

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA & NEW BRITAIN 2014

This is my trip report of a Birdquest tour to Papua New Guinea (PNG) and New Britain (NB). Traveling and accommodation are expensive at PNG, the road conditions are poor, and travel by road is slow and unpredictable due to accidents, landslides and floodings, domestic flights are unreliable, several areas suffer from high annual precipitation rates, all land is private and inaccessible, and making trespassing dangerous. Incidents between families and intertribal wars are still common in the highlands, and the authorities, i.e. the police and army, are on non-speaking terms with each other. Clearance of roadsides is common for gardening in the highlands, whereas leeches and chiggers are not uncommon in the lowlands. Furthermore, PNG birds are wary and shy because they are hunted for food and decoration, and birding is therefore not easy.



Despite limitations, PNG hosts many sought-after endemics, including nine endemic bird families whose distribution is mainly restricted to the mountains. Even today, the status and distribution of many birds is hardly known due to the inaccessibility and hostility of the environment. Local people live in harsh conditions, both in the lowlands but especially in the highlands where tribal quarrels and warfare block progress. Surprisingly, my cell phone had excellent coverage throughout PNG except at Kwatu Camp. The weather was unpredictable and very wet, especially in the highlands. The lowlands of NB host oil palm plantations and cattle, and the highlands of NB, which we did not visit, are inaccessible except on foot. The weather was hot and humid, but we had no rain.

Birds of Paradise, *Paradisaeidae*, are one of the main reasons to visit PNG. In total, 21 species were seen and one heard (Lesser Bird-of-paradise). The diversity of males in this family is unique. Males of most species were seen, including Ribbon-tailed and Princess Stephanie's *Astrapia*, three species of Sickiebill, King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise, King Bird-of-paradise, Magnificent Bird-of-paradise, Superb Bird-of-paradise, Lawes's Parotia, Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise, Greater- and Blue Bird-of-paradise, etc. The greatest surprise were close views of an immature male Black-billed Sickiebill at Ambua, a

widely distributed but seldomly seen species. Furthermore, 32 species of pigeons and doves were recorded, including the spectacular Southern Crowned Pigeon along the Fly- and Elevala Rivers, and Nicobar Pigeon at New Britain, 25 species of Parrots, including scope views of perched Pesquet's (Vulturine) Parrot at Ok Menga, three (of the four) species of Tiger Parrot in the highlands, three species of Paradise Kingfisher, four species of Bowerbird -including the rare Archbold's Bowerbird, excellent and close views of a singing male Obscure Berrypecker, one of the rarest bird of PNG. Other highly sought after birds included Mottled Berryhunter (*Rhagologidae*), Wattled Ploughbill (*Eulacestomidae*), Rufous-naped Whistler (*Oreocicidae*), Lesser Melampitta (*Melapittidae*), and Blue-capped Ifrit (*Ifritidae*). Other highlights included Savadori's Teal at Ok Menga, Papuan Harrier at Tari Gap, New Guinea Woodcock at Kumul Lodge, the rare Long-billed Cuckoo along the Elevala River, Papuan Logrunner at Tari Gap, Tit Berrypecker, both Lowland and Mountain Peltops, Golden Cuckooshrike along the Fly River, Torrent Lark at Dablin Creek and Ambua, the remarkable Grey Crow at Ok Menga, mixed flocks of Yellow-faced Myna and Golden Myna along the Fly and Elevala Rivers, the rare Papuan Parrotfinch near Tari Gap, etc. By visiting the lowlands, Port Moresby, Tabubil, Kiunga, and the Fly-and Elevala Rivers, as well as the highlands at several different elevations, Kumul Lodge and Ambua, this trip gave an excellent impression of the richness of the birdlife of PNG. Finally, Nicobar Pigeon was my highlight of the NB extension. Although this bird seems a typical "bounty island" bird, in reality they make long-distance flights between islands for food, being therefore one of the most unique and remarkable pigeons in the world.



#### Abbreviations

E: Endemic; I: Introduced; NB: New Britain; PAU: Pacific Adventist University Campus; PNG: Papua New Guinea

# Itinerary

Aug 20 KLM flight to Singapore departed at 21.00. Luggage labeled directly to Port Moresby.

Aug 21 Arrival in Singapore as scheduled. Obtained a boarding pass for the connecting flight with Air Niugini. Saw some birds at Changi Airport, including Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*, House Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*, a White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*, House swift *Apus affinis* and Black Kite *Milvus migrans*. Air Niugini flight left on time.

Aug 22 Arrival at Jackson Airport, Port Moresby, at 05.00 after a pleasant six hour flight. I was picked up by Chris and a local driver, and was transferred to the Rain Tree Lodge. Port Moresby has a pleasant climate, and is cooler and less humid when compared to e.g. Darwin. After breakfast, my first impression was the traffick jam of pick-ups and 4WDs.



We headed for Varirata National Park, elevation 800 meters, mostly dry Eucalypt forest. Birds included Raggiana's Bird-of-paradise, Crinkle-collared Manucode, Eclectus Parrot, Frlled Monarch, Barred Owlet-Nightjar, Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher, Yellow-billed Kingfisher, Rufous-bellied Kookaburra, Black Berrypecker, Hooded Pitohui, and Yellow-faced Myna. Around 14.00 we left for the Pacific Adventist University Campus (PAU), where there are some artificial lakes. Best birds included a Spotted Whistling Duck and Orange-fronted Fruit-Dove. Warm and a bit sticky weather, 25-30 °C.



Aug 23 Slept till 03.00. Breakfast at 05.00, left at 05.30 and arrived at Varirate NP around 06.30.

Walked several trails in the morning. Many birds in PNG are professional skulkers, which do not respond to tape despite being quite vocal themselves.



We encountered a surprisingly large mixed flock of Growling Riflebird, mostly females and displaying immature males, and Raggiana's Bird-of-paradise. In the afternoon, while traveling to a local wetland, Phil, who suffers from diabetes, developed a serious "hypo" and we had to visit a local hospital. We returned to the hotel at 17.00.

Aug 24 After a good night sleep (20.00-03.15), we had breakfast at 04.30. Phil was left at the International Terminal for a flight home, and we left from the domestic terminal for Kiunga. Our flight departed as scheduled, but the stop-over at Tububil was cancelled as expected, because the airstrip at Tububil is tiny and visibility is often insufficient due to heavy rain.



Consequently, we arrived at Kiunga ahead of schedule after a two hours flight. Kiunga is in the very West of PNG, and one of the wettest places on this planet. From the plane, visibility was poor due to clouds, but near Kiunga visibility improved and lowland rainforest, mostly flooded, became visible. Drive to Tabubil took about four hours, about 130 km, where we arrived 15.45. The drive was slow due to flooding, and at its deepest, about 40 cm, we had to be pulled through by a lorry to save our engine from drowning. We left at 16.30. Saw the non-migratory race of the Little Ringed Plover, a potential split, and then visited the stake-out for Savadori's Teal. The teal itself was absent, but we saw Mountain Peltops, Grey Crow –

a weird crow with a bare and pinkish face which reminded me somehow of Bornean Bristlehead, and Fly Robin. Best of all, I discovered two perched Pesquet's (Vulturine) Parrots. Great and prolonged scope views. We returned to the hotel at 18.30.



Aug 25 Breakfast at 05.15, and left for Dablin Creek at 06.00, a small dirt road along a water pipeline in the Star Mountains, elevation approximately 800 meters. The weather was sunny and warm. From this road there is a good view over a forested mountain slope, interspersed with little huts surrounded by forest, and smoke of wood fires is seen here and there. Scope views of a perched male Magnificent Bird-of-paradise showing its yellow (pineapple) coloured neck feathers, brief views of a male and a female Queen Parola's Bird-of-paradise, Dusky Lorikeet, very brief views of Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrot, scope views of Orange-breasted Fig-Parrot, and Long-tailed Buzzard. The best bird was a singing Obscure Berrypecker, a bird virtually unknown in 1986 ("*Known from two specimens*") when the first field guide to the Birds of New Guinea field guide was published! Lunch at 12.30 and left for the Salvadori's Teal stake out at 14.30. The weather changed and rain poured down. We returned at 17.30 without any more birds.



Aug 26 Breakfast at 05.00, at 06.00 to Ok (river) Menga to the Salvadori's Teal spot, where we finally saw a pair of Salvadori's Teal, an endemic "torrent duck". Around 10.30 we drove back to the Cloud Hotel at Tabubil. Before driving back to Kiunga, we were informed that the road to Kiunga was flooded by four meters of water... Nevertheless, we left Tabubil at 13.00 for a long drive, and the only real trouble our minibus encountered were some problems with a

leaky fuel tank, which was skilfully fixed using a piece of soap. Around 16.00 we arrived at "km 17" (before Kiunga). At km 17 there is a short muddy and slippery trail, 500-700 meter into the forest. Along this trail we had great scope views of a perched male King Bird-of-paradise, and heard our first Trumpet Manucode. Within the forest, humidity and lack of any breeze made even standing still and looking through a scope a sweaty experience, conditions also enjoyed by the local mosquitos. At the end of the trail, there is a lek of Greater Birds-of-paradise, which can be heard a long way before being seen. Great views of displaying birds, moving along and hopping between branches, wings as an umbrella. Also a hybrid male Greater x Raggiana's was present and displaying. Night at Kiunga.

Aug 27 At 06.15, we drove to the harbour of Kiunga for a three hour boat tour over the Fly River, the Elana River, and smaller tributaries, to enter the lowland rainforests of PNG.



Overcast and cool weather. Many birds seen along the rivers and river banks, including Large Fig-Parrot, Greater (Streaked) Lory, Orange-fronted Fruit-Dove, Dwarf Fruit-Dove, Palm Cockatoo, Double-eyed Fig Parrot, Golden Myna, Golden Whistler, Papuan Spinetail, Shining Flycatcher, Blyth's Hornbill, Trumpet Manucode, Glossy-mantled Manucode, etc.



One of the best birds seen was a displaying Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise. At noon, we walked a trail near Kwatu Camp, which produced Rufous-backed Fantail, brief views of a Blue Jewel-Babbler, and Red-bellied Pitta. Leeches were not uncommon. After lunch, looking down from the “balcony” of the “lodge”, a shaky wooden construction, I saw a flying Southern Crowned Pigeon. Afternoon boat tour produced another five Southern Crowned Pigeon, including a breeding bird. A Tree Monitor was found on the ‘lodge”. Diner with candlelight, rice, noodles, vegetables, spam, fried unions and tomato-ketchup. To bed at 20.00, covered by a klamboe, and under the bed a smoking insect coil to keep the mosquitos a bit quiet. Going for a pee at night is quite an experience: socks, leech socks, wellingtons, torch, etc.



Aug 28 In the morning we walked several trails, and spent most time at an open spot along the river. Excellent views of a female King Bird-of-paradise (yellow bill), Bar-tailed Cuckoo-Dove, Wallace’s Fairywren, White-spotted Munia, Golden Monarch, Long-billed Cuckoo, Fig-Parrot, Beautiful Fruit-Dove, Pink-spotted Fruit-Dove, Dwarf Fruit-Dove, Ornate Fruit-Dove (the latter from the boat when traveling back), Superb Fruit-Dove, our third Pesquet’s Parrot, Black-sided Robin, Common Paradise-Kingfisher, heard Yellow-capped Pygmy-Parrot , and Red-cheeked Parrot. In the afternoon we traveled back by boat to Kiunga, where we arrived soaking wet after a tremendous downpour. Used the hotels’ laundry service to remove chiggers.



Aug 29 Morning birding along Boystown Road, some rain. A flying male Flame Bowerbird, female Emperor Fairy-Wren, Trumpet Manucodes, a female Greater Bird-of-paradise, Red-flanked Lorikeet, Orange-bellied Fruit-Dove, Great Cuckoo-Dove, Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove, Bar-tailed Cuckoo-Dove, Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Meyer's Friarbird, and Lowland Peltops. After a break from 12.00 to 15.00, we revisited km 17, where birds were inactive. We saw (Southern) Variable Pitohui, and heard distant Bird-of-paradise and a close calling Hook-billed Kingfisher. Rain when driving back, children gliding from a (red) mud hill, daily market, colourful umbrellas - not surprising because this is one of the worlds' wettest areas.



Aug 30 Breakfast at 07.00, white beans, toast, bacon, eggs, and sausages. Left at 08.30 for the Kiunga airport, left 30 minutes ahead of schedule and then lost a few minutes due to a small technical problem. Arrived at Mt. Hagen in the highlands at 11.30. By road to Kumul Lodge, elevation 2,700 meter, where we arrived at 13.15. Cloud forest with many Yucca-like trees covered with lichens, nice and cool after the humid lowlands. At Kumul Lodge there is a feeding table on which fruit left-overs are fed to birds. Spectacular views of females Brown Sicklebill, Ribbon-tailed Astropia, female Archbold's Bowerbird, Brehm's Tiger-Parrot, Belford's Melidectes, and White-winged Robin. Brief afternoon walk on a local trail produced Large Scrubwren and we heard Mountain Mouse-Warbler.

Aug 31 Morning visit to search Blue Bird-of-paradise. When we came back our driver and car were gone, and there was a dispute with four or five guys with machetes, who accused us of trespassing their land. The problem was solved by paying some money.





We then visited a stake-out for Yellow-breasted Bowerbird. Also good views of Ornate Melidectes, a beautiful bird when seen well. Rain when driving back to the lodge, where one entrance road to the lodge was too muddy and the other entrance road was blocked by a police car without driver or ignition key. After lunch, we walked some trails and saw some really good and sought-after birds, including Lesser Melampitta, Eastern Crested Berrypecker, Blue-capped Ifrita, and a female Wattled Ploughbill, a bamboo specialist.



- Sep 1 Rain in the afternoon. Morning drive to a stake-out for Lesser Bird-of-paradise, which we heard. Saw Brush Cuckoo. Walked several trails at Kumul Lodge, wearing a fleece jacket, raincoat, umbrella, etc. Excellent views of a male Wattled Ploughbill, two Blue-capped Ifrita, two Crested Berrypecker and a Lesser Melampitta. Also a few spectacular Papuan Lorikeets seen, which have a striking and characteristic 'yellow triangle' at their lower rump.
- Sep 2 Early breakfast and a long drive to Ambua Lodge. Our bus was accompanied by a 4WD containing four armed guys in case of unforeseen road blocks, accidents, etc. All accessible land is cleared for farming, villages with kids in school uniforms, forested mountains, markets with dartboards on high poles, ornamented graves, miniature houses and even a miniature church, a large military checkpoint at the border with the Southern Highland Province,

several massive landslides –our vehicle just being able to pass, several large parts of the road missing due to landslides, an overturned truck almost blocking the road, etc. We arrived at Ambua Lodge around 14.30. First birds seen were a female Lawes' Parotia, Lesser Paradigella, Spotted Berrypecker, and a displaying male Superb Bird-of-paradise. Day ended with rain and mist.



Sep 3 Our best birding day, mostly due to fine weather. The day started with close views of a female Black Sicklebill and a female Stephanie's Astrapia in a fruiting tree. We birded several hours in the parking lot, where flocks can be seen moving in the relatively open forest. Birds included a females Tit-Berrypecker and Loria's Satinbird, Madarasz's Tiger-Parrot, Mottled Berryhunter, Black-breasted Boatbill, Mountain Peltops, etc. After lunch a brief drive to Tari Gap, where we saw a 'real male' Ribbon-tailed Astrapia.



This bird has the relatively longest tail of any bird. The ribbons are very elegant and flexible, and seem to follow the bird movements. Rain from 13.00 to 15.00. Fortunately, bird activity increased again, and we saw a pair of Tit-Berrypecker, Black-headed Cuckoo-Shrike, Yellow-billed Lorikeet, etc. At the end of the day, we drove again to Tari Gap, which produced Crested Berrypecker, Red-collared Myzomela, male and female Brown Sicklebill –the male

producing a machinegun-like sound, a first Papuan Harrier, and –best bird of the day- a male King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise. The plumes can move independently in all directions, incredible. The scenery at Tari Gap is very beautiful, a rather flat and barren grassland at about 3,000 meter elevation, with patches of cloud forest, with many dead tree trunks –a favourite spot of several Bird-of-paradise.

- Sep 4 Rain till 15.00. Morning drive to Tari Gap produced mist and rain. Despite the weather, Joseph, the local guide, Lennart and I stayed at the parking lot. This proved to be a good decision, because we finally saw a close immature male Black-billed Sicklebill. Especially the rufous tail is very striking. Although widely distributed, this species is seldom seen. Saw my first black morph Papuan Lorikeet. Great views of adult male Ribbon-tailed Astrapia, several females King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise, Regent Wistler, and Papuan Scrub-Wren.



- Sep 5 After a good night sleep (20.30-05.00) breakfast: cheese-omelet, bacon, toast, coffee, malarone. Left at 06.30 to visit the village gardens. Too brief views of a male Blue Bird-of-paradise, stunning views of a male Lawes' Paotia including the head plumes, shiny breast shield and a rather weird white patch above the bill, and light blue eyes, Stout-billed Cuckoo-Shrike, heard Fan-tailed Cuckoo. etc. Drive to Tari Gap, where we walked along the road passing patches of cloud forest. Splendid views of a male Princess Stephanie's Astrapia, female Modest Tiger Parrot, both Blue-faced Parrot Finch and the rare Papuan Parrot-Finch, heard Mountain Kingfisher, a female Mid-mountain Berrypecker, Crested Tit-Berrypecker, etc. After lunch we visited Tari Gap, but we had to return due to heavy rain. Fog in the late afternoon and evening.
- Sep 6 After breakfast, still a bit (too) dark, I discovered a male Black Sicklebill in a fruiting tree. Again drove to Tari Gap, where we had great views of Plum-faced Lorikeet, and both female and male King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise. What a bird. Furthermore, we saw two females and an adult male Papuan Harrier.



Along a short trail in wet cloud forest, we had great views of Papuan Logrunner, Black Monarch, and a little flock of 4-5 Ribbon-tailed Astrapia. After a dry morning, again a wet afternoon. We visited a Sooty Owl stake-out in the village, but dipped. The stake-out was in a big garden, and it is amazing how people can live in such a mess, mud everywhere, fire inside a hut without chimney or window. Village impression: gambling men, bright umbrellas, machetes, men wearing hair decorations of moss or fern. Afternoon rain and more rain.



Sep 7 After breakfast brief views of a Torrent Lark at the parking lot of Ambua Lodge. Finally nice weather at this overall rather gloomy place. Flight from Tari to Port Moresby, where we arrived at noon. Afternoon flight to Hoskins (New Britain). No delays and picked up by a bus, luggage in a 4WD. The Walindi Plantation Resort is a “diving resort”, situated directly at the ocean. Warm and humid, fan inside the room.



Sep 8 New Britain is mountaneous, lowlands cleared for palm oil plantations, and the mountains are mostly inaccessible and covered with primary forest. Everything looks brighter at New Britain than in the highlands of PNG, e.g. most men working and carrying no machetes. First day produced Pacific Reef Heron, Eastern Osprey, Lesser Frigatebird, flushed King Quail, Pacific Emerald Dove in the oil palm plantations, White-bibbed Fruit-Dove, Red-knobbed Imperial-Pigeon, Yellowish Imperial Pigeon, Blue-eyed Cockatoo, Purple-bellied Lory, White-necked Coucal, New Britain Friarbird, Ashy Myzomela, Black-tailed Monarch, Bismarck Crow, Long-tailed Myna, Red-banded Flowerpecker, and Chestnut-breasted Mannikin.

Sep 9 Left at 06.00 to visit two island in the Kimbe Bay. At the first island we saw Sclaters Myzomela (common), and Mangrove Whistler. At the next island, we saw about ten Nicobar Pigeon, in flight or flying between trees at the island. Very long necked, almost black with a striking short and white tail. These birds are long-distant flyers between islands. Left Kimbe Bay, and saw Black Noddy, Lesser Frigatebird, Grey-tailed Tattler, and single Petrel sp. and Shearwater sp., both too distant to be identified.



Returned at 14.30, left at 15.15 to search for the New Britain Boobook. A little uphill walk through a little village, with little wood fires under the huts, pigs, chickens, etc., very warm and humid. Our sweat produced finally Knob-billed Fruit-Dove and a pair of New Britain Boobook.

- Sep 10 Again a drive through oil palm plantations to patches of forest. Distant views of Buff-faced Pygmy-Parrot, Oriental Hobby eating a Buff-faced Pygmy-Parrot, White-mantled Kingfisher, Black-mantled Paradise-Kingfisher, and Polynesian Megapode. The trail to see these birds is slippery and there are many deep holes because the locals dig out the eggs.
- Sep 11 Bit ill this morning, used immodium and paracetamol. Immodium also prevents the use of toilets at the Port Moresby airport. Large construction works ongoing at the airport because the XV Pacific Games (2015) will be held at PNG. A long but uneventful journey home.

## BIRDS

### MEGAPODIIDAE

**Black-billed Brushturkey** *Talegalla fuscirostris* [E] - Heard at Kiunga (Boystown Road).

**Melanesian Megapode** *Megapodius eremita* - Five seen at Garu, New Britain.

### PHASIANIDAE

**Brown Quail** *Coturnix ypsilophora* – One near Kumal Lodge.

**King Quail** *Excalfactoria chinensis* - One near Walindi, New Britain.

### ANATIDAE

**Spotted Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna guttata* – One at the PAU ponds.

**Plumed Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna eytoni* - About 20 birds at the PAU ponds.

**Salvadori's Teal** *Salvadorina waigiensis* [E] - A pair at Ok Menga.

**Pacific Black Duck** *Anas superciliosa*- Seen at the PAU ponds and New Britain.



### PODICIPEDIDAE

**Australasian Grebe** *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae* – Several birds at the PAU ponds.

### THRESKIORNITHIDAE

**Australian White Ibis** *Threskiornis moluccus* – One at the PAU ponds.

### ARDEIDAE

**Black Bittern** *Dupetor flavicollis* - Common in the oil palm plantations at New Britain.

**Nankeen Night Heron** *Nycticorax caledonicus* – Seen at the PAU ponds, the Fly River, and at NB.

**Eastern Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus coromandus* – Common near Port Moresby and at New Britain.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* – Seen at Port Moresby, the Fly- and Elena Rivers, and at New Britain.

**Intermediate Egret** *Egretta intermedia* – Seen at the PAU ponds and at Kiunga.

**Pied Heron** *Egretta picata* – Three at the PAU ponds .

**White-faced Heron** *Egretta novaehollandiae* – One at the Fly River.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* – Two at the PAU ponds, one at the Fly River.

**Eastern Reef Egret** *Egretta sacra* – Common at Kimbe Bay, New Britain.

#### FREGATIDAE

**Lesser Frigatebird** *Fregata ariel* – Common at the Kimbe Bay area, New Britain.

#### SULIDAE

**Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster* – Two at Kimbe Bay.

#### PHALACROCORACIDAE

**Little Pied Cormorant** *Microcarbo melanoleucos* - Seen at the PAU ponds and along the Fly River.

**Little Black Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* - About 50 at the PAU ponds.

#### PANDIONIDAE

**Eastern Osprey** *Pandion cristatus* - One at Kimbe Bay, New Britain.

#### ACCIPITRIDAE

**Pacific Baza** *Aviceda subcristata* – Seen at Varirata NP, Fly River, and New Britain.

**Long-tailed Honey Buzzard** *Henicopernis longicauda* [E] – Seen at Dablin Creek, Fly River, and Tari.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* – One near Port Moresby, common around Kumul.

**Whistling Kite** *Haliastur sphenurus* - Two at PAU and one at the Fly River.

**Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus* – Common in the lowlands of PNG and New Britain.

**White-bellied Sea Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster* – Seen at Port Moresby, Fly River, and Kimbe Bay.

**Papuan Harrier** *Circus spilothorax* [E] – Three females and a male at Tari Gap.

**Variable Goshawk** *Accipiter hiogaster* - Seen at Varirate NP and New Britain.

**Grey-headed Goshawk** *Accipiter poliocephalus* [E] – Three birds at the Fly River.

**Black-mantled Goshawk** *Accipiter melanochlamus* [E] – A single bird at Ambua.

#### FALCONIDAE

**Nankeen Kestrel** *Falco cenchroides* – One at the Fly River.

**Brown Falcon** *Falco berigora* – One at the Yellow-breasted Bowerbird spot.

**Oriental Hobby** *Falco severus* – Seen on New Britain, eating a Buff-faced Pygmy-Parrot.



#### RALLIDAE

**Buff-banded Rail** *Gallirallus philippensis* – Seen at Tari and New Britain.

**Australasian Swamphe**n *Porphyrio melanotus* – Common at the PAU ponds, one at New Britain.

**Dusky Moorhen** *Gallinula tenebrosa* - Ten at the PAU ponds.

**Forbes's Forest Rail** *Rallidula forbesi* [E] – Great views at Kumul Lodge.

#### CHARADRIIDAE

**Masked Lapwing** *Vanellus miles* – About 20 at PAU.

**Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva* - Several at New Britain.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius papuensis* - Two seen South of Tabubil.

**Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii* – One at New Britain.

#### JACANIDAE

**Comb-crested Jacana** *Irediparra gallinacea* – Two at the PAU ponds.

#### SCOLOPACIDAE

**New Guinea Woodcock** *Scolopax rosenbergii* [E] – Heard at Kumul Lodge.

**Eurasian Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* – Common at New Britain.

**Grey-tailed Tattler** *Tringa brevipes* – A single bird at New Britain.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* – One near Tabubil, common at New Britain.

#### LARIDAE

**Black Noddy** *Anous minutus* – Common at Kimbe Bay.

**Greater Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bergii* – Common at Kimbe Bay.

**Bridled Tern** *Onychoprion anaethetus* – A distant bird during the boat trip at Kimbe Bay.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo* – Common at Kimbe Bay.

#### COLOMBIDAE

**Rock Dove** (Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia* [I] – Common at Tari.

**Slender-billed Cuckoo-dove** *Macropygia amboinensis* [E] – Seen at Varirata and NB.

**Bar-tailed Cuckoo-dove** *Macropygia nigrirostris* [E] – A few at the Fly River.

**Great Cuckoo-dove** *Reinwardtoena reinwardtii* [E] – Two at the Boystown Road, Kiunga.

**Stephan's Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps stephani* - Common at New Britain.

**Peaceful Dove** *Geopelia placida* - Two birds at PAU.

**Bar-shouldered Dove** *Geopelia humeralis* - As previous species.

**Nicobar Pigeon** *Caloenas nicobarica* - About 10-12 seen on Malu Malu, Kimbe Bay.

**Bronze Ground Dove** *Gallicolumba beccarii* [E] Several at Kumul Lodge.

**Pheasant Pigeon** *Otidiphaps nobilis* [E] – Heard at Varirata.

**Southern Crowned Pigeon** *Goura scheepmakeri* –One at Kwatu Camp, four at the Elevala River.

**Wompoo Fruit Dove** *Ptilinopus magnificus* – One at Boystown Road, Kiunga. Also heard.

**Ornate Fruit Dove** *Ptilinopus ornatus* [E] – One at the Elevala River.

**Orange-fronted Fruit Dove** *Ptilinopus aurantiifrons* [E] – Seen at PAU and in the lowlands.

**Superb Fruit Dove** *Ptilinopus superbus* - A total of four seen, including at Varirata NP.

**Beautiful Fruit Dove** *Ptilinopus pulchellus* [E] – Seen at Varirata, Fly- and Elevana Rivers, and Kiunga.

**White-bibbed Fruit Dove** *Ptilinopus rivoli* [E] – A window victim at Kumul Lodge, one on NB.

**Pink-spotted Fruit Dove** *Ptilinopus perlatus* [E]- Seen at Varirata and Kiunga.



*Pink-spotted Fruit Dove (left) and Trumpet Manucode (right).*

**Orange-bellied Fruit Dove** *Ptilinopus iozonus* [E] – One at Boystown Road, Kiunga.

**Knob-billed Fruit Dove** *Ptilinopus insolitus* [E] – Three seen on New Britain.

**Dwarf Fruit Dove** *Ptilinopus nanus* [E] - Three seen well along the Fly and Elevala Rivers.

**Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula rubricer* [E] – Seen daily in low numbers on New Britain.



*Knob-billed Fruit Dove (top, left); Southern Crowned Pigeon (top, right); Yellowish Imperial Pigeon (bottom, left); Collared Imperial Pigeon (lower right).*

**Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula rufigaster* [E] – Seen in the lowlands.  
**Finsch's Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula finschii* [E] - Heard on New Britain.  
**Rufescent Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula chlconota* [E] – Brief views at Varirata NP.  
**Island Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula pistrinaria* [E] - Common at the islands in Kimbe Bay.  
**Pinon's Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula pinon* [E] – Common along the Fly and Elevala Rivers.  
**Collared Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula mullerii* [E] – As previous species.  
**Zoe's Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula zoeae* [E] – As previous species.  
**Torresian Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula spilorrhoa* – Three seen in the Port Moresby area.  
**Yellowish Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula subflavescens* [E] Common on New Britain.  
**Papuan Mountain Pigeon** *Gymnophaps albertisii* [E] – Common in the lowlands.

#### CACATUIDAE

**Palm Cockatoo** *Probosciger aterrimus* [E] Five along the Fly River, Aug 27.  
**Sulphur-crested Cockatoo** *Cacatua galerita* – Seen at Varirate NP, Aug 23, also in the lowlands.  
**Blue-eyed Cockatoo** *Cacatua ophthalmica* [E] Seen on New Britain, 4 birds on both Sep 8 and Sep 10.

#### PSITTACIDAE

**Pesquet's (Vulturine) Parrot** *Psitttrichas fulgidus* [E] – Two perched birds at Ok Menga, and brief views of a flying bird at the Elevala River. One of the birds I really hoped to see, a parrot subfamily.



**Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot** *Micropsitta keiensis* [E] - Heard along the Elevala River.  
**Buff-faced Pygmy Parrot** *Micropsitta pusio* [E] – Four birds on New Britain.  
**Red-breasted Pygmy Parrot** *Micropsitta bruijnii* [E] – Brief views of two flying birds at Tabubil.  
**Yellowish-streaked Lory** *Chalcopsitta sintillata* [E] – Flocks in the lowlands.  
**Dusky Lory** *Pseudeos fuscata* [E] – A flock at Ok Menga flying to a roosting site.  
**Coconut Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus haematodus* [E] – Common on PNG and New Britain.

**Black-capped Lory** *Lorius lory* [E] - Fairly common in the lowlands.



**Purple-bellied Lory** *Lorius hypoinochrous* [E] – Seen on New Britain.

**Red-flanked Lorikeet** *Charmosyna placensis* [E] - Seen at Boystown Road, Kiunga, and NB.

**Papuan Lorikeet** *Charmosyna papou* [E] – Seen in the highlands, including the black morph.

**Plum-faced Lorikeet** *Oreopsittacus arfaki* [E] – Close views of 8 birds at Tari Gap.

**Yellow-billed Lorikeet** *Neopsittacus musschenbroekii* [E] – Common at Ambua.

**Orange-billed Lorikeet** *Neopsittacus pullicauda* [E] - A flock of four at Tari.

**Brehm's Tiger Parrot** *Psittacella brehmii* [E] – Common at Kumul Lodge, one seen at Ambua.



**Modest Tiger Parrot** *Psittacella modesta* [E] – A female near Tari Gap.

**Madarasz's Tiger Parrot** *Psittacella madaraszii* [E] One at Ambua Lodge.

**Red-cheeked Parrot** *Geoffroyus geoffroyi* – Common in the lowlands.

**Eclectus Parrot** *Eclectus roratus* - Seen at Varirata, Fly- and Elevala Rivers, and on NB.



**Orange-breasted Fig Parrot** *Cyclopsitta gulelmitertii* [E] Common at Tabubil and Kiunga.

**Double-eyed Fig Parrot** *Cyclopsitta diophthalma* – Great views along the Fly and Elvala Rivers.

**Large Fig Parrot** *Psittaculirostris desmarestii* [E] – Brief views along the Fly and Elevala Rivers.

#### CUCULIDAE

**White-necked Coucal** *Centropus ateralbus* [E] – Three seen well at New Britain.

**Ivory-billed Coucal** *Centropus menbeki* [E] Heard along the Fly and Elevala Rivers.

**Violaceous Coucal** *Centropus violaceus* [E] - Heard on New Britain.

**Black-billed Coucal** *Centropus bernsteini* [E] – Two along the Fly and Elevala Rivers.

**Pheasant Coucal** *Centropus phasianinus* - Three birds at Varirata.

**Dwarf Koel** *Microdynamis parva* - Heard at Varirata.

**Pacific Koel** *Eudynamis orientalis* – A female along the Fly River. Heard also on New Britain.

**Channel-billed Cuckoo** *Scythrops novaehollandiae* - Heard along the Elevala River.

**Long-billed Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx megarhynchus* [E] – A perched bird along the Elevala River.

**Rufous-throated Bronze Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx ruficollis* [E] – One at Ambua.



**White-eared Bronze Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx meyerii* [E] – One near Tabubil.

**White-crowned Cuckoo** *Cacomantis leucolophus* [E] - Heard at Varirata and Tabubil.

**Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo** *Cacomantis castaneiventris* [E] - One heard at Ok Menga.

**Brush Cuckoo** *Cacomantis variolosus* – Immature seen in the highlands near Ambua.

#### STRIGIDAE

**Papuan Boobook** *Ninox theomacha* – Heard at Ambua.

**New Britain Boobook** *Ninox odiosa* [E] - Two roosting birds near Walindi, New Britain.

#### PODARGIDAE

**Papuan Frogmouth** *Podargus papuensis* – Seen at Varirata and heard at Kwatu Camp.

#### AEGOTHELIDAE

**Barred Owlet-nightjar** *Aegotheles bennettii* [E] - Seen at a daytime roost, Varirata.

#### HEMIPROCNIIDAE

**Moustached Treeswift** *Hemiprocne mystacea* – Seen at Boystown Road, Ambua, and New Britain.

#### APODIDAE

**Glossy Swiftlet** *Collocalia esculenta* - Common and widespread both in the lowlands and highlands.

**Mountain Swiftlet** *Aerodramus hirundinaceus* [E] - Seen at Kumul and Ambua.

**White-rumped Swiftlet** *Aerodramus spodiopygius* [E] – Four on New Britain.

**Uniform Swiftlet** *Aerodramus vanikorensis* - Common in the lowlands.

**Papuan Spine-tailed Swift** *Mearnsia novaeguineae* [E] – Seen at the rivers and Kiunga.

#### CORACIIDAE

**Oriental Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis* – Seen at Varirata, Fly- and Elevala Rivers, and Kiunga.

#### ALCEDINIDAE

**Hook-billed Kingfisher** *Melidora macrorrhina* [E] – Heard along Fly- and Elevala Rivers and Kiunga.

**Common Paradise Kingfisher** *Tanysiptera galatea* [E] - One along the Elevala River.

**Black-capped Paradise Kingfisher** *Tanysiptera nigriceps* [E] – One seen on New Britain.

**Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher** *Tanysiptera danae* [E] – Well seen at Varirata.

**Blue-winged Kookaburra** *Dacelo leachii* – Four birds in the Port Moresby area.

**Rufous-bellied Kookaburra** *Dacelo gaudichaud* [E] - Seen at Varirata and Kiunga.

**Forest Kingfisher** *Todiramphus macleayi* – One at Varirata.

**White-mantled Kingfisher** *Todiramphus albonotatus* [E] – Two seen on New Britain.

**Collared Kingfisher** *Todiramphus chloris* – One on New Britain.

**Beach Kingfisher** *Todiramphus saurophagus* [E] – Three at the Kimbe Bay islands.

**Sacred Kingfisher** *Todiramphus sanctus* – Common throughout the tour.

**Mountain Kingfisher** *Syma megarhyncha* [E] – Heard near Tari Gap.

**Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis* – Seen on New Britain.

**Variable Dwarf Kingfisher** - *Ceyx lepidus* [E] – Heard at Boystown Road, Kiunga.

**Yellow-billed Kingfisher** *Syma torotoro* [E] – Two birds at Varirata.



MEROPIDAE

**Rainbow Bee-Eater** *Merops ornatus* – Seen on several days at PNG.

BUCEROTIDAE

**Blyth's Hornbill** *Rhyticeros plicatus* [E] – Along the Fly- and Elevala Rivers, and on New Britain.



PITTIDAE

**Red-bellied Pitta** *Erythropitta erythrogaster* – Seen near Kwatu Camp, Elevala River.

**Hooded Pitta** *Pitta sordida* – Briefly seen near Kwatu Camp.

PTILONORHYNCHIDAE

**Archbold's Bowerbird** *Archboldia papuensis* [E] – Excellent views of a female at Kumul Lodge.



**Flame Bowerbird** *Sericulus ardens* [E] – Great views of a flying male at Boystown Road, Kiunga.

**Yellow-breasted Bowerbird** *Chlamydera lauterbachii* [E] – One in the Minamba Valley near Kumul.

**Fawn-breasted Bowerbird** *Chlamydera cerviniventris* [E] – Common at Varirata and PAU ponds.

CLIMACTERIDAE

**Papuan Treecreeper** *Cormobates placens* [E] – Heard at Tari Gap.

MALURIDAE

**Wallace's Fairywren** *Sipodotus wallacii* [E] – One seen at Kwatu Camp, Elevala River.

**Emperor Fairywren** *Malurus cyanocephalus* [E] – A female near Boystown Road, Kiunga.

**White-shouldered Fairywren** *Malurus alboscapulatus* [E] – A male in the highlands.

MELIPHAGIDAE

**Tawny-breasted Honeyeater** *Xanthotis flaviventer* [E] – Seen at Kwatu Camp and Boystown Road.

**Black-throated Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus subfrenatus* [E] - Seen at Ambua.

**Obscure Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus obscurus* [E] – One at Kwatu Camp.

**Scrub Honeyeater** *Meliphaga albonotata* [E] - A single bird at Tabubil.

**Mimic Honeyeater** *Meliphaga analoga* [E] - Several at Varirata and Kwatu Camp.

**Elegant Honeyeater** *Meliphaga cinereifrons* [E] – Two at Varirata NP.

**Puff-backed Honeyeater** *Meliphaga aruensis* [E] – One at Kwatu Camp.

**White-throated Honeyeater** *Melithreptus albogularis* [E] – Three at Varirata.

**Plain Honeyeater** *Pycnopygius ixoides* [E] – Common at Varirata.

**Streak-headed Honeyeater** *Pycnopygius stictocephalus* [E] – A single bird at Varirata.

**Meyer's Friarbird** *Philemon meyeri* [E] – One at Boystown Road, Kiunga.

**New Guinea Friarbird** *Philemon novaeguineae* [E] - Common in the lowlands.

**New Britain Friarbird** *Philemon cockerelli* [E] - Fairly common on New Britain.

**Common Smoky Honeyeater** *Melipotes fumigatus* [E] - Common in the highlands.

**Yellow-browed Melidectes** *Melidectes rufocrissalis* [E] - Common at Ambua.



**Belford's Melidectes** *Melidectes belfordi* [E] Common at Kumul and several at Ambua.



**Ornate Melidectes** *Melidectes torquatus* [E] – Seen at Dablin Creek, Tabubil, and Kumul.

**Rufous-backed Honeyeater** *Ptiloprora guisei* [E] – Seen at Ambua.

**Grey-streaked Honeyeater** *Ptiloprora perstriata* [E] – One seen at Kumul.

**Long-billed Honeyeater** *Melilestes mearnsi* [E] Brief views at Dablin Creek and Kiunga.

**Rufous-banded Honeyeater** *Conopophila albogularis* [E] - Fairly common in the Port Moresby area.

**Ashy Myzomela** *Myzomela cineracea* [E] – Seen on New Britain.

**Red Myzomela** *Myzomela cruentata* [E] – A male at Dablin Creek, Tabubil.

**Sclater's Myzomela** - *Myzomela sclateri* [E] - Common on the Kimbe Bay islands.

**Red-collared Myzomela** *Myzomela rosenbergii* [E] – Several males at Kumul and Tari.



**Green-backed Honeyeater** *Glycichaera fallax* [E] – Common at Varirata.

#### ACANTHIZIDAE

**Rusty Mouse-warbler** *Crateroscelis murina* [E] – Heard at Varirata.

**Mountain Mouse-warbler** *Crateroscelis robusta* [E] – Great views at Kumul.



**Pale-billed Scrubwren** *Sericornis spilodera* [E] – One at Varirata NP.

**Papuan Scrubwren** *Sericornis papuensis* [E] – Two seen at Tari Gap.

**Large Scrubwren** *Sericornis nouhuysi* [E] – Common at Kumul.

**Buff-faced Scrubwren** *Sericornis perspicillatus* [E] – Daily at Ambua.

**Brown-breasted Gerygone** *Gerygone ruficollis* [E] – Seen at Kumul and Ambua.

**Large-billed Gerygone** *Gerygone magnirostris* – One near Kwatu Camp.

**Yellow-bellied Gerygone** *Gerygone chrysogaster* – Two near Kwatu Camp.

**Green-backed Gerygone** *Gerygone chloronota* [E] – One at Dablin Creek.

**Fairy Gerygone** *Gerygone palpebrosa* – One at Varirata.

#### POMATOSTOMIDAE

**Papuan Babbler** *Garritornis isidorei* [E] – Heard near Kwatu.

ORTHONYCHIDAE

**Papuan Logrunner** *Orthonyx novaeguineae* [E] – Excellent views of two at Tari Gap.

CNEMOPHILIDAE

**Loria's Satinbird** *Cnemophilus loriae* [E] – Males and females at Ambua.

**Crested Satinbird** *Cnemophilus macgregorii* [E] – Close views of females at Kumul.

MELANOCHARITIDAE

**Obscure Berrypecker** *Melanocharis arfakiana* [E] – Great views of a singing bird at Kiunga. Rare!

**Black Berrypecker** *Melanocharis nigra* [E] – A pair at Varirata and a female at Kwatu Camp.

**Mid-mountain Berrypecker** *Melanocharis longicauda* [E] – A female near Tari Gap.

**Fan-tailed Berrypecker** *Melanocharis versteri* [E] – A male and two females at Ambua.

**Spotted Berrypecker** *Rhamphocharis crassirostris* [E] – Nice views at Ambua.

**Yellow-bellied Longbill** *Toxorhamphus novaeguineae* [E] – A female near Kwatu Camp.

**Slaty-headed Longbill** *Toxorhamphus poliopterus* [E] – Great views at Ambua.

PARAMYTHIIDAE

**Tit Berrypecker** *Oreocharis arfaki* [E] – Great views of males and females at Ambua.



**Eastern Crested Berrypecker** *Paramythia montium* [E] – Seen at Kumul and Tari Gap.



CINCLOSOMATIDAE

**Blue Jewel-babbler** *Ptilorrhoa caerulea* [E] – Brief views near Kwatu Camp.

**Chestnut-backed Jewel-babbler** *Ptilorrhoa castanonota* [E] – Glimpsed at Varirata.

**Painted Quail-thrush** *Cinclosoma ajax* [E] – Heard at Varirata.

MACHAERIRHYNCHIDAE

**Yellow-breasted Boatbill** *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer* – One at Varirata.

**Black-breasted Boatbill** *Machaerirhynchus nigrippectus* [E] – Great views at Ambua.



ARTAMIDAE

**Black Butcherbird** *Cracticus quoyi* – Seen near Tabubil, Ok Menga, and Ambua.

**Black-backed Butcherbird** *Cracticus mentalis* [E] – Three near Port Moresby.

**Hooded Butcherbird** *Cracticus cassicus* [E] - A few while traveling to Kiunga.

**Lowland Peltops** *Peltops blainvillii* [E] – One seen well at Boystown Road, Kiunga.

**Mountain Peltops** *Peltops montanus* [E] – Great views at Ok Menga and Ambua.



**White-breasted Woodswallow** *Artamus leucorhynchus* – Two birds near Port Moresby.

**Great Woodswallow** *Artamus maximus* – Common at Tabubil, Kumul and Ambua.

#### CAMPEPHAGIDAE

**Barred Cuckooshrike** *Coracina lineata* [E] – Six at Varirata.

**Boyer's Cuckooshrike** *Coracina boyeri* [E] – Seen at Varirata and common near Kwatu Camp.

**White-bellied Cuckooshrike** *Coracina papuensis* – Seen at Varirata, Kumul, and New Britain.

**Hooded Cuckooshrike** *Coracina longicauda* [E] – Fairly common in the Ambua area.

**Black-shouldered Cicadabird** *Coracina incerta* [E] – One at Dablin Creek.

**Grey-headed Cuckooshrike** *Coracina schisticeps* [E] – Seen at Dablin Creek and Kwatu Camp.

**Black Cicadabird** *Coracina melas* [E] – A male and female at Varirata.

**Black-bellied Cuckooshrike** *Coracina montana* [E] – Seen near Ambua.

**Stout-billed Cuckooshrike** *Coracina caeruleogrisea* [E] - Two well seen near Ambua.



**Golden Cuckooshrike** *Campochaera sloetii* [E] – Flight views of two birds along the Fly River.

**Varied Triller** *Lalage leucomela* – Singles at Kwatu and New Britain.

#### RHAGOLOGIDAE

**Mottled Berryhunter** *Rhagalogus leucostigma* [E] – Heard at Dablin Creek, one well seen at Ambua.

#### EULACESTOMIDAE

**Wattled Ploughbill** *Eulacestoma nigropectus* [E] – As previous species, another bird family restricted to the mountains of New Guinea. Great views of a male, a female briefly seen.



#### PACHYCEPHALIDAE

- Brown-backed Whistler** *Pachycephala modesta* [E] – Seen at Kumul and Ambua.  
**Grey-headed Whistler** *Pachycephala griseiceps* – One at Varirata and one near Kwatu Camp.  
**Sclater's Whistler** *Pachycephala soror* [E] – Common at Kumul and Ambua.  
**Mangrove Golden Whistler** *Pachycephala melanura* [E] – A male on the Kimbe Bay islands.  
**Regent Whistler** *Pachycephala schlegelii* [E] – Males at Kumul and Ambua.  
**Black-headed Whistler** *Pachycephala monacha* [E] – A single bird at Kumul.  
**White-bellied Whistler** *Pachycephala leucogastra* [E] – One near Varirata.  
**Little Shrikethrush** *Colluricincla megarhyncha* - Brief views at Varirata.  
**Southern Variable Pitohui** *Pitohui uropygialis* [E] – Heard at Kiunga and seen near Tabubil.  
**Hooded Pitohui** *Pitohui dichrous* [E] – Common at Varirata.  
**Rusty Pitohui** *Pitohui ferrugineus* [E] – Seen at Varirata and Kiunga.  
**Crested Pitohui** *Pitohui cristatus* [E] - Heard at Varirata.

#### OREOCICIDAE

- Rufous-naped Whistler** *Aleadryas rufinucha* [E] – A colourful bird, well seen at Kumul.

#### LANIIDAE

- Long-tailed Shrike** *Lanius schach* – One near Kumul.

#### ORIOLIDAE

- Brown Oriole** *Oriolus szalayi* [E] – Seen in the lowlands.

#### DICRURIDAE

- Spangled Drongo** *Dicrurus bracteatus* – Common in the lowlands.

#### RHIPIDURIDAE

- Willie Wagtail** *Rhipidura leucophrys* – One of the most common and widespread birds of PNG.  
**Northern Fantail** *Rhipidura rufiventris* [E] – One heard at km 17 near Kiunga.  
**Sooty Thicket Fantail** *Rhipidura threnothorax* [E] - Heard at Varirata NP.  
**White-bellied Thicket Fantail** *Rhipidura leucothorax* – Hear at Kiunga,  
**Black Fantail** *Rhipidura atra* [E] – One at Tari Gap.  
**Chestnut-bellied Fantail** *Rhipidura hyperythra* [E] – Two at Varirata.  
**Friendly Fantail** *Rhipidura albolimbata* – Seen almost daily in the highlands.  
**Dimorphic Fantail** *Rhipidura brachyrhyncha* [E] - A few at Ambua.  
**Rufous-backed Fantail** *Rhipidura rufidorsa* [E] – Singles near Kwatu Camp.

#### MONARCHIDAE

- Black Monarch** *Symposiachrus axillaris* [E] – Two in a mixed flock near Tari Gap.  
**Spot-winged Monarch** *Symposiachrus guttula* [E] – A male at Varirata, and a few at Kwatu Camp.  
**Black-tailed Monarch** *Symposiachrus verticalis* [E] – Two on New Britain.  
**Golden Monarch** *Carterornis chrysomela* [E] – Three near Kwatu Camp.  
**Friiled Monarch** *Arses telescopthalmus* [E] – Males at Varirata and common at Kiunga.  
**Torrent Lark** *Grallina bruijnii* [E] – Singles at Dablin Creek and Ambua.  
**Leaden Flycatcher** *Myiagra rubecula* – A male near Varirata.

**Satin Flycatcher** *Myiagra cyanoleuca* – Singles along the Fly- and Elevala Rivers.

**Shining Flycatcher** *Myiagra alecto* – Common on New Britain.

**Velvet Flycatcher** *Myiagra hebetior* [E] – Two on New Britain.

#### CORVIDAE

**Grey Crow** *Corvus tristis* [E] – Seen at Ok Menga and the Fly River area.

**Torresian Crow** *Corvus orru* – Common in the Port Moresby area.

**Bismarck Crow** *Corvus insularis* [E] - Widespread on New Britain.

#### MELAMPITTIDAE

**Lesser Melampitta** *Melampitta lugubris* [E] - Great views at Kumul.

#### IFRITIDAE

**Blue-capped Ifrit** *Ifrita kowaldi* [E] – Excellent views at Kumul and Tari Gap.



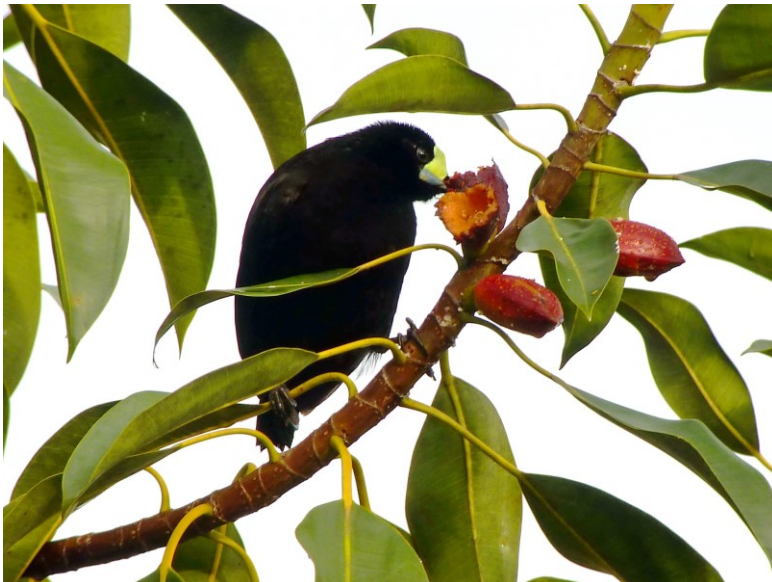
#### PARADISAEIDAE

**Glossy-mantled Manucode** *Manucodia ater* [E] - Fairly common along the Fly- and Elevala Rivers.

**Crinkle-collared Manucode** *Manucodia chalybatus* [E] – A few at Varirata.

**Trumpet Manucode** *Phonygammus keraudrenii* [E] – Great views at Kiunga, one along the Fly River.

**Short-tailed Paradigalla** *Paradigalla brevicauda* [E] – Close encounters in Ambua fruiting trees.



**Ribbon-tailed Astrapia** *Astrapia mayeri* [E] – Discovered in 1939, and common in a limited area in the mountains of PNG. In flight, the streamers, which are 4 to 5 times the body length, resemble long white ribbons, giving the bird a unique appearance. Seen almost daily in Kumul and Tari.



*Ribbon-tailed Astrapia: left and top right; Lawes's Parotia: lower right.*

**Princess Stephanie's Astrapia** *Astrapia stephaniae* [E] – Females at Ambua, a male plumage at Tari.

**Queen Carola's Parotia** *Parotia carolae* [E] – A flying distant male and scoped female at Dablin Creek.

**Lawes's Parotia** *Parotia lawesii* [E] - A female at Ambua, scope views of a male.

**King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise** *Pteridophora alberti* [E] – One of the strangest birds I have ever seen. The head-plumes move independently, perched at dawn and dusk on tree trunks near Tari Gap.



**Superb Bird-of-paradise** *Lophorina superba* [E] – Females and a displaying male at Ambua. The blue breast shield and the black shield of neck feathers thrown forward in display are remarkable.

**Magnificent Riflebird** *Ptilornis magnificus* [E] – Brief views of a male in flight, heard at Kiunga.

**Growling Riflebird** *Ptiloris intercedens* [E] – At least 15 birds in a mixed flock with Raggiana Bird-of-paradise at Variagata. Excellent views of females and displaying immature males.

**Black Sicklebill** *Epimachus fastosus* [E] – Close views of a female in a fruiting tree at Ambua. Distinctive field marks are dark iris and dark yellow inside the mouth, whereas a female Brown Sicklebill has a light blue iris and bright yellow inside the mouth. Also close views of a male, albeit with poor light conditions, early morning at Ambua, with just a little bit of blue visible here and there.

**Brown Sicklebill** *Epimachus meyeri* [E] - Females at Kumul and Tari Gap. Distant males seen and heard, a characteristic machine gun-like sound, at Tari Gap.

**Black-billed Sicklebill** *Drepanornis albertisi* [E] – After hours of morning rain at Ambua, an young male bird appeared suddenly at close range. The rufous tail is very distinctive, climbing along branches like a giant Treecreeper.

**Magnificent Bird-of-paradise** *Diphyllodes magnificus* [E] - Two females and scope views of a male at Dablin Creek. The male showed well seen, including the bright blue tail feathers, and occasionally the pineapple-coloured neck feathers were raised as a gesture to nearby ladies.



*Black Sicklebill (male; top, left); Brown Sicklebill (female; top, right); Black-billed Sicklebill (immature male; bottom, left); Magnificent Bird-of-paradise (male; bottom, right)*

**King Bird-of-paradise** *Cicinnurus regius* [E] – Excellent scope views of a preening male at km 17 near Kiunga. The only disadvantages were the heat, humidity, mosquitos, and the neck-breaking angle one had to look up through the scope. Also great views of a female, with a bright yellow bill, at Kwatu Camp.

**Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise** *Seleucidis melanoleucus* [E] – Two “pole dancing” males along the Fly River. The bright yellow underparts are a striking feature even from a distance.

**Greater Bird-of-Paradise** *Paradisaea apoda* [E] – At least four displaying males and a few females at km 17, Kiunga. The birds were displaying high up in the canopy, walking over branches. Also a hybrid male Greater x Raggiana Bird-of-paradise was displaying with orange flank plumes. Scope views of a female at Boystown Road.



**Raggiana Bird-of-paradise** *Paradisaea raggiana* [E] - Several seen at Varirata. No full plumage males were seen, best was a flying young male in almost full plumage. Also several females near Kiunga.

**Lesser Bird-of-paradise** *Paradisaea minor* [E] - Heard in the Minamba Valley.

**Blue Bird-of-paradise** *Paradisaea rudolphi* [E] - Good and prolonged scope views of a male in the Minamba Valley. Brief view of a male near Ambua.



PETROICIDAE

**Black-sided Robin** *Poecilodryas hypoleuca* [E] – One near Kwatu Camp.

**Black-throated Robin** *Poecilodryas albonotata* [E] – Two seen at Ambua.

**White-winged Robin** *Peneothello sigillata* [E] – Seen at Kumul and Ambua.



*Black-throated Robin (left) and White-winged Robin (right)*

**Slaty Robin** *Peneothello cyanus* [E] – Several seen at Ambua.

**White-rumped Robin** *Peneothello bimaculata* [E] - Heard at Dablin Creek.

**Torrent Flyrobin** *Monachella muelleriana* [E] - Seen at Ok Menga and in the Minamba Valley.

**Canary Flyrobin** *Microeca papuana* [E] – Seen at Kumul and Ambua.

**Lemon-bellied Flyrobin** *Microeca flavigaster* [E] Two at Varirata.

HIRUNDINIDAE

**Pacific Swallow** *Hirundo tahitica* - Widespread except at higher elevations.

PHYLLOSCOPIDAE

**Island Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus poliocephalus* – Seen near Ambua.

ACROCEPHALIDAE

**Clamorous Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus stentoreus* – Heard at Walindi fields, New Britain.

LOCUSTELLIDAE

**Papuan Grassbird** *Megalurus macrurus* [E] - Seen at Kumul and Tari Gap.

CISTICOLIDAE

**Golden-headed Cisticola** *Cisticola exilis* – Seen at Kumul and NB.

ZOSTEROPIDAE

**Black-fronted White-eye** *Zosterops minor* [E] – Five at Dablin Creek.

**Capped White-eye** *Zosterops fuscicapilla* [E] – Three near Ambua

**Papuan White-eye** *Zosterops novaeguineae* [E] – Four in the Minamba Valley,

STURNIDAE

**Metallic Starling** *Aplonis metallica* - Common in the lowlands of PNG and NB.

**Yellow-eyed Starling** *Aplonis mystacea* – One at Port Moresby.

**Singing Starling** *Aplonis cantoroides* – Two at Port Moresby.

**Yellow-faced Myna** *Mino dumontii* [E] – Common at Variata, and along the Fly- and Elevala Rivers.

**Long-tailed Myna** *Mino kreffti* [E] - Fairly common on NB.

**Golden Myna** *Mino anais* [E] – Along the Fly and Elevala Rivers, mixed flocks with Yellow-faced Myna.

#### TURDIDAE

**Island Thrush** *Turdus poliocephalus* – Seen at Kumul and Tari Gap.



**Pied Bush Chat** *Saxicola caprata* – Common in the Minamba Valley.

#### DICAEIDAE

**Red-capped Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum geelvinkianum* [E] – Widespread.

**Red-banded Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum eximium* [E] – Three on NB.

#### NECTARINIIDAE

**Black Sunbird** *Leptocoma sericea* [E] - Fairly common and widespread in the lowlands.

#### PASSERIDAE

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* [I] – Common in the lowlands.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus* [I] – As previous species but less common.

#### Estrildidae

**Mountain Firetail** *Oreostruthus fuliginosus* [E] – Two at Ambua.

**Blue-faced Parrotfinch** *Erythrura trichroa* – One at Tari Gap, together with next species.

**Papuan Parrotfinch** *Erythrura papuana* [E] – An immature bird at Tari Gap. Rare.

**White-spotted Mannikin** *Lonchura leucosticta* [E] – A few at Kumul.

**Hooded Mannikin** *Lonchura spectabilis* [E] – Four at Kumul, one at Tari Gap.

**Buff-bellied Mannikin** *Lonchura melaena* [E] Common on NB.

#### MOTACILLIDAE

**Australian Pipit** *Anthus australis* – Common at Tari Airport.

## MAMMALS

**Agile Wallaby** *Macropus agilis* - Varirata and Kumul.

**Black-tailed Giant Rat** *Uromys anak* – Kumul.

**Spectacled Flying Fox** *Pteropus conspicillatus* - A few near Kiunga.

**Bismarck Bare-backed Fruit Bat (New Britain Naked-Bat)** *Dobsonia praedatrix* - Common on NB.

## APPENDIX

### Flight itinerary

Aug 20	Amsterdam – Singapore	KL835	21.00-15.20+1
Aug 21	Singapore – Port Moresby	PX393	20.25-05.00+1
Aug 24	Port Moresby – Kiunga	CG1302	08.00-09.30
Aug 30	Kiunga – Mt. Hagen	CG1421	10.45-11.50
Sep 7	Tari – Port Moresby	PX865	09.30-11.00
Sep 7	Port Moresby – Hoskins	PX4844	15.00-16.30
Sep 11	Hoskins – Port Moresby	PX841	08.00-09.30
Sep 11	Port Moresby – Singapore	PX392	14.25-18.45
Sep 12	Singapore – Amsterdam	KL836	00.30-07.15

PX: Air Niugini; CG: Airlines PNG

**Accommodation. PNG:** Rain Tree Lodge, Port Moresby (2 nights), Cloudlands Hotel, Tabubil (2), Kiunga Guest House, Kiunga (2), Ekame Lodge, Elevala River (1), Kiunga Guest House, Kiunga (1), Kumul Lodge, Mount Hagen (3), Ambua Lodge, Tari (5); **New Britain:** Walindi Plantation Resort, Hoskins (4)

**Participants:** Chris Kehoe (Birdquest; Liverpool, UK, leader), Philip Reese (US), Lennart Stenberg (Sweden), Horst and Kayne Hahne (Canberra, Australia), Michael and Janette Lenz (Canberra, Australia)