



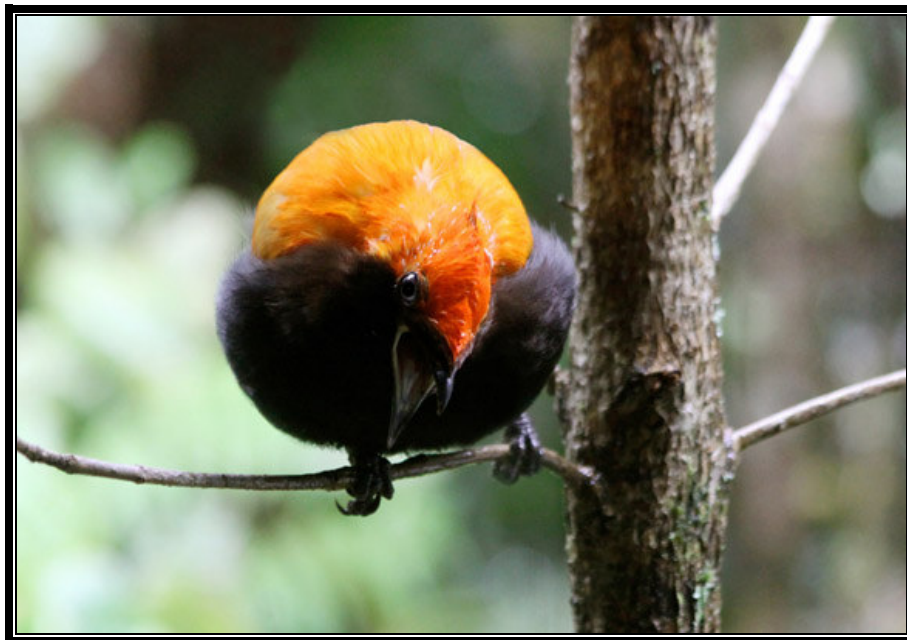
# Rockjumper Birding Tours

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Worldwide Birding Adventures

## **Papua New Guinea III** *Trip Report*

*11<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August 2009*



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



## Tour Summary

After returning to Port Moresby from a wonderful few days on New Britain, we made an afternoon visit to the Pacific Adventist University which never fails to impress. It was a pleasure to be birding open country, a change from the lengthy spell in the forest, and we enjoyed sightings of Pied Heron, Whistling Kite at its nest, Comb-crested Jacana, Masked Lapwing, both Spotted and Wandering Whistling Ducks, Torresian Imperial Pigeon, Papuan Frogmouth at a day roost, huge Blue-winged Kookaburra, Black-backed Butcherbird, several Fawn-breasted Bowerbirds near a bower and both Grey-headed and Chestnut-breasted Mannikins. A bonus here was the sighting of a flock of seven Royal Spoonbills flying over.

A day spent birding around the Hsui Mangroves and near the Brown River was very rewarding. Shortly after arrival at the mangroves we saw Orange-footed Scrubfowl on the road. Soon we were ticking mangrove specialties such as Mangrove Robin and Mangrove Gerygone, plus Broad-billed and Leaden Flycatchers and Orange-fronted Fruit Dove as well as the shy Black Thicket Fantail. Tree Martins were seen flying overhead and a Little Kingfisher whizzed by. Visiting the estuary we found both Greater and Lesser Sand Plover and a real surprise in the form of a Beach Stone-curlew – seldom recorded in Papua New Guinea. Nearby we found White-throated Gerygone, Brown-backed and localized Silver-eared Honeyeaters. On our approach to Brown River we enjoyed scope views of an impressive Gurney's Eagle, the beautiful Coronated Fruit Dove and smart Common Paradise Kingfisher, what a day!



Next we visited the mega diversity hotspot of Varirata National Park. Birding the various network of forest trails was particularly exciting with new species around every corner. Some of our highlights during our visits to this fabulous park included; scope views of the rare Doria's Goshawk, stunning Wompoo Fruit Dove, magnificent Barred Owlet-nightjar at a day roost, the exquisitely patterned Rufous-bellied Kookaburra, confiding Yellow-billed Kingfisher and scope views of both stunning Brown-headed and Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfishers. Occasionally we would bump into mixed species flocks along secluded forest trails and amongst the myriad of species we picked up the hyperactive Chestnut-bellied Fantail, Black Berrypecker, a pair of confiding Variable Dwarf Kingfisher, smart Frilled Monarch, Olive Flycatcher and White-faced Robin performing its habit of clinging to vertical stems and peering into the leaf litter in search of prey. We also enjoyed scope views of Marbled Frogmouth at a day roost. One of the real gems of the understory is the highly elusive Chestnut-backed Jewel-babbler and some of us managed brief views of this beauty. A flowering tree attracted many species, where we enjoyed

great sightings of Red Myzomela and both Dwarf and Pygmy Honeyeaters. In nearby *Eucalyptus* savanna we found Shining Bronze Cuckoo, scarce White-bellied Whistler and immaculate White-throated and Streak-headed Honeyeaters. Our stay here was topped off with great sightings of the seldom seen White-crowned Cuckoo and time spent at a display area of the Raggiana Bird-of-Paradise, where several males were seen performing their dramatic displays, a truly magnificent experience!

Moving on to the agricultural valley of Tari we spent time at the lovely Ambua Lodge. During our stay here, a fruiting tree in the lodge gardens enthralled us with sightings of the delightful Black-breasted

Boatbill, scarce Mottled Whistler, flocks of Tit Berrypecker and Loria's Satinbird. Along the road and various trails we found the localized Short-tailed Paradigalla, brief views of a Papuan Eagle flying over the road, Plum-faced Lorikeet and Black-throated Honeyeater together in a flowering tree, scope views of Red-breasted Pygmy Parrot, all four species of Tiger Parrot including stunning views of the rare Madarasz's, confiding Papuan Boobook, reclusive Lesser Ground Robin, Garnet and Black-throated Robins, poisonous Blue-capped Ifrita, social Papuan Sitella, scarce Papuan Treecreeper and Blue-faced and rare Papuan Parrotfinch.

Some of the star attractions were a splendid male Ribbon-tailed *Astrapia* in full breeding dress with a tail that has to be seen to be believed (the longest tail to body size of any bird species in the world), male Princess Stephanie's *Astrapia* – becoming increasingly difficult due to severe logging pressure and finally one of the most bizarre birds of paradise, the unique King of Saxony Bird-of-Paradise atop his prominent perch seen calling with displaying head plumes, what a sight!

The highlands of Mount Hagen host a wonderful set of Birds-of-Paradise and localised endemics and we were not to be disappointed. The feeding station at our comfortable lodge produced memorable sightings such as point blank Brehm's Tiger Parrot, White-breasted Fruit Dove, White-winged Robin, stunning Crested Berrypecker, vocal Brown Sicklebill and scarce Archbold's Bowerbird as well as unrivalled photographic opportunities. Whilst walking the various forest trails in the area we were entertained by a confiding Lesser Melampitta showing well for all, unbelievably tame Chestnut Forest Rail, spectacular Papuan Lorikeet, bizarre Wattled



Ploughbill and Mountain Firetail. We paid a visit to a nearby fruiting tree which yielded stunning views of both Blue and Superb Bird-of-Paradise. On another occasion we visited a Lesser Bird-of-Paradise display area where we witnessed a fabulous display by four males. During a forest walk we enjoyed an amazing sighting of a Dusky Woodcock perched on a dead branch. The icing on the cake must surely have been the spectacular adult male Crested Satinbird which we found after a lengthy search.

Thereafter, we made our way along the winding road to Tabubil, one of the wettest places on the planet! A visit to the Menga River produced fantastic views of a pair of the striking and highly sought after Torrent-lark and a superb Salvadori's Teal. Birding the area was tricky this year with limited access due to a damaged bridge, meaning we really only had one easily accessible birding site. Nonetheless our time spent here was highly productive, we found several Long-tailed Honey Buzzard cruising along with their slow and measured flight giving us outstanding views, scarce Grey-headed Goshawk, flocks of Dusky Lory, the legless Blue-collared Parrot (well we called it legless as they never appear to land), both Ivory-billed and Black-billed Coucals perching up for all to see, Stout-billed and unusual Golden Cuckooshrikes, White-rumped Robin, localized Obscure Berrypecker and smart Queen Carola's Parotia.

Venturing into the lowlands of Kiunga, we birded in some climax primary forest along a network of well maintained forest trails and were rewarded with sightings of the secretive Papuan Babbler, brief Hooded Pitta, Red-throated Myzomela and finally magnificent displaying Greater Bird-of-Paradise. The open areas produced numerous species including stunning scope views of Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon, smart Western Black-capped Lory, miniscule Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot, a confiding Dwarf Koel, Papuan

Nightjar, lovely Golden Monarch, exquisite Emperor and Wallace's Fairywren and all three species of Manucodes.



From Kiunga we ventured into the undisturbed rainforest along the meandering Elevala and Kwatu Rivers where we sought out more lowland specialties. Here we were delighted to find Lowland Peltops and Large Fig Parrot – both scarce on this route. Working our way along the muddy forest trails we found the elusive Hook-billed Kingfisher, shy Little Paradise Kingfisher, glimpses of Spotted Catbird and finally the spectacular King Bird-of-Paradise which gave a truly magnificent display. Winding along the rivers we found the huge Great-billed Heron, a pair of Bare-eyed Rail flew across a tributary, Long-billed Cuckoo, Marbled Frogmouth on its nest, Great Cuckoo Dove, several impressive Palm Cockatoo, Azure

Kingfisher, flocks of Blyth's Hornbill, furtive White-bellied Pitohui and smart Golden Myna. We also found the quaint Twelve-wired Bird-of-Paradise at his calling post and one of the most sought after species on the tour, the massive Southern Crowned Pigeon. Later, a visit to a bower of the dazzling Flame Bowerbird was extremely rewarding; we waited for a long time and suddenly shortly before we threw in the towel, an adult male appeared and was seen at his bower! This is certainly one of the most dazzling birds on the planet! An incredible experience and a wonderful way to end off this amazing adventure.

During the trip we encountered over twenty species of Birds-of-Paradise, most included males in full breeding plumage giving us a great show at their display grounds, an incredible nineteen species of Kingfisher including all five Paradise Kingfishers, hoards of Fruit Doves and spectacular Parrots. From enormous butterflies to ornately dressed tribesman, vast areas of pristine tropical rainforest and displaying Birds-of-Paradise, Papua New Guinea is undoubtedly one of the most fascinating places on earth!

**Photo Credit:** Crested (Bird-of-paradise) Satinbird by David Shackelford, Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher by Erling Krabbe, Brown Sicklebill by Erik Mølgaard and Red-breasted Pygmy-parrot by John Tino

## Annotated Checklists of Birds

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC 2.2 List of: Gill, F. and M. Wright. August 2009. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.

### Key to endemic/near endemic abbreviations

NG – endemic to New Guinea

PNG – endemic to Papua New Guinea

NB – endemic to New Britain

BA – endemic to the Bismarck Archipelago

NE – near endemic to New Guinea

### Megapodes Megapodiidae

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

Heard regularly in lowland areas and nest mounds were also seen in Varirata National Park (NP).

**Orange-footed Scrubfowl***Megapodius reinwardt*

We had great views of two birds while exploring the Hsui Mangroves.

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

Fifteen birds were scoped perched in a large tree at Pacific Adventist University (PAU) followed by many more at a wetland near the Hsui Mangroves.

**Plumed Whistling Duck***Dendrocygna eytoni*

One was seen at Pacific Adventist University, a leader only sighting.

**Wandering Whistling Duck***Dendrocygna arcuata*

Ten birds were seen at the Pacific Adventist University and again at a wetland near Hsui Mangroves.

**Salvadori's Teal (NG)***Salvadorina waigiuenis*

We scoped one swimming amongst the rocks on a larger river near Tabubil. This is a highly-desired bird on any New Guinea tour.

**Green Pygmy Goose***Nettapus pulchellus*

We found several swimming in a backwater lagoon near the Hsui Mangroves.

**Pacific Black Duck***Anas superciliosa*

About fifty were seen at the Pacific Adventist University.

**Grey Teal***Anas gracilis*

We found a pair at a wetland near the Hsui Mangroves.

**Grebes Podicipedidae****Australasian Grebe***Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

Five birds were seen at Pacific Adventist University and a further two at a wetland near the Hsui Mangroves.

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

Two were seen at Pacific Adventist University and several more near the Hsui Mangroves.

**Royal Spoonbill***Platalea regia*

Whilst birding at the Pacific Adventist University we enjoyed superb views of a flock of seven flying overhead.

**Hérons, Bitterns Ardeidae****Nankeen (Rufous) Night Heron***Nycticorax caledonicus*

A couple was seen at Pacific Adventist University.

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

A total of six were seen along the Elevala River.

**Eastern Cattle Egret***Bubulcus coromandus*

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

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

We had good views of one on the Elevala River.

**Eastern Great Egret***Ardea modesta*

Widespread in small numbers in the lowlands with peak numbers of thirty near Hsui Mangroves.

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

A few were seen at the Pacific Adventist University.

**Pied Heron***Egretta picata*

We saw about twenty of these beautiful herons near PAU.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

A few birds were seen at the PAU.

**Pacific Reef Heron** *Egretta sacra*

We had wonderful views of one near the Hsui Mangroves.

### Gannets, Boobies Sulidae

**Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster*

We were fortunate to see one distant bird at the Hsui Estuary.

### Cormorants, Shags Phalacrocoracidae

**Little Pied Cormorant** *Microcarbo melanoleucos*

Seen along the Fly River with further sightings at PAU and near the Hsui Mangrove

**Little Black Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Seen along the Fly River with further sightings at PAU and peak numbers of fifty near the Hsui Mangroves

### Anhinga & Darters Anhingidae

**Australasian Darter** *Anhinga novaehollandiae*

A few were seen near the Hsui Mangroves.

### Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

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

This attractive raptor was seen almost daily in the Kiunga and Elevala River areas.

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

Seen on several occasions near Tabubil and in the Kiunga area.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*

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

**Whistling Kite** *Haliastur sphenurus*

Several birds were seen in the Port Moresby area with further sightings near the Hsui Mangroves.

**Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus*

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

**White-bellied Sea Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

We enjoyed good views of this huge fish-eating eagle along the Fly River.

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

Several were seen daily, quartering low over grasslands in the Mount Hagen area.

**Variable Goshawk** *Accipiter hiogaster*

Small numbers were seen daily near Kiunga and Tabubil.

**Brown Goshawk** *Accipiter fasciatus*

A few scattered sightings of this widespread raptor with especially nice views near Mount Hagen.

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

We had spectacular views of this rare bird at its nest in Varirata NP.

**Papuan (New Guinea Harpy) Eagle (NG)** *Harpyopsis novaeguineae*

We were fortunate to have brief views of one flying across the road near Ambua Lodge.

**Gurney's Eagle** *Aquila gurneyi*

We had stunning scope views of one near Brown River.

**Little Eagle***Hieraaetus morphnoides*

We had good views of two, one near Varirata NP and another along the Elevala River.

**Falcons Falconidae****Nankeen (Australian) Kestrel***Falco cenchroides*

One was seen flying over the Pacific Adventist University.

**Australian Hobby***Falco longipennis*

We had superb views of one near the Hsui Mangroves.

**Brown Falcon***Falco berigora*

One bird was seen soaring near Tabubil.

**Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae****Chestnut Forest Rail (NG)***Rallina rubra*

We had incredible views of a female on several occasions near Kumul Lodge.

**Forbes's Forest Rail (NG)***Rallina forbesi*

Some participants had brief, but good views of one near Mount Hagen.

**Bare-eyed Rail***Gymnocrex plumbeiventris*

We had brief views of a pair flying over the Kwatu River.

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

We heard this species near Tabubil.

**Purple Swamphen***Porphyrio porphyrio*

At least twenty birds were recorded at the Pacific Adventist University with further sightings of ten at a wetland near the Hsui Mangroves.

**Dusky Moorhen***Gallinula tenebrosa*

Eight were seen at Pacific Adventist University with a further five near the Hsui Mangroves.

**Stone-curlews & Thick-knees Burhinidae****Beach Stone-curlew***Esacus neglectus*

We had magnificent scope views of one near the Hsui Mangroves. A seldom encountered species in Papua New Guinea.

**Plovers Charadriidae****Masked Lapwing***Vanellus miles*

We found a total of twelve at PAU and a further two near the Hsui Mangroves.

**Lesser Sand Plover***Charadrius mongolus*

We had good scope views of two near the Hsui Mangroves.

**Greater Sand Plover***Charadrius leschenaultia*

We had great scope views of six near the Hsui Mangroves.

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

We found three at the Pacific Adventist University followed by another two near the Hsui Mangroves.

**Sandpipers & Snipes Scolopacidae****New Guinea (Dusky) Woodcock (NG)***Scolopax rosenbergii*

We ventured out at dusk and were rewarded with simply incredible views of a perched bird for several minutes after listening to its bizarre call echoing through the boggy forest.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

We had good views of two near the Hsui Mangroves.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Three birds were seen near the Hsui Mangroves and up to six along the Fly River.

### Couriers & Pratincoles Glareolidae

**Australian Pratincole** *Stiltia isabella*

Two were seen at Tari airport with a further sighting of one at Kiunga airport.

### Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae

**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Up to ten were seen near the Hsui estuary.

**Swift (Great Crested) Tern** *Thalasseus bergii*

We had great views of several at the Hsui estuary.

**Lesser Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bengalensis*

We had superb scope views of two at the Hsui estuary.

### Pigeons & Doves Columbidae

**Common (Rock) Pigeon** *Colomba livia*

Seen in small numbers in urban areas, we recorded several at Mount Hagen.

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

This species was widespread and common in small numbers from the lowlands up to mid-level mountains. Our first sightings were in Varirata NP.

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

Seen mostly in the highlands with some excellent scope studies near Mount Hagen and Ambua Lodge

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

We had some nice flight views of this species near Tabubil and along the Elevala River.

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

Three were seen flying over the Elevala River.

**Thick-billed Ground Pigeon (NG)** *Trugon terrestris*

This retiring species was heard in the forest near Kiunga.

**Peaceful Dove** *Geopelia placida*

Several of these widespread birds were seen at the PAU with a few further sightings near the Hsui Mangroves.

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

We found several at the Hsui Mangroves.

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

Always one of the main target birds along the Elevala River, this amazing bird did not let us down. We had fantastic prolonged views of an adult; simply unbeatable!

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

One of these beautiful birds was scoped in Varirata NP.

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

One of the commonest fruit doves on this tour and seen regularly in the lowlands with sightings from Varirata NP and the Kiunga area.

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

We enjoyed magnificent scope views of several at the Hsui Mangroves.

**Coronated Fruit Dove (NG)** *Ptilinopus coronulatus*

We had fantastic scope views of an adult male near Brown River, a beautiful and rarely encountered species on this tour.

**White-bibbed Fruit Dove (NG)** *Ptilinopus rivoli*

One of these smart birds was seen by Nikolas and Mira at Kumul Lodge, they were able to get superb photos of it.

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

Good numbers were seen in the Kiunga and Brown River areas with up to ten daily.

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

We had magnificent scope views of two near Kiunga.

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

We enjoyed daily views of small numbers of this massive pigeon in the Kiunga and Elevela areas.

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

Fairly common along the Elevela and Fly rivers, with up to fifty daily

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

Small numbers of this distinctive species with a black chest band were encountered at Varirata NP and near Kiunga.

**Torresian Imperial Pigeon (NE)** *Ducula spilorrhoea*

Our first sightings were of several at PAU with further sightings at the Hsui Mangroves.

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

Widespread and often seen in large flocks throughout the tour, not only in the mountains but also in lowland areas, peak numbers of one hundred seen around Tabubil and Kiunga.

### Cockatoos Cacatuidae

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

This magnificent species was encountered almost daily in the lowlands of Kiunga and Elevela areas.

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

Observed in the lowlands of Kiunga and Fly River areas where it was fairly common.

### Parrots Psittacidae

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

Several of these tiny birds were seen both in flight and perched, giving good scope views near Kiunga.

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

We had good views of several on the Dablin Creek Road.

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

Several perched birds were scoped at length and seen in flight in the Kiunga area.

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

We had good views of several large flocks near Tabubil.

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

Common and widespread in the lowlands and hills, we had great scope views in Varirata NP.

**Goldie's Lorikeet** *Psitteuteles goldiei*

We had amazing views of forty near Kumul Lodge.

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

This gorgeous bird was common through the lowlands and hills in small numbers. We had great views of a pair in Varirata NP with further sightings in the Kiunga area.

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

Seen in small numbers in the lowlands with some excellent scope views especially in the Kiunga area

**Papuan Lorikeet (NG)** *Chamosyna papou*

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

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

We found a small flock which gave perched scope views at the highlands of Tari.

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

Up to thirty in the Ambua Lodge area

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

Several birds at both Kumul Lodge and the Ambua Lodge areas.

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

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

**Painted Tiger Parrot (NG)** *Psittacella picta*

We had brief views of two in the Tari Valley.

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

We were very fortunate to have excellent views of this scarce highland endemic above the Ambua Lodge.

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

Two birds were studied feeding quietly only fifteen feet away for twenty minutes near the Ambua Lodge with a further sighting of a pair near Kumul Lodge.

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

Common throughout the tour in lowland areas with good sightings near Kiunga and in Varirata NP

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

Several of these vocal birds were seen in flight overhead at Dablin Creek Road.

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

Seen regularly in small numbers on the mainland, though no more than fifteen per day.

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

First seen briefly in Varirata NP with a further sighting of a pair near Ambua Lodge

**Orange-breasted Fig Parrot (NG)** *Cyclopsitta gulemitertii*

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

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

We had several sightings in the lowlands near Kiunga including a large flock of thirty flying over the Kwatu River.

**Large Fig Parrot (NG)** *Psittaculirostris desmarestii*

We were fortunate to see one of these scarce parrots perched along the Elevala River.

### Cuckoos Cuculidae

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

We had good but brief views of this shy species near Tabubil.

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

We had great scope views of one near Tabubil.

**Pheasant Coucal** *Centropus phasianinus*

We had good sightings at Varirata NP and several near the Hsui Mangroves.

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

We enjoyed incredible scope views of this species near Kiunga.

- Pacific (Australian) Koel** *Eudynamys orientalis*  
We had good sightings along the Elevela River.
- Channel-billed Cuckoo** *Scythrops novaehollandiae*  
We heard one of these massive birds along the Elevela River.
- Long-billed Cuckoo (NG)** *Chrysococcyx megarhynchus*  
We had good views of one along the Elevela River.
- Rufous-throated Bronze Cuckoo (NG)** *Chrysococcyx ruficollis*  
After hearing this species we finally managed nice perched scope views in the Tari Valley.
- Shining Bronze Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx lucidus*  
We had great views of one at the Hsui Mangroves.
- White-eared Bronze Cuckoo (NG)** *Chrysococcyx meyeri*  
We enjoyed exceptional views of this attractive cuckoo on several occasions in the Tabubil area.
- Little (Malay) Bronze Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx minutillus*  
We had good views of one in Varirata NP and another near Kiunga.  
*Note: This species is sometimes split into two species, the northern Malay Bronze-Cuckoo C. peninsularis and the nominate and southern Gould's Bronze-Cuckoo. The form we saw this year represented the former grouping.*
- White-crowned Cuckoo (Koel) (NG)** *Cacomantis leucolophus*  
We had amazing scope views of this shy species in Varirata NP.
- Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo (NE)** *Cacomantis castaneiventris*  
We had brief views of one near Tabubil.
- Fan-tailed Cuckoo** *Cacomantis flabelliformis*  
We heard several in the highlands of the Tari Valley.
- Brush Cuckoo** *Cacomantis variolosus*  
A common species that was seen occasionally and frequently heard.

### Owls Strigidae

- Papuan (Jungle) Boobook (NG)** *Ninox theomacha*  
We had great views of a pair at Ambua Lodge.

### Frogmouths Podargidae

- Marbled Frogmouth (NE)** *Podargus ocellatus*  
We had fantastic views of two in Varirata NP.
- Papuan Frogmouth (NE)** *Podargus papuensis*  
Two of these magnificent roosting birds were seen in a tree at the Pacific Adventist University. We scoped these astounding birds in intimate detail.

### Nightjars Caprimulgidae

- Papuan Nightjar (NG)** *Eurostopodus papuensis*  
Several were seen on the road near Kiunga.

### Owlet-nightjars Aegothelidae

- Barred Owlet-nightjar (NG)** *Aegotheles bennettii*  
We had fantastic views of this beauty in Varirata National Park.

### Treeswifts Hemiprocnidae

- Moustached Treeswift (NE)** *Hemiproctes mystacea*

Seen regularly in the lowlands near Kiunga and Tabubil including some great flight and close perched views.

### Swifts Apodidae

- Glossy Swiftlet** *Collocalia esculenta*  
Abundant, seen daily especially in the hills and mountains
- Mountain Swiftlet (NG)** *Aerodramus hirundinaceus*  
This endemic was also abundant during our time in the higher areas of the tour.
- Uniform Swiftlet** *Aerodramus vanikorensis*  
Very common in the lowlands and hills, where seen daily
- Papuan Spine-tailed Swift (NG)** *Mearnsia novaeguineae*  
Several were seen daily foraging above the Kiunga area and Elevala River.

### Rollers Coraciidae

- Oriental Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis*  
Seen regularly in the lowlands with up to twenty per day along the Elevala River

### Kingfishers Alcedinidae

- Hook-billed Kingfisher (NG)** *Melidora macrorrhina*  
One of New Guinea's most elusive kingfishers, we were delighted when one bird showed exceptionally well allowing for great scope views near the Elevala River.
- Common Paradise Kingfisher (NE)** *Tanysiptera galatea*  
Three birds were seen exceptionally well near the Brown River – a stunning and memorable species.
- Little Paradise Kingfisher (NG)** *Tanysiptera hydrocharis*  
With patience and persistence we were finally rewarded with great scope views of this uncommon species along the Elevala River.
- Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher** *Tanysiptera sylvia*  
We had incredible scope views of one of these beauties in Varirata NP.
- Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher (PNG)** *Tanysiptera danae*  
We were thrilled to obtain unbelievable views of this stunning bird in Varirata National Park.
- Shovel-billed Kookaburra (NG)** *Clytoceyx rex*  
We heard this species in the Tabubil area.
- Blue-winged Kookaburra** *Dacelo leachii*  
A few of these massive kingfishers were seen near Pacific Adventist University and at Hsui Mangroves.
- Rufous-bellied Kookaburra (NG)** *Dacelo gaudichaud*  
Seen and heard in the lowlands and hills on several different dates with up to four birds in a single day at the Elevala River.
- Collared Kingfisher** *Todirhamphus chloris*  
Two birds were seen at the Hsui Mangroves.
- Sacred Kingfisher** *Todirhamphus sanctus*  
This common wintering bird from Australia was widespread and frequently seen in the lowlands and hills.
- Yellow-billed Kingfisher (NE)** *Syma torotoro*  
We enjoyed fabulous views of this species in Varirata National Park.
- Mountain Kingfisher (NG)** *Syma megarhyncha*  
We had amazing scope views of this species near Tabubil, usually heard and rarely seen during this tour
- Variable Dwarf Kingfisher** *Ceyx lepidus*

We had fantastic views of a pair in Varirata NP.

**Azure Kingfisher** *Ceyx azurea*

We had magnificent views of several of these stunning birds along the Kwatu River.

**Little Kingfisher** *Ceyx pusilla*

We had good but brief views of one in the Hsui Mangroves.

**Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

We had good views of a couple at the Hsui Mangroves.

### Bee-eaters Meropidae

**Rainbow Bee-eater** *Merops ornatus*

This Australasian migrant was fairly common throughout the tour, especially in the lowlands.

### Hornbills Bucerotidae

**Blyth's Hornbill (NE)** *Rhyticeros plicatus*

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

### Pittas Pittidae

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

We heard this reclusive species along the Elevala River.

**Hooded Pitta** *Pitta sordida*

We heard this species regularly along the Elevala River where some of the group managed to see one.

### Bowerbirds Ptilonorhynchidae

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

We heard this species near Kiunga.

**Spotted Catbird (NG)** *Ailuroedus melanotis*

We heard one calling nearby and glimpsed it flying past us, along the Elevala River.

**Archbold's (Sanford's) Bowerbird (NG)** *Archboldia papuensis*

A female and probably immature were seen regularly around Kumul Lodge.

*Note: Some authorities split this species into Archbold's Bowerbird, A.papuensis of West New Guinea and Sanford's Bowerbird, A.sanfordi of central highlands of New Guinea. We observed the latter form. Clements accepts this split.*

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

We had magnificent views of an adult male at its bower, this is one of the most dazzling species in the world! An incredible experience and one of the many highlights of the trip!

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

Near Munganda village below Kumul Lodge we scoped a pair.

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

We saw several birds at Pacific Adventist University and again at the Hsui Mangroves we were also able to study an active bower.

### Australasian Treecreepers Climacteridae

**Papuan Treecreeper (NG)** *Cormobates placens*

We had fantastic views of this scarce species in the Tari Valley.

### Australasian Wrens Maluridae

**Wallace's Fairywren (NG)** *Sipodotus wallacii*

We were fortunate to have good views of a male near Kiunga.

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

We had great views of a pair at the Hsui Mangroves and a further pair near Kiunga, an absolutely stunning species when seen in the sunlight.

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

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

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

We had great views of one feeding at a flowering tree in Varirata NP and another at Tabubil.

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

Common in lowlands and hills, this species was seen on five days with a maximum daily count of four daily.

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

This canopy-loving species was seen very well above Ambua Lodge.

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

We had good views of several at our hotel in Port Moresby.

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

We had good views of several at a flowering tree in Varirata NP.

**Mountain Honeyeater (Meliphaga) (NG)***Meliphaga orientalis*

Seen in the Mount Hagen valley and near Tabubil

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

We found several in the Tabubil area.

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

Several sightings in the lowland areas throughout the tour with our first birds recorded at Varirata National Park.

**Elegant Honeyeater***Meliphaga cinereifrons*

We had good views of one in the Hsui Mangroves.

**White-throated Honeyeater***Melithreptus albobularis*

Several birds were found in savannah in Varirata National Park.

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

One bird was scoped near Kiunga.

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

A couple of these scarce birds were seen near Mount Hagen.

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

Seen first at Varirata National Park with further sightings near Kiunga

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

We heard one near Kiunga.

**New Guinea (Helmeted) Friarbird (NG)***Philemon novaeguineae*

Common in the Papua New Guinea lowlands and recorded throughout the tour

*Note: This species is sometimes split from Helmeted Friarbird, P.bucerooides. Clements does not accept this split.*

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

Common in the high mountains, with up to twenty daily at Kumul and Ambua lodges. The Kumul Lodge bird feeder provided many opportunities for close views of their faces blushing from yellow to red and back again, often in odd blotchy patterns.

**Yellow-browed Melidectes (NG)***Melidectes rufocrissalis*

Mostly below the elevation zone dominated by Belford's Melidectes. Some showed signs of introgressive hybridization from Belford's, as is common in this region near the Ambua Lodge. We had superb views of several near Tari.

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

Most common high and heard constantly with dozens seen in the Kumul Lodge and upper Tari Valley

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

This is a common bird in the vicinity of Kama Village where we had fabulous views of several of these attractive birds.

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

Small numbers seen daily around Ambua Lodge.

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

Daily numbers of up to six around Kumul Lodge and many in the Ambua area

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

A few scattered sightings in the Tabubil and Kiunga areas.

**Silver-eared Honeyeater (NG)** *Lichmera alboauricularis*

Three birds were found near the Hsui Mangroves, a highly localized species on this tour.

**Brown-backed Honeyeater** *Ramsayornis modestus*

We had fantastic views of one near the Hsui Mangroves.

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

One bird was found at the Pacific Adventist University.

**Ruby-throated Myzomela** *Myzomela eques*

We had good scope views of one near Tabubil.

**Dusky Myzomela** *Myzomela obscura*

We found this uncommon species in Varirata NP.

**Red Myzomela (NG)** *Myzomela cruentata*

Some of us had great views of a male feeding in a flowering tree in Varirata NP, a rarely encountered species on this tour.

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

One male was seen in a flowering tree in Varirata National Park.

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

We had several nice sightings of this attractive species in the highlands with our best views in the Mount Hagen valley.

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

We enjoyed almost daily sightings of this very attractive honeyeater in the highlands of Mount Hagen and the upper Tari Valley.

**Green-backed Honeyeater** *Glycichaera fallax*

We had good views of two near Tabubil.

### Australasian Warblers Acanthizidae

**Rusty Mouse-warbler (NG)** *Crateroscelis murina*

We enjoyed superb views of one on a forest trail in Varirata NP.

**Mountain Mouse-warbler (NG)** *Crateroscelis robusta*

Several seen almost daily near both Kumul and Ambua Lodges

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

We had good views of one near Tabubil.

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

Seen on a couple of occasions near Kumul and Ambua Lodges

- Large Scrubwren (NG)** *Sericornis nouhuysi*  
Seen daily around Kumul Lodge where we observed many confiding individuals.
- Buff-faced Scrubwren (NG)** *Sericornis perspicillatus*  
Seen on two days in the Mount Hagen area
- Brown-breasted Gerygone (NG)** *Gerygone ruficollis*  
Heard almost daily and seen in the mountains near both Kumul and Ambua Lodges; its song is one of the beautiful and characteristic sounds of the montane forest.
- Mangrove Gerygone (NG)** *Gerygone levigaster*  
We encountered several individuals in the Hsui Mangroves.
- Large-billed Gerygone** *Gerygone magnirostris*  
A couple was seen briefly along the Elevala River.
- Yellow-bellied Gerygone (NG)** *Gerygone chrysogaster*  
A bird of the lowlands, one was seen in Varirata NP and another near Kiunga.
- Green-backed Gerygone (NE)** *Gerygone chloronota*  
Its distinctive song was heard frequently in the lowlands and hills of Varirata National Park where we had good views of one.
- White-throated Gerygone** *Gerygone olivacea*  
We had fantastic views of one near the Hsui Mangroves.
- New Guinea Thornbill (NG)** *Acanthiza murina*  
We were fortunate to see two on a trail below Kumul Lodge.

### Australasian Babblers Pomatostomidae

- Papuan (Rufous) Babbler (NG)** *Garritornis isidorei*  
Despite the cryptic behavior of this species we managed incredible views of five birds near Kiunga.

### Satinbirds Cnemophilidae

- Loria's Satinbird (Bird-of-paradise) (NG)** *Cnemophilus loriae*  
Several were seen in the vicinity of the Ambua Lodge especially around the fruiting tree.
- Crested Satinbird (Bird-of-paradise) (NG)** *Cnemophilus macgregorii*  
After a lengthy search we were finally rewarded with a phenomenal adult male at Kumul Lodge.

### Berrypeckers & Longbills Melanocharitidae

- Obscure Berrypecker (NG)** *Melanocharis arfakiana*  
We saw this species very well near Tabubil. This enigmatic species was almost unknown until discovered to be fairly regular around Tabubil.
- Black Berrypecker (NG)** *Melanocharis nigra*  
We observed a pair in Varirata National Park and another pair near Kiunga.
- Mid-mountain (Lemon-breasted) Berrypecker (NG)** *Melanocharis longicauda*  
Several observed in the highlands near Kumul and Ambua Lodges.
- Fan-tailed Berrypecker (NG)** *Melanocharis versteri*  
Fairly common this year with almost daily sightings in the highlands around Mount Hagen
- Dwarf Longbill (Honeyeater) (NG)** *Oedistoma iliolophum*  
We had good views of one in Varirata National Park and another near Tabubil.
- Pygmy Longbill (Honeyeater) (NG)** *Oedistoma pygmaeum*  
Two birds were sighted at a flowering tree in Varirata National Park.
- Yellow-bellied Longbill (NG)** *Toxorhamphus novaeguineae*  
We found this fast-moving species on two occasions near Kiunga.

**Painted Berrypeckers Paramythiidae**

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

About fifteen seen daily in the grounds of Ambua Lodge

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

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

**Whipbirds, Jewel-babblers & Quail-thrushes Psophodidae**

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

We heard this beautiful but elusive species near Kiunga.

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

One was seen by a participant in Varirata NP.

**Boatbills Machaerirhynchidae**

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

This attractive species was seen daily around Ambua Lodge.

**Butcherbirds & Allies Cracticidae**

**Black Butcherbird** *Cracticus quoyi*

First seen in Varirata National Park with further sightings in the Tabubil area

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

Several of these localized birds were seen at the Pacific Adventist University and near Hsui Mangroves.

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

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

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

Fairly conspicuous this year with several nice sightings in the Tabubil area

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

We enjoyed a good sighting near Brown River.

**Woodswallows Artamidae**

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

Common in the Port Moresby area and lowlands.

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

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

**Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae**

**Black-faced Cuckooshrike** *Coracina novaehollandiae*

This Australian migrant was first noted at Varirata with others seen in the Kiunga area.

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

Among New Guinea's cuckoo-shrikes, this large bird is particularly impressive. We found one near Kumul Lodge and several near Tabubil.

**Barred (Yellow-eyed) Cuckooshrike** *Coracina lineate*

We enjoyed good sightings of a pair in Varirata NP.

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

Fairly common with sightings at Varirata and Kiunga areas

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

Widespread in the lowlands where small numbers were seen in the areas surrounding Port Moresby

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

Three of these impressive cuckooshrikes was seen in the upper Tari Valley.

**Common Cicadabird** *Coracina tenuirostris*

We found one of these migrants in Varirata NP.

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

We had good views of two near Tabubil.

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

Several nice sightings of up to four daily in the Tabubil area.

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

We had good views of this species in the upper Tari Valley and a further sighting near Tabubil.

**Golden Cuckooshrike (NG)** *Campochaera sloetii*

This is always a popular bird and we saw a pair of these beautiful birds near Kiunga with further sightings near Tabubil.

**Varied Triller** *Lalage leucomela*

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

### Sittellas Neosittidae

**Papuan Sittella (NG)** *Daphoenositta papuensis*

An amazing flock of at least ten was seen near Ambua Lodge giving us outstanding views.

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

Along one of the beautiful forest trails near Kumul Lodge we found a lovely flock of four of these scarce endemic sittellas.

### Family Uncertain Incertae Sedis

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

We had good but brief views of one of these elusive and bizarre birds near Mount Hagen.

**Goldenface (Dwarf Whistler) (NG)** *Pachycare flavogriseum*

This attractive species was seen briefly near Tabubil.

### Whistlers & Allies Pachycephalidae

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

We enjoyed nice sightings of this often scarce species near Ambua Lodge with a further sighting near Tabubil.

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

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

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

Two were seen well near Tabubil.

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

We encountered this whistler several times in the highlands of the upper Tari Valley.

**Grey Whistler** *Pachycephala simplex*

We enjoyed good views of two in Varirata NP.

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

This attractive whistler was seen on several occasions in the highlands, near Ambua Lodge and Mount Hagen.

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

This is another attractive whistler that was seen regularly in the highlands with sightings near both Kumul and Ambua Lodges.

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

Seen near Mount Hagen, in the Tari Valley and near Tabubil

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

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

**Little Shrikethrush** *Colluricincla megarhyncha*

We had good views of one in Varirata NP

**Grey Shrikethrush** *Colluricincla harmonica*

We enjoyed good views of several in Varirata NP.

**Variable Pitohui (NG)** *Pitohui kirhocephalus*

Two were seen near Tabubil and a further two near Kiunga.

**Hooded Pitohui (NG)** *Pitohui dichrous*

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

**White-bellied Pitohui (NG)** *Pitohui incertus*

We saw at least two along the Elevela River.

### Shrikes Laniidae

**Long-tailed Shrike** *Lanius schach*

Regularly encountered in the highlands in open grassland around Mount Hagen and Tari Gap

### Figbirds & Orioles Oriolidae

**Australasian (Green) Figbird** *Sphecotheres vieilloti*

Up to fifteen seen at Pacific Adventist University with further sightings at the Hsui Mangroves

*Note: This species is sometimes split into Green Figbird, S.viridis of the Lesser Sundas and Australasian Figbird, S.vieilloti of New Guinea and Australia. Clements does not accept this split.*

**Brown Oriole (NG)** *Oriolus szalayi*

Small numbers encountered daily at Varirata and around Tabubil and Kiunga.

### Drongos Dicruridae

**Spangled Drongo** *Dicrurus bracteatus*

Encountered almost every day in the lowlands and lower hills.

### Fantails Rhipiduridae

**Willie Wagtail** *Rhipidura leucophrys*

Very widespread, being seen almost every day

**Northern Fantail** *Rhipidura rufiventris*

Small numbers seen in the Tabubil area

**Sooty Thicket Fantail (NG)** *Rhipidura threnothorax*

We saw one of these elusive birds in Varirata NP.

**Black Thicket Fantail (NG)** *Rhipidura maculipectus*

Another elusive species, we found one at the Hsui Mangroves.

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

Heard on several occasions near Tabubil

**Black Fantail (NG)** *Rhipidura atra*

Seen on most days in the highlands with some excellent encounters of both males and females

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

Several were seen in Varirata National Park.

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

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

**Dimorphic Fantail (NG)***Rhipidura brachyrhyncha*

We enjoyed several sightings of this active species near Ambua Lodge.

**Monarchs Monarchidae****Black Monarch (NG)***Symposiarchus axillaris*

This species was observed on several occasions near Ambua Lodge with a further sighting near Tabubil

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

One was seen near Kiunga, guide only sighting

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

We had wonderful views of a pair at the Hsui Mangroves.

**Black-winged Monarch***Monarcha frater*

We had good views of two near Tabubil.

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

We enjoyed superb views of this beauty near Kiunga.

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

We enjoyed several sightings of this attractive monarch in Varirata followed by further encounters in the lowlands near Kiunga.

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

Our first sighting was of one below Kumul Lodge with further wonderful sightings of seven in the Tabubil area.

**Leaden Flycatcher***Myiagra rubecula*

We found a pair at the Hsui Mangroves and a male in Varirata NP.

**Broad-billed Flycatcher***Myiagra ruficollis*

One of these uncommon flycatchers was seen well at the Hsui Mangroves.

**Satin Flycatcher***Myiagra cyanoleuca*

We had good views of a male near Brown River.

**Shining Flycatcher***Myiagra alecto*

First seen at the Hsui Mangroves and later common along the Elevala Rivers where several males and females were seen.

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

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

**Torresian Crow***Corvus orru*

This species was common in the Port Moresby region.

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

We had stunning views of two near Kumul Lodge.

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

We had fantastic views of several in the upper Tari Valley. This is another of the 'poison-birds' and is believed to be the most poisonous of them all. In any case, it is a unique bird with a distinctive charm.

### Birds-of-Paradise Paradisaeidae

- Glossy-mantled Manucode (NG)** *Manucodia ater*  
This species was most common around Kiunga and along the Elevala River where numerous birds were seen, some of which were heard and scoped.
- Crinkle-collared Manucode (NG)** *Manucodia chalybatus*  
We had good views of one near Kiunga.
- Trumpet Manucode (NE)** *Phonygammus keraudrenii*  
We found this noisy manucode near Kiunga which we scoped.
- Short-tailed Paradigalla (NG)** *Paradigalla brevicauda*  
One of these bizarre birds was seen near Ambua Lodge.
- Ribbon-tailed Astrapia (PNG)** *Astrapia mayeri*  
Several birds were first sighted near the Ambua and later at Kumul we watched individuals visiting the fruit feeder. The adult males have the longest tail in proportion to body size of any bird in the world! This PNG endemic has a very limited range and was the last recognized species of bird-of-paradise to be discovered in 1938.
- Princess Stephanie's Astrapia (PNG)** *Astrapia stephaniae*  
A couple birds were seen around the Ambua Lodge at the fruiting tree. We also observed a male in the upper Tari Valley.
- Queen Carola's Parotia (PNG)** *Parotia carolae*  
We observed three birds near Tabubil.
- Lawes's Parotia (PNG)** *Parotia lawesii*  
We had brief views of a male near Ambua Lodge.
- King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise (NG)** *Pteridophora alberti*  
We watched a male calling from an exposed perch atop a large tree above Ambua and also saw a female below Kumul Lodge. These observations included the male's characteristic 'radio static' song and incredible 'semaphore' displays with their two unreal head plumes!
- Superb Bird-of-paradise (NG)** *Lophorina superba*  
We enjoyed some great views of this species in the highlands including scope views of males displaying iridescent frontal feathers.
- Magnificent Riflebird (NE)** *Ptiloris magnificentus*  
We heard a male calling near Kiunga.
- Growling (Eastern) Riflebird (NG)** *Ptiloris intercedens*  
We heard several in Varirata NP.
- Brown Sicklebill (NG)** *Epimachus meyeri*  
This species was an entertaining visitor to the Kumul Lodge feeders including a fully adorned male, and we heard others above Ambua Lodge. The adult male's 'machine-gun burst' calls always impress.
- Magnificent Bird-of-paradise (NG)** *Diphyllodes magnificus*  
We had good views of a spectacular male in the Mount Hagen valley and several females near Tabubil.
- King Bird-of-paradise (NG)** *Cicinnurus regius*  
The adult male faithfully attended the canopy tangle of a display tree by the Elevala River. Although often difficult to see, his repeated movements within a small and predictable area gave us many striking views of his gleaming red-orange and white plumage with unique green tail rackets. We even saw his green-tipped pectoral fans! This is the smallest bird-of-paradise but also one of the brightest and most unique.
- Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise (NG)** *Seleucidis melanoleucus*

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

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

Although we saw this species at a few sites from Tabubil to Kiunga, we also witnessed the amazing display of this species at Kiunga with full plumaged males alongside similarly splendidly adorned Raggiana Bird-of-paradise males. Without a doubt, this must be one of the most memorable spectacles of the tour.

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

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

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

At least four male and two female birds were seen in and around the display tree at Munganda village. Again, they put on a marvelous show for us!

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

We scoped an adult male near Ambua Lodge and a female near Mount Hagen. Even the female of this PNG endemic is strikingly colored and patterned.

### **Australasian Robins Petroicidae**

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

This tiny black and white robin was heard along the Elevala River.

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

We saw at least three birds very well above the Ambua Lodge.

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

We enjoyed daily sightings of up to five around Kumul Lodge and a further three in the Tari Valley,

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

We enjoyed great views of up to five daily in the vicinity of Ambua Lodge.

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

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

**Mangrove Robin** *Peneoenanthe pulverulenta*

We had superb views of two in the Hsui Mangroves.

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

We had good views of one in Varirata National Park.

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

Several seen around the Ok Menga Hydroelectric area near Tabubil and a few on the main river below Kumul.

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

We found small numbers in the Tabubil area and again near Ambua Lodge.

**Olive Flyrobin (NE)** *Microeca flavovirescens*

Several were seen in Varirata NP.

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

We found small numbers in Varirata NP with further sightings near the Hsui Mangroves.

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

We had great views of a stunning male above Ambua Lodge.

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

One was seen briefly crossing a trail near Ambua along.

Swallows & Martins Hirundinidae**Pacific Swallow***Hirundo tahitica*

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

**Tree Martin***Petrochelidon nigricans*

Several birds were noted on our day near the Hsui Mangroves.

Leaf Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae**Island Leaf Warbler***Phylloscopus poliocephalus*

We found six in the highlands near Kumul Lodge.

Reed Warblers & Allies Acrocephalidae**Clamorous Reed Warbler***Acrocephalus stentoreus*

One bird was seen at a wetland near the Hsui Mangroves.

Grassbirds & Allies Megaluridae**Papuan (Tawny) Grassbird (NG)***Megalurus macrurus*

We had good views of several in the grasslands at the Tari Gap.

*Note: This species is sometimes split into Papuan Grassbird, M.macrurus and Tawny Grassbird, M.timoriensis. We observed only the former species. Clements does not accept this split.*

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae**Golden-headed Cisticola***Cisticola exilis*

Small numbers were seen in the grasslands near the Hsui Mangroves.

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

Two birds were seen well near Tabubil.

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

A few birds were seen well in the Tari Valley.

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

Up to twenty were seen daily in the Mount Hagen area.

Starlings Sturnidae**Metallic Starling (NE)***Aplonis metallica*

We found this colonial starling to be common along the Elevala River and Kiunga areas.

**Yellow-eyed Starling (NG)***Aplonis mystacea*

We found a couple on the Elevala River.

**Singing Starling (NE)***Aplonis cantoroides*

We saw this species in Port Moresby and others near the Hsui Mangroves.

**Yellow-faced Myna (NG)***Mino dumontii*

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

**Golden Myna (NG)***Mino anais*

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

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

A regular visitor to the Kumul Lodge fruiting table.

**Chats & Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae****Pied Bushchat***Saxicola caprata*

Local in the lowlands and widespread in the mountains with several sightings at Tari Gap

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

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

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

Fairly common in the lowlands with our peak numbers around Kiunga

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

We found at least two in the Hsui Mangroves.

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

Seen at the Port Moresby Airport.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow***Passer montanus*

A few at the Port Moresby Airport.

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

Several birds were seen at different times at Kumul Lodge.

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

We found several of this shy species in the highlands near Ambua Lodge.

**Papuan Parrot-Finch***Erythrura papuana*

We had fantastic views of two near Ambua Lodge.

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

Up to fifty were seen very well at the PAU and again near the Hsui Mangroves.

**Hooded Mannikin (NG)***Lonchura spectabilis*

Seen in the highlands on several days, with some great scope views near Mount Hagen

**Chestnut-breasted Mannikin***Lonchura castaneothorax*

We had amazing views of one at Pacific Adventist University.

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

Two were seen at the Mt. Hagen Airport.

*Note: This species is sometimes split, New Zealand Pipit, A.novaeseelandiae and Australian Pipit, A.australis. Clements does not accept this split.*

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## Annotated Checklist of Mammals

### Dusky Pademelon (NG)

*Tylogale brunii*

We had incredible views of a mother and young at Kumul Lodge.

## Annotated Checklist of Reptiles

### New Guinea Crocodile (NG)

*Crocodylus novaeguineae*

We had excellent sightings of two of these endemic freshwater crocodiles on the Elevala River. This is a small crocodile, as the maximum length recorded is about ten feet.

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