



Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Papua New Guinea II

22nd July - 8th August 2007



Trip Report compiled by Stephen F. Bailey & Erik Forsyth

Top twelve birds of the trip as voted by the participants

1. Greater Bird-of-paradise
2. Southern Crowned-Pigeon
3. King-of-Saxony Bird-of-paradise
- 4(tie). King Bird-of-paradise
- 4(tie). Wallace's Fairywren
- 6(tie). Crested Bird-of-paradise
- 6(tie). Greater Melampitta
8. Palm Cockatoo
9. Crested Berrypecker
- 10(tie). Brehm's Tiger-Parrot
- 10(tie). Princess Stephanie's Astrapia
- 10(tie). Blue Bird-of-paradise

Tour Summary

Our tour of Papua New Guinea began as we boarded our aircraft to the South Pacific islands of the Bismarck Archipelago for the pre-tour extension. First-off, we visited the rainforest of the Pokili Wildlife Management Area which holds the largest breeding colony of Melanesian Scrubfowl in the world. It was an amazing experience to wander through the massive colony of these bizarre birds. We also managed outstanding views of the gorgeous Black-headed Paradise-Kingfisher, Blue-eyed Cockatoo and Red-knobbed Imperial-Pigeon. Some participants were fortunate to spot the rare Black Honey Buzzard. Then we took time to explore several small, remote tropical islands in the Bismarck Sea and were rewarded with sightings of Black-naped Tern, the boldly attractive Beach Kingfisher, Mackinlay's Cuckoo-Dove and the extraordinary shaggy Nicobar Pigeon. Back on the main island, we visited the Pacific Adventist University, where we found a roosting Papuan Frogmouth, White-headed Shelduck and Comb-crested Jacana.

After a night in Port Moresby we flew to Mt Hagen and then drove to a picturesque lodge nestled in the mountain forests of the Central Ranges. The feeding tray at the lodge produced good views



views Brown Sicklebill and the brightly coloured Brehm's Tiger-Parrot among many others. Through a series of waterfalls and steep scenic cliffs we found such gems as Plum-faced (Whiskered) Lorikeet, Mountain Firetail, the gorgeous Crested Berrypecker, Ornate Melidectes, and with persistence we tracked down the gaudy Crested Bird-of-paradise and Spotted Jewel-Babbler. A visit to the newly discovered Lesser Bird-of-paradise lek was successful and nearby a male Superb Bird-of-paradise was showing off his magnificent blue breast shield! The

highly sought-after but bizarre Wattled Ploughbill was seen by a few members of the group as it moved quickly through the bamboo.

We continued our explorations on the narrow forested trails of Varirata National Park. En route to the park, during a pre-dawn drive, we were lucky to flush several Large-tailed Nightjar and best of all a Barking Owl (seen again in the park). At first light the forest came alive with song and flocks of noisy crimson Western Black-capped Lories and Eclectus Parrots flying overhead and a secretive Dusky Pademelon. The denizens of the undergrowth such as Rusty Mouse-Warbler, White-faced Robin and the stunning Brown-headed Paradise-Kingfisher were found after much persistence and patience and we also

enjoyed scope views of the rarely seen Barred Owlet-Nightjar. This was the site of our first encounter with a species of poisonous bird, the Hooded Pitohui, a member of the only bird family known to have poisonous feathers (loaded with homobatrachotoxin), a chemical also found in poison dart frogs in Central America.

Our next destination was the Central Highlands of the Tari Valley. A fruiting tree within the lodge grounds had Lawe's Parotia and female Blue Bird-of-paradise and nearby we found the gorgeous Princess Stephanie's *Astrapia* displaying its spectacular tail plumes from a prominent perch and the unique Short-tailed *Paradigalla*. Ascending into the steep highlands, we continued our search for some of the most spectacular birds on earth including the outrageous King-of-Saxony Bird-of-paradise. Here, the densely forested trails held Garnet Robin, Madarasz's Tiger-Parrot the striking Blue-capped Ifrita, Lesser Ground Robin, the very shy Lesser *Melampitta* and with persistence we watched a pair of Spotted Jewel-Babbler. Later we watched the Ribbon-tailed *Astrapia* that supports white tail feathers over three times the length of its own body! Our explorations of the area also produced Papuan King Parrot, Superb Bird-of-paradise, Black Pitohui and the shy Orange-crowned Fairy-Wren. We also had a fortunate sighting of the scarce Meyer's Goshawk. Another highlight was the ceremonial dance of the enigmatic tribesman, the Huli Wigmen, famous for their elaborate and colourful dress (demonstrating their great admiration for the birds-of-paradise).

Back in Port Moresby we travelled to the more open secondary habitat surrounding the slow flowing Brown River. Here we obtained amazing views of Common Paradise-Kingfisher and the brilliant Emperor Fairy-Wren. A visit to the coastal mangroves yielded views of Sooty Thicket Fantail, Mangrove Whistler and Mangrove Robin before we headed for Tabubil.



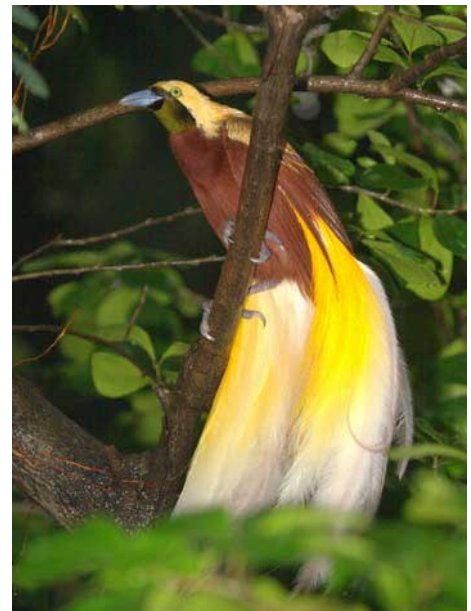
In the foothills of the Star Mountains, we scanned the rapids and found white-water specialists including the scarce Salvadori's Teal, Torrent Flycatcher and Torrent-lark while Great Woodswallow flew overhead. The fruiting trees in lower montane vegetation gave us Magnificent Bird-of-paradise and other highlights were Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrot, a male Carola's Parotia and a pair of Wallace's Fairywren! Probably the top bird recorded here was the near-mythical species, Shovel-billed Kookaburra. Few people have ever heard much less seen this species, and our searching through the rain enabled us to obtain brief but good looks of this bird, the most difficult kingfisher in the world! Our final great bird of the day was a memorable encounter with the very secretive Greater *Melampitta*.

From Kiunga, a small settlement close to the Irian Jaya border of Indonesia, we set out in a canoe down the Fly River into the remote lowland rainforest interior. On the journey, we heard and then located the extraordinary Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise, which was displaying at the top of an exposed Pandanus palm. Then along a smaller tributary we were overwhelmed by the sheer number of brightly coloured parrots, pigeons, doves and hornbills giving testimony to the pristine condition of the surrounding forest. We sat mesmerized as gaudy Palm Cockatoos flashed brilliant

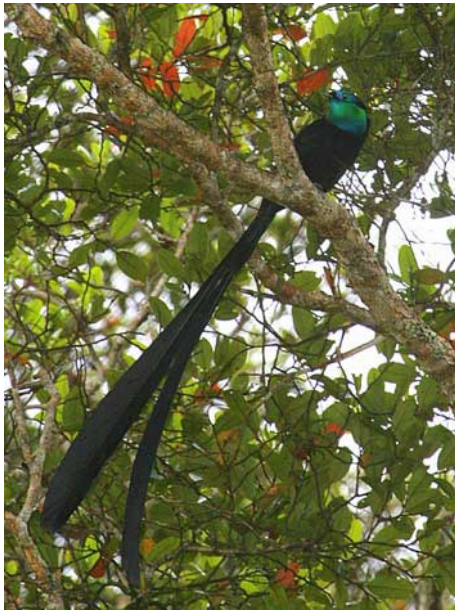


red cheek-patches, while massive flocks of Collared and Pinon Imperial Pigeons flew across the river.

Our rainforest lodge built of local palms and set on stilts offered spectacular views of the serene Elevala River. Exploring this truly wild place was enthralling and we scoured the muddy forest trails finding rarely encountered gems such as Little Paradise-Kingfisher, Blue Jewel-Babbler, King Bird-of-paradise displaying in a tangle of vines above our heads, and the endangered Pesquet's (Vulturine) Parrot. A certain highlight of the tour was a sighting of Southern Crowned Pigeon that flew and perched on a hefty tree branch extending over the water's edge. During the evening we heard Marbled Frogmouth, Greater Sooty Owl and the newly described Spangled (Starry) Owllet-Nightjar calling. After returning to the small town of Kiunga, we visited the famous display site of



Greater and Raggiana Bird-of-paradise. Here we were treated a flurry of rhythmic displays, intricate wing mantling and vibrant golden plume posturing. Blue Jewel Babbler was seen briefly crossing the trail and after a long search we eventually located the enigmatic Hook-billed Kingfisher and enjoyed scope views.



On our final morning, some of the group visited Varirata National Park and the trails were very productive. Specials included a Black-billed Brush Turkey on a trail, brief looks at the shy Northern Scrub Robin and a calling New Guinea Eagle!

We tallied an incredible 400 bird species, a very respectable total for PNG. Of the 23 birds-of-paradise that we recorded, we observed most full-plumaged males with nearly half performing spectacular courtship displays! Other prominent bird groups included parrots, honeyeaters, doves, and kingfishers. From the poisonous birds and giant butterflies to ornamented tribesmen and displaying

birds-of-paradise, Papua New Guinea is undoubtedly one of the most fascinating destinations on earth!

Photo Credits (In order of appearance): Raggiana Bird-of-paradise by N. Voaden, Crested Bird-of-Paradise by A. Riley, Crested Berrypecker by N. Voaden, Hook-billed Kingfisher by D. Shackelford, Brown Sickbill by N. Voaden, King of Saxony Bird-of-Paradise by A. Riley, Shovel-billed Kookaburra by A Marshall, Lesser Bird-of-paradise and Princess Stephanie's Astrapia by A. Riley.

Annotated Checklists of Birds

The nomenclature and taxonomy follows J. F. Clements *Birds of the World: A Checklist* 5th Edition (2004) Ibis Publishing Company, with updates to December 2005. Any deviations from Clements are indicated by square brackets and explained in taxonomic notes. Extensive research has been conducted into potential splits

Key to endemic/near endemic abbreviations

NG – endemic to New Guinea

PNG – endemic to Papua New Guinea

NB – endemic to New Britain

BA – endemic to the Bismarck Archipelago

NE – near endemic to New Guinea

Grebes Podicipedidae

Australasian Grebe

Tachybaptus novaehollandiae

Two were seen at Pacific Adventist University.

Gannets & Boobies Sulidae

Brown Booby

Sula leucogaster

Three birds were encountered off New Britain.

Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae

Little Black Cormorant

Phalacrocorax sulcirostris

Common in the Port Moresby area, with estimates of 50 at Pacific Adventist University (PAU) and 100 in the Trans-Vanapa area. One flew over Munganda village.

Little Pied Cormorant

Phalacrocorax melanoleucos

Widespread in small numbers: two at PAU, up to five per day at Kiunga and Elevala River, up to four in the Trans-Vanapa / Brown River area. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Anhinga & Darters Anhingidae

Darter

Anhinga melanogaster

One at PAU, five Hisiu / Trans-Vanapa, and up to three per day on the Elevala River.

Note: Race *A. m. novaehollandiae* is usually split as Australasian Darter, occurring from Australia, New Guinea and Wallacea.

Frigatebirds Fregatidae

Great Frigatebird

Fregata minor

Three birds were seen off New Britain

Lesser Frigatebird

Fregata ariel

Fifty birds seen off New Britain.

Herons, Egrets & Bitterns Ardeidae

Great Egret

Ardea alba

Widespread in the Port Moresby and Kiunga regions, with the maximum 75 in the Hisiu / Trans-Vanapa / Brown River region. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Note: The nominate Old World Great Egret may be split from the New World *A. a. egretta* which would become American Egret. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.

Pied Heron

Egretta picata

We saw four of this beautiful heron at PAU.

Intermediate Egret

Egretta intermedia

Widespread but not numerous, with six at PAU, up to five in the Hisiu / Trans-Vanapa / Brown River region, and singles at Port Moresby airport.

Note: This group may be split into 3 species, Yellow-billed Egret *E. brachyrhyncha*, Plumed Egret *E. plumifera* (which is what we recorded in PNG) and the nominate Intermediate Egret. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.

White-faced Heron

Egretta novaehollandiae

Two birds were seen at the airstrip on New Britain.

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta

Singles found at Trans-Vanapa and on the Fly River.

Pacific Reef Heron*Egretta sacra*

Two at the Hsiu Mangroves and also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Cattle Egret*Bubulcus ibis*

Only seen in the Port Moresby region: at and near PAU, Port Moresby airport, and Brown River. Over 200 were coming to roost at PAU.

Note: This group may be split into 2 species, the nominate Common Cattle Egret and the Asian/Australasian Eastern Cattle Egret E. coromanda. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.

Striated (Little Green/Green-backed) Heron*Butorides striatus*

Up to eight were seen daily the Elevala River.

Note: A polytypic and cosmopolitan superspecies with over 30 recognized forms. Clements recognizes two full species, the North American Green Heron B. virescens and the most widespread nominate form which we recorded in PNG. This split is not recognized by Handbook of Birds of the World (del Hoyo et al.) who lump these forms under the nominate.

Rufous (Nankeen) Night-Heron*Nycticorax caledonicus*

Six were at their Pacific Adventist University roost. A total of eight were seen on the pre-dawn drive and during the day Trans-Vanapa. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Black Bittern*Ixobrychus flavicollis*

We had good looks at a single bird on New Britain.

Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae**Australian (White) Ibis***Threskiornis molucca*

In the Port Moresby region, we saw one at PAU, four at Brown River, and sixty Trans-Vanapa.

Royal Spoonbill*Platalea regia*

This visitor from Australia was seen in Trans-Vanapa.

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae**Spotted Whistling-Duck***Dendrocygna guttata*

Three were seen in their roost at Pacific Adventist University.

Wandering Whistling-Duck*Dendrocygna arcuata*

About 30 were at Pacific Adventist University. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Radjah (White-headed) Shelduck NE*Dendrocygna arcuata*

Five at Pacific Adventist University were a bonus.

Green Pygmy-goose*Nettapus pulchellus*

This distinctive and beautiful little duck was recorded at Pacific Adventist University.

Salvadori's Teal (NG)*Salvadorina waigiuenis*

We scoped one as it swam around the rocks near Tabubil. This is a highly-desired bird on any New Guinea tour.

Pacific Black Duck*Anas superciliosa*

About 125 at Pacific Adventist University and also recorded on the New Britain pre-tour extension.

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

Seen almost daily in the Tabubil / Kiunga / Elevala River area and also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Black Honey-Buzzard*Henicopernis infuscatus*

A single bird was seen by Nigel and Erik at Pokili Reserve.

Long-tailed Honey-buzzard (E)*Henicopernis longicauda*

Strangely, this species was only seen in the Tabubil region, a total of four birds.

Black Kite*Milvus migrans*

Up to 25 birds were seen daily in the Mt. Hagen area and one or two per day in the Port Moresby region.

Whistling Kite*Haliastur sphenurus*

Common in the Port Moresby, with a high of 25 in the Brown River – Hisiu Mangroves region and three around Kiunga.

Brahminy Kite*Haliastur indus*

Common everywhere in the lowlands, with maxima of up to fifteen daily in the Brown River – Hisiu Mangroves region and up to ten in the greater Kiunga region. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle*Haliaeetus leucogaster*

An adult was chased by a crow as we drove through Trans-Vanapa and one to two others were on the Elevala River. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Eastern Marsh-Harrier [Papuan]*Circus spilonotus*

We saw an adult male at Mt. Hagen Airport, followed by a pair at the same spot and another male-female pair in the Tari Gap grasslands. It was very impressive to record three adult males out of five individual sightings.

Note: Race C. s. spilothorax is sometimes considered a full species, Papuan Marsh-Harrier.

Variable Goshawk*Accipiter hiogaster*

One Trans-Vanapa was among several raptors foraging at a raging grass fire. Another engaged in aerial pursuits with a pair of Pacific Bazas over the Elevala River and a third individual was at Gusiore village the next day. Also recorded on the New Britain pre-tour extension.

Brown Goshawk*Accipiter fasciatus*

Two at Trans-Vanapa were among several raptors foraging at a raging grass fire. Another adult was observed on the Elevala River.

Black-mantled Goshawk NG*Accipiter melanochlamys*

One was seen in the Ambua Lodge area.

Collared Sparrowhawk*Accipiter cirrocephalus*

Two were at Munganda village, one flew over the Hisiu petrol station, and one was just outside Varirata National Park.

New Britain Sparrowhawk*Accipiter brachyurus*

A single bird was seen at Pokili Forest.

Meyer's Goshawk*Accipiter meyerianus*

An adult flushed from a tall snag along the road approaching Tari Gap, then it flew away very strongly, showing its massive size and power.

New Guinea Eagle (NG)*Harpyopsis novaeguineae*

This difficult forest eagle was heard calling in Varirata NP on the final morning of the tour.

Little Eagle*Hieraaetus morphnoides*

One encountered at Tabubil and one over the savanna outside Varirata National Park. This low-density raptor is easily missed on a PNG tour.

Falcons & Caracaras Falconidae**Australian Kestrel***Falco cenchroides*

One was at the Tabubil Airport and Janet saw one at Kilometre 120. This is a visitor from Australia.

Oriental Hobby*Falco serverus*

A single bird was seen on New Britain.

Peregrine Falcon*Falco peregrinus*

One was at Kumul Lodge. This is the dark resident race *ernesti*.

Megapodes Megapodiidae**Black-billed (Yellow-legged) Brush-turkey (NG)** *Talegalla fuscirostris*

One was heard at Brown River. Up to four were heard nightly (and sometimes in the day) at Ekame Lodge. Along Varirata's Circuit Track, we spotted one on the trail and had very good views. Nest mounds were also seen.

Melanesian Scrubfowl*Megapodius eremite*

A highlight was visiting a breeding colony at Pokili Reserve. We had excellent scope views of perched birds.

Orange-footed Scrubfowl*Megapodius reinwardt*

Some of us saw a young individual in the forest at Varirata.

Pheasants & Partridges Phasianidae**Brown Quail***Coturnix ypsilophora*

A total of five flushed along the road from Ambua Lodge to Tari Gap.

Buttonquails Turnicidae**Red-backed Buttonquail***Turnix maculosa*

Repeating our success from the tour immediately preceding, we flushed four of these secretive little birds at Kiunga Airport and were treated to good views.

Rails, Gallinules & Coots Rallidae**Red-necked Crake***Rallina tricolour*

Twice at night we heard a single bird calling across the Elevala River from Ekame Lodge.

White-browed Crake*Porzana cinerea*

We had excellent looks at a pair on New Britain.

Purple Swamphen*Porphyrio porphyrio*

Thirty were recorded at Pacific Adventist University and ten were seen in the Hisiu / Trans-Vanapa region. At Port Moresby airport, we observed a family of five. The pre-tour extension to New Britain also produced sightings of this species.

Note: This cosmopolitan species is currently in taxonomic review and several forms are expected to be recognised as distinct species. The form we recorded might then become Black-winged Swamphen P. melanopterus. Other forms to be recognised may include Indian Swamphen P. poliocephalus, Philippine Swamphen P. pulverulentus and Eastern Swamphen P. melanotus.

Dusky Moorhen*Gallinula tenebrosa*

Twelve were at Pacific Adventist University.

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

Six were found at the Pacific Adventist University.

Plovers & Lapwings Charadriidae**Masked Lapwing***Vanellus miles*

Eight were at PAU, three were Trans-Vanapa, and we frequently saw this species on Port Moresby airport (up to five). The pre-tour extension to New Britain also produced sightings of this species.

Pacific Golden Plover*Pluvialis fulva*

Three birds were seen on New Britain.

Little Ringed Plover*Charadrius dubius*

The resident pair entertained us on the gravel stockpiling area at Kilometre 120 on 1 August.

Sandpipers Scolopacidae**Whimbrel***Numenius phaeopus*

One flew along the beach at Hisiu Mangroves. The pre-tour extension to New Britain also produced sightings of this species.

Terns Sternidae**Lesser Crested Tern***Sterna bengalensis*

A single bird was seen on New Britain.

Gull-billed Tern*Sterna nilotica*

One flew over the beach at Hisiu Mangroves.

Great Crested Tern*Sterna bergii*

Four were flying offshore Hisiu Mangroves. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Black-naped Tern*Sterna sumatrana*

Eight were seen near Restorf Island, New Britain.

Common Tern*Sterna hirundo*

Commonly seen off New Britain.

Pigeons & Doves Columbidae**Rock Pigeon (Dove)***Columba livia*

Up to five were around the Port Moresby airport. The pre-tour extension to New Britain also produced sightings of this species.

Slender-billed [Brown] Cuckoo-Dove*Macropygia amboinensis*

This species was widespread and common in small numbers from the lowlands up to mid-level mountains. Peak numbers of 13 seen below Kumul Lodge in Enga Province.

Mackinlay's Cuckoo-Dove*Macropygia mackinlayi*

Two birds were seen on Restorf Island.

Great Cuckoo-Dove (NE)*Reinwardtoena reinwardtii*

Up to two were seen daily at Ambua Lodge; singles were at Ok Ma and Kilometre Seventeen 6 August. The latter flying bird was initially identified as a Channel-billed Cuckoo! This huge-tailed dove always impresses.

Emerald Dove*Chalcophaps indica*

Two were found at Brown River.

Stephan's Dove*Chalcophaps stephani*

A pair flew across the Elevala River and another was seen there the next day. Usually sightings of this ground dove are quick fly-bys. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Peaceful Dove*Geopelia placida*

Five at Pacific Adventist University, fifteen at Hisiu Mangroves, and two in savanna by Varirata. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Bar-shouldered Dove*Geopelia humeralis*

We found this highly localized bird (in New Guinea) at Pacific Adventist University and the Hisiu Mangroves.

Nicobar Pigeon*Caloenas nicobarica*

We had excellent looks at eight birds at Restorf Island, New Britain.

White-bibbed Ground-Dove (NE)*Gallicolumba jobiensis*

Erik and Sean had a good fly-by view of one in the forest of the Bridges Trail at Ambua Lodge. This species is seldom seen by a group.

Southern Crowned-Pigeon (NG)*Goura scheepmakeri*

Always one of the main target birds along the Elevala River, this amazing bird was voted second-best of the trip! Samuel Kepuknai spotted one and provided fill illumination from his dying spotlight. The next morning we had better light on probably the same bird just a few metres from its evening perch. We also flushed a trio in the forest.

Wompoo (Magnificent) Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*

Seen at Varirata National Park and heard at the Brown and Elevala River.

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

Up to fifteen per day in the Kiunga – Elevala River area. Otherwise at least one at Ok Ma and two at Varirata.

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

We saw ten at the Hisiu Mangroves, a reliable site for this localized fruit-dove.

Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*

One at Varirata and three at Dablin Creek Road.

Beautiful Fruit-Dove (NG) *Ptilinopus pulchellus*

Seen were two at Varirata and one at Elevala River; we heard one at Kilometre Seventeen.

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

Strangely, only small numbers seen: up to a high of only eight per day in the Kiunga / Elevala region and up to six in the Brown River region.

Knob-billed Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus insolitus*

Six at the Hisiu Mangroves. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Dwarf Fruit-Dove (NG) *Ptilinopus nanus*

Some saw a single bird at Varirata, not our usual area for this bird.

Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula rubricera*

Pleasingly common on New Britain.

Finsch's Imperial Pigeon *Ducula finschii*

A single bird at Pokili Forest.

Island Imperial Pigeon *Ducula pistrinaria*

Common on the smaller islands off New Britain.

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

Along the Elevala River we saw one and heard another. Another was heard at Varirata.

Pinon Imperial-Pigeon NG *Ducula pinon*

Up to five per day in the Brown River region and up to fifteen daily in the Kiunga – Elevala River region.

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

Abundant along the Elevala and Fly rivers, with up to 75 estimated daily. As lowland rainforest along rivers is its optimum habitat, boat trips on these rivers are the easy way to see many of this species.

Zoe Imperial-Pigeon (NG) *Ducula zoeae*

Commonly heard in lowlands and hills, but only three birds were seen: one at Varirata and two at Elevala River.

Torresian Imperial-Pigeon (NE) *Ducula spilorrhoea*

Pairs seen at PAU and Brown River represented the nominate form. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Yellowish-tinted Imperial Pigeon *Ducula spillorrhoea subflavecens*

Flocks were seen at Pokili Forest, New Britain.

Papuan Mountain-Pigeon (NE) *Gymnophaps albertisii*

As is typical, flocks flashed overhead on whooshing wings in mountains, hills, and the Kiunga lowlands. They were commonest above Ambua Lodge, where we estimated up to 300 per day. We also had up to 40 per day on the Elevala River.

Cockatoos & Allies Cacatuidae**Palm Cockatoo (NE)***Probosciger aterrimus*

We saw five along the Elevala River and had three in the forest behind Ekame Lodge, of which we saw one. This is a mind-blowing bird when first encountered and it never becomes boring. It was voted eighth-best bird of the trip.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo*Cacatua galerita*

Up to 15 daily in the Kiunga – Elevala River region; up to four at Varirata; singles Trans-Vanapa and Kilometre 120.

Blue-eyed Cockatoo*Cacatua ophthalmica*

Seen in small numbers at all forest patches on New Britain.

Parrots, Macaws & Allies Psittacidae**Yellow-streaked (Greater Streaked) Lory (NG)** *Chalcopsitta sintillata*

Four Trans-Vanapa, two at Ok Menga Hydro Plant 1 August, and up to 25 daily along the Elevala River

Dusky Lory (NG)*Pseudeos fuscata*

Four large flocks totaling 125 birds over the Ok Menga Hydro Plant late on 2 August were all flying high and going the same direction, presumably to roost. On 4 August we had two groups of about thirty birds at Tabubil and Elevala River.

Rainbow Lorikeet*Trichoglossus haematodus*

Common and widespread in the lowlands and hills, with up to 25 daily at Varirata, comparable numbers in the Brown River region, and up to fifteen at daily Tabubil. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Goldie's Lorikeet (NG)*Psitteuteles goldiei*

Six flying past Munganda gave good views. Two pairs flew over Ambua Lodge and twelve were seen in that area the next day.

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

This gorgeous bird was common through the lowlands and hills in small numbers. Six per day was the maximum count, both at Varirata and in the Elevala – Kiunga region.

(Eastern) Black-capped Lory*Lory hypoinochrous*

Recorded in lowland forest at Kiunga. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

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

Two flew over the Elevala River.

Red-flanked Lorikeet (NE)*Charmosyna placentis*

Two at Kilometre Seventeen were the only birds seen.

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

A group of four flew past us at Dablin Creek Road. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain where we saw hundreds.

Papuan Lorikeet (NG)*Charmosyna papou*

One to three daily at Kumul Lodge, where dark morph birds predominate. Up to five red morphs per day around Ambua Lodge. This is one of the world's most beautiful parrots!

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

We watched beautiful male-female pairs feeding on flowers beside Kumul Lodge and four others were at the King-of-Saxony Bird-of-paradise trail, lower down in Enga Province. This bird is always a special treat when seen well.

Yellow-billed Lorikeet (NG)*Neopsittacus musschenbroekii*

Two at Kumul Lodge and thirty birds daily in the Ambua Lodge area.

Orange-billed Lorikeet (NG)*Neopsittacus pullicauda*

One or two birds most days at both Kumul Lodge and the Ambua Lodge area.

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

Often called Vulturine Parrot, we had brief fly-by views of a pair at Ok Ma. Singles flew across both the Fly and Elevala rivers. This bird is usually difficult to see well.

Buff-faced Pygmy-Parrot *Micropsitta pusio*

Three birds were seen on New Britain.

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

A pair of these tiny birds, was seen by some of the group behind Ekame Lodge.

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

We scoped a female at Dablin Creek Road 2 August.

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

We had 75 at Dablin Creek Road, 6 at Ok Ma, and 20 at Elevala River. We scoped many of these, as befits one of the cutest parrots.

Large Fig-Parrot (NG) *Psittaculirostris desmarestii*

Some of us saw one at Elevala River.

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

A male-female pair was 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; it tied for tenth-best bird of the trip.

Madarasz's Tiger-Parrot (NG) *Psittacella madaraszii*

One was studied along the Bridges Trail at Ambua Lodge.

Red-cheeked Parrot (NE) *Geoffroyus geoffroyi*

Common at PAU, Varirata, Hisiu Mangroves – Brown River, and in the Kiunga – Elevala River area, with up to 40 birds seen daily in the latter region.

Blue-collared Parrot (NG) *Geoffroyus simplex*

At least three individuals were heard calling in flight overhead at Dablin Creek Road.

Eclectus Parrot (NE) *Eclectus roratus*

Common and seen daily in numbers up to fifteen in the Kiunga – Elevala River – Tabubil region, and up to five daily at PAU and in the Brown River region. As usual, many more males than females were seen flying about. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Papuan King-Parrot (NG) *Alisterus chloropterus*

Up to three per day of this spectacular parrot were seen at Ambua Lodge.

Green-fronted Hanging Parrot *Loriculus tener*

This scarce bird was recorded at Garu and Pokili Forests.

Cuckoos Cuculidae

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*

We saw one of four birds calling around Munganda village, but thereafter only heard this species. Singles were singing at Brown River and Trans-Vanapa, and up to five daily in the Kiunga – Elevala River region. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo (NE) *Cacomantis castaneiventris*

We saw a singing bird at Dablin Creek Road, then heard other individuals at Ok Mengo Hydro Plant the same day and Ok Ma the next day.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*

Three were singing around Munganda village.

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

One seen in the lowlands at Brown River, where it is scarce but regular. Another was seen at Ok Ma, in its

more typical hill habitat.

Long-billed Cuckoo (NG)*Rhamphomantis megarhynchus*

Steve saw an immature in the forest at Ok Ma, but this species was added to the group trip list when we scoped a singing male at Kilometre Seventeen.

White-crowned Koel (NG)*Caliechthrus leucolophus*

We saw two at Ok Ma; otherwise only heard, both days at Varirata, Dablin Creek Road, Elevala River, and Kilometre Seventeen.

Dwarf Koel (NG)*Microdynamis parva*

A female came well to our recording at Dablin Creek Road, Tabubil. Well-named, this bird is much smaller than any other koel.

Asian [Common] Koel*Eudynamis scolopacea*

Heard birds were two at Varirata, two at Elevala River, and one at Kilometre Seventeen. A male seen there was probably the calling bird or at least this species. As this is the breeding form in New Guinea, it is the only one expected to call there; the male looks just like the male Australian Koel, which is usually silent in New Guinea. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Channel-billed Cuckoo*Scythrops novaehollandiae*

We saw seven of this spectacular giant. One was at Hisiu Mangroves. The other six were all along the Elevala and Fly rivers. One of those, at Gusiore village, was being chased by a Grey Crow; this cuckoo is a brood parasite of crows. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Violaceous Coucal*Centropus violaceus*

We scoped a single bird and heard others at Pokili Forest.

Greater Black Coucal (NG)*Centropus menbeki*

We regularly heard several calling along the Elevala River, especially in the evening around Ekame Lodge. Singles also heard Trans-Vanapa and Kilometre Seventeen.

Pied Coucal*Centropus ateralbus*

A pair at our hotel in Walindi and another pair in Garu Forest.

Pheasant Coucal*Centropus phasianinus*

One seen at PAU; one heard at Brown River; two seen and another heard Trans-Vanapa.

Lesser Black Coucal (NG)*Centropus bernsteini*

We observed singles at Kilometre Seventeen and on the Elevala River. We also heard three at Kiunga Airport.

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

We heard one at Ekame Lodge.

Barn Owl*Tyto alba*

On both of our pre-dawn drives up to Varirata National Park we saw one in the bus headlights.

Typical Owls Strigidae**Barking Owl (NE)***Ninox connivens*

We saw two in the Varirata National Park region. One was in the bus headlights on the road during the pre-dawn drive up to the park. Jim, Jr. flushed the second individual beside the Varirata car park clearing and Steve re-found it inside the forest, where we all got good views.

Jungle Hawk-Owl (Papuan Boobook) (NG)*Ninox theomacha*

We heard this chocolate-coloured owl nightly at Ambua Lodge. Some people saw one of the pair calling at Ok Ma at dawn.

Owlet-Nightjars Aegothelidae

Spangled (Starry) Owlet-Nightjar (NG) *Aegotheles tatei*

One heard at Ekame Lodge.

Barred Owlet-Nightjar (NG) *Aegotheles bennettii*

One bird seen looking out of its roost tree cavity near the car park at Varirata National Park; we had prolonged scope views of its face.

Frogmouths Podargidae

Marbled Frogmouth (NE) *Podargus ocellatus*

Up to two heard calling at Ekame Lodge.

Papuan Frogmouth (NE) *Podargus papuensis*

Essentially the first birds of this tour were the magnificent pair roosting together in a tree in the residential portion of Pacific Adventist University. We scoped these astounding birds in intimate detail. One flew through our headlight beams during our pre-dawn drive to Hisiu Mangroves.

Nightjars & Allies Caprimulgidae

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*

One male was very well seen on the Varirata National Park entrance road just before dawn 26 July and we also handled a fresh road-killed male there. We saw seven during our pre-dawn drive to Hisiu Mangroves 31 July, but unfortunately one of them road-killed against our bus. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Swifts Apodidae

Glossy Swiftlet *Aerodramus esculenta*

Up to 50 birds estimated daily in the hills and mountains from Tabubil to Kumul Lodge to Tari Gap to Varirata National Park. Most entertaining when it darts between members of our group!

Mountain Swiftlet (NG) *Aerodramus hirundinaceus*

Up to 20 daily in the Kumul Lodge and Tari Gap – Ambua Lodge areas.

Uniform Swiftlet *Aerodramus vanikorensis*

Very common in the lowlands and hills, where seen virtually every day. The large numbers came from our days traveling on the Fly and Elevala Rivers, with 500 estimated, when this number included many seen along the road from Tabubil. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

White-rumped Swiftlet *Aerodramus spodiopygius*

Thirty birds were seen on New Britain.

Papuan Needle-tail (New Guinea Spine-tailed) NG *Mearnsia novaeguineae*

At least two were Trans-Vanapa and up to 50 per day were foraging above the Elevala River.

Treeswifts Hemiprocnidae

Moustached Treeswift (NE) *Hemiproctne mystacea*

Two were at Ambua Lodge; four were at Kilometre 120 and two more near Tabubil; up to three daily at the Fly and Elevala rivers. This is one of New Guinea's sublime birds. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Recorded on New Britain.

Azure Kingfisher *Alcedo azurea*

A total of seven sightings on the Elevala River included some nice views. One even approached our boat with evident curiosity!

Little Kingfisher *Alcedo pusilla*

One seen very briefly at a pool in the Hisiu Mangroves. Much better views, were two separate birds on the Elevala River that gave us good views albeit both birds flew away fairly quickly. This year we had Little Kingfishers on the Elevala for the first time and more Azures than usual, which I attribute to the very low water levels of the river this time; there were few side creeks with much water for these small aquatic kingfishers so they used the main river instead.

Variable (Dwarf) Kingfisher *Ceyx lepidus*

Two individuals perched in the forest at Varirata, but not long enough for everyone to see them well. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Blue-winged Kookaburra *Dacelo leachii*

Up to two birds were seen each day at Varirata and one was at Brown River. One of the largest kingfishers, with a truly massive bill!

Rufous-bellied Kookaburra (NG) *Dacelo gaudichaud*

Up to three seen and eight heard daily in the Kiunga – Elevala River area; one to four at Varirata and Brown River. Even for a kingfisher, this is a striking bird, especially with its ivory-white bill.

Shovel-billed Kookaburra (NG) *Clytoceyx rex*

Three or four birds were calling in the dawn twilight at Ok Ma, Tabubil. We saw one of them perched near its apparent nest hole. Later in the day, Samuel and Alan were lucky enough to see it or its mate fly straight out of the largest hole in the snag. This is a near-mythical species; the first known nest of this species was only discovered in this same area just last year!

Forest Kingfisher *Todirhamphus macleayii*

Six at Brown River were mostly in two small vocal groups.

Collared Kingfisher *Todirhamphus chloris*

Two on the beach at Hisiu Mangroves.

Beach Kingfisher *Todirhamptus saurophaga*

Six birds were seen on the smaller isles including Restorf, New Britain.

Sacred Kingfisher *Todirhamphus sanctus*

This common wintering bird from Australia was widespread and frequently seen in the lowlands.

This year they were particularly numerous along the Elevala River, where we had about 15 each day. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Hook-billed Kingfisher (NG) *Melidora macrorrhina*

We heard this crepuscular species calling many times and saw it on one day. One called at dawn by Varirata. All other observations were at Kilometre Seventeen or (mostly) on the Elevala River, where we heard up to four birds daily, generally around both dawn and dusk.

Yellow-billed Kingfisher (NE) *Syma torotoro*

Two of six calling birds were seen very well at Varirata National Park. Subsequently we also heard singles at Brown River, Elevala River, and two back at Varirata.

Mountain Kingfisher (Mountain Yellow-billed) (NG) *Syma megarhyncha*

Above Ambua Lodge we heard a bird calling in the distance. A recording brought this male right in to a perch for great scope views while he gaped and stared in anger.

Little Paradise-Kingfisher (NG) *Tanysiptera hydrocharis*

Along the Elevala River we heard one and the next day we called one in for eye-level views in the forest while another called in the vicinity.

Common Paradise-Kingfisher (NE) *Tanysiptera galatea*

Both at Brown River and Trans-Vanapa we called in a pair of birds for good views in forest patches. These

are among the most gorgeous of the kingfishers.

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

With only a small amount of work we saw three of four birds heard at Varirata National Park 26 July. These included some nice views of yet another wonderful paradise-kingfisher.

Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher (NE) *Tanysiptera sylvia*

A nice bonus was the silent individual that suddenly perched close to us in the forest along the Elevala River. With the Little and the Common, we had three species of paradise-kingfishers in this forest! This nominate form of Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher is a wintering migrant from Australia. The resident black-headed form that we see on New Britain may be split as a full species, but for now it counts as the same species. Those that did the New Britain Extension now have this potential split 'in the bank.'

Black-headed Paradise Kingfisher *Tanysiptera Sylvia nigriceps*

Three birds were seen at Pokili and Garu Forests New Britain.

Bee-eaters Meropidae

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

Up to 40 per day were seen in the Port Moresby area and up to 20 were on the Fly and Elevala rivers. This is a migrant from Australia. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Typical Rollers Coraciidae

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

Most abundant along the Fly and Elevala rivers, where up to 40+ per day were estimated. Elsewhere only one or two were seen at PAU, Hisiu, and Varirata. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Hornbills Bucerotidae

Blyth's Hornbill NE *Aceros plicatus*

This vulnerable bird is always most abundant along the Elevala and Fly rivers, where we saw it daily in numbers up to 25. The only hornbills we saw elsewhere were a male-female pair at Ok Ma. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Pittas Pittidae

Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida*

We heard up to four birds daily along the Elevala River.

Swallows Hirundinidae

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*

This is the common swallow of the region and it is very widespread; we had modest numbers (up to 30) throughout the lowlands and in the montane valleys.

Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

Australasian Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

We saw singles at Mt. Hagen Airport, Tari Gap grasslands and Tari Airport.

Cuckoo-shrikes Campephagidae

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*

This Australian migrant was widespread, with 50 in the Varirata area and lesser numbers elsewhere in the Port Moresby region and around Kiunga. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Stout-billed Cuckoo-shrike (NG) *Coracina caeruleogrisea*

Among New Guinea's cuckoo-shrikes, of which we saw all twelve species, this large bird is particularly impressive. We saw four at Varirata and two at Dablin Creek Road.

Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina lineata*

Two heard at Varirata.

Boyer's Cuckoo-shrike (NG) *Coracina boyeri*

One seen and two others heard at Varirata and three seen at Ok Ma.

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*

Six seen at Varirata, two at Brown River, then twenty at Hisiu Mangroves. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Hooded Cuckoo-shrike (NG) *Coracina longicauda*

Up to five seen at Ambua Lodge.

Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*

We saw one in the distinctive female plumage in the Hisiu area. See all of the geographic forms of Cicadabird that you can, as many have a possibility of being split.

Papuan (Black-shouldered) Cuckoo-shrike (NG) *Coracina incerta*

Two were seen at Dablin Creek Road and at Ok Ma.

Grey-headed (Black-tipped) Cuckoo-shrike (NG) *Coracina schisticeps*

Up to three daily in the Tabubil / Kiunga / Elevala region.

New Guinea (Black) Cuckoo-shrike (NG) *Coracina melas*

Two seen at Ok Ma were the only sightings of this species on the tour.

Black-bellied Cuckoo-shrike (NG) *Coracina montana*

We saw a pair below Kumul Lodge, saw up to nine near Ambua Lodge, and had another pair at Dablin Creek Road. The male-female antiphonal duet is very distinctive.

Golden Cuckoo-shrike (NG) *Campochaera sloetii*

This is always a popular bird and we had at least four at the Elevala River.

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*

Surprisingly, only six at Dablin Creek Road 2 August and one heard at Elevala River. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Thrushes & Allies Turdidae

Island Thrush *Turdus poliocephalus*

Up to ten daily at Kumul Lodge and six at Tari Gap.

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

One at PAU and three in the Hisiu area.

Old World Warblers Sylviidae

Island Leaf-Warbler (NE) *Phylloscopus poliocephalus*

Two seen and three additional birds heard around Ambua Lodge.

Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis*

Seen and/or heard almost daily in the mountains around Kumul and Ambua lodges, with up to nine from Ambua up to Tari Gap.

Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*

Local in the lowlands (e.g. two at Gateway Hotel) and widespread in the mountains, with up to six daily.

Fantails Rhipiduridae**Northern Fantail***Rhipidura rufiventris*

One at Brown River, four at Hisiu Mangroves, and two each at Dablin Creek Road and Ok Ma. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Willie Wagtail*Rhipidura leucophrys*

Very widespread, being seen every day throughout the trip; up to 40 per day in the Port Moresby region. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Friendly Fantail (NG)*Rhipidura albolimbata*

Delightfully common in the highlands, with up to ten per day around Kumul and Ambua lodges.

Chestnut-bellied Fantail (NG)*Rhipidura hyperythra*

This species was seen at Varirata National Park.

Sooty Thicket-Fantail (NG)*Rhipidura threnothorax*

Up to three seen at Varirata and a total of five birds heard in the Tabubil area.

Black Thicket-Fantail (NG)*Rhipidura maculipectus*

Two heard (one seen by Steve) at Brown River, two seen in the Hisiu Mangroves, one Trans-Vanapa, and one heard at Kilometre Seventeen.

White-bellied Thicket-Fantail (NG)*Rhipidura leucothorax*

One seen plus another heard Trans-Vanapa.

Black Fantail (NG)*Rhipidura atra*

Two below Kumul Lodge, total of three at Ambua Lodge, and four near Tabubil.

Mangrove Fantail (NE)*Rhipidura phasiana*

One heard by some deep in the Hisiu Mangroves.

Dimorphic Fantail (NG)*Rhipidura brachyrhyncha*

A total of seven birds seen in the Kumul Lodge and Ambua Lodge regions. Both colour morphs were seen well.

Monarch Flycatchers Monarchidae**Black Monarch (Fantail Monarch) (NG)***Monarcha axillaris*

Singles were observed at Ambua Lodge.

Island Monarch*Monarcha cinerascens*

Three birds were seen around islets off New Britain.

Black-faced Monarch*Monarcha melanopsis*

Singles at Varirata, Hisiu Mangroves, and Trans-Vanapa.

Spot-winged Monarch (NG)*Monarcha guttulus*

Three were at Varirata, one at Ok Ma, and pairs behind Ekame Lodge on consecutive days.

Hooded Monarch (NG)*Monarcha manadensis*

One behind Ekame Lodge.

Black-tailed Monarch*Monarcha verticalis*

A single bird was seen well on Restorf Island.

Golden Monarch (NG)*Monarcha chrysomela*

We saw a male-female pair at Ok Ma, a female behind Ekame Lodge, and a male at Kilometre Seventeen.

Friiled Monarch (NG)*Arses telescopthalmus*

Up to three birds per day seen and/or heard at Varirata, the Brown River region, and the Elevela River / Kiunga region.

Note: The Australian A. t. lorealis has now been raised to full species status as Frill-necked Monarch, making the Friiled Monarch a New Guinea endemic.

Leaden Flycatcher*Myiagra rubecula*

A pair seen in the savanna by Varirata.

Broad-billed Flycatcher*Myiagra ruficollis*

This is a mangrove specialist was recorded in the Hisiu Mangroves.

Shining Flycatcher*Myiagra alecto*

Pairs seen at Brown River, Hisiu Mangroves, and Trans-Vanapa, plus up to six seen and ten heard along the Elevala River. This bird is most common alongside water. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Dull Flycatcher*Myiagra hebetior*

A male was seen at Kilu Ridge, New Britain.

Black-breasted Boatbill (NG)*Machaerirhynchus nigripectus*

A total of four birds seen near Ambua Lodge. This is always an eye-pleaser.

Yellow-breasted Boatbill (NE)*Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*

Two observed at Varirata NP.

Australasian Robins Petroicidae**Lesser Ground-Robin (NG)***Amalocichla incerta*

Of five birds heard in the forest above Ambua Lodge, we called one in for viewing on the latter date.

Torrent Flycatcher (NG)*Monachella muelleriana*

One seen by Janet from the van while returning to Kumul Lodge. The rest of the group caught up on this species when we scoped four at the Ok Menga Hydroelectric Plant near Tabubil.

Lemon-bellied Flycatcher (NE)*Microeca flavigaster*

One called in at the savanna by Varirata and a very confiding couple at the Hisiu petrol station.

Olive Flyrobin (Flycatcher) (NG)*Microeca flavovirescens*

Singles at Ok Ma, Tabubil and behind Ekame Lodge.

Canary Flycatcher (NG)*Microeca papuana*

Three at Kumul Lodge and up to six daily at Ambua Lodge.

Garnet Robin (NG)*Eugeryone rubra*

We saw a male-female pair along the upper forest trail below Tari Gap.

White-faced Robin (NE)*Tragellasia leucops*

A pair heard and seen at Varirata.

Mangrove Robin (NE)*Eopsaltria pulverulenta*

Two adults feeding a juvenile at pools in the Hisiu Mangroves.

Black-sided Robin (NG)*Poecilodryas hypoleuca*

Near Ekame Lodge we saw one of two calling birds and heard another the next day.

Black-throated Robin (NG)*Poecilodryas albonotata*

One or two at Kumul Lodge and three near Ambua Lodge. This bird looks much like a small cuckoo-shrike.

White-winged Robin (NG)*Peneothello sigillatus*

Up to four seen daily at Kumul Lodge and two at Ambua Lodge.

White-rumped Robin (NG)*Peneothello bimaculatus*

One of two birds heard at Dablin Creek Road was seen by some of us; another heard at Ok Ma the next day.

Blue-grey Robin (NG)*Peneothello cyanus*

Singles at and below Kumul Lodge; up to eight per day at Ambua Lodge.

Grey-headed [Ashy] Robin (NE)*Heteromyias albispecularis*

One heard in forest from Bailey Bridge Trail above Ambua Lodge.

Northern Scrub-Robin (NE)*Drymodes superciliaris*

We heard this ground skulker in the forest at Dablin Creek Road and Ok Ma. Those of us that returned to

Varirata worked a singing bird and obtained several glimpses but no good views.

Whistlers & Allies Pachycephalidae

Rufous-naped Whistler (NG)

Aleadryas rufinucha

This distinctive whistler was seen nearly every day in the highlands around Kumul and Ambua lodges, with a maximum of five seen.

Rusty Whistler (NG)

Pachycephala hyperythra

One heard at Ok Ma.

Brown-backed Whistler (PNG)

Pachycephala modesta

We encountered this whistler almost daily in the highlands, with up to three around Ambua Lodge.

Grey-headed [Grey] Whistler (NE)

Pachycephala griseiceps

Single birds at Varirata (twice), Brown River, and Dablin Creek Road.

Sclater's Whistler (NG)

Pachycephala soror

We saw two daily at Ambua Lodge.

Black-tailed Whistler (NE)

Pachycephala melanura

One heard in the Hisiu Mangroves. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Regent Whistler (NG)

Pachycephala schlegelii

Up to four daily at Kumul Lodge but only one near Ambua Lodge. One of the most colourful of all whistlers.

Rufous (Little) Shrike-Thrush

Colluricincla megarhyncha

Up to six birds seen per day at Varirata, amongst which a begging juvenile was fanning its tail and acting so like a fantail that it confused us until we saw it better! A total of five around Tabubil; one heard at Ekame Lodge.

Grey Shrike-Thrush

Colluricincla harmonica

One in savanna outside Varirata and at least one at Hisiu Mangroves and two Trans-Vanapa. This bird's melodious scientific name is appropriate.

Hooded Pitohui (NG)

Pitohui dichrous

Up to five birds seen per day at Varirata National Park and one at Dablin Creek Road, Tabubil. This aposematically-coloured bird is the traditional "poison-bird" as it was the first bird species discovered to possess poisonous compounds in its tissues.

Rusty Pitohui (NG)

Pitohui ferrugineus

Pairs were seen at Ok Ma and Kilometre Seventeen, and one bird was at Varirata.

Crested Pitohui (NG)

Pitohui cristatus

We heard its remarkably long pulsing song at Varirata.

Variable Pitohui (NG)

Pitohui kirhocephalus

Two were at Dablin Creek Road and five were at Kilometre Seventeen. This is a brown-hooded subspecies.

Black Pitohui (NG)

Pitohui nigrescens

Two male-female pairs at Ambua Lodge gave most people at least a brief view. The more cooperative pair was just above the lodge buildings. That was followed by one upslope from the Bridges Trail across the ravine.

Wattled Ploughbill (NG)

Eulacestoma nigropectus

Steve, Janet, and Jim, Jr. saw an adult male at the King-of-Saxony Bird-of-paradise trail below Kumul Lodge. At Ambua Lodge, we heard two and three the next day, of which some of us glimpsed a female bird in a flock along the Bridges Trail.

Pseudo-babblers Pomatosromidae

New Guinea (Rufous) Babbler (NG)

Pomatostomus isidorei

We heard two behind Ekame Lodge and saw three moving quickly at Kilometre Seventeen.

Logrunners Orthonychidae

Northern Logrunner (NG) *Orthonyx temminckii*

We heard two calling in different parts of the Bailey Bridge Trail above Ambua Lodge. These birds did not respond to recordings of the Australian form, which sounds completely different and from which this species was split.

Whipbirds & Quail-thrushes Cinclosomatidae

Painted Quail-thrush (NG) *Cinclosoma ajax*

Two lone singing birds at Varirata would not come to recordings. One there gave us a glimpse.

Spotted Jewel-babbler (NG) *Ptilorrhoa leucosticta*

A few of us saw the pair that we heard calling at the King-of-Saxony Bird-of-paradise trail below Kumul Lodge. We also heard a total of four birds near Ambua Lodge.

Blue Jewel-babbler (NG) *Ptilorrhoa caerulescens*

We had a calling bird in the forest behind Ekame Lodge 5-6 August, and on the second day about half of the group managed to see it. Another was calling at Kilometre Seventeen 7 August and it flashed across the path in front of us.

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

Up to two were heard during each visit to Varirata and another was heard at Ok Ma.

Blue-capped Ifrita (NG) *Ifrita kowaldi*

For the first time we missed this odd bird at Kumul Lodge, but we made up with it at Ambua Lodge with a total of 13 birds. 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.

Fairywrens Maluridae

Orange-crowned Fairywren (NG) *Clytomyias insignis*

One heard at Ambua Lodge.

Wallace's Fairywren (NG) *Sipodotus wallacii*

This bird is typically difficult to see. However, a pair at Dablin Creek Road incredibly foraged down at eye level beside the road for an extended period, with both individuals giving absolutely stunning views many times! And none of us had a camera with us! This bird was voted fourth-best bird of the trip (tied with King Bird-of-paradise). We also heard a pair behind Ekame Lodge.

White-shouldered Fairywren (NG) *Malurus alboscapulatus*

First seen as six well below Kumul Lodge, we subsequently saw and/or heard one or two per day at Varirata, Brown River, Hisiu, and Kiunga Airport.

Emperor Fairywren (NG) *Malurus cyanocephalus*

Male-female pairs were seen at Brown River and Trans-Vanapa. Most people had good looks at the amazing electric blue.

Thornbills & Allies Acanthizidae

Rusty Mouse-Warbler (NG) *Crateroscelis murina*

Up to four birds seen at Varirata; up to six heard per day around Tabubil and one heard at Ekame Lodge.

Bicoloured Mouse-Warbler (NG) *Crateroscelis nigrorufa*

A mystery song on Ambua Lodge's Bridges Trail was identified by Joseph Tano as a Mountain Mouse-Warbler, but playing the recording of that species brought in this bird instead, on the ground. We saw that it had no trace of a pale throat, had dark legs and eyes, and was quite dark and uniform. It was not as rich

chestnut-rufous in the throat as we would have expected, but Joseph agreed that it was Bicoloured Mouse-warbler. This bird is rarely seen by birders.

Mountain Mouse-warbler (NG) *Crateroscelis robusta*

Up to three heard daily near both Kumul and Ambua lodges, with singles seen at each of these lodges.

Large Scrubwren (NG) *Sericornis nouhuysi*

Up to ten per day at Kumul Lodges and up to four at Ambua Lodge.

Buff-faced Scrubwren (NG) *Sericornis perspicillatus*

Up to at least six daily at Ambua and Kumul lodges.

Papuan Scrubwren (NG) *Sericornis papuensis*

Up to six+ daily at Kumul Lodge but only two+ at Ambua Lodge.

Pale-billed Scrubwren (NG) *Sericornis spilodera*

Singles seen at Varirata and at Dablin Creek Road were followed by four at Varirata.

Mountain (Grey) Gerygone (NG) *Gerygone cinerea*

Jim, Jr. and Janet combined for a total of five around Ambua Lodge.

Green-backed Gerygone NE *Gerygone chloronotus*

Its distinctive song was heard frequently in the lowlands and hills from Varirata and the Kiunga region to Tabubil. The only bird seen was at Dablin Creek Road.

White-throated Gerygone NE *Gerygone olivacea*

We had a good view of a singing bird at the Hisiu petrol station.

Yellow-bellied Gerygone (NG) *Gerygone chrysogaster*

Up to four were seen and six heard around Ekame Lodge and two each were at Kilometre Seventeen and Varirata the next two days.

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

Heard almost daily and often seen in the mountains near both Kumul and Ambua lodges, with up to three seen and up to eight heard. Its song is one of the beautiful and characteristic sounds of the montane forest.

Mangrove Gerygone NE *Gerygone levigaster*

Abundant in the Hisiu Mangroves, where twelve were seen.

Sittellas Neosittidae

Black Sittella (NG) *Neositta miranda*

A flock of nine flew over the road above Ambua Lodge.

Varied Sittella *Neositta chrysoptera*

At least twelve were at the 'paradigalla garden' near Ambua Lodge. We began and finished this family within a few hours!

Australian Treecreepers Climacteridae

Papuan Treecreeper (NG) *Cormobates placens*

We heard one on the Bailey Bridge Trail above Ambua Lodge.

Sunbirds & Spiderhunters Nectariniidae

Black Sunbird *Leptocoma sericea*

We saw one at Brown River, three at Ok Ma, and up to two at Ekame Lodge. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Olive-backed (Yellow-bellied) Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis*

One at Brown River, three at Hisiu Mangrove, and five at Kiunga. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Berrypeckers & Longbills Melanocharitidae**Obscure Berrypecker (NG)***Melanocharis arfakiana*

We saw three at Dablin Creek Road, Tabubil. This enigmatic species was almost unknown until discovered to be regular at this site.

Black Berrypecker (NG)*Melanocharis nigra*

Twice we saw a male-female pair at Varirata National Park.

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

Up to four near Ambua Lodge.

Fan-tailed Berrypecker (NG)*Melanocharis versteri*

Up to ten around Kumul Lodge and two per day near Ambua Lodge.

Yellow-bellied Longbill (NG)*Toxorhamphus novaeguineae*

A total of four birds on the Elevala River and at Kilometre Seventeen.

Slaty-chinned Longbill (NG)*Toxorhamphus poliopterus*

Jim, Jr. saw one at Dablin Creek Road when he hiked up above the road.

Dwarf Honeyeater (NG)*Toxorhamphus iliolophus*

Several were seen at Varirata National Park.

Painted Berrypeckers Paramythiidae**Tit Berrypecker (NG)***Oreocharis arfaki*

Four were at the King-of-Saxony Bird-of-paradise site below Kumul Lodge and seven were seen above Ambua Lodge. A charming bird when seen well.

Crested Berrypecker (NG)*Paramythia montium*

Up to two birds were seen daily at Kumul Lodge. Two were near Ambua Lodge. Crested Berrypecker was voted ninth-best bird of the trip. Both species of painted berrypeckers are great birds.

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

Widespread in small numbers throughout the lowlands, hills, and mountains up to Munganda and Ambua Lodge, with up to six per day.

Note: This species has been split from the former Papuan Flowerpecker D. pectorale.

Red-banded Flowerpecker*Dicaeum eximium*

Recorded at Pokili and Garu Forests, New Britain.

White-eyes Zosteropidae**Black-fronted White-eye (NG)***Zosterops minor*

One at Munganda and two at Varirata were the only ones seen.

Capped (Western Mountain) White-eye (NG)*Zosterops fuscicapillus*

Thirty were at Dablin Creek Road, Tabubil.

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

Up to 10+ were seen at valley sites below Kumul Lodge and six were at Varirata.

Honeyeaters Meliphagidae**Long-billed Honeyeater (NG)***Melilestes megarhynchus*

One at Dablin Creek Road and two at Kilometre Seventeen.

Ashy Myzomela*Myzomela cineracea*

Five birds were seen on Restorf Island, New Britain.

Dusky Myzomela*Myzomela obscura*

Recorded at all forest patches, New Britain.

Black Myzomela (NG) *Myzomela negrita*

Four at Varirata National Park.

Mountain Myzomela (NG) *Myzomela adolphinae*

We saw two near the Lesser Bird-of-paradise display tree at Munganda village and one at Varirata.

Red-collared Myzomela (NG) *Myzomela rosenbergii*

One female was at the King-of-Saxony Bird-of-paradise site below Kumul Lodge.

Mountain Meliphaga (NG) *Meliphaga orientalis*

Ten were at Dablin Creek Road and three were at Ok Ma.

Scrub (Scrub White-eared) Honeyeater (NG) *Meliphaga albonotata*

Two were at Dablin Creek Road.

Mimic Honeyeater (Meliphaga) (NG) *Meliphaga analoga*

Four on each visit to Varirata, three at Brown River, and ten from Hisiu Mangroves to Trans-Vanapa.

Graceful Honeyeater (Meliphaga) (NE) *Meliphaga gracilis*

We had two at Varirata; Jim, Jr. saw two behind Ekame Lodge; and there were three at Kilometre Seventeen.

Black-throated Honeyeater (NG) *Lichenostomus subfrenatus*

We heard up to eight daily in the Kumul Lodge and Tari Gap areas, but we only saw four individuals. This bird's distinctive and attractive song is often heard but it moves so quickly that it is easily missed.

Obscure Honeyeater (NG) *Lichenostomus obscurus*

One seen at Dablin Creek Road completed our sweep of the 'obscures.'

Yellow-tinted Honeyeater (NE) *Lichenostomus flavescens*

Two at Gateway Hotel, Port Moresby, and five at the Hisiu petrol station.

Tawny-breasted Honeyeater (NE) *Xanthotis flaviventer*

Common in the lowlands and hills, with up to eight seen and fifteen heard on the Elevala River and up to ten seen daily around Tabubil.

Spotted Honeyeater (NG) *Xanthotis polygramma*

Two at Dablin Creek Road. A strikingly marked honeyeater.

White-throated Honeyeater *Melithreptus albogularis*

Two were in savanna along the Varirata National Park entrance road.

Marbled Honeyeater (NG) *Pycnopygius cinereus*

Three were at Munganda village.

Streak-headed Honeyeater (NG) *Pycnopygius stictocephalus*

We scoped a pair Trans-Vanapa and another individual at Kilometre Seventeen.

Meyer's Friarbird (NG) *Philemon meyeri*

Two seen atop a tall tree at Ok Ma.

Helmeted [New Guinea] Friarbird *Philemon buceroides*

Common in the New Guinea lowlands and recorded almost daily in numbers up to fifty in the Port Moresby – Varirata area and up to twenty in the Kiunga – Elevala River region. The highest individuals were five near Munganda village.

New Britain Friarbird *Philemon cockerelli*

Recorded daily in small numbers, New Britain.

Olive-streaked (Yellowish-streaked) Honeyeater (NG) *Ptiloprora meekiana*

One in a flock on Ambua Lodge's Bridges Trail.

Rufous-backed Honeyeater (PNG) *Ptiloprora guisei*

One at the King-of-Saxony Bird-of-paradise site below Kumul Lodge and up to ten daily around Ambua Lodge. More common at lower elevations than the following species.

Black-backed (Grey-streaked) Honeyeater (NG) *Ptiloprora perstriata*

Most common high. Daily numbers of up to ten around Kumul Lodge and three in the Tari Gap area.

Belford's Melidectes (NG) *Melidectes belfordi*

Most common high and heard constantly. Up to 35 daily in the Kumul Lodge and Tari Gap areas.

Yellow-browed Melidectes (NG) *Melidectes rufocrissalis*

Mostly below the elevation zone dominated by Belford's Melidectes. Some showed signs of introgressive hybridization from Belford's, as is common in this region. Daily numbers up to 40 from somewhat above Ambua Lodge down into Tari Valley.

Ornate Melidectes (NG) *Melidectes torquatus*

Lower elevations in the mountains. Eight around Munganda village.

(Common) Smoky Honeyeater (NG) *Melipotes fumigatus*

Common in the high mountains, with up to 30 and 40 daily at Kumul and Ambua lodges, respectively, but only one at Dablin Creek Road. 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.

Brown-backed Honeyeater (NE) *Ramsayornis modestus*

Two adults attending two juveniles in the savanna outside Varirata National Park. The juveniles showed no apparent fine barring.

Rufous-banded Honeyeater (NE) *Conopophila albogularis*

Fourteen birds scattered amongst Gateway Hotel, Pacific Adventist University, Varirata savanna, and Hisiu petrol station.

Old World Orioles Oriolidae**Brown Oriole (NG)** *Oriolus szalayi*

One or two most days in the Port Moresby, Kiunga, and Tabubil regions, with a high of five seen and ten heard at Varirata.

Green Figbird *Sphecotheres viridis*

Five at Pacific Adventist University and a male at Hisiu Mangroves.

Shrikes Laniidae**Long-tailed Shrike** *Lanius schach*

Up to six seen daily near Kumul Lodge and from Tari Gap to Tari Valley.

Drongos Dicruridae**Papuan (Mountain) Drongo (NG)** *Chaetorhynchus papuensis*

Jim, Jr. saw one at Dablin Creek Road when he hiked up above the road.

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*

We had one to five on most days in the lowlands and lower hills. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Mudnest Builders Callaeidae**Torrent-lark (NG)** *Grallina bruijni*

Usually we are happy to see one or two of this charismatic cascade specialist, but this trip we saw eight! We saw singles both above and below the Ambua Lodge waterfalls. Next we scoped a male-female pair above the Ok Menga Hydro Plant. The surprise came the next day at Dablin Creek Road, when we was a family group of four 'dancing' on the road and atop the water pipe just above our usual observation flat!

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

Up to five down the valleys from Kumul Lodge were new sites for our tours, but the usual areas of Ambua Lodge and Tabubil had up to twenty birds daily, as usual. This bird is always entertaining to watch plus it has a lively and joyful-sounding song and affectionate social behavior.

White-breasted Woodswallow*Artamus leucorynchus*

Up to ten per day in the Port Moresby lowlands and around Kiunga. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Bellmagpies & Allies Cracticidae**Mountain Peltops (NG)***Peltops montanus*

One pair each day at Ambua Lodge and three pairs at Dablin Creek Road. Nearly always in pairs.

Lowland Peltops (NG)*Peltops blainvillii*

Two singles at Kilometre Seventeen and Elevala River.

Black-backed Butcherbird (NE)*Cracticus mentalis*

Four at Pacific Adventist University and three at Hisiu Mangroves and Trans-Vanapa.

Hooded Butcherbird (NG)*Cracticus cassicus*

Conspicuous, by both sight and sound, at Varirata, around Kiunga, along the Elevala river, and along the Kiunga-Tabubil road; the maximum was six seen and twelve heard at Varirata.

Black Butcherbird*Cracticus quoyi*

Singles seen daily at Ambua Lodge, Trans-Vanapa, Ok Menga Hydro Plant, and Elevala River; from one to three heard almost daily.

Birds-of-Paradise Paradisaeidae**Loria's Bird-of-paradise (NG)***Cnemophilus loriae*

A female was at the King-of-Saxony Bird-of-paradise site. Three to four at Ambua Lodge, including males.

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

An adult male and a female were seen at Kumul Lodge and a female was also seen there the next day. The male's glowing shaded red-orange upperparts contrasting against the pure black face and underparts got this bird voted sixth-best of the trip (tied with Greater Melampitta).

Glossy-mantled Manucode (NG)*Manucodia atra*

We saw up to twelve daily on the Elevala River and near Kiunga, where most manucodes were this species.

We also heard singles calling at Varirata (both visits) and Hisiu Mangroves.

Crinkle-collared Manucode (NG)*Manucodia chalybata*

Alan saw one at Varirata; two seen at Dablin Creek Road, four seen at Ok Ma, and one heard at Ekame Lodge.

Trumpet Manucode (NE)*Manucodia keraudrenii*

A total of three seen on the Elevala River and one heard at Kilometre Seventeen.

Short-tailed Paradigalla (NG)*Paradigalla brevicauda*

At Ambua Lodge, singles seen at the 'paradigalla garden' and on the Bridges Trail.

Ribbon-tailed Astrapia (PNG)*Astrapia mayeri*

Up to five per day at Kumul Lodge included several visiting the feeder. Up to ten per day above 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*

Four per day were seen around Ambua Lodge. These included spectacular adult males. The group voted

this species tenth-best bird of the trip (tied with two others).

Carola's Parotia (NG) *Parotia carolae*

Three birds seen at Dablin Creek Road, Tabubil, included a rarely-seen adult male!

Lawes' Parotia (PNG) *Parotia lawesii*

Up to four daily at Ambua Lodge included adult males.

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

This unique and spectacular bird was voted third-best bird of the trip! We watched six along the trail named for this species below Kumul Lodge. Above Ambua Lodge we saw up to five per day. These observations included the males' characteristic 'radio static' song and incredible 'semaphore' displays with their two unreal head plumes!

Magnificent Riflebird (NE) *Ptiloris magnificentus*

We saw a female and heard three males at Varirata. This is the gruff-voiced form split by many as Eastern Riflebird. We heard a male of the clear-voiced nominate form at Ok Ma, but it only called three times all day! We did see females of the nominate form at Dablin Creek Road and Elevala River.

Note: The eastern race P. [m.] intercedens is sometimes split as Eastern Riflebird.

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

Four birds at or near Munganda village were evenly split between males and females. We also saw up to three daily at Ambua Lodge or Tari Valley, saw one at Dablin Creek Road, and heard one at Ok Ma. Even when the adult male is merely moving about and eating fruit its plumage makes it appear as if he is actively displaying! The iridescent blue breast shield and amazing nuchal cape are always there to impress.

Brown Sicklebill (NG) *Epimachus meyeri*

This species was an entertaining visitor to the Kumul Lodge feeders (up to four daily), and we heard an adult male when we descended to the King-of-Saxony Bird-of-paradise site. We also saw up to eight per day above Ambua Lodge, both males and females. The adult male's 'jackhammer burst' calls always impress.

Magnificent Bird-of-paradise (NG) *Cicinnurus magnificentus*

At both Dablin Creek Road and Ok Ma we saw one female and heard a second bird.

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

The adult male faithfully attended the canopy tangle of his display tree by the Ketu River, a tributary of the Elevala River, 5 August. 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. We even saw his green-tipped pectoral fans! This is the smallest bird-of-paradise but also one of the brightest and most unique. This bird was voted fourth-best bird of the trip (in a tie with Wallace's Fairywren)!

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

Typically active in the early morning, this species treated us to a good show along the Elevala River 5 August, including an adult male, a female, and an immature male. The morning display of the very strange adult male atop his bare snag top, showing his dark breast disc, puffy yellow flank plumes, and of course those twelve recurved wires, must be seen to be believed! We heard one of these males from Ekame Lodge the next day.

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

The very impressive courtship displays involving five males in their lek tree being visited by numerous females at Kilometre Seventeen earned this bird top honours as 'best bird of the trip! All good displays were in the tree visible from the gate, and thus we scoped them for a long time. We witnessed many full dance sequences leading to copulations. We also saw up to five females per day in the Kiunga and Tabubil areas.

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

At least eight birds in and around the big display tree at Munganda village included adult males, females, and immature males. The males displayed and showed well by flying from tree to tree in the open.

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, we watched as about ten prime males displayed, dancing and shivering their rich reddish flank plumes for each female that appeared (four or more) – but completely ignoring all immature males (three). We totalled about 25 birds in the area. We had up to three per day on the Elevala River plus saw three males and a female at Kilometre Seventeen.

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

We scoped an adult male perched high early in the morning, down the valley below Kumul Lodge. At Ambua Lodge we saw up to three females daily. Even the female of this species is strikingly coloured and patterned. This PNG endemic is one of the most desired of all birds-of-paradise.

Lesser Melampitta (NG) *Melampitta lugubris*

In the forest above Ambua Lodge we heard a total of three birds. Better, Janet saw an adult with a juvenile and Jim, Jr. saw a different adult.

Greater Melampitta (NG) *Melampitta gigantea*

Calling birds were both above and below the road at Ok Ma, Tabubil. We used Steve's recordings from last year without success on the lower bird but the upslope individual circled us enough that eventually over half of us saw it briefly. This species is one of New Guinea's near-mythical birds.

Bowerbirds Ptilonorhynchidae

Flame Bowerbird (NG) *Sericulus aureus*

Our visit to Gusiore village netted us views of a female and an apparent immature male. We also saw active and inactive bowers in the rubber plantation behind the village.

Yellow-breasted Bowerbird (NG) *Chlamydera lauterbachii*

At Munganda village below Kumul Lodge we watched two birds fly past us. This is a local species.

Fawn-breasted Bowerbird (NE) *Chlamydera cerviniventris*

The six birds that we saw at Pacific Adventist University were not as impressive as the wonderful active bower that we were able to study at close range there. We also saw one at Hisiu Mangroves.

Crows, Jays & Magpies Corvidae

Grey (Bare-eyed) Crow (NG) *Corvus tristis*

Up to fifteen per day were seen, mostly in small yelping flocks, along the Elevala River and up to eleven at Tabubil. We also heard three at Varirata.

Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*

The typical 'mainland' form we saw only in the Port Moresby – Varirata region, up to 30 per day.

Island Crow *Corvus orru insularis*

Pleasingly common on New Britain.

Starlings Sturnidae

Metallic Starling (NE) *Aplonis metallica*

We found this colonial starling to be common in the Elevala River – Kiunga and Brown River regions. On days when we passed multiple nesting colonies we estimated numbers up to 500 along the Fly and Elevala rivers. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Singing Starling (NE) *Aplonis cantoroides*

One hundred birds at Hisiu Mangroves were essentially all juveniles. At two spots in the Kiunga region we saw about thirty, and six were around Port Moresby. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New

Britain.

Yellow-faced Myna (NG) *Mino dumontii*

Seen almost daily in the lowlands, with up to fifteen per day in the Tabubil – Elevala River – Kiunga region and slightly smaller numbers in the Varirata – Port Moresby region.

Long-tailed Myna *Mino Kreffti*

Recorded at Pokili and Garu Forests.

Golden Myna (NG) *Mino anais*

Two at Ok Menga Hydro Plant and six on the Elevala River. Quite colourful and not so comical as the above two species. Also recorded on the pre-tour extension to New Britain.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Up to thirty were seen and heard at and near the Port Moresby Airport and at the Hisiu petrol station.

Waxbills & Allies Estrildidae

Mountain Firetail (NG) *Oreostruthus fuliginosus*

Up to six seen daily at Kumul Lodge.

Blue-faced Parrotfinch *Erythrura trichroa*

Up to 80 per day were observed eating the seeds of the bamboo that had recently flowered at Ambua Lodge. Normally we work to get one reasonable view for the group.

Hooded Munia (NG) *Lonchura spectabilis*

Six near Munganda village and eight Ambua Lodge.

Grey-headed Munia (PNG) *Lonchura caniceps*

Eleven at PAU and fifteen Trans-Vanapa 31 July.

Chestnut-breasted Munia *Lonchura castaneothorax*

Eight at PAU plus six juveniles at Hisiu and about nine Trans-Vanapa.

Bismarck Munia *Lonchura melaena*

Ten birds were seen on New Britain

Annotated Checklist of Mammals

Short-furred Dasyure (NG) *Murexia longicaudata*

We scoped one individual of this carnivorous marsupial in a tall tree at the King-of-Saxony Bird-of-paradise trail below Kumul Lodge.

Speckled Dasyure (NG) *Neophascogale lorentzii*

Above Ambua Lodge we saw three individuals in bushes or low trees.

Possum sp.? (NG)

While spotlighting down the road from Tari Gap, we illuminated a possum that ran away – it possibly was a Mountain Cuscus.

Agile Wallaby *Macropus agilis*

On our return to Varirata we saw four of this fairly large macropod marsupial, on the shoulders of the park roads.

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

Two single animals over the Elevala River.

Great Flying-fox (NE) *Pteropus neohibernicus*

Ten flying-foxes seen Trans-Vanapa appeared to be this very large species.

Annotated Checklist of Reptiles

New Guinea Crocodile (NG)

Crocodylus novaeguineae

We had five sightings of this endemic freshwater crocodile on the Elevala River. This is a small crocodile, as the maximum length recorded is 3m (ten feet). Our individuals ranged from a tiny half-metre juvenile up to 2.5m.

Tropical House Gecko

Hemidactylus frenatus

We saw small numbers of this ubiquitous tropical commensal of man in several of our lodgings.

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