



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Papua New Guinea

New Britain Extension IV

18th to 22nd July 2018 (5 days)

Trip Report



Beach Kingfisher by Gareth Robbins

Trip report and photos compiled by Tour Leader: Gareth Robbins

Tour Summary

Our first full day in New Britain started with us visiting the Kulu River area. As we drove through the oil palm plantations, we had excellent looks at Stephen's Emerald Dove and Black Bittern. Our travels took us to a section of the river where we could spend a productive couple of hours trying to find the various specialities that occur in the area. We started off well, getting views of Nicobar Pigeons, followed by White-mantled Kingfisher, Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeons, Long-tailed Mynas, plenty of Metallic Starlings, the noisy Eclectus Parrots, Purple-bellied Lorays, Rainbow Lorikeets, Blythe's Hornbill, Violaceous and White-necked Coucals, and, after several attempts, we finally managed a decent look at a Black-capped Paradise Kingfisher. We also saw Black Sunbird, Ashy Myzomela, Northern Fantails, Rainbow Bee-eaters, Pacific Baza displaying, and a pair of Common Kingfishers before making our way back to the lodge.



Violaceous Coucals by Gareth Robbins

After lunch, we decided to do some higher elevation birding, and traversed a slippery, muddy path to reach a wonderful clearing. During our time there, we managed great looks at Knob-billed Fruit Dove, Yellowish Imperial Pigeons, Red-flanked Lorikeets, and Blue-eyed Cockatoo, and had fantastic looks at a couple of Blythe's Hornbills. We then made our way back down the slippery path and drove to the nearby Beef Farm, seeing Buff-banded Rail, White-browed Crake, Buff-bellied Mannikins, Papuan Grassbird, and Australian Reed Warbler before calling it a day. After dinner, we spent a decent amount of time looking for Golden Masked Owl, but only had fleeting glimpses.



Black Noddy by Gareth Robbins

The next day had us on a half-day boat trip to visit Restorf and Malu Malu Islands in Kimbe Bay, where we hoped to land some supertramp island species. We came across good numbers of Black Noddies on our way to Restorf Island, and at the island itself, we managed to see plenty of Island Imperial Pigeons, as well as Sclater's Myzomelas. We then headed to Malu Malu Island, where we had views of Mackinlay's Cuckoo-Dove flying in and out of the trees. By this time the wind had picked up, but we still had a few birds to find, so we headed to Little Malu Malu Island and stopped on the sheltered side. It was here that we heard Beach Kingfisher calling, and closer approach landed us some great views of this aquamarine beauty. We then returned to Restorf Island for some more exploring, and managed

to get plenty of looks at the stunning Mangrove Golden Whistler, as well as views of Island Monarch, Eastern Osprey, and White-bellied Sea Eagle. After some enjoyable snorkelling we made our way back to the lodge, stopping at a few exposed reefs to enjoy Pacific Reef Heron, Greater Crested Tern, and some elegant Black-naped Terns. After lunch we visited a couple of habitats, getting decent looks at Amboyna Cuckoo-Doves. We also spotted a Melanesian Megapode along the Kulu River before it got dark.

After a few days in the area, we finally paid a visit to the Garu Wildlife Management Area, which turned out to provide a fantastic morning of birding. We started off with good looks at Ashy Myzomela and Red-banded Flowerpecker. A good number of parrots, lorys, and lorikeets then flew overhead towards a fruiting tree. Representatives included Eclectus Parrots, Purple-bellied Lorys, Red-cheeked, Coconut and Red-flanked Lorikeets, Song Parrot, Buff-faced Pygmy Parrots, and Bismarck Hanging Parrots. A venture into the forest yielded Black-tailed Monarch, Finch's Imperial Pigeon, Velvet Flycatcher, and a highly vocal Pacific Koel. After an exciting morning, we left Garu and re-visited the Beef Farm, getting great flight views of a male King Quail.



Eastern Osprey by Gareth Robbins



Melanesian Megapode by Gareth Robbins

The final afternoon saw us on an exciting walk with 'Boobook Joe' in search of the local New Britain Boobook. After a walk up a steep slope, we finally made it to a place where 'Boobook Joe' pointed out a pair sitting in a tree. We had some great scope views and photos in hand by the time we left. We then took a short drive to another small forest patch, where we got great looks at Blue-eyed Cockatoo, Yellowish Imperial Pigeons, and Eclectus Parrots. After dinner, we went on one last night drive to look for Golden Masked Owl. We finally managed to see one bird, even though it was quite a distance away from us. *Still, a fine way to finish the tour: with success!*

Annotated List of species recorded

Note: Number in brackets () indicate number of days on the tour the species was recorded.
List powered through the report generator of our partner iGoTerra.

Birds (79 in total: 79 seen)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2018. IOC World Bird List (v 8.1).

Status codes: **E** = Endemic, **NE** = Near-endemic, **I** = Introduced

IUCN codes: **CR** = Critically endangered, **EN** = Endangered, **VU** = Vulnerable, **EW** = Extinct in the Wild, **NT** = Near Threatened, **DD** = Data Deficient

Ducks, Geese & Swans *Anatidae*

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa pelewensis*
(3) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7, 1 Walindi Plantation Resort, Kimbe 20.7 and 1 Beef Farm 21.7.

Megapodes *Megapodiidae*

Melanesian Megapode *Megapodius eremita*
(3) 1 Walindi Plantation Resort, Kimbe 18.7, 1 Kilu Ridge 20.7 and 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies *Phasianidae*

King Quail *Excalfactoria chinensis lepida*
(1) 1 Beef Farm 21.7.

Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns *Ardeidae*

Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis australis*
(1) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7.

Nankeen Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*
(3) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7, 1 Kilu Ridge 20.7 and 1 Beef Farm 21.7.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*
(1) 1 Port Moresby 18.7.

Great Egret *Ardea alba modesta*
(2) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7 and 1 Walindi Plantation Resort, Kimbe 20.7.

Pacific Reef Heron *Egretta sacra sacra*
(1) 1 Malu Malu I and Restorf I, 20.7.

Frigatebirds *Fregatidae*

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel ariel*
(2) 1 Malu Malu I and Restorf I, 20.7 and 1 Walindi Plantation Resort, Kimbe 21.7.

Cormorants and Shags *Phalacrocoracidae*

Little Pied Cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleucos melanoleucos*
(1) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7.

Osprey Pandionidae**Eastern Osprey***Pandion cristatus*

(3) 1 Walindi Plantation Resort, Kimbe 19.7, 1 Malu Malu I and Restorf I, 20.7 and 1 Walindi Plantation Resort, Kimbe 21.7.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae**Pacific Baza***Aviceda subcristata*

(1) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7.

Variable Goshawk*Accipiter hiogaster*

(3) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7, 1 Ela Forest, Kimbe 20.7 and 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Brahminy Kite*Haliastur indus*

(3) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7, 1 Malu Malu I and Restorf I, 20.7 and 1 Walindi Plantation Resort, Kimbe 21.7.

White-bellied Sea Eagle*Haliaeetus leucogaster*

(2) 1 Malu Malu I and Restorf I, 20.7 and 1 Beef Farm 21.7.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae**Buff-banded Rail***Gallirallus philippensis*

(2) 1 Beef Farm 19.7 and 1 Beef Farm 21.7.

White-browed Crake*Porzana cinerea*

(2) 1 Beef Farm 19.7 and 1 Beef Farm 21.7.

Australasian Swamphen*Porphyrio melanotus*

(2) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7 and 1 Beef Farm 21.7.

Sandpipers and Allies Scolopacidae**Whimbrel***Numenius phaeopus variegatus*

(1) 1 Walindi Plantation Resort, Kimbe 20.7.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae**Black Noddy***Anous minutus minutus*

(2) 1 observed 20.7 and 1 Walindi Plantation Resort, Kimbe 21.7.

Greater Crested Tern*Thalasseus bergii cristatus*

(1) 1 observed 20.7.

Black-naped Tern*Sterna sumatrana sumatrana*

(1) 1 observed 20.7.

Common Tern*Sterna hirundo longipennis*

(1) 1 observed 20.7.

Pigeons and Doves Columbidae**Amboyna Cuckoo-Dove***Macropygia amboinensis*

(2) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7 and 1 Ela Forest, Kimbe 20.7.

MacKinlay's Cuckoo-Dove*Macropygia mackinlayi arossi*

(1) 1 Malu Malu I and Restorf I, 20.7.

Stephan's Emerald Dove*Chalcophaps stephani*

(3) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7, 1 Malu Malu I and Restorf I, 20.7 and 1 Kilu Ridge 21.7.

- Nicobar Pigeon (NT)** *Caloenas nicobarica nicobarica*
 (2) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7 and 1 Malu Malu I and Restorf I, 20.7.
- Knob-billed Fruit Dove** *Ptilinopus insolitus*
 (2) 1 Ela Forest, Kimbe 19.7 and 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.
- Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeon (NT)** *Ducula rubricera*
 (2) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7 and 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.
- Finsch's Imperial Pigeon (NT)** *Ducula finschii*
 (2) 1 heard Ela Forest, Kimbe 20.7 and 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.
- Island Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula pistrinaria*
 (1) 1 Malu Malu I and Restorf I, 20.7.
- Yellowish Imperial Pigeon (NT)** *Ducula subflavescens*
 (3) 1 Ela Forest, Kimbe 19.7, 1 Malu Malu I and Restorf I, 20.7 and 1 Ela Forest, Kimbe 21.7.

Cuckoos Cuculidae

- White-necked Coucal** *Centropus ateralbus*
 (2) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7 and 1 heard Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.
- Violaceous Coucal (NT)** *Centropus violaceus*
 (1) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7.
- Pacific Koel** *Eudynamys orientalis*
 (1) 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.
- Brush Cuckoo** *Cacomantis variolosus*
 (2) 1 heard Kilu Ridge 19.7 and 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Owls Strigidae

- New Britain Boobook (VU)** *Ninox odiosa*
 (1) 1 Kilu Ridge 21.7.

Treeswifts Hemiprocnidae

- Moustached Treeswift** *Hemiproctne mystacea*
 (3) 1 Ela Forest, Kimbe 19.7, 1 Beef Farm 20.7 and 1 Beef Farm 21.7.

Swifts Apodidae

- Uniform Swiftlet** *Aerodramus vanikorensis*
 (3) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7, 1 Kilu Ridge 20.7 and 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

- Black-capped Paradise Kingfisher** *Tanysiptera nigriceps*
 (2) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7 and 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.
- White-mantled Kingfisher (NT)** *Todiramphus albonotatus*
 (1) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7.
- Collared Kingfisher** *Todiramphus chloris chloris*
 (1) 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.
- Beach Kingfisher** *Todiramphus saurophagus*
 (1) 1 Malu Malu I and Restorf I, 20.7.

Sacred Kingfisher*Todiramphus sanctus sanctus*

(3) 1 Ela Forest, Kimbe 19.7, 1 Malu Malu I and Restorf I, 20.7 and 1 Walindi Plantation Resort, Kimbe 21.7.

Common Kingfisher*Alcedo atthis*

(2) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7 and 1 Kilu Ridge 20.7.

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

(2) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7 and 1 Malu Malu I and Restorf I, 20.7.

Hornbills *Bucerotidae***Blyth's Hornbill***Rhyticeros plicatus*

(3) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7, 1 Ela Forest, Kimbe 20.7 and 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Cockatoos *Cacatuidae***Blue-eyed Cockatoo (VU)***Cacatua ophthalmica*

(2) 1 Ela Forest, Kimbe 19.7 and 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Old World Parrots *Psittaculidae***Buff-faced Pygmy Parrot***Micropsitta pusio*

(1) 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Eclectus Parrot*Eclectus roratus*

(3) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7, 1 Ela Forest, Kimbe 20.7 and 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Song Parrot*Geoffroyus heteroclitus heteroclitus*

(1) 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Red-chinned Lorikeet*Charmosyna rubrigularis*

(1) 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Red-flanked Lorikeet*Charmosyna placensis*

(2) 1 Ela Forest, Kimbe 19.7 and 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Purple-bellied Lory*Lorius hypoinochrous*

(3) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7, 1 Kilu Ridge 20.7 and 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Coconut Lorikeet*Trichoglossus haematodus*

(2) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7 and 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Bismarck Hanging Parrot (NT)*Loriculus tener*

(1) 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Honeyeaters *Meliphagidae***Ashy Myzomela***Myzomela cineracea*

(2) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7 and 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Red Myzomela*Myzomela cruentata*

(1) 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Sclater's Myzomela*Myzomela sclateri*

(1) 1 Malu Malu I and Restorf I, 20.7.

New Britain Friarbird*Philemon cockerelli*

(2) 1 Ela Forest, Kimbe 19.7 and 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Cuckoo-shrikes *Campephagidae*

Black-faced Cuckooshrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*

(1) 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*

(1) 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Whistlers and allies *Pachycephalidae*

Mangrove Golden Whistler *Pachycephala melanura*

(1) 1 Malu Malu I and Restorf I, 20.7.

Drongos *Dicruridae*

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*

(1) 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Fantails *Rhipiduridae*

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys melaleuca*

(3) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7, 1 Kilu Ridge 20.7 and 1 Beef Farm 21.7.

Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris*

(2) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7 and 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Monarchs *Monarchidae*

Black-tailed Monarch *Symposiachrus verticalis*

(1) 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Island Monarch *Monarcha cinerascens*

(1) 1 Malu Malu I and Restorf I, 20.7.

Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*

(1) 1 Malu Malu I and Restorf I, 20.7.

Velvet Flycatcher *Myiagra hebetior*

(1) 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Crows, Jays, and Magpies *Corvidae*

Bismarck Crow *Corvus insularis*

(3) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7, 1 Ela Forest, Kimbe 20.7 and 1 Beef Farm 21.7.

Reed warblers and allies *Acrocephalidae*

Australian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus australis*

(1) 1 Beef Farm 19.7.

Grassbirds and allies *Locustellidae*

Papuan Grassbird *Megalurus macrurus*

(1) 1 Beef Farm 19.7.

Starlings *Sturnidae***Metallic Starling***Aplonis metallica*

(3) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7, 1 Malu Malu I and Restorf I, 20.7 and 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Long-tailed Myna*Mino kreffti*

(2) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7 and 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Flowerpeckers *Dicaeidae***Red-banded Flowerpecker***Dicaeum eximium*

(1) 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Sunbirds and Spiderhunters *Nectariniidae***Black Sunbird***Leptocoma aspasia*

(3) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7, 1 Malu Malu I and Restorf I, 20.7 and 1 Garu Wildlife Management Area 21.7.

Old World Sparrows *Passeridae***Eurasian Tree Sparrow***Passer montanus*

(1) 1 Walindi Plantation Resort, Kimbe 19.7.

Waxbills, Munias and allies *Estrildidae***Buff-bellied Mannikin***Lonchura melaena*

(2) 1 Beef Farm 19.7 and 1 Beef Farm 21.7.

Mammals (1 in total: 1 seen)**Status codes:** E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced**IUCN codes:** CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient**Old World Fruit Bats *Pteropodidae*****Great Flying Fox***Pteropus neohibernicus*

(2) 1 Kilu Ridge 19.7 and 1 Ela Forest, Kimbe 20.7.

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