



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Papua New Guinea

### Highlights

#### Trip Report

*5<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016*



Raggiana Bird-of-Paradise by Don Roberson

**Trip report compiled by Tour Leader: Adam Walley**



## Tour Summary



**Comb-crested Jacana by Don Roberson**

The group assembled at our comfortable lodgings in Port Moresby and headed out for a relaxing afternoon of birding at the Pacific Adventist University. We made a quick stop at a small wetland near the entrance where we saw a congregation of waterbirds, namely Great, Little, Cattle and Intermediate Egrets, Pied Heron, along with 3 Straw-necked Ibis, Masked Lapwings and some endemic Gray-headed Mannikins. Moving on to the PAU grounds, we embarked on a short walk and eventually found some Yellow-tinted Honeyeaters. We then had a look at the bower of a Fawn-breasted Bowerbird, before moving on to the ponds area. As usual, there was a multitude of waterbirds present, including Plumed and Wandering Whistling Ducks, Pacific Black Ducks, Little Pied and Little Black Cormorant, Australasian Little

Grebe, Australian White Ibis, Australasian Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, Comb-crested Jacana and even 2 Pacific Golden Plovers.

In the large trees around the ponds were Yellow-faced Mynas (at their nest hole), Metallic Starlings and Rufous-banded Honeyeaters. As we wandered, we saw several Fawn-breasted Bowerbirds, Black-backed Butcherbird, Bar-shouldered Dove, Peaceful Dove and Australian Figbirds. We then located a fruiting fig tree which was full of Torresian Imperial Pigeons and Orange-fronted Fruit Doves, the latter species giving particularly excellent looks. We then enjoyed a roosting Papuan Frogmouth and found its mate nearby sitting on the nest. We checked a couple more ponds and somewhat surprisingly added Royal Spoonbill, along with some Singing Starlings. Lastly, we checked a couple of trees that held roosting Nankeen Night Herons and headed back to Moresby for the evening.

An early start kicked off a long day's birding in Varirata National Park, one of the country's premiere birding locales! We headed straight up to the famous lekking site of the Raggiana Bird-of-Paradise. The birds were already on site when we arrived, but our arrival flushed them off for a short time. Four males soon returned and had just done a small bit of displaying when a female arrived on scene and chose a male, who she inspected very closely. After some posturing, the pair eventually engaged in copulation, while the other three



**Black-backed Butcherbird by Don Roberson**





males faded back into the forest, egos bruised! What a start to the day!



**Royal Spoonbill by Don Roberson**

We then spent some time during the early morning hours in a large clearing, which proved to be very birdy. We enjoyed exceptional views of Stout-billed Cuckooshrikes, along with Boyer's Cuckooshrikes and Black Cicadabirds. A fruiting tree hosted the poisonous Hooded Pitohui, along with Brown Oriole, Plain, Tawny-breasted and Mimic Honeyeater, New Guinea Friarbird, Black-fronted White-eye, and several stunning Beautiful Fruit Doves. A "brown and black" flock passed along the edge of the clearing, holding female Growling Riflebird, Rusty Pitohuis, several female Raggiana Bops and Hooded Pitohui. A female White-breasted Ground Dove flew

low overhead, a rare sighting of this shy ground bird for some, if not a particularly satisfying one.

We then entered the forest trails that harbour many elusive and difficult species. Our initial foray produced fabulous scope views of one of the park's specialities: Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher. We then spent some time on a streamside trail. A couple of flocks passed high overhead in the canopy and included Crinkle-collared Manucode and male Growling Riflebird, however, viewing was quite difficult. Dwarf Koel and White-crowned Cuckoo taunted us overhead with their calls but could not be seen; a lovely Wompoo Fruit Dove was more cooperative! Painted Quail-thrush and Pheasant Pigeon also called at close range but proved impossible to see; while a Papuan King Parrot made a quick appearance. Towards the end of the walk, we were rewarded with nice scope views of a Yellow-billed Kingfisher in the Casuarinas high overhead; in the same area were a pair of Barred Cuckooshrikes.

Following a lunch break, we set off towards the lookout area but did not get very far before our local guide, Leonard, casually mentioned there was a Barred Owlet-Nightjar staring at us from a cavity - it promptly disappeared but then made a reappearance where it could be enjoyed by all! Eventually, we made it to the lookout area and commenced on a downhill walk. A Painted Quail-thrush showed briefly as it quickly crossed the trail; while our second Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher of the day showed quite nicely. Not far along, we hit the jackpot as a Forest Bittern flushed from the streambed and landed on an open branch where it could be scoped and enjoyed at leisure! This bird is a true Mega and one that had eluded me on countless occasions, so I was just a little bit happy! Comfortable on its perch, the bird was going nowhere, so after we were satiated, we carried on down the hill.

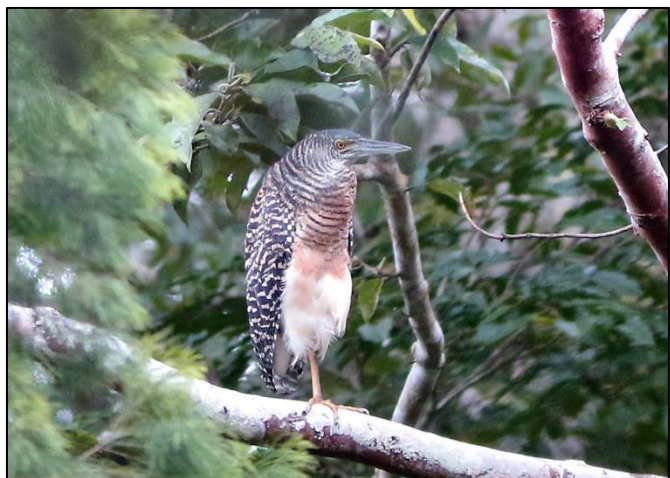
We bumped into two flocks on the way down, both being dominated by Chestnut-bellied Fantails. Other birds picked up in these flocks included Black Butcherbird, Black Berrypecker, Frilled Monarch, Little Shrikethrush, and three species of Gerygone:



**Papuan Frogmouth by Don Roberson**



Yellow-bellied, Fairy, and Green-backed – their songs being more memorable than the birds themselves! Just before exiting the trail, we had fine scope views of an Azure Kingfisher.



**Forest Bittern by Don Roberson**

From here, we carried on into the *Eucalyptus* woodland just outside the park. We soon had a male White-bellied Whistler sitting just above our head, a very scarce species indeed. Nearby were several new birds: Forest Kingfisher, White-throated Honeyeaters, Leaden Flycatcher, Lemon-bellied Flyrobin and Grey Shrike Thrush. After some more walking around in the woodland, we carried on to an area of flowering grasses that was full of mannikins. We made a rather remarkable count of 90 Great-billed Mannikins here, in the company of Gray-headed Mannikins; while overhead flew flocks of the nomadic Dusky Lory. A pair of Streak-headed Honeyeaters also gave us good views. Having had a most successful day, we returned to

Moresby for a tasty and well-deserved dinner.

Off to the airport early, we had an on time arrival to Tari in the highlands. We drove up to the famous Ambua Lodge and settled into our wonderful accommodations, with a sweeping view over the Tari Valley. We enjoyed lunch, and some of our first highland birds which frequent the lodge area included Great Woodswallow, Yellow-browed Melidectes, Mountain Swiftlet and a Slaty Robin. A short watch of the lodge's fruiting trees proved worthwhile as we found female Superb Bird-of-Paradise and female Princess Stephanie's Astrapia. We then headed up the road a short distance to a flowering tree that had recently been harbouring an absolutely incredible selection of scarce parrots. While the tree was clearly nearing the end of its flowering, there were still several psittacids in attendance, and this included three very infrequently recorded species: Josephine's, Pygmy, and Fairy Lorikeet, along with the more common Yellow-billed and Papuan Lorikeets, not to mention many Red-collared Myzomelas. Blue-collared Parrots showed pretty well overhead, in typical high flight, as they gave their chiming calls. We headed further up the road and bumped into a small but active flock that produced terrific views of Blue-capped Ifrits, plus Fan-tailed Berrypecker and Dimorphic Fantail, and then, rather incredibly, a male Wattled Ploughbill sitting up calmly in a tree, long enough to be scoped. Wow! We also scoped up an incredible male King of Saxony Bird-of-Paradise and a male Brown Sickiebill, two of the most prized Bops! Flushed with success, we did some roadside birding and had a productive small flock that contained Regent, Sclater's and Brown-backed Whistlers, Rufous-backed Honeyeaters and the poorly-known Olive Straightbill. The much-wanted Mottled Berryhunter was also heard in this area. We returned to Ambua for the final hour of daylight

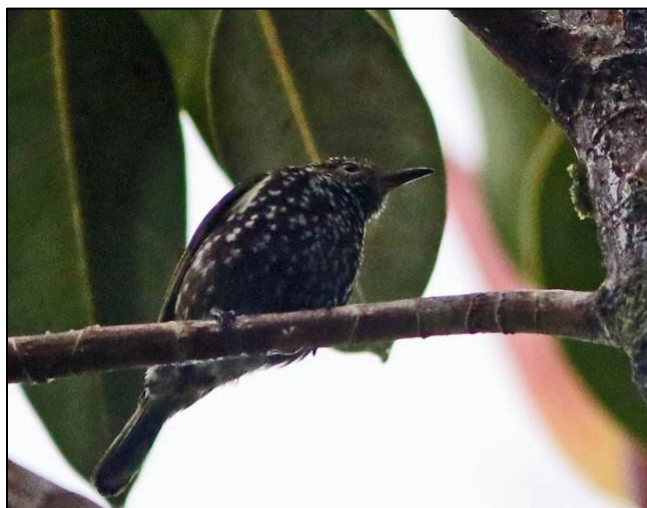


**White-bellied Whistler by Don Roberson**





and quickly found a female of the very scarce Spotted Berrypecker in its favourite fruiting tree on the Ambua grounds. Rain set in and became quite heavy, lasting through the night. It had been quite a start at Ambua!!



**Female Spotted Berrypecker by Don Roberson**

It was still raining as we departed for Tari Gap early in the morning. However, we emerged out of the rain as we arrived at the forest at the Gap, and the overcast conditions were quite conducive to bird activity. Roadside birding produced several Ribbon-tailed Astrapias, with multiple males showing their incredible tail streamers to full effect! A highlight here was an active flock of 10 Black Sittellas that crept along branches in their typical nuthatch-like fashion. We also scored good views of Black-throated Honeyeater, Rufous-naped Whistler and Brehm's Tiger Parrot, though a Painted Tiger Parrot just barely avoided giving us a good view! A flock of six Grey Thornbills moved through as well, a rather unusual and often tricky thornbill! We then headed onto a narrow but well-

maintained trail for much of the morning. We soon connected with Loria's Satinbird - a male and two females showing well. Black-breasted Boatbill showed nicely while an Ashy Robin was typically uncooperative - it sang and sang at close range but would not show. Black-throated Robin was more cooperative and showed well to us! Carrying on along the track, we scored our second very good encounter of the trip with a male Wattled Ploughbill, as this one also calmly moved about in the subcanopy. Amazing!

The scarce Papuan Treecreeper showed well to some, apparently in response to the call of the similar-sounding Spotted Jewel Babbler. Further along, a real Spotted Jewel Babbler did approach very closely but proved difficult to see well. A stunning male Crested Satinbird also put in an appearance but was only seen as an orangey-red flash flying through the forest. A female Fan-tailed Berrypecker was more cooperative! With another very successful morning winding down, it was time to return to Ambua for lunch. After lunch, we headed back to the Gap. Rain threatened and it was not long before the rain had us moving down the mountain, seeming to catch up with us every time we got off the bus for birding. A stop in yesterday's ploughbill area held, rather remarkably, a male Mottled Berryhunter this time - singing at close range and showing quite well. In fact, it was initially found foraging on the ground and then sat on a low, open perch, but soon resumed its typical furtive behaviour! Eventually, the rain chased us right back to Ambua Lodge, but the late afternoon birding there was really good in between bouts of rain. A female Blue Bird-of-Paradise put on a pretty good show in a fruiting



**Male Wattled Ploughbill by Don Roberson**



tree and we also recorded female Superb Bop, female Lawe's Parotia, several Princess Stephanie's Astrapia, and another Spotted Berrypecker, along with good views of a Rufous-throated Bronze Cuckoo, White-bibbed Fruit Dove, and unbeatable views of Mountain Peltops! Don was fortunate in seeing a Short-tailed Paradigalla - the only one of the trip. The rain overnight was especially heavy, incredibly good for moth-watching on the lodge walls, if not for night birding possibilities!



**White-winged Robin by Don Roberson**

Early morning saw us just below the lodge, scoping up two very distant male Black Sicklebills. We then returned to our favourite flowering tree and obtained nice scope views of Fairy, Pygmy, Papuan, and Yellow-billed Lorikeet. A stunning Black-mantled Goshawk flew slowly across the road and towards the flowering tree, sending the lorikeets into a bit of a panic! A pair of elusive Mountain Kingfishers were calling nearby, and after being seen crossing the road a couple of times, one of them was scoped up for stunning views thanks to some great spotting by Nigel! A flock of Black-bellied Cuckooshrikes also put in a nice appearance here and we recorded our only Papuan White-eyes of the trip as well. We then tried a short forest interior trail, which looked like it

would be a bust. Our fortunes changed just before we finished the trail, though, as we had a terrific encounter with a pair of rarely-seen Papuan Logrunners that performed very well for us! Next up, we walked the waterfall trail below the lodge. It was a lovely walk, if a bit quiet bird-wise, but we did pick up a few new birds: Great Cuckoo Dove, several Black Fantails, a Mid-mountain Berrypecker, canopy-loving Tit Berrypeckers, and three Slaty-headed Longbills having a bit of a dispute. Following a well-earned lunch, we headed down into the Tari Valley for a much-enjoyed sing-sing, performed by the Huli men, before getting back into birding. We headed up to the Gap but were chased down the mountain by rain again. The main highlight of this excursion was an extremely close male King of Saxony Bird-of-Paradise, which showed exceedingly well. A Papuan Lorikeet scoped up, feeding on *Schefflera* fruits, which was also very much appreciated! We ended up back at the lodge late afternoon with a steady rain falling. Our only Black Monarch of the trip made a brief appearance here, along with the usual Mountain Peltops, Superb Bop, Princess Stephanie's Astrapia, Lawe's Parotia and Spotted Berrypecker. The rain had cleared up, somewhat, over dinner and there was just a light drizzle. Good enough for us to try some night birding! We started out with a frustrating encounter - a Papuan Boobook flew circles around us, landing closely at times, but always disappearing as soon as the light was put on it. More cooperative was the hefty Rufous Owl that had recently taken up the habitat of perching in an open tree just above the lodge -



**Blue-capped Ifrit by Don Roberson**





a very rarely seen species in PNG! We then boarded the vehicle and drove a short distance up the road. A Mountain Cuscus running across the road was a good find, and then we found our target for the excursion: an Archbold's Nightjar perched up on a bank. Initially seen just as eye-shine, it allowed a close approach and good views.



**Mountain Peltops by Don Roberson**

We were planning on an early departure from Ambua lodge, but our bus driver had other ideas, so we had a bit of a wait until we got going. It did offer a last chance to see the birds around Ambua lodge, and a couple of people connected with a scarce Madarasz's Tiger Parrot during the wait. We then birded the Gap one last time. We scoped up another fine male King of Saxony, had a nice encounter with a hunting Papuan Harrier, and attained good views of Brown-breasted Gerygone, as well as our only Mountain Firetail. Then it was time for the long drive towards Kumul. We saw little of note along the drive but did arrive at Kumul in time to spend a bit of time

at the famous birdfeeding table, which hosted Ribbon-tailed Astrapias, Smoky and Grey-streaked Honeyeaters, Belford's Melidectes, Island Thrushes, White-winged Robins, and a Fan-tailed Cuckoo. A rather persistent rain set in late afternoon and lasted through the night.

We had another early start and after breakfast and headed downhill from the lodge - arriving at a trailhead up a steep hillside by daybreak. The trail provided access to some fragmented mid-montane forest. Although rather steep, the calls of Blue and Super Birds of Paradise beckoned and we made our way to a strategic point in good time. Stunning male Blue Birds-of-Paradise were soon in the scope, and then a male was suddenly calling right in front of us and offering sensational views. It then visited a fruiting *Schefflera* and fed peacefully there for several minutes as we enjoyed every second of the experience. Indeed, this would be our "bird of the trip"!

A female Superb Bird-of-Paradise also paid a visit to the same tree, although we had to wait some time until the male Superb finally made its appearance - it did eventually show quite well for us! While waiting around, we had plenty of interesting birds to keep us entertained: Amboyna, Bar-tailed and Great Cuckoo Doves, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Marbled Honeyeater, Mountain Myzomela, Buff-faced Scrubwren, Mid-mountain Berrypecker, Island Leaf Warbler and all-too-brief MacGregor's Bowerbird and Blue-faced Parrotfinch. Well pleased with our haul at this spot, we returned to the vehicle and drove back up to the lodge. We tried a spot for Lesser Melampitta and in no time at all, we had a pair dancing circles close around us, giving really good views, although a bit tough to keep up with! A bit of relaxed time around the lodge was highlighted by great views of the female Brown Sickbill visiting the feeding table, accompanied



**Common Smoky Honeyeater by Don Roberson**



by a Ribbon-tailed *Astrapia*. The afternoon saw us making an excursion to Murumuru Pass. The inevitable afternoon rains started just as we left the vehicle, but the steady drizzle kept the birds active. Another male Brown Sickiebill was a good find and we spent a fair bit of time trying to keep up with an active group of three Mottled Berryhunters. Most people eventually obtained a good view and we certainly all heard their wonderful song, loud and clear! A flowering tree held both Plum-faced and Orange-billed Lorikeets. A most surprising sighting was a male Archbold's Bowerbird, alas it only flew through the clearing! By late afternoon, we returned to the lodge where we had another night of heavy rain.



**Blue Bird-of-Paradise by Don Roberson**

Bowerbird and a Black-headed Whistler. We then visited the Lai Valley where we found three obliging Torrent Flyrobins, several Mountain Honeyeaters and a perched Brown Goshawk. Some of us returned to the lodge for some down time while the rest carried on back to Murumuru Pass. The male Brown Sickiebill was still there and we had excellent views of the Mottled Berryhunters, a female repeatedly visiting a fruiting tree and a male was observed feeding its begging young! We also had really nice views of Black-breasted Boatbill and Black-bellied Cuckooshrike here; while a typically shy Ashy Robin called very close but gave only the briefest of views.

The post-lunch session started out very well as a patient wait at a fruiting tree inside the forest yielded excellent views of a sensational male Crested Satinbird, along with good views of Crested Berrypecker. Heavy rain soon set in and did not yield, cancelling the rest of the day's birding options. Once again, it rained well into the night, ruining any opportunities of nocturnal birding.

After breakfast, we headed out to the Mt Hagen airport. Our flight was a bit delayed but we arrived in Port Moresby in time for lunch and set out for a return visit to Varirata NP. We walked the overlook trail again. A shy Papuan Scrub Robin was persuaded to cross the trail on



**Brehm's Tiger Parrot by Don Roberson**





three occasions, but never lingered! We bumped into a slow-moving flock which held some interesting species, including Black-winged Monarch, Yellow-breasted Boatbill and Grey Whistler. Shortly after this flock, a rather heavy rain set in and we walked the rest of the trail in wet conditions. Arriving back at the clearing, the last surprise was a Black-billed Brushturkey that flushed up into a tall tree. It kept to the densest part of the tree, but everyone got some sort of view. And with that, we returned to Port Moresby for our final dinner of the trip.



**Female Mottled Berryhunter by Don Roberson**

We had time for a bit of early morning birding so we opted to head out to the Brown River and birded some lowland forest fragments there. Our first stop yielded a nice surprise – a Marbled Frogmouth sat on a very exposed nest! As we walked along the road, we added lots of birds: Pacific Baza, Black-capped Lory, Eclectus Parrot, Zoe's, Pinon's and Torresian Imperial Pigeon, Dwarf and Pink-spotted Fruit Dove, a couple of brief Ivory-billed Coucals, two Channel-billed Cuckoos, Dusky Myzomelas, Mimic, Elegant, and Tawny-breasted Honeyeater, numerous Grey-headed Mannikins and two Chestnut-breasted Mannikins. Kingfishers were particularly prominent here, with excellent views of Yellow-billed and Forest

Kingfisher and Rufous-bellied and Blue-winged Kookaburra. Common Paradise Kingfishers were abundant by voice, but only gave the briefest of views, and even a Hook-billed Kingfisher gave a short call deep inside the forest. Just before we left, Leonard spotted 2 more Marbled Frogmouth roosting in a tangle side-by-side – one grey and one rufous! Arriving in Moresby with a bit of time to spare, we made a visit to a rather unlikely concrete-bound site that produced our final bird of the trip – great views of the uncommon Silver-eared Honeyeater! With this nice bonus, we carried on to the international terminal for our homebound flights.

Thanks everyone for making the inaugural PNG Highlights a great success!

## Annotated Checklist of Birds Recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC 6.3 List of: Gill, F. and M. Wright. 2015. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.

### Key to abbreviations

NG – endemic to New Guinea

PNG – endemic to Papua New Guinea

NE – near endemic to New Guinea

I - Introduced

H – Heard only

NP – National Park

PAU – Pacific Adventist University

( ) Round bracket refers to the alternative name for the species



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**Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae**

**Plumed Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna eytoni*

Around 40 birds were seen at PAU.

**Wandering Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna arcuata*

Around 40 birds were seen at PAU.

**Pacific Black Duck** *Anas superciliosa*

Good numbers were enjoyed at PAU.

**Megapodes Megapodiidae**

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

An unexpected sighting in our last moments at Varirata, a bird flew up into a large tree at the edge of the main picnic area!

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

Several heard at the Brown River.

**Grebes Podicipedidae**

**Australasian Grebe** *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

Two birds were seen at PAU.

**Ibises, Spoonbills Threskiornithidae**

**Australian White Ibis** *Threskiornis molucca*

Three birds were seen at PAU.

**Straw-necked Ibis** *Threskiornis spinicollis*

Three birds were seen near PAU.

**Royal Spoonbill** *Platalea regia*

Two birds at PAU were unexpected.

**Hérons, Bitterns Ardeidae**

**Forest Bittern (NG)** *Zonerodius heliosylus*

A single bird flushed from a streambed in Varirata and landed on a high, open branch, where it stayed put for walk-away views! This is a notoriously elusive and difficult bird!!

**Nankeen (Rufous) Night Heron** *Nycticorax caledonicus*

Two roosting birds at PAU.

**Eastern Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus coromandus*

Seen in the Port Moresby area.

**Great Egret** *Ardea modesta*

Seen in small numbers in the lowlands.

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

About 5 birds around PAU.

**Pied Heron** *Egretta picata*

Small numbers were found at PAU. A striking heron!

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

A few were seen at PAU.





**Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae**

- Little Pied Cormorant** *Microcarbo melanoleucos*  
 Small numbers seen at PAU.
- Little Black Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*  
 Large numbers were seen at PAU and a few near the Brown River.
- Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*  
 A single bird in flight at the Lai River.

**Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae**

- Pacific Baza (Crested Hawk)** *Aviceda subcristata*  
 Four birds at the Brown River showed nicely.
- Brown Goshawk** *Accipiter fasciatus*  
 Single birds at the Lai River and the Brown River.
- Black-mantled Goshawk (NG)** *Accipiter melanochlamys*  
 A nice flyby of an adult above Ambua caused a bit of disruption amongst the lorikeets at the flowering tree. A rarely seen forest interior hawk!
- Collared Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter cirrocephalus*  
 Mark had one at Kumul and Don had another below Kumul.
- Papuan (Swamp) Harrier (NG)** *Circus spilothorax*  
 A nice sighting at Tari Gap.
- Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*  
 Good numbers in the Mt Hagen area and a few around Port Moresby.
- Whistling Kite** *Haliastur sphenurus*  
 Seen at PAU and the Brown River.
- Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus*  
 This common and widespread raptor was seen most days during the tour.

**Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae**

- Australasian (Purple) Swamphen** *Porphyrio melanotus*  
 Good numbers were seen at PAU, with a few at the Brown River.
- Dusky Moorhen** *Gallinula tenebrosa*  
 Good numbers were found at PAU.

**Plovers & Lapwings Charadriidae**

- Masked Lapwing** *Vanellus miles*  
 Good numbers at PAU.
- Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*  
 Two birds at PAU.

**Jacanas Jacanidae**

- Comb-crested Jacana** *Irediparra gallinacea*  
 Five of these striking birds were encountered at PAU.

**Sandpipers, Snipes Scolopacidae**

- Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*  
 A single bird at PAU



**Pigeons, Doves Columbidae**

<b>Rock Dove (Pigeon) (I)</b> Port Moresby.	<i>Columba livia</i>
<b>Metallic (White-throated) Pigeon</b> Two birds in high flight at Tari Gap.	<i>Columba vitiensis</i>
<b>Amboyna (Brown) Cuckoo-Dove</b> Seen very well below Kumul lodge and also at Varirata NP.	<i>Macropygia amboinensis</i>
<b>Bar-tailed (Black-billed) Cuckoo-Dove (NE)</b> Seen below Kumul.	<i>Macropygia nigrirostris</i>
<b>Great Cuckoo-Dove (NE)</b> Excellent observations at Ambua and Varirata NP, where birds were observed quietly feeding on <i>Schefflera</i> fruits.	<i>Reinwardtoena reinwardtii</i>
<b>Pacific Emerald Dove</b> A very brief sighting at the Brown River.	<i>Chalcophaps longirostris</i>
<b>Peaceful Dove</b> A number of birds were seen in the Port Moresby area.	<i>Geopelia placida</i>
<b>Bar-shouldered Dove</b> Two birds were seen on our visit to PAU.	<i>Geopelia humeralis</i>
<b>White-breasted Ground Dove (NE)</b> We had a brief flyover of a female at Varirata NP, a very shy species.	<i>Alopecoenas jobiensis</i>
<b>Pheasant Pigeon (NG) (H)</b> Heard at Varirata NP.	<i>Otidiphaps nobilis</i>
<b>Wompoo Fruit Dove</b> Several seen well at Varirata NP.	<i>Ptilinopus magnificus</i>
<b>Pink-spotted Fruit Dove (NG)</b> Good views at Varirata NP and the Brown River.	<i>Ptilinopus perlatus</i>
<b>Orange-fronted Fruit Dove (NG)</b> Excellent views were had of this beautiful species at PAU.	<i>Ptilinopus aurantiifrons</i>
<b>Superb Fruit Dove</b> Several sightings at Varirata NP of shy birds.	<i>Ptilinopus superbus</i>
<b>Beautiful Fruit Dove (NG)</b> Good views at Varirata NP.	<i>Ptilinopus pulchellus</i>
<b>White-bibbed (Mountain) Fruit Dove (NG)</b> Several seen at Ambua and another at Kumul.	<i>Ptilinopus rivoli</i>
<b>Dwarf Fruit Dove (NG)</b> A single bird at the Brown River was a nice find.	<i>Ptilinopus nanus</i>
<b>Pinon's Imperial Pigeon (NG)</b> A few seen in flight at the Brown River.	<i>Ducula pinon</i>
<b>Zoe's Imperial Pigeon (NG)</b> Seen at Varirata NP and the Brown River, mostly in flight.	<i>Ducula zoeae</i>
<b>Torresian Imperial Pigeon</b> Good views at PAU and the Brown River.	<i>Ducula spilorrhoa</i>
<b>Papuan Mountain Pigeon (NE)</b> Good numbers at Tari Gap, including some nice scope views.	<i>Gymnophaps albertisii</i>





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### Cuckoos Cuculidae

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

Two birds showed briefly at the Brown River, others were heard.

**Pheasant Coucal** *Centropus phasianinus*

Regular sightings in the Port Moresby area.

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

Heard close by at Varirata.

**Pacific (Australian) Koel (H)** *Eudynamis orientalis*

Heard at PAU.

**Channel-billed Cuckoo** *Scyhrops novaehollandiae*

A pair gave a close flyover at the Brown River.

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

Good views at Ambua, with another brief view at Tari Gap.

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

Heard close by at Varirata.

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

A couple of good sightings at and around Kumul.

**Brush Cuckoo** *Cacomantis variolosus*

Several seen below Kumul.

### Owls Strigidae

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

A frustrating encounter with a very vocal, but active bird, only glimpsed in flight.

**Rufous Owl** *Ninox rufa*

Our final night at Ambua Lodge was the only night that it didn't pour with rain. This recent and special visitor to the lodge put in an appearance on this night. A rarely seen species in PNG!

### Frogmouths Podargidae

**Marbled Frogmouth** *Podargus ocellatus*

No less than three birds seen by day at the Brown River, one on the nest and a nice comparison of gray and rufous-colored birds sat side by side!

**Papuan Frogmouth** *Podargus papuensis*

Great views of two birds at PAU, one of which was sitting on a nest.

### Nightjars Caprimulgidae

**Archbold's Nightjar (NG)** *Eurostopodus archboldi*

Nice views of this rarely-recorded montane species above Ambua.

### Owlet-nightjars Aegothelidae

**Barred Owlet-nightjar (NG)** *Aegotheles bennettii*

This species was seen well at a daytime roost in Varirata National Park.

### Swifts Apodidae

**Glossy Swiftlet** *Collocalia esculenta*

One of the most commonly seen species along the route.



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

This endemic was regularly seen throughout the higher areas of the tour.

**Uniform Swiftlet***Aerodramus vanikorensis*

Just one or two at Varirata NP and the Brown River.

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

Good numbers were seen at the Brown River.

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

This very shy bird was heard briefly at the Brown River.

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

Many heard at the Brown River, one or two birds were glimpsed by some.

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

Excellent views were had of two birds in the forest at Varirata NP – a stunning species!

**Blue-winged Kookaburra***Dacelo leachii*

Observed at Varirata NP and the Brown River.

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

Nice views at the Brown River.

**Forest Kingfisher***Todiramphus macleayi*

Two birds were seen at Varirata and another two at the Brown River.

**Sacred Kingfisher***Todiramphus sanctus*

This wintering bird from Australia was seen at Ambua and near Port Moresby.

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

We were fortunate to get scope views at both Varirata NP and the Brown River.

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

This extremely elusive kingfisher was seen very well near Ambua Lodge.

**Azure Kingfisher***Ceyx azureus*

Two birds scoped up at Varirata NP.

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

Seen near Varirata NP.

**Cockatoos Cacatuidae****Sulphur-crested Cockatoo***Cacatua galerita*

Four birds at the Brown River.

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

A brief sighting at Varirata NP.

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

Seen well at the Brown River and near Varirata NP.

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

Good numbers at Varirata NP and the Brown River.





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

Flocks were regularly seen in flight around Ambua, a nomadic species that was more common than usual here.

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

Good views at the Tari Gap, then up to three daily at the feeding table at Kumul.

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

Two birds calling at very close range at the Tari Gap, one of which was glimpsed as it flew off its low perch.

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

A single bird showed well to some.

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

A stunning bird, seen visiting a flowering tree at Murumuru Pass and also on the Kumul Lodge grounds.

**Pygmy Lorikeet (NG)***Charmosyna wilhelminae*

This nomadic and tiny bird is rarely observed, so we were fortunate to scope up to 10 birds in a flowering tree above Ambua!

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

About 10 birds were visiting the amazing flowering tree above Ambua, where rare perched views were obtained!

**Josephine's Lorikeet (NG)***Charmosyna josefinae*

Yet another rarely seen lorikeet that was visiting the flowering tree above Ambua. Very nice scope views of a single bird.

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

This stunning species was encountered regularly at Tari Gap, Ambua, and the Kumul area. By far the best views were of a bird quietly feeding on *Schefflera* fruits up at Tari Gap.

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

Mainly seen at the flowering tree above Ambua.

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

Seen at Tari Gap and Murumuru Pass.

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

Just one pair seen near the Brown River.

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

Flocks in high flight seen at Varirata NP, Ambua, and the Brown River.

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

Regularly seen in flight in the highlands, at the Tari Gap and the Kumul area.

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

Just a few at Varirata NP, the Lai River and the Brown River.

**Bowerbirds Ptilonorhynchidae****Archbold's Bowerbird (NG)***Archboldia papuensis*

A flypast of a male at Murumuru Pass.

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

Brief views of a pair below Kumul.

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

Three birds scoped up in the Lai Valley, great views!

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

About 10 seen on the PAU grounds.



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

A single bird showed well to some inside the forest at Tari Gap.

**Australasian Wrens Maluridae****Emperor Fairywren (NG) (H)** *Malurus cyanocephalus*

Heard at the Brown River.

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

Seen well below Kumul and at Ambua Lodge.

**Honeyeaters Meliphagidae****Dusky Myzomela (NE)** *Myzomela obscura*

Three birds observed visiting flowering trees at the Brown River.

**Mountain (Elfin) Myzomela (NG)** *Myzomela adolphinae*

A few birds were seen below Kumul.

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

Good numbers of this striking honeyeater at Ambua at Tari Gap and a few at Kumul.

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

Several sightings were had in the forests just above Ambua.

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

Commonly seen at the highlands, especially easy to see at Kumul Lodge.

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

A pair at Varirata NP.

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

Good views below Kumul and another at Ambua Lodge.

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

A pair seen well just outside of Varirata NP.

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

Excellent views of a bird in downtown Port Moresby.

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

Several birds were seen at Varirata NP and the Brown River.

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

Seen at PAU, Varirata, and the Brown River.

**White-throated Honeyeater** *Melithreptus albogularis*

A few were seen in woodland in Varirata NP.

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

Common in the high mountains and seen daily in the Tari and Kumul areas.

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

Seen above Ambua, a rarely recorded species.

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

A dozen birds were seen at PAU.

**Black-throated Honeyeater (NG)** *Caligavis subfrenata*

Several birds seen at the Tari Gap.

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

Seen below Kumul and also at Ambua Lodge.



<b>Belford's Melidectes (NG)</b>	<i>Melidectes belfordi</i>
Common at high elevations. Particularly obvious and aggressive at the Kumul Lodge feeder.	
<b>Ornate Melidectes (NG)</b>	<i>Melidectes torquatus</i>
Several seen in the Lai Valley.	
<b>Yellow-tinted Honeyeater</b>	<i>Lichenostomus flavescens</i>
Five birds showed nicely at PAU.	
<b>Mountain Honeyeater (Meliphaga) (NG)</b>	<i>Meliphaga orientalis</i>
About six birds in the Lai Valley.	
<b>Mimic Honeyeater (Meliphaga) (NG)</b>	<i>Meliphaga analoga</i>
Seen at Varirata NP and the Brown River.	
<b>Elegant Honeyeater (Meliphaga) (PNG)</b>	<i>Meliphaga cinereifrons</i>
Singles at Varirata and the Brown River.	

### Australasian Warblers Acanthizidae

<b>Rusty Mouse-warbler (NG) (H)</b>	<i>Crateroscelis murina</i>
Heard only at Varirata NP.	
<b>Mountain Mouse-warbler (NG) (H)</b>	<i>Crateroscelis robusta</i>
Heard only around Ambua and the Tari Gap.	
<b>Papuan Scrubwren (NG)</b>	<i>Sericornis papuensis</i>
Observed at the Tari Gap, Ambua and below Kumul.	
<b>Large Scrubwren (NG)</b>	<i>Sericornis nouhuysi</i>
Observed at Kumul and Tari Gap.	
<b>Buff-faced Scrubwren (NG)</b>	<i>Sericornis perspicillatus</i>
Commonly seen around Ambua and below Kumul.	
<b>Brown-breasted (Treefern) Gerygone (NG)</b>	<i>Gerygone ruficollis</i>
Good observations at Tari Gap and Murumuru Pass.	
<b>Yellow-bellied Gerygone (NG)</b>	<i>Gerygone chrysogaster</i>
Seen in flocks of both visits to Varirata NP.	
<b>Green-backed Gerygone</b>	<i>Gerygone chloronotus</i>
Seen at Varirata NP.	
<b>Fairy Gerygone</b>	<i>Gerygone palpebrosa</i>
Seen in mixed flocks at Varirata NP.	
<b>Grey Thornbill (NG)</b>	<i>Acanthiza cinerea</i>
A flock of six at Tari Gap.	

### Logrunners Orthonychidae

<b>Papuan Logrunner (NG)</b>	<i>Orthonyx novaeguineae</i>
An exceptional encounter with an inquisitive pair above Ambua.	

### Satinbirds Cnemophilidae

<b>Loria's Satinbird (NG)</b>	<i>Cnemophilus loriae</i>
A male and two females at the Tari Gap.	
<b>Crested Satinbird (NG)</b>	<i>Cnemophilus macgregorii</i>
Stunning males were seen at the Tari Gap and Kumul. The male in the fruiting tree at Kumul was a trip highlight!	





**Berrypeckers, Longbills Melanocharitidae**

- Black Berrypecker (NG)** *Melanocharis nigra*  
Four birds recorded at Varirata NP.
- Mid-mountain Berrypecker (NG)** *Melanocharis longicauda*  
A male below Ambua and a female below Kumul.
- Fan-tailed Berrypecker (NG)** *Melanocharis versteri*  
Several birds were seen at the Tari Gap.
- Spotted Berrypecker (NG)** *Rhamphocharis crassirostris*  
A male and the spotted female were seen very well at their favorite fruiting tree at Ambua Lodge.
- Dwarf (Spectacled) Longbill (NG)** *Oedistoma iliolophus*  
Heard several times at Varirata NP and one seen very briefly.
- Slaty-headed (-chinned) Longbill (NG)** *Toxorhamphus poliopterus*  
Three birds at Ambua and one below Kumul, all sightings were brief.

**Painted Berrypeckers Paramythiidae**

- Tit Berrypecker (NG)** *Oreocharis arfaki*  
Birds were seen high up in the canopy below Ambua and at the Murumuru Pass.
- Crested Berrypecker (NG)** *Paramythia montium*  
A couple of sightings at Tari Gap, then good looks at Kumul Lodge.

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

- Spotted Jewel-babbler (NG)** *Ptilorrhoa leucosticte*  
Some people had brief views of this striking bird at the Tari Gap, we all heard it very close!
- Painted Quail-thrush (NG)** *Cinclosoma ajax*  
One bird crossed the trail at Varirata NP and was seen by some.

**Boatbills Machaerirhynchidae**

- Yellow-breasted Boatbill (NE)** *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*  
A single bird in a flock at Varirata NP.
- Black-breasted Boatbill (NG)** *Machaerirhynchus nigripectus*  
Several sightings of this stunner, at Tari Gap and Murumuru Pass.

**Woodswallows, Butcherbirds & Allies Cracticidae**

- White-breasted Woodswallow** *Artamus leucorhynchus*  
Seen at PAU, en route to Varirata NP, and at the Brown River
- Great Woodswallow (NG)** *Artamus maximus*  
Seen regularly in the highlands, it was especially prominent at Ambua Lodge.
- Mountain Peltops (NG)** *Peltops montanus*  
Up to four birds frequented the parking lot at Ambua Lodge where they put on a great show!
- Black Butcherbird** *Cracticus quoyi*  
A single bird at Varirata NP.
- Black-backed Butcherbird (NE)** *Cracticus mentalis*  
Great views were had of these birds in PAU.
- Hooded Butcherbird (NG)** *Cracticus cassicus*  
Seen at Varirata NP and the Brown River



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

A great trip for this sought-after monotypic family. We had quite good views of an active male above Ambua. These views were superseded by a family group at Murumuru Pass that included a female regularly visiting a fruiting tree and a male feeding a begging juvenile. Wow!!

**Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae****Black-faced Cuckooshrike** *Coracina novaehollandiae*

A single bird was seen outside of PAU.

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

Excellent views of a quartet of these at Varirata NP.

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

A female at Varirata NP.

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

Several at Varirata NP.

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

Seen at Varirata NP, the Lai River and the Brown River.

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

Several seen at Varirata NP.

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

Good views at Tari Gap and the Murumuru Pass.

**Varied Triller** *Lalage leucomela*

Just a single bird at Varirata NP.

**Sitellas – Neosittidae****Black Sitella** *Daphoenositta miranda*

A flock of 10 at Tari Gap.

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

Stunning males were seen well on not one, but two consecutive days! Our first came above Ambua and our second at Tari Gap. Wow!!!

**Australo-papuan Bellbirds Oreocidae****Rufous-naped Whistler (Bellbird) (NG)** *Alaedyas rufinucha*

Observed at Taria Gap, Kumul Lodge, and the Murumuru Pass.

**Crested Pitohui (Bellbird) (NG) (H)** *Ornorectes cristatus*

We heard the incredible call of this shy species at Varirata NP.

**Whistlers & Allies Pachycephalidae****Brown-backed Whistler (PNG)** *Pachycephala modesta*

Commonly seen in the highlands.

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

Seen in mixed flocks on both visits to Varirata NP.



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<b>Sclater's Whistler (NG)</b>	<i>Pachycephala soror</i>
Regular sightings around Ambua and below Kumul.	
<b>Regent Whistler (NG)</b>	<i>Pachycephala schlegelii</i>
This stunner was seen on several occasions in the highlands.	
<b>Black-headed Whistler (NG)</b>	<i>Pachycephala monacha</i>
Finally caught up with this in the Lai Valley.	
<b>White-bellied Whistler (NG)</b>	<i>Pachycephala leucogastra</i>
A male showed very well in the woodland near Varirata NP, an enigmatic species!	
<b>Rusty Pitohui (NG)</b>	<i>Pitohui ferrugineus</i>
A group of four recorded at Varirata NP.	
<b>Little Shrikethrush</b>	<i>Colluricincla megarhyncha</i>
Observed at Varirata NP and Ambua.	
<b>Grey Shrikethrush</b>	<i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>
Seen just outside of Varirata NP.	

### **Shrikes Laniidae**

<b>Long-tailed Shrike</b>	<i>Lanius schach</i>
Seen on a few dates in the highlands.	

### **Figbirds, Orioles Oriolidae**

<b>Australasian Figbird</b>	<i>Sphecotheres vieilloti</i>
Good numbers were seen on our trip to PAU, with another near Varirata NP.	
<b>Hooded Pitohui (NG)</b>	<i>Pitohui dichrous</i>
Good numbers in Varirata NP. This black-and-rufous bird is the traditional “poisonbird” as it was the first bird species discovered to possess poisonous compounds in its tissues.	
<b>Brown Oriole (NG)</b>	<i>Oriolus szalayi</i>
This friarbird mimic was seen at PAU, Varirata NP, and the Brown River.	

### **Drongos Dicruridae**

<b>Spangled Drongo</b>	<i>Dicrurus bracteatus</i>
A few at Varirata NP.	

### **Fantails Rhipiduridae**

<b>Willie Wagtail</b>	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>
Seen every single day, thanks to Mark!	
<b>Black Fantail (NG)</b>	<i>Rhipidura atra</i>
Several seen below Ambua and a pair below Kumul.	
<b>Chestnut-bellied Fantail (NG)</b>	<i>Rhipidura hyperythra</i>
The dominant species in flocks at Varirata NP.	
<b>Friendly Fantail (NG)</b>	<i>Rhipidura albolimbata</i>
One of the most commonly seen birds in the highlands.	
<b>Dimorphic Fantail (NG)</b>	<i>Rhipidura brachyrhyncha</i>
Several seen at the Tari Gap and Murumuru Pass.	





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

A single bird appeared briefly at Ambua Lodge.

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

A single bird was seen in a flock at Varirata NP.

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

Seen on both visits to Varirata NP.

**Leaden Flycatcher***Myiagra rubecula*

A male was seen well outside of Varirata NP.

**Crows, Jays Corvidae****Grey Crow (NG)***Corvus tristis*

A few birds flew overhead at Varirata NP, but difficult to see from within the forest!

**Torresian Crow***Corvus orru*

This species was common in the Port Moresby region.

**Melampittas Melampittidae****Lesser Melampitta (NG)***Melampitta lugubris*

A really good response at Kumul Lodge from a pair, and another seen briefly under the birdfeeding table.

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

A sought-after, unique and attractive bird that was seen daily in the highlands. This is another of the 'poison-birds' and is believed to be the most poisonous of them all.

**Birds-of-paradise Paradisaeidae****Crinkle-collared Manucode (NG)***Manucodia chalybatus*

A couple of sightings at Varirata NP.

**Short-tailed Paradigalla (NG)***Paradigalla brevicauda*

A poor showing this year with few fruiting trees around Ambua, only Don saw this one on the lodge grounds.

**Ribbon-tailed Astrapia (PNG)***Astrapia mayeri*

We saw these phenomenal birds regularly at Kumul and the Tari Gap, including regular sightings of the extraordinary males and their tail streamers. This PNG endemic has a very limited range and was the last recognised species of bird-of-paradise to be discovered in 1938.

**Princess Stephanie's Astrapia (PNG)***Astrapia stephaniae*

Another sensational Bop, we saw them daily in the highlands, at Ambua Lodge and the Murumuru Pass.

**Lawes's Parotia (PNG)***Parotia lawesii*

A female showed well daily at Ambua Lodge.

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

The extraordinary males were seen three times at or below the Tari Gap, giving some great encounters! We also had females there and at Murumuru Pass. One of the highlights of the trip!

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

Females at Ambua Lodge, and then great views of both male and female below Kumul.



**Growling Riflebird (NG)***Ptiloris intercedens*

Both male and female showed briefly at Varirata NP, their fantastic growling calls were a regular feature of our walks there.

**Black Sicklebill (NG)***Epimachus fastuosus*

Two distant males were scoped below Ambua Lodge.

**Brown Sicklebill (NG)***Epimachus meyeri*

Males were seen on several occasions, above Ambua, at Tari Gap, and at the Murumuru Pass and gave some really nice views. The female showed very well at the Kumul birdfeeding table on a couple of occasions.

**Black-billed Sicklebill (NG) (H)***Drepanornis albertisi*

This elusive BOP was heard on one occasion above Ambua.

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

A great experience to start off our birding at Varirata. We had four displaying males at a lekking site, and then a female arrived on site and eventually mated with one of them! Females were regularly seen there.

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

At Kama village, we had really good views of a male and two females!

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

Bird of the trip. A female at Ambua Lodge and then three males below Kumul, where views just kept getting better, culminating in a bird calmly feeding on fruit right in front of us. Wow!!!

**Australasian Robins Petroicidae****Ashy Robin (NG)***Heteromyias albispecularis*

This very shy forest-interior species was heard at Tari Gap and Murumuru Pass and glimpsed at the latter site.

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

Heard close by at the Brown River but would not show.

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

Good views were had of a single bird at Tari Gap.

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

Regular and superb sightings were had of this species around Kumul Lodge, along with a couple at Tari Gap.

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

Good views around Ambua Lodge.

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

We had great views of three birds at the Lai River.

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

Daily sightings in the highlands.

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

Two birds were seen along the entrance road to Varirata NP.

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

Heard only at Tari Gap and Kumul.

**Papuan Scrub Robin (NG)***Drymodes beccarii*

A rarely seen bird that quickly crossed the trail three times at Varirata NP.



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

This is the common swallow of the region and was seen on most days of the trip.

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

Several were seen below Kumul.

**Grassbirds and allies Megaluridae****Papuan (Tawny) Grassbird (NG)***Megalurus macrurus*

Several birds were seen in grasslands at the Tari Gap.

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

Flocks encountered at Varirata NP and the Lai Valley.

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

A flock was seen just above Ambua.

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

Observed at PAU and the Brown River

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

Observed at PAU and Tari village.

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

Observed at PAU, Varirata NP and the Brown River.

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

Made regular visits to the feeding table at Kumul and also seen at the Tari Gap.

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

Good numbers were seen daily in grassland habitat, mainly in the mountains.

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

Widespread and commonly seen in small numbers on almost every day of the trip.

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

Several birds were seen at the Brown River.

**Olive-backed Sunbird***Cinnyris jugularis*

Several birds were seen at the Brown River.





**Old World Sparrows Passeridae****House Sparrow (I)***Passer domesticus*

Port Moresby.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow (I)***Passer montanus*

Port Moresby.

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

A single bird was seen at the Tari Gap.

**Blue-faced Parrotfinch***Erythrura trichroa*

A single bird briefly below Kumul.

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

A very impressive tally of 90 birds at a site near Varirata.

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

Commonly seen in the Port Moresby area.

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

Flocks of these were regularly daily in the highlands.

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

Two birds at the Brown River amongst flocks of Grey-headed Mannikin.

**Pipits Motacillidae****Australian Pipit***Anthus australis*

Three birds on the Mt Hagen airstrip.

**Annotated Checklist of Mammals Recorded****Grey Dorcopsis***Dorcopsis luctuosa*

One of these shy macropods was seen briefly from the forest interior at Varirata NP.

**Mountain Cuscus***Phalanger carmelitae*

One seen crossing the road at night above Ambua Lodge was a nice find!

**Black-tailed Giant Rat (NG)***Uromys anak*

This massive rat was seen at the feeder at Kumul Lodge nightly!

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