytoceyx rex*

We enjoyed magnificent views of one near Tabubil.

Blue-winged Kookaburra *Dacelo leachii*

One 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 an adult at Varirata NP.

Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii*

We had superb views of a pair 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*

One seen very well along the Elevala River.

Little Kingfisher *Ceyx pusillus*

On bird was seen flying across the Kwatu 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*

We heard one along the Kwatu River.

Bowerbirds Ptilonorhynchidae

Archbold's Bowerbird (NG) *Archboldia papuensis*

A female and immature seen regularly around Kumul Lodge. We were also fortunate to see one on a trail near Ambua 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*

We saw at least eight birds at Pacific Adventist University.

Australasian Wrens Maluridae

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.

Honeyeaters Meliphagidae

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 near Tari and several others 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, with up to six a day.

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.

White-throated Honeyeater *Melithreptus albogularis*

We enjoyed great views of several in Varirata NP.

Plain Honeyeater (NG) *Pycnopygius ixoides*

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, Tabubil and Kiunga.

Meyer's Friarbird (NG) *Philemon meyeri*

This is often an elusive species, we had brief views of one 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 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*

Mostly below the elevation zone dominated by Belford's Melidectes. We observed two below Kumul Lodge. Some showed signs of introgressive hybridization from Belford's, as is common in this region near the 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*

This is a common bird 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*

Daily numbers of up to ten around Kumul Lodge.

Long-billed Honeyeater (NG) *Melilestes megarhynchus*

A few scattered sightings near Mt Hagen and Tabubil.

Rufous-banded Honeyeater (NE) *Conopophila albogularis*

Several birds were found at the Pacific Adventist University.



- Ruby-throated Myzomela (NG)** *Myzomela eques*
We had superb views of one, seen feeding on flowers along a forest trail near the Kwatu Lodge.
- Dusky Myzomela** *Myzomela obscura*
We had brief views of one in Varirata NP.
- (Papuan) Black Myzomela (NG)** *Myzomela nigrita*
Two 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 with our best views at the Mt Hagen golf course.
- 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*
We saw one bird 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 one in Varirata NP.
- Papuan Scrubwren (NG)** *Sericornis papuensis*
Seen daily at Kumul and Ambua Lodges.
- Large Scrubwren (NG)** *Sericornis nouhuysi*
We enjoyed good views of a group of four at Ambua.
- Buff-faced Scrubwren (NG)** *Sericornis perspicillatus*
Seen on several occasions at Ambua and Kumul Lodges.
- 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*
A pair 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*
A flock of six was seen on a trail near Kumul Lodge.
- Green-backed Gerygone (NE)** *Gerygone chloronotus*
Its distinctive song was heard frequently in the lowlands and hills in Varirata NP.
- Fairy Gerygone** *Gerygone palpebrosa*
A few were seen well in Varirata associating with mixed flocks.

Australasian Babblers Pomatostomidae

- Papuan (Rufous) Babbler (NG)** *Garritornis isidorei*
Their cryptic behavior made it a challenge and we finally saw a flock of five near Kiunga.

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 phenomenal adult male and a female were seen at Kumul Lodge.

Berrypeckers, longbills Melanocharitidae

Black Berrypecker (NG) *Melanocharis nigra*

Several were seen at Varirata National Park and again behind the Kwatu Lodge.

Mid-mountain (Lemon-breasted) Berrypecker (NG) *Melanocharis longicauda*

Several observed in the highlands near Kumul and Ambua Lodges.

Fan-tailed Berrypecker (NG) *Melanocharis versteri*

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

Streaked Berrypecker (NG) *Melanocharis striativentris*

We had good but brief views of one near Mount Hagen.

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

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

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

We heard this fast-moving species near Kiunga.

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*

Those that chose to do the hike had incredible views of a male near Mt Hagen.

Blue Jewel-babbler (NG) *Ptilorrhoa caerulescens*

We heard one calling in the Kiunga area.

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

Heard in Varirata where seen briefly by some participants.

Painted Quail-thrush (NG) *Cinclosoma ajax*

We heard this species in Varirata NP.

Boatbills Machaerirhynchidae

Black-breasted Boatbill (NG) *Machaerirhynchus nigripectus*

This attractive species was seen almost daily around Ambua Lodge.

Butcherbirds & Allies Cracticidae

Black Butcherbird *Cracticus quoyi*

We had superb views of many noisy birds in the Tabubil area.

Black-backed Butcherbird (NE) *Cracticus mentalis*

Several of these localized birds were seen at the Pacific Adventist University.

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 seen near Kiunga and another on the Elevala River.

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 caeruleogrisea*

Among New Guinea's cuckooshrikes, this large bird is particularly impressive. We had superb views of several near Tabubil.

Barred (Yellow-eyed) Cuckooshrike *Coracina lineata*

One was seen very well at Varirata NP.

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 Mt Hagen.

Common Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*

We found one in Varirata NP.

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 area.

Black (New Guinea) Cicadabird (Cuckooshrike) (NG) *Coracina melas*

A male was seen well in Varirata NP.

Black-bellied Cuckooshrike (NG) *Coracina montana*

We had great views of this species in the Ambua area

Golden Cuckooshrike (NG) *Campochaera sloetii*

This is always a popular bird and we saw a beautiful pair near Tabubil.

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 six 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*

We heard this species near 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*
We encountered this whistler several times in the highlands, especially above Ambua.
- 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.
- Black-headed Whistler (NG)** *Pachycephala monacha*
Seen first in the Tari Valley with other sightings near Tabubil.
- 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*
Encountered first near Tari with a few other scattered encounters later in the tour.
- Grey Shrikethrush** *Colluricincla harmonica*
One seen at Variarata and a further two at the Mt Hagen golf course.
- Variable Pitohui (NG)** *Pitohui kirhocephalus*
One seen near Tabubil.
- Hooded Pitohui (NG)** *Pitohui dichrous*
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.
- White-bellied Pitohui (NG)** *Pitohui incertus*
We were fortunate to see several along the Elevala River.
- Rusty Pitohui (NG)** *Pitohui ferrugineus*
Several were seen near Tabubil.
- Crested Pitohui (NG)** *Pitohui cristatus*
We heard its remarkably long pulsing song in Varirata NP.
- 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 thirty birds at PAU.
- Brown Oriole (NG)** *Oriolus szalayi*
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.

Sooty Thicket Fantail (NG) *Rhipidura threnothorax*
One seen and others heard in the Tabubil area.

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

White-bellied Thicket Fantail (NG) *Rhipidura leucothorax*
Heard and seen near Kiunga.

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.

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*
Singles seen twice in Varirata NP.

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

Golden Monarch (NG) *Carterornis chrysomela*
Three birds were seen in the Kiunga area including two stunning males.

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*
Three birds were seen near Ambua Lodge and several more near Tabubil.

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*
A pair 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*

Several of us saw this species well near the Ambua Lodge, and others gave views in the Mt Hagen area.

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

Seen very well near Ambua. 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 first seen in Varirata NP and most common in the Kiunga area.

Crinkle-collared Manucode (NG)*Manucodia chalybatus*

We had a good sighting of one near Mt Hagen.

Trumpet Manucode (NE)*Phonygammus keraudrenii*

We found this noisy manucode near Kiunga.

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 area.

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

One male and female were seen near Tabubil.

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 above Ambua and also saw a number of females in this area as well as below Kumul Lodge. These observations included the males' characteristic ‘radio static’ song and incredible ‘semaphore’ 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*

We heard one calling near Kiunga.

Growling Riflebird (NG)*Ptiloris intercedens*

We heard several 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) *Diphylloides magnificus*

We had stunning views of several males near Mt Hagen.

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

The adult male faithfully attended the canopy tangle of a display tree by the Elevela 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 Elevela and Fly Rivers.

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 alongside similarly splendidly adorned Raggiana Bird-of-paradise males.

Without a doubt, this must be one of the most memorable spectacles of the tour.

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 afternoon, 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*

Due to local conflict amongst tribes we were not able to visit Munganda village and therefore expected to miss this beautiful Bird-of-paradise. We were delighted to see two males near Mt Hagen, a great find by John.

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

We scoped a superb adult male and saw several females very well in the Ambua area. Even the female of this PNG endemic is strikingly colored and patterned.

Australasian Robins Petroicidae

Ashy (Grey-headed) Robin (NE) *Heteromyias albispectularis*

Heard in the highland forests near Ambua Lodge.

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 scope views of several 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 views of this often tough species near Tabubil.

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*

Several on an afternoon birding session in Varirata NP.

Garnet Robin (NG) *Eugeryone rubra*

We enjoyed excellent views of a male near Ambua Lodge.

Northern Scrub Robin *Drymodes superciliaris*

We heard this species on several occasions in Varirata NP.

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 near Mt Hagen.

Grassbirds and allies Megaluridae

Papuan (Tawny) Grassbird *Megalurus macrurus*

We found two near Ambua Lodge.

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*

A dozen birds were seen in a fruiting tree in Varirata NP.

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

We only found this species in the Mt Hagen area.

Starlings Sturnidae

Metallic Starling (NE) *Aplonis metallica*

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.

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.

Golden Myna (NG) *Mino anais*

We enjoyed nice perched views of this colorful species in Tabubil and along the Elevala River.

Thrushes Turdidae



Island Thrush*Turdus poliocephalus*

First seen near Ambua Lodge and later seen as a regular visitor to the Kumul Lodge fruiting table.

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

Seen well at the Tari gap.

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.

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

Seen at the Port Moresby Airport.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow*Passer montanus*

A few were seen at PAU.

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.

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, with some great scope views.

Wagtails, Pipits Motacillidae**New Zealand (Australasian) Pipit***Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Two were seen at the Mt. Hagen Airport.

Annotated Checklist of Mammals Recorded**Short-furred Dasyure (NG) *Murexia longicaudata***

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 that lacks substantial areas of white on its tail.



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.

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

We had an excellent 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.

Rockjumper Birding Tours
Worldwide Birding Adventures
PO Box 13972, Cascades, 3202, South Africa
Tel: +27 33 394 0225
Fax: +27 88 033 394 0225
Email: info@rockjumperbirding.com
Alternative Email: rockjumperbirding@yahoo.com
Website: www.rockjumperbirding.com

