



# Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Papua New Guinea Private

*9<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> August 2008*



**Trip report compiled by Tour Leader David Hoddinott**

**Top eleven birds of the trip as voted by the participants**

1. Southern Crowned Pigeon
2. King Bird-of-paradise
3. King-of-Saxony Bird-of-paradise
4. Wattled Ploughbill
5. Brown Sicklebill
6. Palm Cockatoo
7. Crested Berrypecker
8. Lesser Melampitta
9. Yellow-billed Kingfisher
10. Eastern Riflebird
11. Blyth's Hornbill

## Tour Summary

A buzz of excitement was in the atmosphere as we boarded the bus for our pre-dawn start to Varirata National Park, our first site of the tour. This fabulous park offers an amazing diversity of birds and exceeded all expectations. The pre-dawn drive to the park produced several Large-tailed Nightjars and at first light we had flashing views of a Hook-billed Kingfisher as it shot across the road. Soon we were enjoying stunning scope views of Pink-spotted and tiny Dwarf Fruit Doves, beautiful Coconut Lorikeet, Red-cheeked Parrot, huge Blue-winged and striking Rufous-bellied Kookaburras. Quietly walking along a forested trail we startled a Black-billed Brushturkey that promptly flew and perched in a tree allowing superb views for all. On another occasion we enticed a stunning Chestnut-backed Jewel-babbler into view which showed well but briefly several times and a long-tailed Honey Buzzard was seen flying in and perching nearby. Further explorations along the secluded forest trails produced several exquisite Russet Paradise Kingfishers and Chameleon Dwarf, Azure and a very confiding Yellow-billed Kingfisher. We located several mixed feeding flocks that contained Pale-billed Scrubwren, Fairy Gerygone, Black Berrypecker, beautiful Frilled Monarch and shy White-faced Robin amongst others. Other highlights at Varirata included Grey Goshawk at its nest, stunning views of a pair of Ivory-billed Coucal – an enormous shy and seldom seen species, Little Bronze Cuckoo, roosting Marbled Frogmouth and sleepy Barred Owllet-Nightjar, White-shouldered Fairywren, White-throated Honeyeater, Barred and White-bellied Cuckooshrikes, Leaden Flycatcher, Crinkle-collared Manucode and finally spectacular, displaying Raggiana Bird-of-paradise, ooooooh what a start!

Moving on to the Pacific Adventist University we found flocks of Wandering Whistling and Pacific Black Duck, smart Pied Heron, Little Pied and Little Black Cormorants, Whistling Kite, Collared Sparrowhawk, Purple Swampheon strutting around the ponds, striking Masked Lapwing, flamboyantly endowed Comb-crested Jacana, localized Bar-shouldered Dove, enormous Papuan Frogmouth and Fawn-breasted Bowerbird.

From a warm Port Moresby we travelled to the cool highland forests of Mount Hagen. Shortly before departure from Port Moresby airport we picked up a superb Rufous Night Heron, the only one of the trip. Due to the regular changing schedule of many flights in Papua New Guinea we were afforded an extra night at Mt.Hagen that worked very well in our favour allowing us an extra full days birding. On arrival at the picturesque lodge we settled in and enjoyed a welcoming lunch. In the afternoon we spent time at their well laid out feeding tray and were totally absorbed by the endless stream of birds. Beaming faces were seen all around and amongst the excited chatter and the sound of camera shutters we marvelled at cryptic Brehm's



Tiger Parrot, striking Crested Berrypeckers, Ribbon-tailed Astrapia, Smoky - with its excited red flushed wattles and Belford's Honeyeaters and the most impressive Brown Sicklebill – all right there in front of us.

On a couple of occasions we even saw the seldom seen Archbold's Bowerbird, rare Bronze Ground Dove and Mountain Firetail in the lodge grounds. Along a network of muddy but beautiful forest trails we were treated to the rare Forbes' Forest Crake, Lesser Melampitta,

Goldie's, Papuan and Yellow-billed Lorikeets, Orange-crowned Fairywren, with some effort - gaudy Antenna Satinbirds (Crested Bird-of-paradise), immaculate Black-breasted Boatbill, smart Black Sittella, unbelievable views of the bizarre Wattled Ploughbill as it moved through a bamboo thicket, seldom seen

Black Pitohui and Olive Straightbill, Black Fantail and Ifrit - the latter an unusual species which may well be placed in its own family. Those venturing up the arduous trail to Mt.Hagen were rewarded with great views of Long-bearded Honeyeater. At lower elevations here we were delighted to find the rare Madarasz's Tiger Parrot, Yellow-breasted Bowerbirds, Marbled and Ornate Honeyeaters, Midget and Red-collared Myzomela, Superb and dazzling Blue Birds-of-paradise, Velvet Satinbird and superb Tit Berrypecker. A visit to a recently discovered lek of, Lesser Bird-of-paradise was also very successful.

Moving on to the central highlands of the Tari Valley we enjoyed the very comfortable lodge with delicious meals and the cultural spectacle of the Huli Wigmen in their full attire of traditional clothing.

A fruiting tree within the lodge grounds had Short-tailed Paradigalla, Princess Stephanie's Astrapia and Lawes' Parotia - all at the same time making it tough to know where to look first. A drive up to higher elevations where we spent time both along the road and on forest trails produced many highlights including Brown Quail, the striking and seldom seen Black-mantled Goshawk, a tree full of White-bibbed Fruit Doves, cracking scope views of Plum-faced Lorikeet, Rufous-throated Bronze and Fan-tailed Cuckoos, Macgregor's Bowerbird, Black-throated, Yellow-browed and rare Olive-streaked Honeyeaters, a pair of Papuan Logrunner, Hooded and Black-bellied Cuckooshrikes, smart Papuan Sittella, Mottled Whistler, Ashy, Black-throated and Garnet Robins and Blue-faced Parrot-Finch. A Buff-banded Rail and confiding Jungle Boobook showed well near the lodge.

The star bird was of course the amazing King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise that was seen atop his perch allowing superb views for all.



Moving on to 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. During our various outings in the area we found a confiding Brown Falcon, Little Eagle, Great Cuckoo-Dove, a stunning pair of Superb Fruit Dove, Yellow-capped and a huge flock of Rose-breasted Pygmy Parrots, Blue-collared Parrot, huge Moustached Treeswift, a brief White-eared Catbird, fabulous Wallace's Fairywren, great views of Obscure Berrypecker, Golden Cuckooshrike and Goldenface – the latter two are both striking black and yellow birds seen very well - Glossy-mantled Manucode, Carola's Parotia and Magnificent Bird-of-Paradise.



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 diligent searching enabled us to obtain good looks of this bird, certainly one of the most difficult kingfishers in the world!

Travelling to the lower lying area of Kiunga we birded several sites here picking up numerous specials including Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon, several Streaked Lories, Red-flanked Lorikeet, Double-eyed and

fabulous Flame-headed Fig Parrots, Black-billed Coucal, calling Dwarf Koel, Long-billed Cuckoo, Papuan Spine-tailed Swifts flying overhead, Meyer's Friarbird seen well in a flowering tree, Golden Monarch and Greater Bird-of-paradise see displaying at their favoured perches. Our vehicle did get stuck in the mud for a short while however this couldn't dampen our spirits after all the great birds we had seen!

Next was our adventure down the mighty Fly River, lying nearly 900km from the ocean with its huge ocean going ships. Leaving the harbour, soon we were boating along the Elevala River and its small tributaries and enjoying forest trails in remote wilderness. Our explorations produced numerous great sightings including Great-billed Heron, Australian Hobby, Grey-headed Goshawk, Stephan's Emerald Dove, the amazing Southern Crowned Pigeon, Beautiful Fruit Doves, Collared Imperial Pigeon in their hundreds, massive Palm Cockatoos perching up and showing well for all, gigantic Channel-billed Cuckoos, spectacular Galatea and Little Paradise Kingfishers, flocks of Blyth's Hornbill, secretive Red-bellied and Hooded Pittas, Masked Bowerbird showing briefly but well at its bower, Emperor Fairywren, Papuan Babbler, a rare group of the poisonous White-bellied Pitohui and the most amazing King and unique Twelve-wired Birds-of-paradise.

We enjoyed the tranquillity of our very basic but comfortable jungle lodge with views over the serene Elevala River and spent the early evening reminiscing about our great birding adventures.

On our final day we visited Varirata National Park and the trails were very productive. Specials included scope views of the rare Doria's Goshawk – seen near its nest, a soaring Gurney's Eagle, the splendid Wompoo Fruit Dove, rare Shining Imperial Pigeon, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, a stunning male Growling Riflebird, cute Buff-faced Pygmy Parrot, a pair of Great-billed Munia and an Agile Wallaby – a wonderful ensemble of creatures to wind off a fantastic tour!

Of the 23 birds-of-paradise that we recorded, we observed most full-plumaged males with nearly half performing spectacular courtship displays! Papua New Guinea is undoubtedly one of the most fascinating destinations on earth and it was a real pleasure to share this trip with an experienced, enthusiastic and humorous group of friends!

**Photo Credits (In order of appearance):** Raggiana Bird-of-paradise by N. Voaden, Crested Bird-of-Paradise by A. Riley, Brown Sicklebill by N. Voaden, King of Saxony Bird-of-Paradise by A. Riley, Shovel-billed Kookaburra by A Marshall

## **Annotated Checklists of Birds**

The nomenclature and taxonomy follows *IOC Birds of the World: (Species updates 1.6 - 30 June 2008)* Any deviations from Clements are 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

NE – near endemic to New Guinea

Cassowaries Casuariidae

- Southern Cassowary** *Casuarius casuarius*  
We heard one calling near Ekame Lodge and found fresh footprints nearby.
- Dwarf Cassowary (NG)** *Casuarius bennetti*  
Whilst walking a trail in Varirata NP we found fairly fresh footprints.

Megapodes Megapodiidae

- Black-billed (Yellow-legged) Brushturkey (NG)** *Talegalla fuscirostris*  
We had exceptional views of one, for the whole group, at Varirata NP.  
Several were heard daily at Ekame Lodge where we also observed a nest mound.

Pheasants & Partridges Phasianidae

- Brown Quail** *Coturnix ypsilophora*  
Two were seen briefly near Varirata NP and a further one at Tari Gap.

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

- Wandering Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna arcuata*  
25 were at Pacific Adventist University.
- Salvadori's Teal (NG)** *Salvadorina waigiensis*  
We scoped two as they swam around the rocks near Tabubil. This is a highly desired bird on any New Guinea tour.
- Pacific Black Duck** *Anas superciliosa*  
About 80 were seen at Pacific Adventist University.

Grebes Podicipedidae

- Australasian Grebe** *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*  
Three were seen at Pacific Adventist University.

Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

- Australian (White) Ibis (NE)** *Threskiornis molucca*  
In the Port Moresby region, we saw one at PAU.
- Straw-necked Ibis (NE)** *Threskiornis spinicollis*  
One was seen at the Port Moresby airport.

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns Ardeidae

- Black Bittern** *Dupetor flavicollis*  
We had good looks at a single bird on our last day near PAU.
- Rufous (Nankeen) Night Heron** *Nycticorax caledonicus*  
One was seen flying past the Port Moresby airport.
- Striated Heron** *Butorides striata*  
Several were seen along the Elevala River.

*Note: A polytypic and cosmopolitan superspecies with over 30 recognized forms. Clements & IOC recognizes two full species, the North American Green Heron B. virescens and the most widespread nominate form which we recorded in PNG. Some authorities do not accept this split.*

- Eastern Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus coromandus*  
Seen commonly in the Port Moresby region.

Note: This group is a proposed split into 2 species, the nominate Western Cattle Egret *B. ibis*, and the Asian/Australasian Eastern Cattle Egret *B. coromandus*. This split is likely to be recognised by Clements and IOC.

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

We had good views of an adult on the Elevala River.

**Eastern Great Egret** *Ardea modesta*

Widespread in the Port Moresby and Kiunga regions with small numbers seen daily in these areas.

Note: The nominate Western Great Egret *A. alba* has been split from the Eastern Great Egret *A. modesta*. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.

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

Widespread but not numerous, with six at PAU 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 IOC or Clements.

**Pied Heron (NE)** *Egretta picata*

We saw three of this beautiful heron at PAU.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Two were seen at PAU.

### Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae

**Little Pied Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

Widespread in small numbers: three at PAU, two seen daily at Kiunga and Elevala River.

**Little Black Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Common in the Port Moresby area, with estimates of 100 at Pacific Adventist University (PAU).

### Anhinga & Darters Anhingidae

**Australasian Darter** *Anhinga novaehollandiae*

Three at PAU and one on the Elevala River.

Note: Three species are recognised by IOC. Australasian Darter *A. novaehollandiae*, occurring from Australia, New Guinea and Wallacea, African Darter *A. rufa* occurring in Africa & Madagascar and Oriental Darter *A. melanogaster* occurring in Asia. These splits are not yet accepted by Clements.

### Falcons & Caracaras Falconidae

**Australian Hobby (NE)** *Falco longipennis*

We had great views of one during our boat trip along the Elevala River.

**Brown Falcon (NE)** *Falco berigora*

We had superb views of one near Tabubil and a further one was seen by some from our hotel in Port Moresby.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

One was by John and Mark near Mt.Hagen.

### Hawks, Eagles & Kites Accipitridae

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

We had stunning views of one at PAU.

Note: There is a proposed split Eastern Osprey *P. cristatus* of Australasia and Western Osprey *P. haliaetus* from the rest of the world. Clements and IOC do not as yet accept this split.

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

Seen almost daily in the Kiunga / Elevala River area.

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

Our first sighting was of one at Varirata NP with further daily sightings in the Tabubil and Kiunga areas.

**Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus axillaris*

One was seen by Jane, John & Mike near the town of Mt.Hagen during their trip to the Sing-sing.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

Up to 10 birds were seen daily in the Mt. Hagen area and one or two per day in the Port Moresby region.

**Whistling Kite (NE)** *Haliastur sphenurus*

Common in the Port Moresby area, with up to five seen daily.

**Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus*

Common and seen on virtually every day of the tour.

**Eastern Marsh Harrier [Papuan]** *Circus spilonotus*

Our first sighting was of one near the town of Mt.Hagen with further sightings of several at the Tari Gap grasslands.

*Note: Race C. s. spilothorax is sometimes considered a full species, Papuan Marsh Harrier. Not yet accepted by IOC or Clements.*

**Variable Goshawk** *Accipiter hiogaster*

Our first sighting was of one at a nest in Varirata NP with further sightings near Kiunga.

*Note: Clements and IOC split this species into Variable Goshawk, A.hiogaster of New Guinea and Grey Goshawk, A.novaehollandiae of Australia.*

**Brown Goshawk** *Accipiter fasciatus*

We had wonderful views of three near Mt.Hagen.

**Black-mantled Goshawk (NG)** *Accipiter melanochlamys*

We enjoyed cracking scope views of an adult in the Ambua Lodge area.

**Grey-headed Goshawk (NG)** *Accipiter poliocephalus*

We had great views of three daily on the Elevala River.

**Collared Sparrowhawk (NE)** *Accipiter cirrocephalus*

Two were seen near PAU.

**Doria's Goshawk (NG)** *Megatriorchis doriae*

Our first sighting was great scope views of one near Kiunga, a great find by JG. We were extremely fortunate to have superb views of another near an active nest in Varirata NP. This is a rarely recorded species.

**Gurney's Eagle (NE)** *Aquila gurneyi*

One was seen soaring in the distance at Varirata NP.

**Little Eagle (NE)** *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

We enjoyed great views of one near Tabubil. This low-density raptor is easily missed on a PNG tour.

### Rails, Gallinules & Coots Rallidae

**Forbes' Forest Crake (NG)** *Rallina forbesi*

One was seen briefly near Mt.Hagen.

**Red-necked Crake** *Rallina tricolor*

One was heard calling near Kiunga.

**Buff-banded Rail** *Gallirallus philippensis*

One was seen at Ambua Lodge.

**Pale-vented (Rufous-tailed) Bush-hen (NE)** *Amaurornis moluccana*

We heard several calling in the Tabubil and Kiunga areas.

*Note: Two species are recognised by IOC & Clements, Talaud Bushhen, A.magnirostris of Karakelong Island and Pale-vented Bushhen A.moluccana from Lesser Sundas to Australia.*

**Purple Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio*

Thirty were recorded at Pacific Adventist University.

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*

Five were at Pacific Adventist University.

### Buttonquails Turnicidae

**Red-backed Buttonquail** *Turnix maculosus*

We were treated to good views of a pair at Kiunga airport.

### Plovers & Lapwings Charadriidae

**Masked Lapwing (NE)** *Vanellus miles*

Six were at PAU and a further three at Port Moresby airport.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

The resident pair entertained us on the gravel stockpiling area en route from Tabubil to Kiunga.

### Jacanas Jacanidae

**Comb-crested Jacana** *Irediparra gallinacea*

Three were found at the Pacific Adventist University. A very smart bird indeed.

### Sandpipers Scolopacidae

**New Guinea (Dusky) Woodcock (NE)** *Scolopax rosenbergii*

Mike saw one near Kumul Lodge.

**Swinhoe's Snipe** *Gallinago megala*

We had good views of one at Kiunga airport.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Five were seen at the Tabubil airport and a further one on the river alongside the Salvadori's Teal.

### Pratincoles and Coursers Glareolidae

**Australian Pratincole** *Stiltia isabella*

We had good but brief views of two at the Port Moresby airport.

### Pigeons & Doves Columbidae

**Common Pigeon** *Columba livia*

Seen in small numbers in some of the larger towns.

**Brown (Slender-billed) Cuckoo-Dove** *Macropygia amboinensis*

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

Seen well at Varirata NP and the lower slopes near Mt.Hagen.

**Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove (NG)** *Macropygia nigrirostris*

Small numbers were seen daily in the Mt.Hagen and Ambua Lodge areas.

**Great Cuckoo-Dove (NE)** *Reinwardtoena reinwardtii*

One seen briefly at Varirata NP with further sightings near Kiunga.

**Stephan's Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps stephani*

Several were seen flying across the Elevala River and another was seen well as it perched briefly nearby whilst we walked a trail at Ekame Lodge. Usually sightings of this ground dove are quick fly-bys

**Peaceful Dove (NE)** *Geopelia placida*

Ten were seen at Pacific Adventist University and a further six at our hotel in Port Moresby.

- Bar-shouldered Dove (NE)** *Geopelia humeralis*  
We found this highly localized bird (in New Guinea) at Pacific Adventist University.
- Bronze Ground Dove (NE)** *Gallicolumba beccarii*  
One was seen walking under the feeder at Kumul Lodge, a superb find by Jane. A rarely recorded species.
- Southern Crowned Pigeon (NG)** *Goura scheepmakeri*  
Always one of the main target birds along the Elevala River, this amazing bird was voted bird of the trip!  
We had an amazing total of eight birds, with prolonged and fantastic views !
- Wompoo Fruit Dove (NE)** *Ptilinopus magnificus*  
On our final day we were fortunate to have great views of two in Varirata National Park.
- Pink-spotted Fruit Dove (NG)** *Ptilinopus perlatus*  
Commonly seen at Varirata NP and the Kiunga area.
- Superb Fruit Dove** *Ptilinopus superbus*  
A beautiful pair on the Okma road and later two males involved in a tussle at Varirata NP.
- Beautiful Fruit Dove (NG)** *Ptilinopus pulchellus*  
Several males were seen well in the Kiunga area and a further stunning male in Varirata NP on our last day.
- White-bibbed Fruit Dove (NE)** *Ptilinopus rivoli*  
We had fantastic views of seven at a fruiting tree near Ambua Lodge.
- Orange-bellied Fruit Dove (NG)** *Ptilinopus iozonus*  
Seen in good numbers at Varirata NP and in the Kiunga area.
- Dwarf Fruit Dove (NG)** *Ptilinopus nainus*  
We had excellent views of one at Varirata, a great find by Mike. Several more were seen near Kiunga.
- Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon (NG)** *Ducula rufigaster*  
Several were seen in the Kiunga area and finally we had great views of one perched along the Elevala River.
- Shining (Rufescent) Imperial Pigeon (NG)** *Ducula chalconota*  
On our final day at Varirata NP we had superb scope views of two. A rare and seldom seen species.
- Pinon Imperial Pigeon (NG)** *Ducula pinon*  
Small numbers were seen daily along the Elevala River.
- Collared (Black-collared) Imperial Pigeon (NG)** *Ducula mullerii*  
Abundant along the Elevala and Fly rivers, with up to 80 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, we enjoyed great views of several in the Kiunga area.
- Torresian Imperial Pigeon (NE)** *Ducula spilorrhoea*  
Five birds were seen by JG flying over our hotel in Port Moresby.
- Papuan Mountain Pigeon (NE)** *Gymnophaps albertisii*  
As is typical, flocks flashed overhead on whooshing wings in mountains, hills, and the Kiunga lowlands. Up to twenty-five were seen in the Tabubil area.

#### Cockatoos & Allies Psittacidae

- Pesquet's Parrot (NG)** *Psittarchas fulgidus*  
We heard one calling whilst birding near Tabubil.
- Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot (NE)** *Micropsitta keiensis*  
Two of these tiny birds, were scoped and seen very well near Tabubil.
- Buff-faced Pygmy Parrot (NG)** *Micropsitta pusio*  
On our final day we were treated to fantastic scope views of three in Varirata NP.
- Rose-breasted Pygmy Parrot (NE)** *Micropsitta bruijnii*

A huge flock of sixty were seen on the Dablin Creek Road. Several afforded us great scope views.

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

We saw three along the Elevala River, including prolonged perched views. This was certainly one of the highlights of the trip and voted in the top ten.

**Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (NE)** *Cacatua galerita*

Commonly seen daily in the Kiunga and Elevala River areas.

**(Greater) Streaked Lory (NG)** *Chalcopsitta sintillata*

We enjoyed great views of several in the Kiunga area with peak numbers seen along the Elevala River.

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

Small numbers were seen in the Kiunga area and several large flocks were seen flying over the Elevala River.

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

Common and widespread in the lowlands and hills, with up to 30 daily at Varirata, and up to 20 daily at Tabubil.

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

Small flocks were seen flying over the lower areas of Mt.Hagen and peak numbers of a flock of thirty-nine at Ambua.

**(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.

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

Eight were seen well on Boys Town Road, Kiunga.

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

Small numbers were seen flying near Tabubil.

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

We had good views of small numbers at Mt.Hagen and the Tari Valley. This is one of the world's most beautiful parrots!

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

We watched beautiful pairs feeding on a fruiting tree at the Tari Gap. This bird is always a special treat when seen well.

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

Small numbers were seen at Mt.Hagen and near Ambua Lodge. We enjoyed scope views of several.

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

One was seen flying across the road at the Tari Gap.

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

Up to five were 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.

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

One was seen well in the lower area of Mt.Hagen.

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

Common at Varirata NP and in the Kiunga area, peak numbers of fifteen were seen at the former site.

**Blue-collared Parrot (NG)** *Geoffroyus simplex*

At least four individuals were heard calling and seen in flight at Dablin Creek Road.

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

Common and seen daily in numbers up to twenty along the Elevala River.

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

One was seen briefly at Varirata NP.

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

Seen in small numbers daily in the Tabubil and Kiunga areas.

**Double-eyed Fig Parrot (NE)***Clycopsitta diophthalma*

We enjoyed fantastic scope views of ten on Boys Town Road, Kiunga.

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

After only having brief flight views initially we were finally rewarded with fantastic scope views of this real stunner on Boys Town Road, Kiunga.

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

We had stunning views of a pair at Varirata NP, a great find by Sue.

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

We enjoyed good views of two near Kiunga.

**Pheasant Coucal (NE)***Centropus phasianinus*

We enjoyed good views of several near Varirata NP.

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

After extensive searching at Dablin Creek road without success we were finally rewarded with great views of a male near Kiunga and a female was seen at Varirata NP on our last day.

**Asian (Common) Koel***Eudynamis scolopaceus*

Several were heard at the Elevala River. 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.

**Pacific Koel (NE)***Eudynamis orientalis*

We had good views of a female on the Elevala River.

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

We saw three of this spectacular giant along the Elevala and Fly rivers.

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

We enjoyed superb scope views of one near Kiunga.

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

After a sustained effort we were rewarded with good scope views of one above Ambua Lodge. Later the same day we had superb views of another feeding on caterpillars at the lodge.

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

We had good views of four in the Tabubil area.

**Little Bronze Cuckoo***Chrysococcyx minutillus*

We had good scope views of one at Varirata NP.

*Note: This species is sometimes split into Little Bronze Cuckoo, C.minutillus the one we observed and Pied Bronze Cuckoo C.crassirostris of the Moluccas and e Lesser Sundas. Clements does not yet accept this split.*

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

We heard several at Dablin Creek Road and finally had distant scope views of one at Varirata NP, a great find by Mark.

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

One was seen at Dablin Creek Road and several others heard calling near Tabubil.

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

First heard at Munganda village and later seen exceptionally well near Ambua Lodge.

**Brush Cuckoo***Cacomantis variolosus*

We enjoyed good views of one at Munganda village and later other sightings at Dablin Creek Road and along the Elevala River.

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

We heard this chocolate-coloured owl nightly at Ambua Lodge and finally managed superb views in the spotlight.

**Frogmouths Podargidae****Marbled Frogmouth (NE)***Podargus ocellatus*

We enjoyed wonderful views of a pair at Varirata NP.

**Papuan Frogmouth (NE)***Podargus papuensis*

We had superb scope views of one at PAU, a most impressive bird.

**Nightjars & Allies Caprimulgidae****Large-tailed Nightjar***Caprimulgus macrurus*

At least six were seen on our pre-dawn drive up to Varirata NP.

**Owlet-Nightjars Aegotheidae****Feline Owlet-Nightjar (NG)***Euaegotheles insignis*

We heard one calling nearby in the Tari Valley.

**Mountain Owlet-Nightjar (NG)***Aegotheles albertisi*

We heard this species on several occasions at Mt.Hagen.

**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.

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

Our first sighting was of five at Varirata NP however we were afforded excellent scope views of several on the Ok Ma Road. This is one of New Guinea's sublime birds.

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

Up to 20 birds estimated daily at Varirata NP, Mt.Hagen and Ambua.

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

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

**Uniform Swiftlet (NE)***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 50 estimated, when this number included many seen along the road from Tabubil.

**Papuan Spine-tailed Swift (NG)***Mearnsia novaeguineae*

Our first sighting was near Kiunga with further sightings along the Elevala River.

**Rollers Coraciidae****Oriental Dollarbird***Eurystomus orientalis*

Most abundant along the Fly and Elevala rivers, where up to 40+ per day were estimated. Small numbers were also seen at Varirata NP.

**Kingfishers Alcedinidae****Hook-billed Kingfisher (NG)***Melidora macrorrhina*

We heard this crepuscular species calling many times and saw it briefly on our first day at Varirata NP.

**Galatea (Common) Paradise Kingfisher (NE)***Tanysiptera galatea*

A spectacular species, we enjoyed great views of two along the Elevala River.

**Little Paradise Kingfisher (NG)***Tanysiptera hydrocharis*

Along the Elevala River we heard one and after a concerted effort we finally had great views of several.

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

We were treated to fantastic views of several including a stunning male at Varirata NP, yet another superb paradise kingfisher.

**Shovel-billed Kookaburra (NG)***Clytoceyx rex*

Several were calling in the dawn twilight at Ok Ma, Tabubil. We enjoyed scope views of one.

**Blue-winged Kookaburra (NE)***Dacelo leachii*

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

**Rufous-bellied Kookaburra (NG)***Dacelo gaudichaud*

We had great views of one at Varirata NP with further sightings along the Elevala River. A splendid bird indeed !

**Forest Kingfisher (NE)***Todirhamphus macleayii*

A total of five were seen at Varirata NP.

**Sacred Kingfisher***Todirhamphus sanctus*

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

Seen at PAU and along the Elevala River.

**Yellow-billed Kingfisher (NE)***Syma torotoro*

We enjoyed spectacular and prolonged views of one at Varirata National Park. Subsequently we saw another near Kiunga. A very striking species and one of the highlights of the trip, featuring in the top ten.

**Mountain Kingfisher (NG)***Syma megarhyncha*

Above Ambua Lodge we heard a bird calling in the distance.

**Chameleon (Variable) Dwarf Kingfisher***Ceyx lepidus*

We enjoyed stunning views of one at Varirata NP.

**Azure Kingfisher (NE)***Alcedo azurea*

We enjoyed stunning views of one in Varirata NP, a further one was seen on the Elevala River.

**Common Kingfisher***Alcedo atthis*

We had good views of one at PAU and another was seen at a small stream near Varirata NP on our final day.

**Bee-eaters Meropidae****Rainbow Bee-eater***Merops ornatus*

Small numbers were seen in the Port Moresby area, Varirata NP and around Kiunga. This is a migrant from Australia.

**Hornbills Bucerotidae****Blyth's Hornbill (NE)***Rhyticeros 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 pair near Kiunga.

**Pittas Pittidae****Red-bellied Pitta***Pitta erythrogaster*

We had great views of one near Ekame Lodge.

**Hooded Pitta***Pitta sordida*

We heard several birds daily along the Elevala River and had good views of one near Ekame Lodge.

**Bowerbirds Ptilonorhynchidae****White-eared Catbird (NG)***Ailuroedus buccoides*

One was seen well by Mike on the Ok Ma Road, Tabubil.

**Archbold's Bowerbird (PNG)***Archboldia papuensis*

We were treated to magnificent views of this shy and reclusive species at Kumul Lodge, Mt.Hagen.

*Note: This species is split as Sanford's Bowerbird A.sanfordi of Papua New Guinea, the one we observed and Archbold's Bowerbird A.papuensis of West Papua by Clements. IOC does not yet accept this split.*

**Macgregor's Bowerbird (NG)***Amblyornis macgregoriae*

We had good but brief views of one on the trails above Ambua Lodge.

**Flame Bowerbird (NG)***Sericulus ardens*

Our visit to Gusiore village netted us views of a female and a stunning male. We also saw active and inactive bowers in the rubber plantation behind the village. Several birds were also seen flying over the road near Kiunga.

**Yellow-breasted Bowerbird (NG)***Chlamydera lauterbachi*

One was scoped from the road near Munganda village below Kumul Lodge. This is a local species.

**Fawn-breasted Bowerbird (NE)***Chlamydera cerviniventris*

We found six birds at Pacific Adventist University.

**Australasian Treecreepers Climacteridae****Papuan Treecreeper (NG)***Cormobates placens*

We heard one above Ambua Lodge.

**Australasian Wrens Maluridae****Wallace's Fairywren (NG)***Sipodotus wallacii*

This bird is typically difficult to see. However, three birds were seen at eye level beside the Ok Ma road for an extended period, with individuals giving absolutely stunning views many times!

**Emperor Fairywren (NG)***Malurus cyanocephalus*

A stunning pair was seen near the Elevala River. We had good looks at the amazing electric blue which is especially vivid on this species.

**White-shouldered Fairywren (NG)***Malurus alboscapulatus*

We had numerous sightings of this beauty, most at Varirata NP.

**Orange-crowned Fairywren (NG)***Clytomyias insignis*

We had fantastic views of three near Mt.Hagen and a further one was seen above Ambua Lodge.

**Honeyeaters Meliphagidae****Spotted Honeyeater (NG)***Xanthotis polygrammus*

One at Dablin Creek Road. A strikingly marked honeyeater.

**Tawny-breasted Honeyeater (NE)***Xanthotis flaviventer*

Common in the lowlands and hills, small number seen daily in the Tabubil and Kiunga areas.

**Black-throated Honeyeater (NG)***Lichenostomus subfrenatus*

Small numbers were seen daily above Ambua Lodge.

**Yellow-tinted Honeyeater (NE)***Lichenostomus flavescens*

Three were seen well at Gateway Hotel, Port Moresby.

**Mottle-breasted Honeyeater (NG)***Meliphaga mimikae*

We had good views of two at Varirata NP.

**Hill-forest (Mountain) Honeyeater (NG)** *Meliphaga orientalis*

We had good views of many in the Tabubil area.

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

Several were seen near Tabubil.

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

Several were seen on each visit to Varirata NP.

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

One was seen near Ekame Lodge.

**White-throated Honeyeater (NE)** *Melithreptus albogularis*

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

**Plain Honeyeater (NG)** *Pycnopygius ixoides*

We had good views of three on Boys Town Road, Kiunga.

**Marbled Honeyeater (NG)** *Pycnopygius cinereus*

Two were seen in the lower area of Mt.Hagen.

**Streak-headed Honeyeater (NG)** *Pycnopygius stictocephalus*

We scoped a pair at Varirata NP with further sightings at Kiunga.

**Meyer's Friarbird (NG)** *Philemon meyeri*

Whilst birding along Boys Town Road, Kiunga we had good scope views of two in a flowering tree.

**Helmeted [New Guinea] Friarbird** *Philemon buceroides*

Common in the New Guinea lowlands and recorded daily in small numbers in the Port Moresby, Varirata and Kiunga areas.

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

Common in the high mountains, with up to 30 daily at Kumul and Ambua lodges, respectively, but only a couple 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.

**Long-bearded Honeyeater (PNG)** *Melidectes princeps*

John & Mark had good views of one during their climb up the long trail to Mt.Hagen. An impressive and localized species.

**Yellow-browed Honeyeater (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. Up to six seen daily around Ambua Lodge.

**Belford's Honeyeater (NG)** *Melidectes belfordi*

Most common at high elevations and heard constantly. Up to a dozen seen daily in the Kumul Lodge and Tari Gap areas.

**Ornate Honeyeater (NG)** *Melidectes torquatus*

Lower elevations in the mountains. Two seen well at Munganda village.

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

One in a flock above Ambua Lodge. A rare species.

**Rufous-backed Honeyeater (PNG)** *Ptiloprora guisei*

Small numbers were seen daily near Kumul and Ambua Lodges. More common at lower elevations than the following species.

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

Most common at high elevations. Commonly seen around Kumul Lodge.

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

Our first one was seen at Munganda village with further sightings in the Tabubil area.

**Rufous-banded Honeyeater (NE)** *Conopophila albogularis*

We had great views of six at PAU with further sightings at Gateway Hotel.

**Black Myzomela (NG)** *Myzomela nigrita*

Two were seen well at Varirata National Park with a further sighting of one at Dablin Creek Road.

**Midget (Mountain Red-headed) Myzomela (NG)** *Myzomela adolphinae*

We had great views of a male at Varirata NP and later saw two near the Lesser Bird-of-paradise display tree at Munganda village.

**Red-collared Myzomela (NG)** *Myzomela rosenbergii*

We enjoyed good views of several males in the Mt.Hagen area.

**Olive Straightbill (NG)** *Timeliopsis fulvigula*

A group of four were seen along a trail below Mt.Hagen. This is a rare and seldom seen species.

**Green-backed Honeyeater (NE)** *Timeliopsis fallax*

We had good views of two on Boys Town Road, Kiunga.

### Australasian Warblers Acanthizidae

**Rusty Mouse Warbler (NG)** *Crateroscelis murina*

We enjoyed fantastic views of a pair at Varirata NP and heard many others.

**Mountain Mouse Warbler (NG)** *Crateroscelis robusta*

Small numbers seen at both Kumul and Ambua lodges.

**Pale-billed Scrubwren (NG)** *Sericornis spilodera*

We enjoyed good views of several in Varirata NP.

**Papuan Scrubwren (NG)** *Sericornis papuensis*

Commonly seen near Ambua and Kumul Lodges.

**Large Scrubwren (NG)** *Sericornis nouhuysi*

Small numbers were seen near Kumul Lodge.

**Buff-faced Scrubwren (NG)** *Sericornis perspicillatus*

Small numbers were seen daily at Kumul and Ambua Lodges.

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

Heard almost daily and often seen in the mountains near Kumul Lodge. Its song is one of the beautiful and characteristic sounds of the montane forest.

**Yellow-bellied Gerygone (NG)** *Gerygone chrysogaster*

We enjoyed good views of several near the Elevala River.

**Ashy (Mountain) Gerygone (NG)** *Gerygone cinerea*

We had good views of two on a trail near Mt.Hagen.

**Green-backed Gerygone (NE)** *Gerygone chloronota*

Its distinctive song was heard frequently in the lowlands and hills from Varirata where we had good views of our first one with further sightings at Dablin Creek Road, Tabubil.

**Fairy Gerygone (NE)** *Gerygone palpebrosa*

We had wonderful views of several in Varirata NP.

### Australasian Babblers Pomatostomidae

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

We had wonderful views of six on the trails behind Ekame Lodge.

### Logrunners Orthonychidae

**Papuan Logrunner (NG)** *Orthonyx novaeguineae*

We had good views of a pair on a trail near Ambua Lodge.

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

We had good views of several at Mt.Hagen and Ambua Lodge.

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

An adult male and a female were seen near Kumul Lodge. The male's glowing shaded red-orange upperparts contrasting against the pure black face and underparts is most striking, another highlight of the tour.

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

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

**Black Berrypecker (NG)** *Melanocharis nigra*

We had fantastic views of two males at Varirata National Park.

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

Small numbers were seen at Ambua and Kumul Lodges.

**Fan-tailed Berrypecker (NG)** *Melanocharis versteri*

Seen very well at Kumul and Ambua Lodges.

**Streaked Berrypecker (NG)** *Melanocharis striativentris*

We had good views of two in the lower area of Mt.Hagen.

**Plumed Longbill (NG)** *Oedistoma iliolophum*

We had good views of several at Varirata NP and again in the Tabubil area.

**Pygmy Longbill (NG)** *Oedistoma pygmaeum*

One was seen well at Varirata NP, one at Mt.Hagen and two near Kiunga.

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

We had good views of one near Ekame Lodge.

**Slaty-chinned Longbill (NG)** *Toxorhamphus poliopterus*

One was seen in the lower area of Mt.Hagen.

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

We enjoyed numerous sightings in the Mt.Hagen and Ambua Lodge areas. A charming bird when seen well.

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

Up to four birds were seen daily at Kumul Lodge. Crested Berrypecker featured in the top ten birds of the trip and it truly is a splendid bird.

**Whipbirds & Jewel-babblers Eupetidae****Spotted Jewel-babbler (NG)** *Ptilorrhoa leucosticta*

Heard on several occasions near Ambua Lodge.

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

Heard calling very close by at Ekame Lodge and glimpsed by John near Kiunga.

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

Heard on several occasions and seen well by most in Varirata NP.

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

Heard calling in Varirata NP.

**Boatbills Machaerirhynchidae**

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

Two observed at Varirata NP.

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

We enjoyed wonderful views of several at Mt.Hagen and Ambua Lodge. This is always an eye-pleaser.

**Butcherbirds & Allies Cracticidae**

**Black Butcherbird (NE)** *Cracticus quoyi*

We enjoyed good views of a pair near Ambua Lodge, another seen near Ok Menga Hydro Plant and later great views of one calling at Dablin Creek Road. The call of this species sounds very like a person whistling.

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

We enjoyed good views of three at Pacific Adventist University.

**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.

**Clicking Shieldbill (Lowland Peltops) (NG)** *Peltops blainvillii*

Seen along the Elevala River and a further sighting of a pair near Kiunga.

**Tinkling Shieldbill (Mountain Peltops) (NG)** *Peltops montanus*

Up to four seen daily in the Tabubil area. Nearly always in pairs.

**Woodswallows Artamidae**

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

Up to five per day in the Port Moresby lowlands and around Kiunga.

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

A wonderful flock of ten was seen at Ambua Lodge. This bird is always entertaining to watch plus it has a lively and joyful-sounding song and affectionate social behaviour.

**Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae**

**Black-faced Cuckooshrike (NE)** *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.

**Stout-billed Cuckooshrike (NG)** *Coracina caeruleogrisea*

Two were seen at Dablin Creek Road, Tabubil.

**Barred (Yellow-eyed) Cuckooshrike (NE)** *Coracina lineata*

We had wonderful views of two at Varirata.

**Boyer's Cuckooshrike (NG)** *Coracina boyeri*

A pair was seen at Varirata and several others seen in the Kiunga area.

**White-bellied Cuckooshrike** *Coracina papuensis*

Six were seen at Varirata NP.

**Hooded Cuckooshrike (NG)** *Coracina longicauda*

We had wonderful views of two at Ambua Lodge.

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

Several were seen daily at Dablin Creek Road, Tabubil.

**Black-bellied Cuckooshrike (NG)** *Coracina montana*

Seen in small numbers near Ambua Lodge, and another pair at Dablin Creek Road.

**Golden Cuckoo-shrike (NG)***Campochaera sloetii*

This is always a popular bird and we had wonderful views of two at Dablin Creek Road and a further one at the Elevala River.

**Varied Triller (NE)***Lalage leucomela*

Seen at Varirata NP and along Dablin Creek Road.

**Sittellas Neosittidae****Papuan Sittella (NE)***Daphoenositta chrysoptera*

A wonderful flock of five were seen in a mixed species flock near Ambua Lodge.

**Black Sittella (NG)***Daphoenositta miranda*

A flock of four was seen near Mt.Hagen and a further flock of five flew over the road above Ambua Lodge.

**Shriketits Falcunculidae****Wattled Ploughbill (NG)***Eulacestoma nigropectus*

A superb male was seen on a trail near Mt.Hagen, we later found another male and female near Ambua Lodge. A special bird which featured in the top ten birds of the trip.

**Whistlers Pachycephalidae****Goldenface (NG)***Pachycare flavogriseum*

We had good views of one at Varirata NP and stunning views of a pair on Dablin Creek Road.

**Mottled Whistler (NG)***Rhagologus leucostigma*

We had wonderful views of a pair above Ambua Lodge, one was also seen along Dablin Creek Road.

**Rufous-naped Whistler (NG)***Aleadryas rufinucha*

This distinctive whistler was seen nearly every day in the highlands around Kumul Lodge.

**Rusty Whistler (NG)***Pachycephala hyperythra*

We had great views of one along Ok Ma Road, Tabubil.

**Brown-backed Whistler (PNG)***Pachycephala modesta*

We encountered this whistler near Kumul Lodge and again above Ambua Lodge.

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

Seen in small numbers at Varirata NP and the Tabubil area.

**Sclater's Whistler (NG)***Pachycephala soror*

We had wonderful views of a male near Ambua Lodge.

**Regent Whistler (NG)***Pachycephala schlegelii*

Commonly seen around Kumul and Ambua Lodges. One of the most colourful of all whistlers.

**Black-headed Whistler (NG)***Pachycephala monacha*

We had good views of two near the town of Mt.Hagen and a further one near Munganda village.

**(White-bellied Whistler) (PNG)***Pachycephala leucogastra*

We had great views of a male at Varirata NP.

*Note: This species is a proposed split of Black-headed Whistler by IOC however Clements already accepts this split.*

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

Several seen daily near Kumul Lodge.

**Figbirds, Orioles Oriolidae****Brown Oriole (NG)***Oriolus szalayi*

Small numbers seen at Varirata NP, Tabubil and Kiunga areas.

**Green Figbird (NE)** *Sphecotheres viridis*  
Four were seen at Pacific Adventist University.

**Shrikethrushes, Pitohuis Colluricinclidae**

**Little Shrikethrush (NE)** *Colluricincla megarhyncha*  
Small numbers were seen at Varirata NP and near the Elevala River.

**Grey Shrikethrush (NE)** *Colluricincla harmonica*  
Two were seen in savanna near Varirata NP.

**Variable Pitohui (NG)** *Pitohui kirhocephalus*  
We had good views of one along Ok Ma Road, Tabubil.

**Hooded Pitohui (NG)** *Pitohui dichrous*  
We had fantastic views of four in Varirata NP. This aposematically-coloured bird is the traditional “poison-bird” as it was the first bird species discovered to possess poisonous compounds in its tissues.

**White-bellied Pitohui** *Pitohui incertus*  
We had fair views of a group of five along the Elevala River.

**Rusty Pitohui (NG)** *Pitohui ferrugineus*  
We had brief views of one near Kiunga.

**Crested Pitohui (NG)** *Pitohui cristatus*  
We heard its remarkably long pulsing song at Varirata.

**Black Pitohui (NG)** *Pitohui nigrescens*  
A difficult bird to see and some of us were lucky to see one male near Mt.Hagen.

**Drongos Dicruridae**

**Pygmy Drongo (NG)** *Chaetorhynchus papuensis*  
We had great views of two on our final day at Varirata NP.

**Spangled Drongo** *Dicrurus bracteatus*  
Small numbers were seen daily in Varirata NP and the Kiunga area.

**Fantails Rhipiduridae**

**Willie Wagtail** *Rhipidura leucophrys*  
Very widespread, being seen almost every day throughout the trip; up to 10 per day in the Port Moresby region.

**Northern Fantail** *Rhipidura rufiventris*  
Small numbers were seen daily in the Tabubil area.

**Sooty Thicket-Fantail (NG)** *Rhipidura threnothorax*  
Up to three seen at Varirata and several others heard in the Tabubil area.

**White-bellied Thicket-Fantail (NG)** *Rhipidura leucothorax*  
One seen briefly near the Ok Menga Hydro Plant and others heard along the Elevala River.

**Black Fantail (NG)** *Rhipidura atra*  
Two below Kumul Lodge, total of three at Ambua Lodge, and one near Tabubil.

**Chestnut-bellied Fantail (NG)** *Rhipidura hyperythra*  
This species was seen at Varirata National Park in good numbers.

**Friendly Fantail (NG)** *Rhipidura albolimbata*  
Delightfully common in the highlands, with up to ten per day around Kumul and Ambua lodges.

**Dimorphic Fantail (NG)** *Rhipidura brachyrhyncha*  
Small numbers seen in the Kumul Lodge and Ambua Lodge regions.

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

One was seen along Ok Ma Road and another near the Elevala River.

### Monarch Flycatchers Monarchidae

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

Singles were observed at Mt.Hagen, Ambua Lodge and Dablin Creek Road.

**Black-faced Monarch (NE)** *Monarcha melanopsis*

One seen at Varirata and two at Tabubil.

**Black-winged Monarch (NE)** *Monarcha frater*

One seen at Varirata and two in the Tabubil area.

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

Several seen daily at Varirata and small numbers in the Ekame Lodge area.

**Hooded Monarch (NG)** *Monarcha manadensis*

One was seen behind Ekame Lodge.

**Golden Monarch (NG)** *Monarcha chrysomela*

We had fantastic views of one on Boys Town Road.

**Friiled Monarch (NG)** *Arses telescopthalmus*

Up to four birds per day seen at Varirata with further sightings along the Elevala River.

*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.*

**Torrentlark (NG)** *Grallina bruijni*

One was seen briefly near the Ok Menga Hydroelectric plant.

**Leaden Flycatcher (NE)** *Myiagra rubecula*

A pair was seen in the savanna near Varirata NP.

**Shining Flycatcher (NE)** *Myiagra alecto*

Up to six seen daily along the Elevala River. This bird is most common alongside water.

### Crows & Jays Corvidae

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

Up to eight per day were seen, mostly in small yelping flocks, along the Elevala River.

**Torresian Crow** *Corvus orru*

The typical 'mainland' form we saw only in the Port Moresby – Varirata region, up to 15 per day.

### Family Uncertain Incertae sedis

**Lesser Melampitta (NG)** *Melampitta lugubris*

We had good views of one near Mt.Hagen and several others were seen briefly and heard on many occasions.

**Greater Melampitta (NG)** *Melampitta gigantea*

Heard calling along the Ok Ma Road, Tabubil.

**Ifrit (NG)** *Ifrita kowaldi*

We had fantastic views of a pair at Kumul Lodge and a further two were seen 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*

We saw small numbers daily on the Elevala River and near Kiunga, where most manucodes were this species. We also heard singles calling at Varirata.

- Crinkle-collared Manucode (NG)** *Manucodia chalybatus*  
We had great views of two at Varirata.
- Trumpet Manucode (NE)** *Phonygammus keraudrenii*  
We had wonderful views of three in the Kiunga area.
- Short-tailed Paradigalla (NG)** *Paradigalla brevicauda*  
We watched two feeding in a fruiting tree at Ambua Lodge.
- Ribbon-tailed Astrapia (PNG)** *Astrapia mayeri*  
Up to five per day seen near Kumul Lodge included several visiting the feeder. Similar numbers were seen 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*  
Several per day were seen around Ambua Lodge. These included spectacular adult males.
- Carola's Parotia (NG)** *Parotia carolae*  
One female was seen at Dablin Creek Road and a young male at Ok Ma Road, Tabubil.
- Lawes's Parotia (PNG)** *Parotia lawesii*  
Our first sighting was rather unexpected when we found two near Mt.Hagen. A further two were seen at Ambua Lodge.
- King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise (NG)** *Pteridophora alberti*  
This unique and spectacular bird was voted third-best bird of the trip! We had magnificent views of a stunning male above Ambua 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*  
Four birds were seen well near Mt.Hagen and a further male at Ambua Lodge. 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.
- Magnificent Riflebird (NE)** *Ptiloris magnificus*  
We heard a male of the clear-voiced nominate form at Ok Ma on several occasions!
- Growling (Eastern) Riflebird (PNG)** *Ptiloris intercedens*  
We saw a female on our first day of the tour at Varirata and enjoyed a splendid male on our final day of the tour, again at Varirata. This is the gruff-voiced form split by many as Eastern Riflebird.
- Black Sicklebill (NG)** *Epimachus fastuosus*  
One male was seen briefly near Ambua Lodge.
- Brown Sicklebill (NG)** *Epimachus meyeri*  
This species was an entertaining visitor to the Kumul Lodge feeders (up to five daily), we watched in awe as a male made several appearances daily, on one occasion two males appeared at the feeder and one male was seen giving his incredibly loud call. Small numbers were also seen above Ambua Lodge.
- Magnificent Bird-of-paradise (NG)** *Diphyllodes magnificus*  
Several females were seen at Dablin Creek Road and one female at Varirata NP.
- King Bird-of-paradise (NG)** *Cicinnurus regius*  
The adult male faithfully attended the canopy tangle of his display tree by the Elevala River. Although often difficult to see, his repeated movements within a small and predictable area gave us many striking views of his gleaming red-orange and white plumage with unique green tail rackets. This is the smallest bird-of-paradise but also one of the brightest and most unique. This bird was voted second-best bird of the trip!
- Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise (NG)** *Seleucidis melanoleucus*  
Typically active in the early morning, a splendid male treated us to a good show along the Elevala River. 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!

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

The impressive courtship displays involving several males in their lek tree being visited by a few females at Kilometre Seventeen was a fine spectacle.

**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 six 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 20 birds in the area.

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

At least two males and a female were seen in and around the big display tree at Munganda village. The males displayed and showed well, one even coming down to eye-level.

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

We scoped an adult male perched high early in the morning, down the valley below Kumul Lodge. A young male and female were also seen in the area. At Ambua Lodge we saw one female. 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.

**Australasian Robins Petroicidae****Ashy (Grey-headed) Robin (NG)***Poecilodryas albispecularis*

We all had fantastic views of this beauty above Ambua Lodge, a difficult species to observe.

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

One was heard near Ekame Lodge.

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

After a lengthy search we finally had superb views of several near Ambua Lodge. This bird looks much like a small cuckooshrike.

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

Up to four seen daily at Kumul Lodge. A smart and fairly confiding species.

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

Seen briefly by some below Kumul Lodge, however we all enjoyed good views of several at Ambua Lodge.

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

We had great views of several at Dablin Creek Road, another heard at Ok Ma the next day.

**White-faced Robin (NE)***Tregellasia leucops*

One seen on our first and last days at Varirata NP. A most striking and stunning bird indeed !

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

Several were seen in the lower area of Mt.Hagen and a few others at the Ok Menga Hydroelectric Plant near Tabubil.

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

Small numbers were seen daily at Kumul and Ambua Lodges.

**Yellow-legged Flyrobin (NE)***Microeca griseiceps*

We had good views of one along the Ok Ma Road, Tabubil.

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

One was seen along the Ok Ma Road, Tabubil.

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

Several were seen in the savanna near Varirata.

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

After an extensive search we saw a pair along the road above Ambua Lodge.

**Northern Scrub Robin (NE)** *Drymodes superciliaris*  
 We heard this ground skulker in the forest at Varirata NP.  
**Lesser Ground Robin (NG)** *Amalocichla incerta*  
 We had good views of one above Ambua Lodge.

#### Swallows Hirundinidae

**Pacific Swallow** *Hirundo tahitica*  
 This is the common swallow of the region and it is very widespread, seen in small numbers almost daily.

#### Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae

**Golden-headed Cisticola** *Cisticola exilis*  
 One seen well at PAU.

#### Old World Warblers Sylviidae

**Tawny Grassbird** *Megalurus timoriensis*  
 Seen and/or heard almost daily in the mountains around Kumul and Ambua Lodges.  
**Island Leaf-Warbler (NE)** *Phylloscopus poliocephalus*  
 We had great views of one below Kumul Lodge and another at Dablin Creek Road.

#### White-eyes Zosteropidae

**Black-fronted White-eye (NG)** *Zosterops minor*  
 Small numbers were seen at Varirata NP and we had further daily sightings in the Tabubil area.  
**New Guinea White-eye (NG)** *Zosterops novaeguineae*  
 Up to 10 were seen at valley sites below Kumul Lodge.

#### Starlings Sturnidae

**Metallic Starling (NE)** *Aplonis metallica*  
 We found this colonial starling to be common in the Elevala River and Kiunga regions. On days when we passed multiple nesting colonies we estimated numbers over 100 along the Fly and Elevala rivers.  
**Singing Starling (NE)** *Aplonis cantoroides*  
 We had good views of a flock of five in the lower area of Mt.Hagen and a further two at Port Moresby airport.  
**Yellow-faced Myna (NG)** *Mino dumontii*  
 Seen almost daily in the lowlands, with up to ten per day in the Tabubil – Elevala River – Kiunga region and slightly smaller numbers in the Varirata – Port Moresby region.  
**Golden Myna (NG)** *Mino anais*  
 Seven were seen along the Elevala River.

#### Thrushes Turdidae

**Island Thrush** *Turdus poliocephalus*  
 Up to six seen daily at Kumul Lodge and a further six at Tari Gap.

#### Chats & Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

**Pied Bush Chat** *Saxicola caprata*  
 Up to four seen daily near Kumul and Ambua Lodges.

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 four per day.

*Note: This species has been split into 2 species Red-capped Flowerpecker D.geelvinkianum the one we observed and Olive-crowned Flowerpecker D.pectorale of North West New Guinea.*

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

We saw up to four daily in the Kiunga area.

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

Up to ten were seen and heard at and near the Port Moresby Airport.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

A couple were seen at the Port Moresby airport.

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

Several were seen at Kumul Lodge. A smart seedeater.

**Blue-faced Parrot-Finch** *Erythrura trichroa*

Several were seen well in the vicinity of Ambua Lodge.

**White-spotted Munia (NG)** *Lonchura leucosticta*

We had good views of two at the Kiunga airport.

**Great-billed Munia (NG)** *Lonchura grandis*

We had fantastic scope views of two near Varirata NP. A rare and seldom seen species.

**Grey-headed Munia (PNG)** *Lonchura caniceps*

Large flocks numbering up to one hundred were seen at PAU.

**Hooded Munia (NG)** *Lonchura spectabilis*

Seen in small numbers daily in the Mt.Hagen area.

**Chestnut-breasted Munia (NE)** *Lonchura castaneothorax*

One at PAU plus a further two at Varirata NP.

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

We saw one at the Tari airport.

**Annotated Checklist of Mammals****Ringtail Possum sp. (NG)** *Pseudochirops [cupreus]*

We had a great encounter with a single animal, probably Coppery Ringtail Possum but identifying these ringtail possums to species level is difficult, feeding on the fruit tray on two consecutive days at Kumul Lodge.

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

Numerous animals were seen flying over the Elevala River.

**Agile Wallaby** *Macropus agilis*

On our return to Varirata we saw one of these fairly large macropod marsupials, on the shoulders of the park roads.

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