Papua New Guinea I
Trip Report
4th to 25th July 2016

Tour Leaders: Erik Forsyth & Wayne Jones
Top Ten Birds as voted by the participants:

1) Raggiana Bird-of-paradise  
3) King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise  
5) Brehm’s Tiger Parrot  
7) Ribbon-tailed Astrapia  
9) Emperor Fairywren

2) Blue Bird-of-paradise  
4) Palm Cockatoo  
6) Southern Crowned Pigeon  
8) Greater Bird-of-paradise  
10) Flame Bowerbird

Daily Diary

As most of our group had arrived early, we headed off to the Brown River, an area of lowland swamp forest and woodland. This is a rich birding area, and we soon added exciting species such as Eclectus and Red-cheeked Parrots, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Orange-breasted Fig Parrots, scope looks at the shy Yellow-billed Kingfisher, smart and vocal Rufous-bellied Kookaburra, Shining Flycatcher, a pair of beautiful Golden Monarchs building a nest, the strange Glossy-mantled Manucode - our first Bird-of-paradise, smart Frilled Monarch, Bismarck Crow, Yellow-faced Myna, Papuan Spine-tailed Swift, and after a long search, back and forward, in dense roadside bush, we all had great looks at the stunning Common Paradise Kingfisher. In the afternoon, we visited the Pacific Adventist University, where the various dams and ponds produced superb sightings of Wandering and Plumed Whistling Ducks, Australasian Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, a flock of Pied Heron, a single Raja Shelduck, numerous Comb-crested Jacanas and a surprise White-browed Crake. A casual stroll through the manicured gardens also saw us enjoying Blue-winged Kookaburra, Orange-fronted Fruit Dove, Fawn-breasted Bowerbird, Rufous-banded Honeyeater, Singing Starling, the localised Black-backed Butcherbird, small flocks of Australasian Figbirds and a pair of impressive Papuan Frogmouth were scoped at their day roost - much to everyone’s delight. What a great start to this 2016 tour.

The following morning we journeyed into the mid-elevation forests of Varirata National Park in the Stanley Owen Range of Mountains (950m) near Port Moresby. Our time spent in this species-rich reserve was most enjoyable. First off, we visited a Raggiana Bird-of-paradise lek. After parking the bus, we could hear the male birds calling nearby and after a short walk into the forest, we had our first views of several stunning Raggiana Bird-of-paradise males, perched and with their long tails hanging in the breeze. This is why we had come to this far-off island! After a while, a few female birds arrived and the males increased their calling and twirled around on perches to attract the females. We were treated to a fabulous show, one that is etched in
our memories forever. After this great start we spent the rest of the day traversing the network of trails and forest edges, and were delighted with sightings of the beautiful Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher, Wompoo Fruit Dove, White-crowned Cuckoo, Dwarf Koel, Purple-tailed and Zoe’s Imperial Pigeons, Papuan Black Myzomela, Black Berryecker, Spotted and Frilled Monarchs, Hooded Pitohui (one of the poison birds) and stunning Growling Riflebird calling and dashing through the trees. A Long-tailed Honey Buzzard was seen in flight and fairly close.

On leaving the park that afternoon, we found White-throated Honeyeater, Forest Kingfisher, Coconut Lorikeet, Lemon-bellied Flycatcher and the scarce White-bellied Whistler. A nearby grassland yielded good numbers of both Grey-headed and the scarce Great-billed Munia.

Moving into the highlands, our next stop was the famous Tari Valley. Traditionally known for its warrior tribes and the Huli Wigmen, today it is relatively more peaceful and visited by a few tourist groups. The number of species of Birds-of-paradise in this area is something to behold; we were treated to an incredible nine species during our time here, most of which were visiting a fruiting tree within the lodge grounds. Highlights included views of a splendid male Princess Stephanie’s Astrapia, buzzing around the tree with two female birds - also regular visitors, a female Blue Bird-of-paradise and a male Superb Bird-of-paradise, his metallic-blue frontal shield glowing against the black feathers. No less impressive were Loria’s Satinbird, Lawe’s Parotia and the strange Short-tailed Paradigalla, Bar-tailed and Great Cuckoo-Doves and smart Tit Berryeckers. On the first morning, we heard the Black Sicklebill calling, but it could not be located in the distant trees. Only Sharon managed to find a bird on the last morning.

The following morning, we started our walk on the “Blackmuck Trail” - christened as such by our group, due to the extensive black mud that caked our trousers. It proved to be an excellent trail for birds as the forest opened up (unfortunately, due to logging) and here we found dazzling Yellow-billed Lorikeets, Black-bellied Cuckooshrikes, Fantailed Cuckoo, a pair of Spotted Berryeckers, fabulous looks at White-bibbed Fruit Dove and great views of at least two calling Brown Sicklebills, including a striking male as they glided through the trees. Our main target, though, was heard calling and, after seeing at least three female birds, the shout for a male King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise went up; soon, we were watching a male showing off his head plumes for all to enjoy. Several visits to the Tari Gap area produced great looks at the striking Ribbon-tailed Astrapia, its bizarre tail blowing in the wind (the longest tail in proportion to body size of any bird in the world!), gaudy Papuan Lorikeets – including some dark-morph birds, Crested Berryecker, Yellow-billed Lorikeets, superb views of a Mountain Kingfisher, Yellow-browed and Belford’s Melidectes and strange Blue-capped Ifrit - one of the poison birds. In the lower valleys, we had an
entertaining visit to see the famous Huli Wigmen at a wig school where we learnt some of their traditional customs.

Next, we drove from the Tari Valley to Mt Hagen, the journey was enlivened with sightings of a few Pygmy Eagles, Brown Falcon, Brown Goshawk and Papuan Harriers – all spotted by Yuval, who was clearly very alert!

Mount Hagen is famous for coffee and vegetable growing, and is host to an annual cultural festival comprising songs and dancing which is attended by eighty or more tribes. We headed uphill to our rustic lodge with picturesque views opposite Mt Hagen - one of the highest mountains in Papua New Guinea at 3,500m. The lodge grounds were full of flowering bushes and the trails cloaked in moss-laden trees where birds went about their daily activities. From the lodge balcony we enjoyed our time watching the constant procession of birds coming and going to the bird feeder. Bizarre-looking Brown Sicklebills were often around and Ribbon-tailed Astrapias were a constant delight; a male with his long white streamers was often seen chasing female birds around the garden! Brehm’s Tiger Parrot, Common Smoky Honeyeater, Belford’s Melidectes and Island Thrush were also common sights. A pair of colourful Crested Berrypeckers was seen feeding on fruiting trees around the garden while Rusty-naped Bellbird, White-winged Robin, Red-collared Myzomela and Grey-streaked Honeyeater were regulars. At a fruiting tree near the orchid garden, we were very happy to find a male of the bizarre-looking Wattle Ploughbill allowing great looks as well as a Painted Tiger Parrot feeding overhead. Along the trails, we found Friendly Fantails, Ribbon-tailed Astrapia, Mountain Mouse Warbler, Papuan Lorikeets, Tit-Berrypecker and a few of us had looks at the strange Lesser Melampitta as it hopped over the trail.

The following morning, we drove off, pre-dawn, and hiked down through cultivated fruit and coffee plants, where we came to an opening overlooking a valley. We assembled to watch a splendid show of several male and female Lesser Birds-of-paradise, calling and displaying in trees only a short distance away - fantastic! Red-capped Flowerpecker, Brush Cuckoo and Mountain Myzomela were also seen. After a magical time with the Lesser BoPs, we drove to the lower-lying Lae River where we found Yellow-breasted Bowerbird, Ornate Melidectes and Brown Falcon. A Torrent Flyrobin was watched hawking bugs along the Lae River. Back at the lodge that afternoon, a strikingly plumaged, male Crested Satinbird was seen near the rooms, but only by a few of us, while a female was seen in the carpark the next day.

After lunch on one of the days at Mt Hagen, we visited a new trail, on the road to Mt Giluwe. This proved to be very productive with Brown Sicklebill, Black-breasted Boatbill, brief looks at the...
scarce Mottled Berryhunter and King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise all being seen.

Bidding farewell to the highlands, we then made our way to Tabubil - at the foot of the Star Mountains bordering West Papua (previously known as Irian Jaya). Here, at a much lower altitude (700m), and with a very high rainfall, there were many new species of birds associated with the lowlands. Tabubil is a small mining town (mainly gold and iron) and the only site en route for Queen Carola’s Parotia. Very early the following morning, we walked up the steep Dablin Creek pipeline road and based ourselves near the top for a few hours. The birding was exciting but slow and included good scope looks at Mountain Peltops, Grey-headed Cuckooshrikes, Green-backed Honeyeater, White-eared Bronze Cuckoo, Puff-backed Honeyeater and the strange Obscure Berrypecker. The best bird today was the male Magnificent Bird-of-paradise, seen well as it fed on flowering plants, but alas, no parotia.

In the afternoon, at the nearby hydro plant, Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Scrub Honeyeater and Black Butcherbird were scoped. Eclectus Parrots and Dusky Lorikeets were seen flying overhead but best of all was the pair of Pesquet’s Parrots found on a high ridge by Edward and watched through the scope. A great find of this rather scarce species.

On our second visit to Dablin Creek, we scored with views of a stunning male Queen Carola’s Parotia - watched through the scope for a few minutes – while both male and female Magnificent Birds-of-paradise also showed well. A content group of birders headed to our hotel for lunch. We had done well and found the birds we were after.

After lunch, we drove south to the true lowlands around Kiunga, first stopping en route along the forested roadside. We managed to find a few species including Orange-breasted Fig Parrots, Black Sunbird, stunning Golden Monarch, Yellow-faced Myna and tiny Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrots were seen in flight. In the late afternoon, we drove into Kiunga, a busy harbour town, where several large container ships docked. Due to its depth, ships can navigate up the Fly River from the Arafura Sea bringing much-needed mining and food supplies.

On the following morning, we headed out early to Boyestown Road, an area of humid Lowland Forest. Notable species seen during our time here included Zoe’s, Pinon’s Imperial Pigeons, Pink-spotted and Orange-bellied Fruit Doves, Eclectus and Red-cheeked Parrots, Black-
capped and Yellowish-streaked Lories, Moustached Treeswift, Glossy-mantled Manucode, Red-flanked Lorikeets, Grey-headed Goshawk and a dazzling male Flame Bowerbird in flight! In the afternoon, we drove to KM 17. Here we walked along a pristine forest trail (made famous by David Attenborough) first stopping at a tall tree, where a male King Bird-of-paradise was calling and performing well. After placing our scopes, we all enjoyed great looks of this spectacular, tiny, bird-of-paradise - we could even marvel at his metallic-green spiralled tail. After this success, we walked further along the trail, arriving at a display area of Greater Bird-of-paradise, where we were treated to an absolutely marvellous show. A few males were seen displaying and calling loudly to attendant females, high up in a tree, and we watched them in total awe.

From Kiunga, we took an exciting boat trip up the huge Fly River, passing several fishing vessels before taking a side channel to the quieter Elevala River. The rain had been constant all morning and when it eased off the birds became active. Huge Blyth’s Hornbills were often seen in small flocks; while sightings of Collared and Pinon’s Imperial Pigeons, Long-tailed Honey Buzzard, Shining Flycatcher, several noisy Channel-billed Cuckoos, Glossy-mantled Manucode, Rufous-bellied Kookaburra, various parrots including Eclectus and Black-capped, Pacific Koel, the strange Grey Crow, huge Palm Cockatoos and – best of all – the highly sought-after Southern Crowned Pigeon (a pair was watched at length, their dazzling head-crests much admired) were also had. At midday, we arrived at our lodge and after settling in we had our packed lunch. In the afternoon, we took a boat trip down the river before disembarking and walking to a patch of sago swamp. We spent a fair bit of time at a hide, hoping for the New Guinea Flightless Rail to appear, but alas, no sighting. That night, despite the rain, we found two Marbled Frogmouths that allowed fabulous looks. The following morning, near our camp, we could hear the bizarre-looking Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise calling atop his display pole, but as we ventured closer, he flew and all we saw was a yellow and black bird disappear across the river. From our camp, we walked trails where we were treated to some very special sightings which included four more Southern Crowned Pigeons, stunning scope looks at Little Paradise Kingfisher, a pair of Large Fig Parrots at a nest hole, more Palm Cockatoos, Flame Bowerbirds were seen by some, Beautiful Fruit Dove, Golden Myna and Lowland Peltops. After lunch and an enjoyable stay, we waved goodbye to our friendly camp staff and headed back along the river to Kiunga, arriving in the late afternoon.

On our final morning in this area, we ventured back down the Boyestown Road, where we shared the roadside bank with another birding group. Here, we recorded Metallic Pigeon, Grey-headed Goshawk, Papuan Spine-tailed Swift, Yellow-billed Kingfisher, Flame Bowerbird, Greater Bird-of-paradise and a distant female Magnificent Riflebird - seen well through the scope. So many highlights, too many to mention! This brought another fabulous tour in one of the most remarkable birding destinations in the world to an end.
Annotated Checklists of Birds


Key to abbreviations
NG – endemic to New Guinea
PNG – endemic to Papua New Guinea
NE – near endemic to New Guinea
H – heard only

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae
Plumed Whistling Duck  
*Dendrocygna eytoni*
Up to twenty –five of these beautifully feathered birds were seen at the Pacific Adventist University (PAU).

Wandering Whistling Duck  
*Dendrocygna arcuata*
Smaller numbers were found at PAU on two visits.

Salvadori’s Teal  
*Salvadorina waigiensis*
Yuval spotted a pair flying along the Lai River at dawn.

Raja Shelduck  
*Tadorna radjah*
A singleton of this scarce species was found at a quiet pond at the PAU. A great find and not recorded every year!

Pacific Black Duck  
*Anas superciliosa*
Small numbers were seen at PAU.

Megapodes Megapodiidae
Black-billed (Yellow-legged) Brushturkey (NG) (H)  
*Talegalla fuscirostris*
Heard regularly in lowland areas at Brown River, Varirata NP and around Kiunga.

Grebes Podicipedidae
Australasian Grebe  
*Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*
An adult and juvenile were seen at PAU.

Ibis and Spoonbills
Australian White Ibis  
*Threskiornis molucca*
Three birds were seen at PAU.

Straw-necked Ibis  
*Threskiornis spinicollis*
This is a common Australian visitor to the Trans-fly area of southern New Guinea but a vagrant to the Port Moresby area. Three birds were seen at the PAU.

Herons, Bitterns Ardeidae
Nankeen (Rufous) Night Heron  
*Nycticorax caledonicus*
Five were seen at the PAU and a singleton on the Elevala River.

Striated Heron  
*Butorides striata*
A singleton was seen on the Kwatu River at Kiunga.

NOTE: Clements includes a full twenty-nine subspecies under this species. The only split recognized is the Green Heron (B. virescens) of North and Central America. IOC splits B. striata into three species, Striated Heron (B. striata), Green Heron (B. virescens) and Lava Heron (B. sundevalli)
Eastern Cattle Egret  
*Bubulcus coromandus*

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

*NOTE: Note: IOC splits B. ibis into B. ibis (Western Cattle Egret) and B. coromandus (Eastern Cattle Egret), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, B. ibis (Cattle Egret).*

Great-billed Heron  
*Ardea sumatrana*

The front boat found a singleton of this scarce heron along the Elevala River near Kiunga. This is a highly sought after and rare inhabitant of Lowland swamp forests.

Great Egret  
*Ardea modesta*

Seen in small numbers in the lowlands.

Intermediate (Yellow-billed) Egret  
*Egretta intermedia*

Small numbers were seen at the PAU.

*NOTE: This group may be split into 3 species, the Africa Yellow-billed Egret (E. brachyrhyncha), Plumed Egret (E. plumifera) and the nominate Intermediate Egret. This split is as yet not recognized by Clements or IOC.*

Pied Heron  
*Egretta picata*

A high number of thirty were seen at PAU on our first visit and a singleton was recorded on our second visit.

Little Egret  
*Egretta garzetta*

Three birds were seen at the PAU.

*NOTE: Clements lumps Little, Western Reef (E. gularis) and Madagascar’s Dimorphic (E. dimorpha) Egret into a single species. This treatment is not widely accepted as IOC accepts all three splits.*

**Pelicans Pelicanidae**

Australian Pelican  
*Pelecanus conspicillatus*

Yuval spotted small flocks from our plane before we landed in Port Moresby.

** Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae**

Little Pied Cormorant  
*Microcarbo melanoleucos*

Good numbers at the PAU.

Little Black Cormorant  
*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Common at PAU.

**Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae**

Pacific Baza (Crested Hawk)  
*Aviceda subcristata*

This attractive raptor was first seen at Brown River and thereafter in the Kiunga and Elevala River areas.

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

A good tour for this species with 7 sightings. We had excellent sightings of these distinctive raptors seen in flight at Varirata NP, in Tabubil and around Kiunga.

Papuan Eagle  
*Harpyopsis novaeguineae*

A few of us were very lucky to see a bird fly off from a heavily foliaged tree in Varirata NP after being harassed by a Glossy-mantled Manucode. Wow!

Pygmy Eagle  
*Hieraaetus weiski*

Yuval found two separate birds, of this seldom recorded species, on our drive from the Tari Valley to Mt Hagen.

Gurney’s Eagle  
*Aquila gurneyi*

A singleton of this seldom recorded species was seen sunbathing on a cliff at Tabubil. A good find.
Variable (Grey) Goshawk  
*Accipiter hiogaster*
Widespread and seen in the Port Moresby area, at Tabubil and along the Elevala River and Kiunga area.

Brown Goshawk  
*Accipiter fasciatus*
This scarce raptor was seen at Brown River and in the Tari area.

Black-mantled Goshawk (NG)  
*Accipiter melanochlamys*
A brief view for some along the road at the Tari Valley. This is a scarce forest resident.

Grey-headed Goshawk (NG)  
*Accipiter poliocephalus*
We had good views along the Elevala River and scope views at Boyestown Road. This is a scarce resident.

Meyer’s Goshawk (NG)  
*Accipiter cirrocephalus*
A single bird was seen very well and even scoped en route to the Tari Gap. A scarce resident and seldom recorded.

Papuan (Swamp) Harrier (NG)  
*Circus spilothorax*
A male was found by Franta at the Tari Gap with further sightings on our drive from the Tari Valley to Mt Hagen as well as a stunning male at MT Hagen airstrip.

*Note: IOC splits C. spilonotus into C. spilonotus (Eastern Marsh Harrier) and C. spilothorax (Papuan Harrier), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, C. spilonotus (Eastern Marsh Harrier).*

Black Kite  
*Milvus migrans*
Up to twenty birds were seen daily in the Mt. Hagen area and one or two per day in the Port Moresby region.

Whistling Kite  
*Haliastur sphenurus*
Regular sightings in the Port Moresby area.

Brahminy Kite  
*Haliastur indus*
Seen regularly throughout the tour with especially nice views during our river boat trip.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle  
*Haliaeetus leucogaster*
Three of these huge eagles were seen well on the Fly River near Kiunga.

Rails, Crakes & Coots  
*Rallidae*

Buff-banded Rail  
*Gallirallus philippensis*
A single bird was seen running across the road at Kiunga.

White-browed Crake  
*Porzana cinerea*
A single bird was found at the PAU. A seldom recorded species.

Australasian Swamphen  
*Porphyrio porphyrio*
Great views at the PAU and at Brown River.

*Note: This cosmopolitan species is currently in taxonomic review and several forms are expected to be recognised as distinct species. The form we recorded would then become Black-backed or Australasian Swamphen (P. melanotus) The IOC splits P. porphyrio into P. porphyrio (Purple Swamphen) and P. madagascariensis (African Swamphen), whereas Clements only recognizes one species.*

Dusky Moorhen  
*Gallinula tenebrosa*
Recorded at the PAU.

Plovers & Lapwings  
*Charadriidae*

Masked Lapwing  
*Vanellus miles*
We had superb views at PAU, with further sightings at Port Moresby and Mt Hagen airports.
Jacanas  

**Jacanidae**

Comb-crested Jacana  
*Irediparra gallinacea*

Several of these attractive birds were seen well at the PAU.

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**Pigeons, Doves  
Columbidae**

Rock Dove (Pigeon)  
*Columba livia*

Recorded at a few of the bigger towns.

Amboyna Cuckoo-Dove  
*Macropygia amboinensis*

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

Bar-tailed Cuckoo-Dove (NE)  
*Macropygia nigrrostris*

Seen mostly in the highlands at a fruiting tree in Ambua lodge, Tari Valley, Mt. Hagen and Tabubil.

Great Cuckoo-Dove (NE)  
*Reinwardtoena reinwardtii*

Great looks in a fruiting tree in the Tari Valley.

Pacific Emerald Dove (NE)  
*Chalcophaps longirostris rogersi*

Three flybys at the Brown River and heard in Kiunga.

Peaceful Dove  
*Geopelia placida*

Several of these widespread birds were seen at the PAU.

Bar-shouldered Dove  
*Geopelia humeralis*

A singleton was seen well and three in flight at the PAU. Recorded briefly on our second visit.

Southern Crowned Pigeon (NG)  
*Goura scheepmakeri*

Always one of the main target birds for this area. First found by Edward in the forest at KM 17 with further sightings along the Elevala River where we enjoyed fantastic prolonged views of three birds before dusk. A further four were seen on the Elevala River before our return to Kiunga. A huge surprise was a bird found at Boyestown Road.

Wompoo Fruit Dove  
*Ptilinopus magnificus*

Brief but good looks in Varirata NP and heard in the Kiunga area.

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

First seen at Varirata NP with further sightings at Brown River and at Kiunga.

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

Three birds were seen at the PAU allowing great scope looks.

Superb Fruit Dove  
*Ptilinopus superbus*

Great scope looks at Ok Menga, Tabubil. A good find by Samuel.

Beautiful Fruit Dove  
*Ptilinopus pulchellus*

We had good views of several of these stunning birds at the Brown River, Tabubil and near the fishing camp at Kiunga.

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

Excellent scope views at Ambua Lodge, Tari.

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

Good numbers were seen in the Kiunga area and at Brown River.

Dwarf Fruit Dove (NG)  
*Ptilinopus nanus*

We recorded the tiny dove at Kiunga.

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

Good looks for some at the Elevala River and at Varirata NP.

Pinon Imperial Pigeon (NG)  
*Ducula pinon*

A single bird was seen at the Brown River, thereafter we observed several daily in the Kiunga and Elevala areas.
Collared (Black-collared) Imperial Pigeon (NG)  
*Ducula mullerii*
Fairly common along the Elevala and Fly rivers where we had good views.

Zoe's Imperial Pigeon (NG)  
*Ducula zoeae*
Small numbers of this species with its distinctive black chest band were encountered at Varirata NP, Brown River, around Kiunga and along the Elevala River.

Torresian Imperial Pigeon  
*Ducula spilorrhoa*
Good flight views at the PAU and perched at Brown River.
*Note: IOC splits D. spilorrhoa into D. spilorrhoa (Torresian Imperial Pigeon) and D. subflavescens (Yellowish Imperial Pigeon), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, D. spilorrhoa (Torresian Imperial Pigeon).*

Papuan Mountain Pigeon (NE)  
*Gymnophaps albertisii*
Widespread and sometimes seen in large flocks, not only in the mountains but also in lowland areas.

**Cuckoos  Cuculidae**

Ivory-billed (Greater Black) Coucal (NG)  
*Centropus menbeki*
Heard at the Brown River and at Kiunga, a single bird was seen by a few of the group as it disappeared in a creeper high up in a tree.

Pheasant Coucal  
*Centropus phasianinus*
Recorded at Varirata NP and several at the Brown River.

Dwarf Koel (NG)  
*Microdynamis parva*
A female bird was enjoyed as we had prolonged scoped looks at Varirata NP.

Pacific (Australian) Koel  
*Eudynamys orientalis*
We enjoyed good views along the Elevala River and at Boyestown Road, Kiunga.

Channel-billed Cuckoo  
*Scythrops novaehollandiae*
Recorded on both boat trips along the Fly River and a singleton at Boyestown Road. This is an wintering species from Australia.

Rufous-throated Bronze Cuckoo  
*Chrysococcyx ruficolis*
Good scope looks at two in the Tari Valley. One was seen eating several caterpillars.

White-eared Bronze Cuckoo (NG)  
*Chrysococcyx meyerii*
We enjoyed good views of this attractive cuckoo at Dablin Creek Road, Tabubil.

Little Bronze Cuckoo  
*Chrysococcyx minutillus poecilurus*
One bird was seen very well at Kwatu Camp and at the Boyestown Road, Kiunga.
*Note: The IOC only recognizes one species, C.minutillus, Little Bronze Cuckoo and eleven subspecies. The form we saw was C. minutillus poecilurus occurring on coastal New Guinea.*

White-crowned Cuckoo  
*Cacomantis leucolophus*
Fabulous scope looks were had at Varirata NP, at the Raggiana Birds-of-paradise lek.

Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo  
*Cacomantis castaneiventris*
Good looks for some at Varirata NP and at Tabubil.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo (NE)  
*Cacomantis flabelliformis*
Two were seen well in the Tari Valley.

Brush Cuckoo  
*Cacomantis variolosus*
A common bird that was frequently heard and occasionally seen.
*Note: IOC splits C. variolosus into C. variolosus (Brush Cuckoo) and C. sepulcralis (Rusty-breasted Cuckoo), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, C. variolosus (Brush Cuckoo).*

**Barn Owls- Tytonidae**

Greater Sooty Owl  
*Tyto tenebricosa*
A pair were seen well at Ambua Lodge, in the Tari Valley. Also heard at Kumul Lodge, Mt Hagen.
**Owls Strigidae**

**Papuan Boobook (NG) (H)** *Ninox theomacha*
Heard only at Ambua Lodge, Tari Valley, Tabubil and at Kumul Lodge, Mt Hagen.

**Frogmouths Podargidae**

**Marbled Frogmouth** *Podargus ocellatus*
Two calling birds were seen well at the fishing camp on the Elevala River.

**Papuan Frogmouth** *Podargus papuensis*
A pair and juvenile were found roosting at the PAU on two visits. We scoped these impressive birds in intimate detail. A different bird was also located on a nest at the Brown River.

**Owlet-nightjars Aegothelidae**

**Feline Owlet-nightjar (NG)** *Aegotheles bennettii*
A single bird was heard calling and then seen by Wayne as it flew past. Unfortunately, everyone was looking in the opposite direction.

**Mountain Owlet-nightjar (H)** *Aegotheles albertisi*
Heard only at Kumul Lodge, Mt Hagen.

**Treeswifts Hemiprocnidae**

**Moustached Treeswift (NE)** *Hemiprocne mystacea*
A pair were admired at Tabubil and two pairs were seen in the Kiunga area.

**Swifts Apodidae**

**Glossy Swiftlet** *Collocalia esculenta*
Seen almost daily especially in the hills and mountains.

**Mountain Swiftlet (NG)** *Aerodramus hirundinaceus*
This endemic was also common through our time in the higher areas of the tour.

**Uniform Swiftlet** *Aerodramus vanikorensis*
Very common in the lowlands and hills, were seen daily.

*Note: IOC only recognizes one species, A. vanikorensis (Uniform Swiftlet), whereas Clements splits A. vanikorensis into A. vanikorensis (Uniform Swiftlet) and A. palawanensis (Palawan Swiftlet).*

**Papuan Spine-tailed Swift (NG)** *Mearnsia novaeguineae*
Small numbers were seen very well in the Kiunga area and along the Elevala River.

**Rollers Coraciidae**

**Oriental Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis*
Excellent looks at Brown River, in the Kiunga area and especially along the Fly and Elevala Rivers.

**Kingfishers Alcedinidae**

**Hook-billed Kingfisher (NG) (H)** *Melidora macrorrhina*
One of New Guinea’s most elusive kingfishers, we heard it at close range at Tabubil and at the fishing camp, Kiunga.

**Common (Galatea) Paradise Kingfisher (NE)** *Tanysiptera galatea*
Three of these stunners were seen at the Brown River. Also heard along the Elevala River, where it was vocal but would not show.
Little Paradise Kingfisher (NG)  
*Tanysiptera hydrocharis*
Good scope views of this attractive and scarce species in the Elevala River forest area.

Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher (PNG)  
*Tanysiptera danae*
We were thrilled to obtain great scope views of a bird at Varirata NP.

Shovel-billed Kookaburra (NG) (H)  
*Clytoceyx rex*
Heard calling late afternoon in the Tabubil area.

Blue-winged Kookaburra  
*Dacelo leachii*
Several of these massive kingfishers were seen in Varirata NP and at Brown River.

Rufous-bellied Kookaburra (NG)  
*Dacelo gaudichaud*
Seen and heard in the lowlands and hills on several different days including stunning views of a pair at the Brown River.

Forest Kingfisher  
*Todiramphus macleayii*
We had superb views at Brown River and at Varirata NP.

Sacred Kingfisher  
*Todiramphus sanctus*
This common wintering bird from Australia was widespread and frequently seen in the lowlands and hills.

Yellow-billed Kingfisher (NE)  
*Syma torotoro*
We enjoyed superb views of this species at Brown River, Varirata NP and at Boyestown Road, Kiunga.

Mountain Kingfisher (NG)  
*Syma megarhyncha*
Great scope views were enjoyed in the Tari Valley. This is a difficult bird to find!

Papuan Dwarf Kingfisher (H)  
*Ceyx solitaries*
Heard along the forested stream in Varirata NP.

Azure Kingfisher  
*Ceyx azureus*
A pair were seen along the Elevala River near Kiunga.

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**Bee-eaters Meropidae**

Rainbow Bee-eater  
*Merops ornatus*
This Australasian migrant was fairly common throughout the tour, especially in the lowlands.

**Hornbills Bucerotidae**

Blyth's Hornbill  
*Rhyticeros plicatus*
First recorded at Varirata NP near Port Moresby. Thereafter, this species was found at Tabubil and along the Elevala and Fly rivers, and at Kiunga where we had good perched and flight views.

Brown Falcon  
*Falco berigora*
Yuval found a soaring pair on our drive from the Tari Valley to Mt Hagen. Another bird was scoped near the Lai River at Mt Hagen.

**Cockatoos Cacatuidae**

Palm Cockatoo (NE)  
*Probosciger aterrimus*
We enjoyed fantastic perched and flight looks at this impressive parrot along the Elevala River.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo  
*Cacatua galerita*
Observed in the lowlands of Port Moresby and in the hills at Tabubil as well as along the Fly River where it was fairly common.
Parrots Psittacidae

Pesquet’s Parrot  
*Psittichas fulgidus*
We had incredible scope views of a pair of this scarce parrot at Tabubil. Great find Edward!

Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot (NG)  
*Alisterus chloropterus*
Small flocks were seen in the Kiunga area but always appeared as tiny specs flying away!

Papuan King Parrot  
*Psittacula brehmii*
A male was seen in flight at Ambua Lodge, Tari Valley and three birds were seen well at Variarata NP. A shy and elusive species.

Eclectus Parrot (NE)  
*Eclectus roratus*
These attractive parrots were first seen at Brown River, Tabubil and lastly in Kiunga.

Red-cheeked Parrot (NE)  
*Geoffroyus geoffroyi*
Common throughout the tour in lowland areas with our first sighting at the Varirata NP.

Brehm’s Tiger Parrot (NG)  
*Psittacula brehmii*
Seen daily at Kumul Lodge, most often feeding obligingly on the fruit at the bird feeder. This is the largest and most common tiger parrot but it is always charming to watch.

Painted Tiger Parrot  
*Psittacula picta*
Great looks at a male of this species as it fed in a tree at Kumul Lodge, Mt Hagen.

Plum-faced (Whiskered) Lorikeet (NG)  
*Oreopsittacus arfaki*
A pair were seen at the Tari Gap.

Red-flanked Lorikeet (NE)  
*Charmosyna placensis*
Good views at Tabubil and fabulous looks at close feeding birds in a fruiting tree on Boyestown Road in the Kiunga area. Lastly, a small flock flew over the road on the Brown River.

Note: IOC only recognizes one species, *C. placensis*, whereas Clements splits *C. placensis* into *C. placensis* (Red-flanked Lorikeet) and *C. diadema* (New Caledonian Lorikeet).

Papuan Lorikeet (NG)  
*Charmosyna papou*
Small numbers were seen in the mountains including some dark-morph birds; this must rate as one of the world’s most beautiful parrots!

Yellow-billed Lorikeet (NG)  
*Neopsittacus msschenbroekii*
Good numbers were seen in the Tari and Mt Hagen areas.

Black-capped Lory (NG)  
*Lorius lory*
This gorgeous bird was common through the lowlands and hills in small numbers.

Yellowish-streaked Lory (NG)  
*Chalcopsitta sintillata*
Several birds were seen at Brown River, in the Kiunga area and along the Elevala River.

Dusky Lory (NG)  
*Pseudeos fuscata*
Small flocks were seen flying overhead over two days in the Tabubil area.

Coconut (Rainbow) Lorikeet  
*Trichoglossus haematodus*
Common and widespread in the lowlands and hills.

Note: IOC splits *T. haematodus* into *T. rosenbergii* (Biak Lorikeet), *T. moluccanus* (Rainbow Lorikeet) and *T. rubritorquis* (Red-collared Lorikeet), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, *T. haematodus* (Rainbow Lorikeet).

Large Fig Parrot  
*Psittaculirostris desmarestii*
Fabulous scope looks at a pair at a nest near Kwatu Fishing camp, Kiunga.

Orange-breasted Fig Parrot (NG)  
*Clycopsitta gulelmitertii*
Fairly common in the lowlands and foothills, especially in the Kiunga area where we scoped numerous birds at Kwatu camp. Also recorded at Brown River.

Double-eyed Fig Parrot  
*Clycopsitta diophthalma*
Great scope looks at Boyestown Road and several birds in flight on the Elevala River.

Bowerbirds  Ptilonorhynchidae

Flame Bowerbird (NG)  Sericulus ardens
A stunningly plumaged male and several females were seen flying over Boyestown Road and Fly River near Kiunga, much to everyone’s delight.

*Note: IOC splits S. aureus into S. aureus (Masked Bowerbird) and S. ardens (Flame Bowerbird), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, S. aureus (Flame Bowerbird).*

Yellow-breasted Bowerbird (NG)  Chlamydera lauterbachii
We enjoyed great views at the Lai River near Mt Hagen.

Fawn-breasted Bowerbird (NE)  Chlamydera cerviniventris
Good views were had at the PAU where we also attended an active bower.

Australasian Wrens  Maluridae

Emperor Fairywren (NG)  Malurus cyanoccephalus
A pair of this shy species was seen very well at Boyestown road, Kiunga.

White-shouldered Fairywren (NG)  Malurus alboscapulatus
Fairly widespread and seen at several sites below Kumul Lodge, at Varirata, and in the Kiunga lowlands.

Honeyeaters  Meliphagidae

Dusky Myzomela  Myzomela obscura
A single bird was seen at Tabubil.

Red Myzomela  Myzomela cruentata
A strikingly plumaged male of this rare hill-forest honeyeater was seen at Dablin Creek Road, Tabubil.

(Papuan) Black Myzomela (NG)  Myzomela nigrita
Recorded at Dablin Creek, Tabubil.

Red-collared Myzomela (NG)  Myzomela rosenbergii
We enjoyed several sightings of this very attractive honeyeater at a flowering tree in the Tari Valley and in flowering trees at Kumul Lodge, Mt Hagen.

Green-backed Honeyeater  Glycichaera fallax
A single bird was seen at Dablin Creek, Tabubil.

Rufous-backed Honeyeater (PNG)  Ptiloprora guisei
Recorded daily in the Tari Valley.

Grey-streaked Honeyeater (NG)  Ptiloprora perstriata
Recorded daily in the Tari Valley and at Mt Hagen.

Plain Honeyeater (NG)  Pycnopygius ixoides
Recorded at Boyestown Road, Kiunga.

Streak-headed Honeyeater (NG)  Pycnopygius stictocephalus
Seen at Brown River, Tabubul and around Kiunga.

Tawny-breasted Honeyeater (NE)  Xanthotis flaviventer
Common in lowlands and hills, this species was seen on several days in the Tabubil and Kiunga areas.

Meyer’s Friarbird  Philemon meyeri
Good scope views were had at Boyestown Road Kiunga.

New Guinea (Helmeted) Friarbird  Philemon novaeguineae
Common in the lowlands, where recorded throughout the tour.

*Note: IOC splits P. buceroides into P. buceroides (Helmeted Friarbird), P. novaeguineae (New Guinea Friarbird) and P. yorki (Hornbill Friarbird), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, P. buceroides (Helmeted Friarbird).*

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Rockjumper Birding Tours
White-throated Honeyeater  
*Melithreptus albogularis*

We enjoyed great views in Varirata NP.

Long-billed Honeyeater  
*Melilestes megarhynchus*

Good scope looks at Dablin Creek, Tabubil.

Common Smoky Honeyeater (NG)  
*Melipotes fumigatus*

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

Rufous-banded Honeyeater (NE)  
*Conopophila albogularis*

Several birds were found at the PAU.

Black-throated Honeyeater (NG)  
*Lichenostomus subfrenatus*

This canopy-loving species was seen well at a flowering tree near the Tari Gap. Herad at Mt Hagen.

Yellow-browed Melidectes (NG)  
*Melidectes rufocrissalis*

Fairly common at our lodge in the Tari Valley.

Belford's Melidectes (NG)  
*Melidectes belfordi*

This common but striking species was seen at high elevations.

Ornate Melidectes (NG)  
*Melidectes torquatus*

A few were seen near the Lai River, Mt Hagen.

Yellow-tinted Honeyeater (NE)  
*Lichenostomus flavescens*

Two were seen in Port Moresby.

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

Good views at the Lesser BOP site and Lai River, Mt Hagen.

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

Several were seen on the Dablin Creek Road, Tabubil.

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

Several sightings at Varirata NP.

Elegant Honeyeater  
*Meliphaga cinereifrons*

Recorded at the Brown River and at Boyestown Road, Kiunga.

Puff-backed Honeyeater (NG)  
*Meliphaga aruensis*

Good scope looks at two birds attracted to flowering shrubs at Dablin Creek, Tabubil.

### Australasian Warblers  *Acanthizidae*

**Goldenface**  
*Pachycare flavogriseum*

Heard only at Varirata NP.

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

This elusive species was heard at Varirata NP and Dablin Creek, Tabubil.

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

Great views were had at Kumul Lodge, Mt Hagen.

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

We had good views of a single bird in Varirata NP.

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

Seen daily in the Tari Valley and a few at Mt Hagen.

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

We enjoyed good views of several groups at Kumul Lodge at Mt Hagen.

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

A single bird was seen near the Tari Gap.
Brown-breasted Gerygone (NG)  
*Gerygone ruficollis*  
Heard in the mountains at Tari Valley and Mt Hagen.

Large-billed Gerygone  
*Gerygone magnirostris*  
A pair was seen near Kwatu Camp along the Elevala River.

Yellow-bellied Gerygone (NG)  
*Gerygone chrysogaster*  
A bird of the lowlands, seen in Varirata NP and another along a forest trail near Kiunga.

Green-backed Gerygone (NE)  
*Gerygone chloronotus*  
Its distinctive song was heard frequently in the lowlands and hills and a pair were seen at Dablin Creek, Tabubil.

White-throated Gerygone  
*Gerygone olivacea*  
A single bird was seen well at the Brown River.

**Australasian Babblers  Pomatostomidae**

Papuan Babbler (NG)  
*Garritornis isidorei*  
Good looks at four birds flying low across Boyestown Road in the Kiunga area.

**Satinbirds  Cnemophilidae**

Loria's Satinbird (Bird-of-paradise) (NG)  
*Cnemophilus loriae*  
Great scope views of males and females at a fruiting tree in the Tari Valley.

Crested Satinbird (Bird-of-paradise) (NG)  
*Cnemophilus macgregorii*  
First a striking male was seen by a few of us near the cabins and then a female in the carpark at Kumul Lodge, Mt Hagen.

**Berrypeckers, longbills  Melanocharitidae**

Obscure Berrypecker (NG)  
*Melanochari arfakiana*  
Four of these unusual species were seen attending a flowering plant on Dablin Creek Road, Tabubil.

Black Berrypecker (NG)  
*Melanocharis nigra*  
Good looks on two visits to Varirata NP.

Fan-tailed Berrypecker (NG)  
*Melanocharis versteri*  
Fairly common this year with almost daily sightings in the highlands including some stellar males.

Spotted Berrypecker  
*Rhamphocharis crassirostris*  
A pair were seen very well at a flowering tree at Ambua lodge, Tari Valley.

Dwarf Longbill (Honeyeater) (NG) (H)  
*Oedistoma iliolophus*  
Heard at Varirata NP.

Yellow-bellied Longbill (NG) (H)  
*Toxorhamphus novaeguineae*  
Heard at Boyestown Road, Kiunga.

**Painted Berrypeckers  Paramythiidae**

Tit Berrypecker (NG)  
*Oreocharis arfaki*  
Excellent scope looks at a small flock daily at Ambua Lodge, Tari Valley.

Crested Berrypecker (NG)  
*Paramythia montium*  
Single birds were seen at the Tari Gap and at Kumul Lodge.

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

Blue Jewel-babbler (NG) (H)  
*Ptilorrhoa caerulescens*  
Heard calling at Boyestown Road, Kiunga.
Note: IOC splits P. caerulescens into P. caerulescens (Blue Jewel-babbler) and P. geislerorum (Brown-headed Jewel babbler), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, P. caerulescens (Blue Jewel-babbler).

**Chestnut-backed Jewel-Babbler (NG) (H)**  
Ptilorrhoa castanonota
Heard only at Dablin Creek road, Tabubil.

**Painted Quail-thrush (NG)**  
Cinclosoma ajax
A bird was heard calling and then seen by some as it flew across the track in Varirata NP.

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**Boatbills Machaerirhynchidae**

*Yellow-breasted Boatbill*  
Machaerirhynchus flaviventer
Heard only at Varirata NP.

*Black-breasted Boatbill (NG)*  
Machaerirhynchus nigripectus
This attractive species was seen at a forested track near Mt Hagen.

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**Woodswallows, Butcherbirds & Allies Artamidae**

*White-breasted Woodswallow*  
Artamus leucorynchus
Recorded in the Port Moresby area and lowlands.

*Great Woodswallow (NG)*  
Artamus maximus
Conspicuous at the Tari Valley, Mt Hagen and at Tabubil.

*Lowland Peltops (NG)*  
Peltops blainvillii
Great views at around Kiunga.

*Mountain Peltops (NG)*  
Peltops montanus
Seen daily at Ambua lodge in the Tari Valley and at Dablin Creek Road, Tabubil.

*Black Butcherbird*  
Cracticus quoyi
We had superb views of vocal birds in the Tabubil area. Heard in Kiunga.

*Black-backed Butcherbird (NE)*  
Cracticus mentalis
Two of these localised birds were seen at the PAU.

*Hooded Butcherbird (NG)*  
Cracticus cassicus
Conspicuous, by both sight and sound, at Varirata, Tabubil and around Kiunga.

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**Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae**

*Black-faced Cuckooshrike*  
Coracina novaehollandiae
Recorded at PAU, Varirata NP and at the Brown River.

*Stout-billed Cuckooshrike (NG)*  
Coracina caeruleogrisea
A pair were seen at Varirata NP.

*Barred (Yellow-eyed) Cuckooshrike*  
Coracina lineata
A pair at Varirata NP were our only sighting.

*Boyer's Cuckooshrike (NG)*  
Coracina boyeri
Sightings at Varirata NP, Tabubil and the Kiunga areas.

*White-bellied Cuckooshrike*  
Coracina papuensis
Seen in small numbers in Varirata NP, Mt Hagen and at the Brown River.

*Hooded Cuckooshrike (NG)*  
Coracina longicauda
We enjoyed great looks at three in the Tari Valley. This is a scarce resident.

*Common Cicadabird*  
Coracina tenuirostris
Two birds were seen at Dablin Creek, Tabubil.

*Grey-headed Cuckooshrike (NG)*  
Coracina schisticeps
Several nice sightings in the Tabubil and Kiunga areas.
**Black Cicadabird (New Guinea Cuckooshrike)  Coracina melas**  
Great looks at Variarata NP.

**Black-bellied Cuckooshrike (NG)  Coracina montana**  
A small group were seen at the “Blackmuck Trail” in the Tari Valley.

**Varied Triller  Lalage leucomela**  
A few birds were seen at Dablin Creek, Tabubil.

**Ploughbill  Eulacestomatidae**

**Wattled Ploughbill (NG)  Eulacestoma nigropectus**  
Fantastic looks at a male on two days at Kumul Lodge, Mt Hagen.

**Australo-Papuan Bellbirds**

**Crested Pitohui (NG) (H)  Pitohui cristatus**  
The strange song was heard daily at Varirata NP but too distant to locate!

**Rufous-naped Whistler (NG)  Aleadryas rufinucha**  
This distinctive terrestrial species was seen regularly in the highlands around our lodges at Ambua, Tari Valley and at Kumul, Mt Hagen. The latter, where they were particularly confiding.

**Whistlers & Allies  Pachycephalidae**

**Brown-backed Whistler (PNG)  Pachycephala modesta**  
We encountered this whistler several times in the highlands, especially at Tari Valley and at Mt Hagen.

**Grey Whistler (NE)  Pachycephala simplex**  
Several good looks in Variarata NP.

**Sclater’s Whistler (NG)  Pachycephala soror**  
This attractive whistler was seen at Anbua lodge in the Tari Valley.  
*Note: IOC splits P. soror into P. soror (Sclater’s Whistler), P. fulvotincta (Rusty-breasted Whistler), P. macrorhyncha (Yellow-throated Whistler) and P. mentalis (Black-chinned Whistler), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, P. soror (Sclater’s Whistler).*

**Regent Whistler (NG)  Pachycephala schlegelii**  
Another attractive whistler that was seen regularly in the highlands with sightings at Kumul Lodge, Mt Hagen.

**Black-headed Whistler (NG)  Pachycephala monacha**  
Two birds were seen at the Lai River in the lower foothills at Mt Hagen.

**White-bellied Whistler  Pseudorectes incertus**  
A male was found in the Eucalyptus woodland at Varirata NP. A scarce and localized species.

**White-bellied Pitohui (NG) (H)  Pitohui incertus**  
Heard only in the flooded forest at Kwatu Camp, Elevala River.

**Rusty Pitohui (NG)  Pitohui ferrugineus**  
Great views of four birds feeding with Raggiana Bops at Varirata NP.

**Little (Rufous) Shrikethrush  Colluricinclia megarhyncha**  
Two sightings: at Varirata NP and at the Lai River below Mt Hagen.

**Grey Shrikethrush (H)  Colluricinclia harmonica**  
Good looks at the PAU and at Varirata NP.
Shrikes  Laniidae

Long-tailed Shrike  *Lanius schach*
A few were seen in open grasslands at the Tari Gap.

Old World Orioles  Oriolidae

Australasian Figbird  *Sphecotheres vieilloti*
We had great views of this Australian migrant at PAU.

Southern Variable Pitohui (NG) (H)  *Pitohui kirhocephalus*
Heard vocalising in the forest at Boyestown Road, Kiunga.

Hooded Pitohui (NG)  *Pitohui dichrous*
Several good looks at Varirata NP and at Dablin Creek Tabubil. This aposematically-coloured bird is the traditional “poisonbird” as it was the first bird species discovered to possess poisonous compounds in its tissues.

Brown Oriole (NG)  *Oriolus szalayi*
Small numbers encountered daily at Varirata NP, Tabubil, Kiunga and at the Brown River.

Drongos  Dicruridae

Spangled Drongo  *Dicrurus bracteatus*
Encountered in the lowlands and lower hills.

Fantails  Rhipiduridae

Willie Wagtail  *Rhipidura leucophrys*
Very widespread, being seen every day throughout the trip.

Northern Fantail  *Rhipidura rufiventris*
A pair were scoped at Dablin Creek Road, Tabubil.

Black Thicket Fantail (NG) (H)  *Rhipidura maculipectus*
Heard at Kiunga and at the Brown River.

White-bellied Thicket Fantail (NG)  *Rhipidura leucothorax*
Seen well at Tabubil.

Black Fantail (NG)  *Rhipidura atra*
A male was seen at Kumul lodge, Mt Hagen on two days.

Chestnut-bellied Fantail (NG)  *Rhipidura hyperythra*
Recorded in bird flocks at Varirata NP.

Friendly Fantail (NG)  *Rhipidura albolimbata*
Relatively common in the highlands, with numerous sightings almost daily.

Dimorphic Fantail (NG)  *Rhipidura brachyrhyncha*
Recorded once at Kumul lodge, Mt Hagen.

Monarchs  Monarchidae

Black Monarch (NG)  *Symposiachrus axillaris*
A male was seen at Variara NP.

Spot-winged Monarch (NG)  *Symposiachrus guttula*
Good views were had at Varirata NP.

Golden Monarch (NG)  *Carterornis chrysomela*
Our first sighting was of a stunning male and female at a nest at the Brown River with further good sightings in the Kiunga area.
Frilled Monarch (NG)  
*Arses telescophthalmus*
We enjoyed several sightings of this attractive monarch at the Brown River, in Varirata NP and in Kiunga.

Torrent-lark (NG)  
*Grallina bruijni*
Great views were had at Dablin Creek road, Tabubil.

Leaden Flycatcher  
*Myiagra rubecula*
Singletons at the Brown River and at Varirata NP.

Shining Flycatcher  
*Myiagra alecto*
A male was seen at the Brown River and we had several sightings along the Elevala River where several males and females were seen.

**Crows, Jays Corvidae**

Grey (Bare-eyed) Crow (NG)  
*Corvus tristis*
This strange looking creature was seen regularly in the lowlands and foothills at Varirata NP, near Tabubil and Kiunga.

Torresian Crow  
*Corvus orru*
This species was common in the Port Moresby region.

*Note: IOC splits *C. orru* into *C. orru* (Torresian Crow) and *C. insularis* (Bismarck Crow), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, *C. orru* (Torresian Crow).*

**Melampittas- Melampittidae**

Lesser Melampitta (NG)  
*Melampitta lugubris*
A few of us were lucky to see this species cross the trail at Kumul Lodge, Mt Hagen.

**Ifrit- Ifritidae**

Blue-capped Ifrit (NG)  
*Ifrita kowaldi*
Seen very well at the Tari Gap and at Kumul Lodge. This is another of the ‘poison-birds’ and is believed to be the most poisonous of them all.

**Birds-of-paradise Paradisaeidae**

Glossy-mantled Manucode (NG)  
*Manucodia ater*
This species was first seen at the Brown River with further sightings at Varirata NP and most common in the Kiunga area. The manucodes are primitive forms of the Birds-of-paradise.

Crinkle-collared Manucode (NG)  
*Manucodia chalybatus*
We had good looks in the Tabubil and Kiunga areas.

Trumpet Manucode (NE)  
*Phonygammus keraudrenii*
Good looks at Tabubil for Yuval and Erik and showing its head plumes, in the scope at the Brown River.

Short-tailed Paradigalla (NG)  
*Paradigalla brevicauda*
We enjoyed excellent looks daily at Ambua Lodge, Tari Valley.

Ribbon-tailed Astrapia (PNG)  
*Astrapia mayeri*
Several birds were first sighted near Tari Gap including a glorious male with full-length tail. At Kumul Lodge we watched individuals visiting the feeder table. The adult males have the longest tail in proportion to body size of any bird in the world! This PNG endemic has a very limited range and was the last recognised species of bird-of-paradise to be discovered in 1938.
Princess Stephanie's Astrapia (PNG)  
* Astrapia stephaniae  
Several of these magnificent birds including males were seen in the fruiting tree at Ambua Lodge, Tari Valley.

(Queen) Carola’s Parotia (PNG)  
* Parotia carolae  
A quiet year for this species at Dablin Creek Road, Tabubil, where our only sighting was a splendid male found feeding a fruiting tree.  
* Note: IOC splits *P. carolae* into *P. carolae* (Queen Carola’s Parotia) and *P. berlepschi* (Bronze Parotia), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, *P. carolae* (Carola’s Parotia).

Lawe’s Parotia  
* Parotia lawessi  
A single female-type bird was seen daily at the fruiting tree Ambua Lodge, Tari Valley.

King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise (NG)  
* Pteridophora alberti  
We watched a male calling from an exposed perch atop large trees near the Tari Gap, while his long head-plumes blew in the wind! We also saw a number of females in this area. A further two males were seen at Mt Hagen. These observations included the males’ characteristic ‘radio static’ song.

Superb Bird-of-paradise (NG)  
* Lophorina superba  
We enjoyed some great views of this species in the highlands including scope views of a male displaying iridescent frontal shield feathers near the Lai River, Mt Hagen.

Magnificent Riflebird (NE)  
* Ptiloris magnificus  
A female bird was scoped at Boyestown Road, Kiunga. A difficult species to find.

Growing Riflebird (NG)  
* Ptiloris intercedens  
Great looks at males and several female/immature birds in Varirata NP.

Black Sicklebill (NG)  
* Epimachus fastuosus  
Sharon had a good view of a male in the fruiting tree at Ambua Lodge, Tari Valley. This is normally a very tricky species to see.

Brown Sicklebill (NG)  
* Epimachus meyeri  
First recorded in the Tari Valley where we had good looks at a male on the “Black-muck Trail”. This species entertained us at the Kumul Lodge feeders. The adult male’s ‘machine-gun burst’ calls from a concealed spot in the forest were impressive.

Magnificent Bird-of-paradise (NG)  
* Diphyllodes magnificus  
Great scope looks at a pair at Dablin Creek Road, Tabubil.

King Bird-of-paradise (NG)  
* Cicinnurus regius  
The adult male was scoped at his calling tree at Kiunga, allowing fabulous views of his gleaming red-orange and white plumage with unique green tail rackets. This is the smallest bird-of-paradise.

Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise (NG)  
* Seleucidis melanoleucus  
Driving rain ended our chances of seeing a male at his display post along the Fly River. Our second attempt was brief, but a calling bird was seen in flight from our boats on the Kwatu River in the early morning.

Greater Bird-of-paradise (NG)  
* Paradisaea apoda  
We saw this species at a few sites near Kiunga and Tabubil. We also witnessed the amazing display of this species with full plumaged males alongside. Without a doubt, this must be one of the most memorable spectacles of the tour.

Raggiana Bird-of-paradise (PNG)  
* Paradisaea raggiana  
This is the national bird of Papua New Guinea, endemic to PNG. Waiting under the lek trees in Varirata National Park, we were treated to the spectacle of several prime males displaying and an eruption of calls every time a female appeared. We also saw this species in the Kiunga area.

Lesser Bird-of-paradise (PNG)  
* Paradisaea minor  
We enjoyed a fantastic display of calling and flying birds at Kama Village, Mt Hagen.
Blue Bird-of-paradise (PNG) *Paradisaea rudolphi*
Two female birds were seen at the fruiting tree at Ambua Lodge, Tari Valley and then a superb male was seen well in the foothills below Mt Hagen. What a sight!

**Australasian Robins** *Petroicidae*

**Ashy Robin (NG) (H)** *Heteromylas albispecularis*
This elusive species was heard calling at Mt Hagen.

**Black-sided Robin (H)** *Poecilodryas hypoleuca*
Heard calling in the flooded forest at the fishing camp, Kiungka.

**Black-throated Robin (NG)** *Poecilodryas albonota*
We enjoyed brief but good looks at the beginning of the “Blackmuck Trail”, Tari Valley.

**White-winged Robin (NG)** *Peneothello sigillata*
We had some superb sightings at the Tari Gap and around Kumul Lodge.

**Slaty (Blue-grey) Robin (NG)** *Peneothello cyanus*
We enjoyed good looks at this species in the vicinity of Ambua Lodge.

**White-rumped Robin (NG) (H)** *Peneothello bimaculata*
Heard singing at Dablin Creek, Tabubil.

**White-faced Robin (NE)** *Tregellasia leucops*
Two birds were seen really well on two visits to Varirata NP.

**Torrent Flyrobin (Flycatcher) (NG)** *Monachella muelleriana*
We had great views of several near Tabubil and Mt Hagen.

**Canary Flyrobin (Flycatcher) (NG)** *Microeca papuana*
We had good looks above Ambua Lodge and at Kumul Lodge.

**Lemon-bellied Flyrobin (Flycatcher) (NE)** *Microeca flavigaster*
Several were seen at Brown River and in Varirata NP.

**Swallows, Martins** *Hirundinidae*

**Pacific Swallow** *Hirundo tahitica*
This is the common swallow of the region and it is very widespread throughout the lowlands and in the montane valleys.

*Note: IOC splits H. tahitica into H. tahitica (Pacific Swallow) and H. domicola (Hill Swallow), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, H. tahitica (Pacific Swallow).*

**Leaf Warblers & Allies** *Phylloscopidae*

**Island Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus poliocephalus*
A single bird was seen in the Tari Valley and heard at Mt Hagen.

**Grassbirds and Allies** *Megaluridae*

**Papuan (Tawny) Grassbird (NG)** *Megalurus macrurus*
Good looks at the Tari Gap.

*Note: IOC splits M. timoriensis into M. timoriensis (Tawny Grassbird) and M. macrurus (Papuan Grassbird), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, M. timoriensis (Tawny Grassbird).*

**Cisticolas and Allies** *Cisticolidae*

**Golden-headed Cisticola** *Cisticola exilis*
We had good views of one at the Brown River.
Yuhinas, White-eyes and allies Zosteropidae

Black-fronted White-eye (NG) *Zosterops minor*
Good views were had on our visit to Kama Village at Mt Hagen, with a further sighting on Dablin Creek Road, Tabubil.

Papuan (New Guinea) White-eye (NG) *Zosterops novaeguineae*
We found this species in the lower slopes of the Tari Valley and also at Tabubil.

Starlings Sturnidae

Metallic Starling (NE) *Aplonis metallica*
We found this colonial starling to be common at the Brown River, PAU and along the Fly and Elevala Rivers.

Note: IOC splits *A. metallica* into *A. metallica* (Metallic Starling) and *A. circumscripta* (Violet-hooded Starling), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, *A. metallica* (Metallic Starling).

Yellow-eyed Starling (NG) *Aplonis mystacea*
A single bird was scoped at Boyestown Road, Kiunga.

Singing Starling (NE) *Aplonis cantoroides*
We saw this species at the PAU.

Yellow-faced Myna (NG) *Mino dumontii*
First seen at Brown River with further sightings at Varirata NP then seen almost daily in the lowlands with our largest numbers in the Kiunga region.

Golden Myna (NG) *Mino anais*
We enjoyed nice perched views of this colourful species along the Elevala River.

Thrushes Turdidae

Island Thrush *Turdus poliocephalus*
First seen at the Tari Gap and later seen as a regular visitor to the Kumul Lodge fruiting table.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

Pied Bush Chat *Saxicola caprata*
Seen well in grassland at the Tari gap and Mt Hagen.

Flowerpeckers Dicaeidae

Red-capped Flowerpecker (NG) *Dicaeum geelvinkianum*
Widespread in small numbers throughout with some great views of striking males.

Sunbirds Nectariniidae

Black Sunbird *Leptocoma sericea*
Fairly common in the lowlands where we enjoyed good sightings.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis*
Seen at PAU and at the Brown River.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
Seen around our hotel in Port Moresby and at Tabubil.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*
Recorded throughout.
Waxbills, Munias & Allies  Estrildidae

**Blue-faced Parrot-finch**  *Erythrura trichroa*
Two birds were seen well near Ambua Lodge, Tari Valley.

**Great-billed Munia (NG)**  *Lonchura grandis*
We were treated to stunning scope views of several birds at the Sogeri Road.

**Grey-headed Munia (PNG)**  *Lonchura caniceps*
Several birds were seen at the Sogeri Road and at PAU.

**Hooded Munia (NG)**  *Lonchura spectabilis*
Seen in the highlands on several days, with some great scope views.

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Wagtails, Pipits  Motacillidae

**New Zealand (Australasian) Pipit**  *Anthus novaeseelandiae*
Scoped at Mt. Hagen Airport.

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**Annotated Checklist of Mammals Recorded**

**Spectacled Dasyure (NG)**  *Murexia longicaudata*
Two or three of these little animals were seen at the Tari Gap.

**Black-tailed Giant Rat (NG)**  *Uromys anak*
Great looks at Kumul Lodge after dark. This is the only giant rat of New Guinea’s high elevations that lacks substantial areas of white on its tail.

**Great Flying-fox (NG)**  *Pteropus macrotis*
We found small numbers flushing from a roost tree along the Elevala River, a spectacular and characteristic sight of that part of the world.

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**Annotated Checklist of Reptiles**

**Tropical House Gecko**  *Hemidactylus frenatus*
We saw this ubiquitous tropical commensal of man in many of our lodgings but especially at our hotel in Tabubil, where several appeared each night outside our rooms.

**Papuan Crocodile**
A small individual was seen along the Elevala River.

**Cane Toad**
Many at our hotel in Tabubil.