Papua New Guinea I

Trip Report

30th June to 17th July 2011 (18 days)

Tour Leaders: Erik Forsyth & Glen Valentine

Trip report compiled by Glen Valentine
Top 10 birds as voted by tour participants:

1. Southern Crowned Pigeon
2. Blue Bird-of-paradise
3. Raggiana Bird-of-paradise
4. Ribbon-tailed Astrapia
5. King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise
6. Brown Sicklebill
7. Yellow-billed Kingfisher
8. Greater Bird-of-paradise
9. Papuan Hawk-Owl
10. Chestnut-backed Jewel-babbler

Tour Summary

Our first tour to Papua New Guinea for the 2011 season kicked off at the Pacific Adventist University on the outskirts of Port Moresby, the nation’s Capital. The birding here was easy and rewarding with excellent views being obtained of a good variety of species. The small wetlands dotted around the campus provided the sought after Spotted Whistling Duck, Green Pygmy Goose, Comb-crested Jacana and Nankeen Night Heron amongst others, while the surrounding woodland yielded some smart birds including gaudy Orange-fronted and Orange-bellied Fruit Doves, Bar-shouldered Dove, Torresian Imperial Pigeon, Pheasant Coucal, a wonderful pair of Papuan Frogmouth, Forest and Sacred Kingfishers, Fawn-breasted Bowerbird, New Guinea Friarbird, Rufous-banded Honeteater, Black-backed Butcherbird, White-bellied and Black-faced Cuckooshrikes, Grey Shrikethrush with its melodic call, Australasian Figbird and Brown Oriole, while three Royal Spoonbills that flew overhead in the late afternoon were an added bonus.

Our first full day saw us heading out of Moresby very early and up into the hills towards the nearby Varirata National Park. Unfortunately we were greeted by a rather strong wind in the foothills making for some challenging birding, but despite these less than perfect conditions we persisted and were rewarded with an array of phenomenal birds. Specialties seen at the forest edge included Great and Slender-billed Cuckoo-Doves, Pink-spotted and Wompoo Fruit Doves, Rufous-bellied Kookaburra, gorgeous Yellow-billed Kingfisher, Mimic and scarce Plain Honeyeaters, Papuan Black Myzomela, Green-backed Gerygone, Hooded Butcherbird, Barred Cuckooshrike, Black Cicadabird, Little Shrikethrush, Hooded and Rusty Pittohuis, sexually dimorphic Frilled Monarch, Crinkle-collared Manucode, Black-fronted White-eye and buzzing Dwarf Longbill that showed remarkably well.

The forest interior produced some real quality birds including the miniscule Buff-faced Pygmy Parrot, Barred Owlet-nightjar on the day roost, elusive Hook-billed Kingfisher, extravagant Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher, skulking Red-bellied Pitta, Pale-billed Scrubwren, Fairy Gerygone, stunning...
Goldenface, Black Berrypecker, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, rarely recorded Olive Flyrobin, Grey Whistler, Chestnut-bellied and Sooty Thicket Fantails, Spot-winged Monarch, Growling Riflebird, brilliant White-faced Robin and the best of all, two separate pairs of Chestnut-backed Jewel-babblers squabbling back and forth across the path, showing exceptionally well for this often exceedingly difficult species.

A nearby area of open grassland and cultivation produced two very good birds in the form of Great-billed and Grey-headed Mannikins, while the woodland habitat along the Park’s entrance road yielded a pair of Oriental Hobby, Lemon-bellied Flyrobin, White-throated Honeyeater and gigantic Blue-winged Kookaburra.

One of the major highlights of this wonderful reserve is the unbeatable experience of being able to watch calling and displaying male Raggiana Birds-of-paradise as they perform their amazing displays for females that periodically visit the displaying area. The males with their brilliant green throats, gold heads and stunning, expansive red tails really are a sight to behold and will be embodied in our memories forever!

Departing for the highlands we boarded our flight to Tari where, upon arrival, one of the first birds that we saw upon leaving the airport was a vagrant Oriental Pratincole patrolling the edge of the airstrip. This was indeed a surprise find of note! After enjoying the pratincole we headed uphill to our nearby accommodation in the luxurious and verdant forests below the Tari Gap. Excellent birding could be done just around the lodge and we enjoyed such specialties as Red-breasted Pygmy Parrot, Yellow-billed Lorikeet, Buff-faced and Grey-green Scrubwrens, Mid-mountain Berrypecker, Papuan Sitella, Black Fantail, Black Monarch, Short-tailed Paradigalla, Slaty Robin, Canary Flyrobin and Blue-faced Parrotfinch in the immediate vicinity of the lodge.

The area below The Gap produced one of the area’s most prized species, the Magnificent Papuan Eagle that was watched and scoped at length as it perched motionless in a tall dead tree at the forest edge! Other great birds that were found here were Papuan and Plum-faced Lorikeets, remarkably tame Painted Tiger Parrot, Black-throated Honeyeater, Red-collared Myzomela, Papuan Scrubwren, superb Crested Berrypecker, Wattled Ploughbill, Brown-backed, Sclater’s and Regent Whistlers, strange Blue-capped Ifrita, sublime Ribbon-tailed and Princess Stephanie’s Astrapias, King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise with its outrageous head plumes, Black-throated and Garnet Robins and Mountain Firetail.

The forest interior is always hard work but with perseverance we scored a number of targets that included the rarely seen Rufescent Imperial Pigeon, Mountain Owlet-nightjar on the day roost, secretive Spotted Jewel-babblers, boldly-patterned Black-breasted Boatbill, Dimorphic Fantail and rather confiding Lesser Ground Robin.

Venturing down into the Tari Valley we spent some time with the famous Huli Wigmen and also did some birding around the nearby villages. Here we picked up a range of sought-after species such as Papuan King Parrot, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Sooty Owl on the day roost, Marbled Honeyeater, Yellow-browed Melidectes, Brown-breasted Gerygone, Superb Bird-of-paradise and the exquisite Blue Bird-of-paradise.

Leaving the riches of the Tari area we ventured further into the highlands towards Mt. Hagen. The long drive took us past expanses of montane forest and grassland, through cultivated fields and small, rural
villages and eventually higher still towards our quaint lodging set in fabulous high-altitude forest near the base of Mt. Hagen itself. This idyllically situated lodge would be our base for the next three nights and would prove to give us some of our most memorable birding highlights of the trip. One of the lodge’s most acclaimed features is its feeder that attracts many of the area’s best birds and we spent a good deal of time there, especially since the rather persistent rain meant that we were restricted to the vicinity of the lodge grounds. The feeder proved a life-saver during the rain and we were constantly entertained by female Brown Sicklebill, sub-adult male and female Ribbon-tailed Astrapia, female Archbold’s Bowerbird, female Crested Satinbird, Belford’s Melidectes, Common Smoky and Grey-streaked Honeyeaters, Brehm’s Tiger Parrot, White-winged Robin and Rufous-naped Whistler. One of the area’s star birds, the glowing male Crested Satinbird, was enjoyed on several occasions around the lodge and we also managed to obtain views of Chestnut Forest Rail, Mountain Mouse-warbler, inquisitive parties of Large Scrubwren, Fan-tailed Berrypecker and, upon returning one evening from our afternoon outing, we bumped into the seldom-recorded Dusky Woodcock feeding at the road edge in the drizzle. The lower lying forests yielded some goodies in the form of White-bibbed Fruit Dove, striking and often-elusive Torrent-lark, Torrent Flyrobin and female Lawe’s Parotia and Magnificent Bird-of-paradise, while the secondary forest/woodland mosaic even lower down gave us several more great birds that included Collared Sparrowhawk, Australian Hobby, Brown Falcon, Yellow-breasted Bowerbird, White-shouldered Fairywren, Mountain Honeyeater, Ornate Melidectes, Papuan White-eye and Hooded Mannikin. We were unfortunately unable to get to the Lesser Bird-of-paradise display area as the road leading there proved to be impassable, despite many attempts in our four wheel drive vehicles. We were however very lucky to find a single female Lesser Bird-of-paradise feeding in a nearby fruiting tree.

With our flight from Mt. Hagen to Tabubil in the west of the island being delayed due to misty conditions in Mt. Hagen, we made for the nearby golf course and spent a while strolling around the grounds. This little foray actually produced some interesting sightings and we were thrilled to find Black-headed Whistler, Mountain Myzomela, Tree Martin and Papuan Harrier there. Finally the mist lifted and our flight to the Irian Jaya border was able to take off. Cruising high over the seemingly endless rainforest we soon came upon a narrow valley in the forested foothills and followed the large Ok Tedi River to the mining town of Tabubil. Some of New Guinea’s most prized and seldom-seen birds are found here and the area did not disappoint as we added some real gems to the ever-growing list. We were very fortunate to encounter the rare, localized and unpredictable Salvadori’s Teal on three consecutive days in this region. The highly sought-after Pesquet’s Parrot also put on a great show as we watched a pair in the scope for several minutes. Some of the other specialties that were seen here included Papuan Boobook, Grey-headed Goshawk, the rarely seen Orange-fronted Hanging Parrot, tiny
Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot, Orange-breasted Fig Parrot, White-eared Bronze Cuckoo, often elusive White-crowned Koel, Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo, Spotted, Tawny-breasted and Scrub Honeyeaters, Rusty Mouse Warbler, extremely localized and recently rediscovered Obscure Berripexcker, minute Pygmy Longbill, Mountain Peltops and Northern Fantail, while Great Woodswallows were a constant feature in and around the town. We also found several species of Birds-of-paradise in the lush forests surrounding the town and these included Crinkle-collared and Trumpet Manucodes, the incomparable Queen Carola’s Parotia and Magnificent Bird-of-paradise. Cuckoo-shrikes also abound in the area and we enjoyed views of Stout-billed, Boyer’s, Black-shouldered, Grey-headed, Black-bellied and stunning Golden Cuckoo-shrikes, as well as Black Cicadabird during our time here.

Leaving Tabubil in persistent drizzle, we meandered through the forested foothills down towards the coastal plain and reached the lowland town of Kiunga for lunch. We were delighted that the weather had finally lifted and we were able to enjoy the last few days of the trip mostly uninterrupted by rain. Here, the more temperate hill-forest around Tabubil gives way to hot, humid lowland forest around the Fly River. We spent several days in this bird-rich environment and were treated to some of the world’s most desirable and highly acclaimed birds. We birded forest edge and interior habitat along the famous Boys Town Road and km 17 and these two sites produced many noteworthy species. These included Dwarf Fruit Dove, Purple-tailed, Pinon’s and Zoe’s Imperial Pigeons, flocks of Papuan Mountain Pigeon, Yellowish-streaked Lory, gaudy Black-capped Lory, Red-flanked and Fairy Lorikeets, noisy Red-cheeked and Eclectus Parrots, Double-eyed Fig Parrot, Pacific Koel, rare and elusive Long-billed Cuckoo, elegant Moustached Treeswift, brilliant Red-bellied Pitta, exquisite Emperor and Wallace’s Fairywrens, Graceful, Puff-backed and Long-billed Honeyeaters and the rarely-seen Yellow-gaped Honeyeater, Yellow-bellied Gerygone, Yellow-bellied Longbill, Blue Jewel-babbler, Rufous-backed Fantail, Black-sided Robin, brilliant Golden Monarch and Red-capped Flowerpecker, as well as three radiant Flame Bowerbirds in flight! One of our most memorable experiences of the trip was to be had in these vast, tropical forests and that was to be the witnessing of several spectacular male Greater Birds-of-paradise displaying with all their worth for the nearby females at a popular display site deep inside the forest. The area immediately around town also proved to be rather productive and we found the rare Gurney’s Eagle and Australian Pratincole here. We were also treated to unbeatable views of Red-backed Buttonquail on the ground in a nearby grassy patch, while a night drive in the area produced good views of White-throated Nightjar.

Our next destination was the remote swamp forests along the Elevala River, a small tributary of the much larger Fly River. This little-known area supports some star avian treasures and we began our boat trip early so as to maximize our chances of seeing these mouth-watering species. One of the first birds to be spotted as we cruised down the Fly River was a very unexpected Raja Shelduck that flew past our bow. During the next hour literally hundreds of Flying Foxes and Collared Imperial Pigeons were witnessed flying overhead from their roosting sites to their feeding sites. Finally we turned off the massive Fly River and started making our way up the smaller Elevala River where one is much closer to the forest and it wasn’t long before the screams of Southern Crowned Pigeon pierced the air. These other-worldly creatures are truly spectacular and we were rewarded with many close and prolonged sightings of these gargantuan birds! Carrying on towards our camp we found many Glossy-mantled Manucodes and giant Blyth’s Hornbills along the way,
while regal Palm Cockatoos squawked overhead. Other noteworthy species encountered during the boat trip were Pacific Baza, Long-tailed Honey Buzzard, Superb, Beautiful, Dwarf and Orange-bellied Fruit Doves, small groups of Channel-billed Cuckoo and Papuan Spine-tailed Swift, Little Bronze Cuckoo, Rufous-bellied Kookaburra, Azure Kingfisher, Shining Flycatcher, scarce Yellow-eyed Starling, handsome Golden and Yellow-faced Mynas, Lowland Peltops, Grey Crow and dozens of Oriental Dollarbirds.

The birding along the trails that lead through the lowland swamp forest bordering the river was hard work as always, but we did manage to locate some great birds such as Common, Little and Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfishers, Papuan Babbler, White-bellied Pitohui and very difficult Blue Jewel-babbler. We also enjoyed excellent views of two of the area’s most sought-after species; the truly bizarre Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise and glowing King Bird-of-paradise.

A night walk in the area added some excellent nocturnal birds, most exciting of which was a Papuan Hawk-Owl that showed incredibly well right above our heads for a prolonged period! This owl is one of New Guinea’s most seldom-recorded species and we were absolutely thrilled to finally get to grips with this mega endemic! A wonderful Marbled Frogmouth also entertained us during the night walk and gave us fabulous, close views!

Alas, all too soon it was time to head back to Port Moresby where this mammoth Papua New Guinean birding adventure would draw to a close. So many unforgettable sightings and experiences were had by all in what is truly one of Earth’s great birding destinations. Until next time…


Annotated Checklist of Birds Recorded

339 species recorded (25 heard only)


Key to endemic/near endemic abbreviations
NG – endemic to New Guinea
PNG – endemic to Papua New Guinea
NE – near endemic to New Guinea

Key to bracketing and square-bracketing
Round bracket refers to the Clements name ( )
Square bracket refers to the IOC name [ ]

Cassowaries Casuariidae
Southern Cassowary Casuarius casuarius
The distinctive booming call of this seldom-seen species was heard along a forest trail near Ekame Camp.

Megapodes Megapodiidae
Black-billed Brushturkey (NG) Talegalla fuscirostris
Heard regularly in lowland areas and nest mounds were also seen at Varirata NP.

Pheasant, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae
Brown Quail Coturnix ypsilophora
Brief views were had en route to Varirata NP as well as below Kumul Lodge.

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae
Spotted Whistling Duck Dendrocygna eytoni
Four birds were encountered at PAU.
Wandering Whistling Duck Dendrocygna arcuata
Small numbers were found at PAU.
Raja (Radjah) Shelduck Tadorna radjah
A single bird was seen in flight during our boat trip up the Fly River.
Salvadori’s Teal (NG) Salvadorina waigiuensis
Excellent views were had of this scarce species on three consecutive days in the Tabubil area.
Green Pygmy Goose Nettapus pulchellus
Five birds were seen well at PAU.
Pacific Black Duck Anas superciliosa
Good numbers were enjoyed at PAU.

Grebes Podicipedidae
Australasian Grebe Tachybaptus novaehollandiae
Four birds were seen at PAU.

Ibises, Spoonbills Threskiornithidae
Australian [White] Ibis Threskiornis molucca
A small group of five birds were found at PAU.
Glossy Ibis Plegadis falcinellus
At least 20 birds were seen at the Port Moresby Water Treatment Works.
Royal Spoonbill Platalea regia
Three were seen in flight over PAU in the late afternoon.
Herons, Bitterns  Ardeidae

Forest Bittern (NG)  Zonerodius heliosylus
We were incredibly lucky to bump into this rarely seen heron in Varirata NP. The species was shy but did provide good, repeat views.

Nankeen (Rufous) Night Heron  Nycticorax caledonicus
Two birds were seen at PAU with a further six being found at the Port Moresby Water Treatment Works.

Striated Heron  Butorides striata
Singletons were seen daily along the Elevala River.

[Eastern] Cattle Egret  Bubulcus coromandus
Good numbers seen in the Port Moresby region with a few scattered sightings thereafter.
*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 Egret  Ardea modesta
Seen in small numbers in the lowlands.

Intermediate Egret  Egretta intermedia
Scattered sightings were had in the lowlands.

Pied Heron  Egretta picata
At least 20 of these beautiful herons were seen at PAU with small numbers also present at the Port Moresby Water Treatment Works.

Little Egret  Egretta garzetta
First seen at PAU with further scattered sightings thereafter.

Cormorants  Phalacrocoracidae

Little Pied Cormorant  Microcarbo melanoleucos
Six birds were seen at PAU with further sightings at scattered water bodies thereafter.

Little Black Cormorant  Phalacrocorax sulcirostris
Found at several scattered water bodies throughout the tour.

Great Cormorant  Phalacrocorax carbo
A single bird was seen along the Wabag River.
*Note: IOC splits P. carbo into P. carbo (Great Cormorant) and P. lucidus (White-breasted Cormorant), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, P. carbo (Great Cormorant).*

Anhingas, Darters  Anhingidae

Australasian Darter  Anhinga novaehollandiae
A single bird was sighted at PAU on our first afternoon.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles  Accipitridae

Pacific Baza  Aviceda subcristata
This attractive raptor was seen on several occasions in the Varirata and Kiunga areas.

Long-tailed Honey Buzzard (NE)  Henicopernis longicauda
This very distinctive raptor was seen on seven days of the trip.

Black-shouldered (Australian) Kite  Elanus axillaris
One bird was seen briefly in flight en route from Tari to Mt. Hagen.

Black Kite  Milvus migrans
Small numbers seen in the Port Moresby area with further sightings on several days in the highlands.
Note: IOC splits *M. migrans* into *M. migrans* (Black Kite) and *M. aegyptius* (Yellow-billed Kite), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, *M. migrans* (Black Kite).

**Whistling Kite**  
*Haliastur sphenurus*  
Good numbers were seen in the Port Moresby area.

**Brahminy Kite**  
*Haliastur indus*  
This common and widespread raptor was seen regularly throughout the tour.

**White-bellied Sea (-) Eagle**  
*Haliaeetus leucogaster*  
A few of these impressive eagles were seen along the Elevala River.

**Papuan (Eastern Marsh) Harrier (NG)**  
*Circus spilothorax*  
A few birds were seen quartering low over grasslands near Mt Hagen.  
*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).*

**Variable Goshawk**  
*Accipiter hiogaster*  
Widespread and seen on many occasions.

**Grey (Gray)-headed Goshawk**  
*Accipiter poliocephalus*  
This very attractive raptor was seen on a few occasions in the Tabubil and Kiunga areas.

**Collared Sparrowhawk**  
*Accipiter cirrocephalus*  
Scope views were had of this species near the Wabag River.

**Papuan (New Guinea) Eagle (NG)**  
*Harpyopsis novaeguineae*  
We were supremely lucky to find this rare and seldom-seen eagle perched atop a large dead tree near the top of the Tari Gap. This individual sat for ages as we watched it in the scope and we enjoyed remarkable views before finally walking away from it!

**Gurney's Eagle (NE)**  
*Aquila gurneyi*  
A pair of these massive eagles was seen soaring over the Fly River and adjacent lowland forest.

---

**Falcons Falconidae**

**Nankeen (Australian) Kestrel**  
*Falco cenchroides*  
Some of the group was lucky to see this species near Tari.

**Oriental Hobby**  
*Falco severus*  
A pair was seen at close range at Varirata NP.

**Australian Hobby**  
*Falco longipennis*  
A single bird was seen and scoped on a ridge near the Wabag River in the late afternoon.

**Brown Falcon**  
*Falco berigora*  
Three separate birds were seen during the drive from Tari to Mt. Hagen.

---

**Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae**

**Chestnut Forest (-) Rail (NG)**  
*Rallina forbesi*  
A fairly co-operative female was seen along a forest trail at Kumul Lodge.

**Red-necked Crake**  
*Rallina tricolor*  
This seldom-seen species was heard on consecutive days from Kwatu Lodge.

**Buff-banded Rail**  
*Gallirallus philippensis*  
The first vehicle was lucky to see this species en route to the Lesser BOP site below Kumul Lodge. A second bird was later seen dashing across the track near the Kiunga Airport.

**Pale-vented (Rufous-tailed) Bush-hen**  
*Amaurornis moluccana*  
A very tricky bird to see! We heard this species on three consecutive days in the Tabubil area.

**Purple Swamphen**  
*Porphyrio porphyrio*  
Small numbers were seen at several wetland localities in the Port Moresby area.
Note: IOC splits *P. porphyrio* into *P. porphyrio* (Purple Swamphen) and *P. madagascariensis* (African Swamphen), whereas Clements splits *P. porphyrio* into *P. porphyrio* (Purple Swamphen) and *P. albus* (Lord Howe Swamphen).

**Dusky Moorhen** *Gallinula tenebrosa*
Small numbers were found at PAU.

**Buttonquail** Turnicidae

**Red-backed Buttonquail** *Turnix maculosus*
Unbeatable views were had of a gorgeous female on the ground during our walk at the Kiunga Airport.

**Stilts, Avocets** Recurvirostridae

**White-headed (Pied) Stilt** *Himantopus leucocephalus*
Three birds were found at the Port Moresby Water Treatment Works.

**Plovers & Lapwings** Charadriidae

**Masked Lapwing** *Vanellus miles*
Small numbers were encountered in grassland habitat throughout the Port Moresby area.

**Jacanas** Jacanidae

**Comb-crested Jacana** *Irediparra gallinacea*
Fifteen of these stunners were seen at PAU with another eight being found at the Port Moresby Water Treatment Works.

**Sandpipers, Snipes** Scolopacidae

**New Guinea (Dusky) Woodcock** (NG) *Scolopax rosenbergii*
We were very lucky to find this species one evening on the entrance road at Kumul Lodge.

*Note: IOC splits *S. saturate* into *S. saturata* (Javan Woodcock) and *S. rosenbergii* (New Guinea Woodcock), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, *S. saturata* (Dusky Woodcock).*

**Coursers, Pratincoles** Glareolidae

**Australian Pratincole** *Stiltia isabella*
Six birds were seen by Henning at the Kiunga Dockyard with a further six being found at the Kiunga Airstrip.

**Oriental Pratincole** *Glareola maldivarum*
This is an exceptional vagrant to PNG! We were blown away to find a singleton on the Tari Airstrip.

**Pigeons, Doves** Columbidae

**Common (Rock) Pigeon** *Columba livia*
Several were seen around various towns during the tour.

**Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove** *Macropygia amboinensis*
Small numbers were seen on most days of the tour.

**Bar-tailed (Black-billed) Cuckoo-Dove** *Macropygia nigrirostris*
Much scarcer than the previous species and we only encountered this species once while crossing over the Tari Gap.

**Great Cuckoo-Dove** (NE) *Reinwardtoena reinwardtii*
This massive dove was seen in flight on four occasions in the Varirata and Kiunga areas.

**New Guinea Bronzewing** (NG) *Henicophaps albifrons*
This rare pigeon was only heard along Boys Town Road.

**Peaceful Dove**  
*Geopelia placida*

Several birds were found in the Port Moresby area.

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

Two birds were seen very well at PAU.

**Cinnamon Ground (-) Dove (NG)**  
*Gallicolumba rufigula*

A single bird crossed the path very briefly behind Kwatu Lodge and another individual was seen by Rob in Varirata NP. An extremely shy lowland species!

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

Always one of the main target birds along the Elevala River, this amazing bird did not let us down. We had fantastic prolonged views of three birds! Undoubtedly one of PNG’s top birds!

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

This shy understory dove was seen on four separate days and heard on another three occasions in the lowlands.

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

This fairly common but extremely attractive fruit dove was seen well in the Varirata and Kiunga areas.

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

Five birds were found at PAU with one of them showing particularly well.

**Superb Fruit (-) Dove**  
*Ptilinopus superbus*

This species was seen on five separate days but sightings were only ever of singletons.

**Beautiful Fruit (-) Dove**  
*Ptilinopus pulchellus*

A total of four birds were seen in the Kiunga area.

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

After first obtaining only brief glimpses of a male and female in the Tari area we were rewarded with excellent views of a pair of these stunning birds below Kumul Lodge.

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

This lowland species was relatively common in the lowlands and we had several good encounters along the Elevala River.

**Dwarf Fruit (-) Dove (NG)**  
*Ptilinopus nanus*

This usually scarce species was seen in surprisingly good numbers in the Kiunga area with no less than ten birds being seen in a dead tree at Kwatu Lodge.

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

This species was seen rather briefly in the forest canopy on Boys Town Road with another bird being seen by some of the group along the Elevala River.

**Rufescent Imperial (-) Pigeon (NG)**  
*Ducula chalconota*

This extremely scarce pigeon was seen remarkably well on Benson’s trail. A very lucky find!

**Pinon [’s] Imperial (-) Pigeon (NG)**  
*Ducula pinon*

Two birds were seen along Boys Town Road with a further two being found along the Elevala River.

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

Very common along the Elevala and Fly rivers where we had good numbers perched and in flight.

**Zoe [’s] Imperial (-) Pigeon (NG)**  
*Ducula zoeae*

Small numbers of this distinctive species with a black chest band were encountered in the lowlands around Kiunga.

**Torresian Imperial (-) Pigeon**  
*Ducula spilorhoa*

Two birds were seen in flight at PAU with a further four being found at the Port Moresby Water Treatment Works.
Papuan Mountain (-) Pigeon (NE)  Gymnophaps albertisi
Widespread and relatively common at all altitudes, we saw this species on seven days of the tour.

Cockatoos  Cacatuidae

Palm Cockatoo (NE)  Probosciger aterrimus
This magnificent species was encountered daily in the lowlands around Kiunga with the highest count of five birds in one day along the Elevala River where we enjoyed amazing perched views.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo  Cacatua galerita
This raucous parrot was commonly observed throughout the Tabubil and Kiunga areas.

Parrots  Psittacidae

Pesquet’s Parrot (NG)  Psittrichas fulgidus
We were afforded scope views of a magnificent pair near Tabubil, a tricky species to find. A further four birds were also seen in flight in the Tabubil area.

Orange-fronted (Papuan) Hanging (-) Parrot (NG)  Loriculus aurantiifrons
Amazing views were had of a single bird near Tabubil. This is an extremely scarce species and is usually very difficult to find!

Yellow-capped Pygmy (-) Parrot (NG)  Micropsitta keiensis
Excellent views were had of three birds in the Tabubil area as they fed nuthatch like on the main limbs of a rather bare tree.

Buff-faced Pygmy (-) Parrot (NG)  Micropsitta pusio
Two of these tiny parrots were seen at Varirata NP.

Red-breasted Pygmy (-) Parrot (NG)  Micropsitta bruijnii
A total of eight birds were seen in the Tari area with particularly good views being had at Makara Lodge.

Yellow[ish]-streaked Lory (NG)  Chalcopsitta sintillata
Fairly large numbers were encountered in the lowlands around Kiunga.

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

Goldie’s Lorikeet (NG)  Psitteuteles goldiei
Two birds were heard and seen in flight in the Tari area.

Black-capped Lory (NG)  Lorius lory
This gorgeous bird was seen in small numbers in the foothills and lowlands around Varirata and Kiunga.

Red-flanked Lorikeet (NE)  Charmosyna placensis
Good numbers were seen in the foothills and lowlands around Tabubil and Kiunga.

Fairy Lorikeet (NG)  Charmosyna pulchella
Four birds were seen in flight on Boys Town Road.

Papuan Lorikeet (NG)  Charmosyna papou
Excellent views were had of these gorgeous parrots in the Tari and Mt. Hagen areas; this must rate as one of the world’s most beautiful parrots!

Plum-faced Lorikeet (NG)  Oreopsittacus arfaki
Five birds were seen at the top of the Tari Gap.

**Yellow-billed Lorikeet (NG)**  
*Neopsittacus müsschenbroekii*  
Small numbers were seen in the Tari area.

**Brehm's Tiger(-)Parrot (NG)**  
*Psittacula brehmii*  
Our first sighting was in the Tari area. Later up to four were seen daily at Kumul Lodge, most often feeding obligingly on the fruit at the bird feeder. This is the largest and most-common tiger parrot but it is always charming to watch.

**Painted Tiger(-)Parrot (NG)**  
*Psittacula picta*  
Three birds were seen incredibly well at the forested roadside in the Tari area, one of which proved to be particularly tame.

**Red-cheeked Parrot (NE)**  
*Geoffroyus geoffroyi*  
Common throughout the tour in foothill and lowland areas.

**Blue-collared Parrot (NG)**  
*Geoffroyus simplex*  
This species was heard calling high overhead on Dablin Creek Road but unfortunately the birds were too high up and the cloud cover too low down for us to see them.

**Eclectus Parrot (NE)**  
*Eclectus roratus*  
Seen regularly in small numbers on the mainland, though no more than ten per day.

**Papuan King (-) Parrot (NG)**  
*Alisterus chloropterus*  
Two birds were seen in flight at Varirata NP with another three being seen in the Tari area.

**Orange-breasted Fig (-) Parrot (NG)**  
*Clycopsitta guilemiterti*  
Fairly common in the lowlands and foothills around Tabubil and Kiunga where we scoped numerous birds.

**Double-eyed Fig (-) Parrot**  
*Cyclopsitta diophthalma*  
We had several sightings in the lowlands near Kiunga.

**Large Fig (-) Parrot (NG)**  
*Psittaculirostris desmarestii*  
This scarce parrot was seen in flight on one occasion along the Elevela River.

### Cuckoos  *Cuculidae*

**Ivory-billed (Greater Black) Coucal (NG)**  
*Centropus menbeki*  
We heard this species on several occasions in the lowlands.

**Black-billed (Lesser Black) Coucal (NG)**  
*Centropus bernsteini*  
This species was also just heard in the lowlands.

**Pheasant Coucal**  
*Centropus phasianinus*  
This coucal was seen at PAU, Varirata NP and at km17.

**Pacific (Australian) Koel**  
*Eudynamys orientalis*  
This species was seen on a few occasions in the lowlands around Kiunga.

**Channel-billed Cuckoo**  
*Scythrops novaehollandiae*  
Small numbers of these massive cuckoos were found along the Elevela and Fly Rivers.

**Long-billed Cuckoo (NG)**  
*Chrysococcyx megarhynchus*  
Fantastic scope views were had of this scarce species at km17 with a further encounter later on at Kwatu Lodge.

**White-eared Bronze (-) Cuckoo (NG)**  
*Chrysococcyx meyerii*  
A total of three birds were seen in the Tabubil area.

**Little Bronze (-) Cuckoo**  
*Chrysococcyx minutillus*  
One bird was scoped from Kwatu Lodge.

**White-crowned Cuckoo (Koel) (NG)**  
*Cacomantis leucolophus*  
A sub-adult was seen exceptionally well and for a prolonged period near the Ok Menga Hydroelectric plant.

Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo (NE)  
*Cacomantis castaneiventris*
We first saw this species in Varirata NP with further views being obtained in the Tabubil and Kiunga areas.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo  
*Cacomantis flabelliformis*
One bird was seen in the Tari area.

Brush Cuckoo  
*Cacomantis variolosus*
A common bird that was seen occasionally and frequently heard.
*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**

Sooty Owl  
*Tyto tenebricosa*
We all had spectacular daylight views of this stunning species in the Tari Valley.

**Owls Strigidae**

Papuan Boobook (Jungle Hawk-Owl) (NG)  
*Ninox theomacha*
Good views were had of this species near the Ok Menga Tunnel.

Papuan Hawk-Owl (NG)  
*Uroglaux dimorpha*
We were ecstatic to find this incredibly rare and little known owl in the forests of the Elevala River where we were treated to excellent views of a single bird. An exceptional find!

**Frogmouths Podargidae**

Marbled Frogmouth  
*Podargus ocellatus*
We had excellent views of this species at night on a trail near Ekame Camp.

Papuan Frogmouth  
*Podargus papuensis*
This huge frogmouth was seen during the day at PAU and Varirata NP

**Nightjars Caprimulgidae**

White-throated Nightjar  
*Eurostopodus mystacalis*
A single bird was seen on a night drive along Boys Town Road.

**Owlet-nightjars Aegotheelidae**

Starry (Spangled) Owlet-nightjar (NG)  
*Aegotheles tatei*
This rarely recorded species was unfortunately just heard behind Ekame Lodge.

Wallace’s Owlet-nightjar (NG)  
*Aegotheles wallacii*
We heard this species during our nocturnal excursion along Boys Town Road.

Mountain Owlet-nightjar (NG)  
*Aegotheles albertisi*
We were very lucky to have this difficult species on a day roost in the Tari area.

Barred Owlet-nightjar (NG)  
*Aegotheles bennettii*
This species was scoped at its daytime roost hole in Varirata National Park.
*Note: IOC has split A. bennettii into A. bennettii (Barred Owlet-nightjar) and A. affinis (Vogelkop Owlet-nightjar), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, A. bennettii (Barred Owlet-nightjar).*

**Treeswifts Hemiprocnidae**

Moustached Treeswift (NE)  
*Hemiprocne mystacea*
A common but extremely handsome bird of the foothills and lowlands.
**Swifts Apodidae**

**Glossy Swiftlet**  
*Collocalia esculenta*

Abundantly seen throughout the foothills and mountains.

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

This endemic was also abundant throughout the higher areas of the tour.

**Uniform Swiftlet**  
*Aerodramus vanikorensis*

Very common in the lowlands, where seen virtually every day.

*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 (Needletail) (NG)**  
*Mearnsia novaeguineae*

Small numbers were found in the lowlands around Kiunga and along the Elevala River.

**Rollers Coraciidae**

**[Oriental] Dollarbird**  
*Eurystomus orientalis*

Seen regularly in the lowlands with especially good numbers along the Elevala River.

**Kingfishers Alcedinidae**

**Hook-billed Kingfisher (NG)**  
*Melidora macrorrhina*

One of New Guinea’s most elusive kingfishers, we were delighted to see this species during the day in Varirata NP.

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

One seen exceptionally well along the Elevala River – a stunning and memorable species.

**Little Paradise(-)Kingfisher (NG)**  
*Tanysiptera hydrocharis*

We managed some excellent views of an adult of this attractive species in the Elevala River forest area.

**Buff-breasted Paradise (-) Kingfisher**  
*Tanysiptera sylvia*

We were surprised but thrilled to find this species along the Elevala River where a single bird showed well.

*Note: IOC splits T. sylvia into T. sylvia (Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher) and T. nigriceps (Black-capped Paradise Kingfisher), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, T. sylvia (Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher).*

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

We were delighted to obtain excellent views of this stunning bird in Varirata National Park.

**Shovel-billed Kookaburra (NG)**  
*Clytoceyx rex*

This ultra-elusive kingfisher was unfortunately just heard on many occasions in the Tabubil area, but despite our efforts, would not show itself.

**Yellow-bellied Kookaburra**  
*Dacelo leachii*

Small numbers of these huge kingfishers were seen in Varirata NP.

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

This very attractive bird was seen well in Varirata NP and along the Elevala River.

**Forest Kingfisher**  
*Todiramphus macleayii*

Good views were had of a single bird at PAU.

**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 in Varirata National Park.

**Mountain Kingfisher (NG)**  
*Syma megarhyncha*
We heard this species on several occasions in the Tari area.

**Variable [Dwarf] Kingfisher**  *Ceyx Lepidus*
We heard this species in Varirata NP.

**Common Kingfisher**  *Alcedo atthis*
This widespread kingfisher was seen at PAU.

**Azure Kingfisher**  *Ceyx azureus*
A total of four birds were seen along the Elevala River. A stunning bird!

**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*
This large, impressive hornbill was most common along the Elevala and Fly rivers, where we saw it daily in numbers of up to ten.

**Pittas Pittidae**

**Red-bellied Pitta**  *Pitta erythrogaster*
Our first sighting was of a sub-adult in Varirata NP. Later we encountered an adult in the forests along Boys Town Road that showed very well.

*Note: IOC only recognizes one species, *P. erythrogaster* (Red-bellied Pitta), whereas Clements splits *P. erythrogaster* into *P. erythrogaster* (Red-bellied Pitta) and *P. dohertyi* (Sula Pitta).*

**Hooded Pitta**  *Pitta sordida*
We managed to lure this species out in the forests behind Ekame Lodge.

**Bowerbirds Ptilonorhynchidae**

**Spotted Catbird**  *Ailuroedus melanotis*
An extremely tough bird to see, we unfortunately just heard this species at km 17 and along Boys Town Road.

**Archbold’s Bowerbird (NG)**  *Archboldia papuensis*
A female was seen regularly around Kumul Lodge.

*Note: IOC only recognizes one species, *A. papuensis* (Archbold’s Bowerbird), whereas Clements splits *A. papuensis* into *A. papuensis* (Archbold’s Bowerbird) and *A. sanfordi* (Sanford’s Bowerbird).*

**Flame Bowerbird (NG)**  *Sericulus ardens*
Three glowing males were seen streaking across the sky from our lookout along Boys Town Road with a further sighting of another bird in flight along the Elevala River.

*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 lauterbachi*
A single bird was seen near the Wabag River below Kumul Lodge.

**Fawn-breasted Bowerbird (NE)**  *Chlamydera cerviniventris*
We saw at least eight birds at Pacific Adventist University.

**Australasian Wrens Maluridae**

**Wallace’s Fairywren (NG)**  *Sipodotus wallacii*
A pair was seen in a mixed flock along Boys Town Road.
Campbell’s Fairywren (NG)  
_Chenorhamphus campbelli_
This rare and elusive species was heard in the lowland forest along Boys Town Road.

Note: IOC splits C. grayi into C. grayi (Broad-billed Fairywren) and C. campbelli (Campbell’s Fairywren), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, C. grayi (Broad-billed Fairywren).

Emperor Fairywren (NG)  
_Malurus cyanocephalus_
Excellent views were had of a superb pair along Boys Town Road.

White-shouldered Fairywren (NG)  
_Malurus alboscapulatus_
Fairly widespread and seen at several sites throughout the tour.

Orange-crowned Fairywren (NG)  
_Clytomyias insignis_
This highland species was unfortunately just heard at Kumul Lodge.

**Honeyeaters  *Meliphagidae***

Spotted Honeyeater (NG)  
_Xanthotis polygrammus_
A total of four birds were seen feeding in a flowering tree on Dablin Creek Road.

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

Black-throated Honeyeater (NG)  
_Lichenostomus subfrenatus_
This canopy-loving species was seen well in the Tari area.

Obscure Honeyeater (NG)  
_Lichenostomus obscurus_
A single bird was seen by a few of the group in the forests behind Kwatu Lodge.

Yellow-tinted Honeyeater (NE)  
_Lichenostomus flavescens_
Several were seen at the Gateway Hotel, Port Moresby.

Mountain Honeyeater (Meliphaga) (NG)  
_Meliphaga orientalis_
Seen near the Wabag River below Kumul Lodge as well as in the Tabubil area.

Scrub Honeyeater (NG)  
_Meliphaga albonotata_
Small numbers were seen in the Tabubil and Kiunga areas.

Mimic Honeyeater (NG)  
_Meliphaga analoga_
Several birds seen in Varirata NP.

Graceful Honeyeater (NE)  
_Meliphaga gracilis_
Several were seen near Kiunga.

Yellow-gaped Honeyeater (NG)  
_Meliphaga flavirictus_
This rare honeyeater was seen well along Boys Town Road.

Puff-backed Honeyeater (NG)  
_Meliphaga aruensis_
A single bird was seen along Boys Town Road.

White-throated Honeyeater  
_Melithreptus albogularis_
At least 10 birds were seen in the woodland habitat in Varirata NP.

Plain Honeyeater (NG)  
_Pycnopygius ixoides_
A single bird was seen in Varirata NP with a further sighting in the Tabubil area.

Marbled Honeyeater (NG)  
_Pycnopygius cinereus_
Two birds were seen well in the Tari area.

Streak-headed Honeyeater (NG)  
_Pycnopygius stictocephalus_
We found this fairly numerous species in Varirata NP and in the Kiunga area.

Meyer’s Friarbird (NG)  
_Philemon meyeri_
This elusive species was unfortunately just heard in the Kiunga area.

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).

**[Common] Smoky Honeyeater (NG)**  
*Melipotes fumigatus*  
Common in the high mountains, with up to twenty daily in the Tari and Mt. Hagen areas. The Kumul Lodge bird feeder provided many opportunities for close views of their faces blushing from yellow to red and back again, often in odd blotchy patterns.

**Yellow-browed Melidectes (NG)**  
*Melidectes rufocrissalis*  
Mostly below the elevation zone dominated by Belford’s Melidectes. We observed several birds in the Tari area with a further individual being sighted on Dablin Creek Road.

**Belford's Melidectes (NG)**  
*Melidectes belfordi*  
Common at high elevations and heard constantly with dozens in the Tari and Mt. Hagen areas.

**Ornate Melidectes (NG)**  
*Melidectes torquatus*  
Good numbers of these attractive honeyeaters were seen below Kumul Lodge and in the Tabubil area.

**Grey-streaked (Black-backed) Honeyeater (NG)**  
*Ptilopora perstriata*  
Commonly seen montane forest throughout the highlands.

**Long-billed Honeyeater (NG)**  
*Melilestes megarhynchus*  
Small numbers were found in the Tabubil and Kiunga areas.

**Rufous-banded Honeyeater (NE)**  
*Conopophila albogularis*  
A handful was seen at PAU and near the dockyard in Kiunga.

**Ruby-(Red-) throated Myzomela (NG)**  
*Myzomela eques*  
A single bird was seen very briefly at a flowering tree on Dablin Creek Road.

**[Papuan] Black Myzomela (NG)**  
*Myzomela nigrita*  
A few birds were seen in Varirata NP with another bird being seen near Tabubil.

**Mountain Myzomela (NG)**  
*Myzomela adolphinae*  
A male was encountered at the Mt Hagen golf course.

**Red-collared Myzomela (NG)**  
*Myzomela rosenbergii*  
Two birds were seen in the Tari area.

**Green-backed Honeyeater**  
*Glycichaera fallax*  
This elusive honeyeater was heard in the forest canopy in Varirata NP.

---

**Australasian Warblers Acanthizidae**

**Rusty Mouse-warbler (NG)**  
*Crateroscelis murina*  
Brief views were had of this shy understory species on a few occasions at Varirata NP, in the Tabubil area and in the Kiunga area.

**Mountain Mouse-warbler (NG)**  
*Crateroscelis robusta*  
Small numbers were seen in the Tari and Kumul areas.

**Pale-billed Scrubwren (NG)**  
*Sericornis spilodera*  
A few birds were seen in Varirata NP.

**Papuan Scrubwren (NG)**  
*Sericornis papuensis*  
Small parties were seen daily in the Tari and Kumul areas.

**Large Scrubwren (NG)**  
*Sericornis nouhuysi*  
Good views were obtained of small groups in the Kumul area.

**Buff-faced Scrubwren (NG)**  
*Sericornis perspicillatus*  
Views were had of several birds in the Tari area.

**Grey-(Gray) green Scrubwren (NG)**  
*Sericornis arfakianus*  
A single bird was seen briefly in the Tari area.
Brown-breasted Gerygone (NG)  
*Gerygone ruficollis*  
Heard and seen on most days in the mountains near both Kumul and Makara Lodges; its song is one of the beautiful and characteristic sounds of the montane forest.

Yellow-bellied Gerygone (NG)  
*Gerygone chrysogaster*  
A bird of the lowlands, one was seen in Varirata NP with a further sighting on Boys Town Road.

Green-backed Gerygone (NE)  
*Gerygone chloronotus*  
Its distinctive song was heard frequently in the lowlands and hills with two birds showing very well in Varirata NP.

Fairy Gerygone  
*Gerygone palpebrosa*  
A few were seen well in Varirata associating with mixed flocks.

Goldenface (Dwarf Whistler) (NG)  
*Pachycare flavogriseum*  
This beautiful little bird was seen on two occasions in mixed flocks in Varirata NP. A rather scarce and elusive species!

Australasian Babblers  
Pomatostomidae

Papuan (New Guinea) Babbler (NG)  
*Garritornis isidorei*  
A flock of seven of these rather furtive birds was encountered in the lowland forest along the Elevala River.

Logrunners  
Orthonychidae

Papuan (Northern) Logrunner (NG)  
*Orthonyx novaeguineae*  
This scarce and secretive understory skulker was unfortunately just heard on one occasion in the Tari area.

Satinbirds  
Cnemophilidae

Crested Satinbird (NG)  
*Cnemophilus macgregorii*  
Phenomenal views were had of both male and female birds on all three days in the Kumul area. What a cracker!

Berrypeckers, longbills  
Melanocharitidae

Obscure Berrypecker (NG)  
*Melanocharis arfakiana*  
This recently rediscovered and little-known species was seen extremely well in the 11th hour on Dablin Creek Road. Some of us also had a very surprising sighting of a single bird associating with a mixed flock behind Kwatu Lodge.

Black Berrypecker (NG)  
*Melanocharis nigra*  
Several were seen in Varirata NP.

Mid-mountain (Lemon-breasted) Berrypecker (NG)  
*Melanocharis longicauda*  
Two female birds were seen in the Tari area near Makara Lodge.

Fan-tailed Berrypecker (NG)  
*Melanocharis versteri*  
A male and female were seen in the montane forest around Kumul Lodge.

Dwarf Longbill (Honeyeater) (NG)  
*Oedistoma iliolophus*  
We first saw this species in Varirata NP where a single bird showed remarkably well. We also found this species on several occasions in the Tabubil and Kiunga areas.

Pygmy Longbill (Honeyeater) (NG)  
*Oedistoma pygmaeum*  
A single bird was seen in the Tabubil area.

Yellow-bellied Longbill (NG)  
*Toxorhamphus novaeguineae*  
This fast-moving species was seen on two occasions in the lowlands around Kiunga.
Painted Berrypeckers  *Paramytiidae*

**Crested Berrypecker (NG)**  *Paramythia montium*
Small numbers of this colorful species were seen on consecutive days in the Tari area with a further pair being found at Kumul Lodge.

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

**Spotted Jewel-babbler (NG)**  *Ptilorrhoa leucosticta*
A pair of these arch skulkers was seen briefly in the Tari area.

**Blue Jewel-babbler (NG)**  *Ptilorrhoa caerulescens*
One bird showed briefly on Boys Town Road with another bird being seen later in forest behind Kwatu Lodge.

*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)**  *Ptilorrhoa castanomota*
Amazing views were had of this usually near-impossible to see bird in Varirata NP when two separate pairs performed in and across the pass for an extended period!

**Painted Quail-thrush (NG)**  *Cinclosoma ajax*
We heard this species in Varirata NP and throughout the lowlands in the Kiunga area.

**Boatbills  *Machaerirhynchidae***

**Yellow-breasted Boatbill**  *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*
Two separate sightings were had in Varirata NP.

**Black-breasted Boatbill (NG)**  *Machaerirhynchus nigripictus*
This boldly-patterned species was seen very well on consecutive days in the Tari area.

**Butcherbirds & Allies  *Cracticidae***

**Black Butcherbird**  *Cracticus quoyi*
This species was heard at Varirata and was also heard and seen in the Tabubil area.

**Black-backed Butcherbird (NE)**  *Cracticus mentalis*
Great views were had of these vocal and obtrusive birds at PAU.

**Hooded Butcherbird (NG)**  *Cracticus cassicus*
This fairly common bird was seen on many days in the foothills and lowlands. Its loud and characteristic call was a permanent feature in many areas, especially around Tabubil.

**Lowland Peltops (NG)**  *Peltops blainvillii*
Three birds were seen along the Elevala River.

**Mountain Peltops (NG)**  *Peltops montanus*
A total of five of these handsome birds were found in the Tabubil area.

**Woodswallows  *Artamidae***

**White-breasted Woodswallow**  *Artamus leucorynchus*
Commonly seen in the lowlands around Port Moresby and Kiunga.

**Great Woodswallow (NG)**  *Artamus maximus*
This large, conspicuous species was seen regularly throughout the highlands and foothill areas with especially good sightings at the Tari Airport and in the town of Tabubil.
Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

Black-faced Cuckooshrike Coracina novaehollandiae
Seven birds were seen in flight overhead at PAU with further encounters in the Kiunga area.

Stout-billed Cuckooshrike (NG) Coracina caeruleogrisea
Among New Guinea’s cuckooshrikes, this large and relatively scarce species is particularly impressive. We had good views of one bird at Varirata with another three being found in the Tabubil area.

Barred Cuckooshrike Coracina lineata
A pair was seen very well in the scope at Varirata NP.

Boyer's Cuckooshrike (NG) Coracina boyeri
Fairly commonly seen at several scattered localities with our first sighting being at Varirata NP.

White-bellied Cuckooshrike Coracina papuensis
Small groups were seen at many sights throughout the tour.

Note: IOC splits C. papuensis into C. papuensis (White-bellied Cuckooshrike) and C. ingens (Manus Cuckooshrike), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, C. papuensis (White-bellied Cuckooshrike).

[Common] Cicadabird Coracina tenuirostris
One female was seen on our first morning in Varirata NP.

Note: IOC splits C. tenuirostris into C. tenuirostris (Common Cicadabird), C. monacha (Palau Cicadabird), C. nesiotis (Yap Cicadabird), C. insperata (Pohnpei Cicadabird), C. remota (Grey-capped Cicadabird) and C. salomonis (Makira Cicadabird), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, C. tenuirostris (Cicadabird).

Black-shouldered Cicadabird (Papuan Cuckoo-shrike) (NG) Coracina incerta
Two birds were encountered on Dablin Creek Road.

Grey-(Gray-) headed Cuckooshrike (NG) Coracina schisticeps
Four birds seen on Dablin Creek Road with a further female found near Kiunga.

Black Cicadabird (New Guinea Cuckoo-shrike) (NG) Coracina melas
Four birds were seen well in Varirata NP with another two individuals being found on Dablin Creek Road.

Black-bellied Cuckooshrike (NG) Coracina montana
We were lucky to find one female on Dablin Creek Road.

Golden Cuckooshrike (NG) Campochaera sloetii
Four of these gorgeous birds were seen on Dablin Creek Road with a further pair being found near Kiunga.

Varied Triller Lalage leucomela
Fairly regular sightings were had in Varirata NP.

Note: IOC splits L. leucomela into L. leucomela (Varied Triller) and L. conjuncta (Mussau Triller), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, L. leucomela (Varied Triller).

Sittellas Neosittidae

Papuan (Varied) Sittella (NG) Daphoenositta papuensis
Two flocks totaling about ten birds each were seen in the immediate vicinity of Makara Lodge. We enjoyed watching these scarce birds feeding nuthatch-like along the mossy branches.

Note: IOC splits D. chrysoptera into D. chrysoptera (Varied Sittella) and D. papuensis (Papuan Sittella), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, D. chrysoptera (Varied Sittella).

Family Uncertain Incertae Sedis

Wattled Ploughbill (NG) Eulacestoma nigropectus
A single female was seen in a mixed species flock in the Tari area with further birds being heard in the same vicinity.
**Whistlers & Allies  Pachycephalidae**

**Brown-backed Whistler (PNG)**  
Pachycephala modesta  
Pairs were encountered occasionally in mixed species flocks in the Tari area.

**Grey (Gray) Whistler (NE)**  
Pachycephala simplex  
Three birds were encountered in Varirata NP with a further sighting on Dablin Creek Road.  
*Note: IOC only recognizes one species, P. simplex (Grey Whistler), whereas Clements splits P. simplex into P. simplex (Gray Whistler) and P. griseiceps (Gray-headed Whistler).*

**Sclater’s Whistler (NG)**  
Pachycephala soror  
One female was found in the Tari area with a second being seen on Dablin Creek Road.  
*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  
Fabulous views were had daily of this beautiful species in the highland areas of Tari and Kumul.

**Black-headed Whistler (NG)**  
Pachycephala monacha  
Six of these pied birds were seen at the Mt. Hagen Golf Course with a further three being sighted on Dablin Creek Road.

**Little (Rufous) Shrikethrush**  
Colluricincla megarhyncha  
A total of three birds were seen during our time in Varirata NP.

**Grey (Gray) Shrikethrush**  
Colluricincla harmonica  
Excellent views were had of two birds at PAU.

**Hooded Pitohui (NG)**  
Pitohui dichrous  
Several birds were seen during our time 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.

**White-bellied Pitohui (NG)**  
Pitohui incertus  
We found a flock of six birds along the Elevala River.

**Rusty Pitohui (NG)**  
Pitohui ferrugineus  
Three birds were seen in Varirata NP with a further two being found in the Tabubil area.

**Crested Pitohui (NG)**  
Pitohui cristatus  
This species’ continuous song was heard in Varirata NP and Jeff was lucky enough to manage of view of this seldom-seen species.

**Rufous-naped Whistler (NG)**  
Aleadryas rufinucha  
This distinctive whistler was seen nearly every day in the highlands around Kumul and Makara Lodges; at Kumul they were particularly confiding around the feeder.

**Shrikes  Laniidae**

**Long-tailed Shrike**  
Lanius schach  
Regularly encountered in open grassland habitat throughout the highlands.

**Figbirds, Orioles  Oriolidae**

**Australasian Figbird**  
Sphecotheres vieilloti  
We encountered at least 20 birds during our afternoon at PAU.

**Brown Oriole (NG)**  
Oriolus szalayi  
This rather drab oriole was seen on several occasions throughout the tour.

**Drongos  Dicruridae**

**Pygmy (Papuan) Drongo (NG)**  
Chaetorhynchus papuensis
We heard this rather scarce species in Varirata NP.

Spangled Drongo \textit{Dicrurus bracteatus}

Encountered on most days in the lowlands and foothills.

**Fantails \textit{Rhipiduridae}**

Willie Wagtail \textit{Rhipidura leucophrys}

Very widespread, being seen every day throughout the trip.

Northern Fantail \textit{Rhipidura rufiventris}

This species was seen on the Dablin Creek Road.

Sooty Thicket (-) Fantail (NG) \textit{Rhipidura threnothorax}

This arch skulker was seen briefly on two occasions in Varirata NP.

White-bellied Thicket (-) Fantail (NG) \textit{Rhipidura leucothorax}

This is an exceptionally difficult bird to see! We had two birds briefly along Dablin Creek Road with a further two being seen in flight along the Elevala River.

Black Fantail (NG) \textit{Rhipidura atra}

Both males and females were encountered irregularly in the Tari area.

Chestnut-bellied Fantail (NG) \textit{Rhipidura hyperythra}

This is a common bird in Varirata National Park and several pairs were seen during our time there.

Friendly Fantail (NG) \textit{Rhipidura albolimbata}

This common and lively species was a regular attendant of mixed flocks in the Tari and Kumul areas.

Dimorphic Fantail (NG) \textit{Rhipidura brachyrhyncha}

A rather scarce fantail that was seen well in the Tari area.

Rufous-backed Fantail (NG) \textit{Rhipidura rufidorsa}

This scarce lowland species was seen once associating with a mixed flock on Boys Town Road.

**Monarchs \textit{Monarchidae}**

Black Monarch (NG) \textit{Symposiachrus axillaris}

This species was observed at Makara Lodge.

Spot-winged Monarch (NG) \textit{Symposiachrus guttula}

Singles were seen on several occasions during our time in Varirata NP.

Hooded Monarch (NG) \textit{Symposiachrus manadensis}

This scarce monarch was heard on one occasion behind Kwatu Lodge.

Golden Monarch (NG) \textit{Carterornis chrysomela}

A radiant male was seen in lowland forest along Boys Town Road.

Frilled Monarch (NG) \textit{Artes telescopthalmus}

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

Torrent-lark (NG) \textit{Grallina bruijni}

A pair of these attractive and very special birds was seen on consecutive days below Kumul Lodge.

Leaden Flycatcher \textit{Myiagra rubecula}

A male and female was seen on separate days in the woodlands in Varirata NP.

Shining Flycatcher \textit{Myiagra alecto}

Common along the Elevala River where several males and females were seen.

**Crows, Jays \textit{Corvidae}**

Grey (Gray) Crow (NG) \textit{Corvus tristis}

Rockjumper Birding Tours
Seen regularly in the lowlands and foothills near Tabubil and Kiunga with our first sighting at Varirata NP.

**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).*

---

**Family Uncertain  Incertae Sedis**

**Lesser Melampitta** (NG)  
*Melampitta lugubris*

Another very difficult bird to see – some of the group managed to obtain views of this shy understory dweller.

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

Small groups of these attractive birds were seen fairly regularly in the Tari and Kumul areas. 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 near Tabubil but was most common in the lowlands around Kiunga, especially along the Elevala River where at least 15 were seen in one day.

**Crinkle-collared Manucode** (NG)  
*Manucodia chalybatus*

Our first sighting was in Varirata NP with another two birds being seen in the Tabubil area.

**Trumpet Manucode** (NE)  
*Phonygammus keraudrenii*

This species was heard in Varirata NP and again in the Tabubil area. We finally managed to see three birds in the late afternoon near the Ok Menga Tunnel.

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

Three of these bizarre birds were seen visiting a fruiting tree at Makara Lodge where they showed well.

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

Several stunning male and female birds were seen daily in the highland areas of Tari and Kumul. The adult males have the longest tail in proportion to body size of any bird in the world! This PNG endemic has a very limited range and was the last recognized species of bird-of-paradise to be discovered in 1938.

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

Three separate birds were seen at forest edge below Makara Lodge.

**[Queen] Carola’s Parotia** (PNG)  
*Parotia carolae*

We enjoyed good views of these outrageous birds on Dablin Creek Road as several males and females regularly came into a nearby fruiting tree to feed.

*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).*

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

We were very fortunate to find a single female below Kumul Lodge.

*Note: IOC splits *P. lawesii* into *P. lawesii* (Lawe’s Parotia) and *P. helenae* (Eastern Parotia), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, *P. lawesii* (Lawe’s Parotia).*

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

We watched several fabulous males with their outrageous head plumes calling from exposed perches in the Tari area and also saw a number of females in the same area.

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

Several females were seen in the Tari and Kumul areas.

**Magnificent Riflebird** (NE)  
*Ptiloris magnificus*
We heard this elusive species on two separate days near Kiunga.

*Note: IOC splits P. magnificus into P. magnificus (Magnificent Riflebird) and P. intercedens (Growling Riflebird), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, P. magnificus (Magnificent Riflebird).*

**Growling Riflebird (NG)**  
Ptiloris intercedens

Three females were seen during our first day in Varirata NP with a further six birds the next day! This included two brief males.

**Black Sicklebill (NG)**  
Epimachus fastuosus

Unfortunately we just heard this species calling from deep inside a forested valley below Ambua Lodge.

**Brown Sicklebill (NG)**  
Epimachus meyeri

This species was an entertaining visitor to the Kumul Lodge feeders and was undoubtedly one of the major trip highlights! We also encountered several females in the Tari area. The adult male’s ‘machine-gun burst’ calls were amazing to listen to.

**Magnificent Bird-of-paradise (NG)**  
Diphyllodes magnificus

Our first encounter was with a female bird below Kumul Lodge. Later we found two females and a male on Dablin Creek Road.

**King Bird-of-paradise (NG)**  
Cicinnurus regius

The adult male faithfully attended the canopy tangle of a display tree alongside the Elevala River. Although often difficult to see, his repeated movements within a small and predictable area gave us many striking views of his gleaming red-orange and white plumage with unique green tail rackets. This is the smallest bird-of-paradise but also one of the brightest and most unique.

**Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise (NG)**  
Seleucidis melanoleucus

Several of these bizarre birds, including many fabulous males put on an amazing display along the Elevala and Fly Rivers.

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

We saw this species at a few sites near Kiunga; we also witnessed the amazing display of a gorgeous full plumaged male! 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 during the afternoon, we were treated to the spectacle of several prime males calling and briefly displaying, dancing and shivering their rich reddish flank plumes every time a female appeared. We also saw this species in the Tabubil and Kiunga areas.

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

Due to the road being completely impassable we were unfortunately unable to get to the site for this much sought-after species. We did, however, manage to find a single female visiting a fruiting tree below Kumul Lodge.

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

We scoped a superb adult male and saw a single female below Kumul Lodge.

---

**Australasian Robins  Petroicidae**

**Ashy Robin (NE)**  
Heteromyias albispecularis

This secretive understory species was heard on a few occasions in the forest above Makara Lodge.

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

This tiny black and white robin was seen on Boys Town Road and heard again along the forest trails bordering the Elevala River.

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

This fairly confiding species was seen on several occasions in the Tari area.
White-winged Robin (NG)  
*Peneothello sigillata*

Our first sightings of this species were in the Tari area. We later had many superb sightings around Kumul Lodge.

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

This species was especially tame and conspicuous in the vicinity of Makara Lodge.

White-rumped Robin (NG)  
*Peneothello bimaculata*

Some of the group managed to see this tricky bird on Dablin Creek Road.

White-faced Robin (NE)  
*Tregellasia leucops*

We had incredible views of two separate pairs during our time in Varirata NP. This exquisite species can be rather tricky to find!

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

We had great views of several birds in the Mt. Hagen and Tabubil areas.

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

We had regular sightings throughout the highlands, especially in the Tari area.

Olive Flyrobin (Flycatcher) (NG)  
*Microeca flavovirescens*

This rare species was located in Varirata NP where a single bird showed well in the under-canopy.

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

Several sightings were had in Varirata NP. We also found this species on Dablin Creek Road.

Garnet Robin (NG)  
*Eugerygone rubra*

A single female was seen at the road edge just below the Tari Gap.

Northern Scrub (-) Robin  
*Drymodes superciliaris*

We heard this species in Varirata NP and some folks managed to glimpse one as it dashed across the path. A very tricky species indeed!

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

Good views were had of this unobtrusive species on consecutive days in the Tari area.

**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).*

Tree Martin  
*Petrochelidon nigricans*

A single bird was seen in flight at the Mt. Hagen Golf Course.

**Leaf Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae**

Island Leaf (-) Warbler  
*Phylloscopus poliocephalus*

Small numbers were seen in the highlands.

**Grassbirds and allies Megaluridae**

Papuan (Tawny) Grassbird  
*Megalurus macrurus*

Excellent views were had on many occasions in the Tari area and we also found this species below Kumul Lodge.

*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).*
White-eyes  Zosteropidae

Black-fronted White-eye (NG)  Zosterops minor
Half a dozen birds were seen in a flock in Varirata NP.

Capped White-eye (NG)  Zosterops fuscicapilla
Two separate groups were seen in the Tari area.

Papuan (New Guinea) White-eye (NG)  Zosterops novaeguineae
Four birds were seen briefly in Varirata NP with much better views of several birds below Kumul Lodge.

Starlings  Sturnidae

Metallic Starling (NE)  Aplonis metallica
Good numbers of these flocking starlings were seen throughout the lowlands.
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
One of these rare starlings was seen associating with a massive flock of Metallic Starlings on the Elevala River.

Singing Starling (NE)  Aplonis cantoroides
This species was only seen in the Port Moresby area.

Yellow-faced Myna (NG)  Mino dumontii
Seen almost daily in the lowlands and foothills with our largest numbers in the Kiunga region.

Golden Myna (NG)  Mino anais
This very attractive species was seen well on several occasions with especially good numbers along the Elevala River.

Thrushes  Turdidae

Island Thrush  Turdus poliocephalus
First seen on the Tari Gap, we later had excellent views of several birds around Kumul Lodge.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers  Muscicapidae

Pied Bush Chat  Saxicola caprata
Good numbers were seen daily in grassland habitat throughout the island.

Flowerpeckers  Dicaeidae

Red-capped Flowerpecker (NG)  Dicaeum geelvinkianum
Widespread and fairly commonly seen in small numbers throughout the tour with some great views of several striking males.

Sunbirds  Nectariniidae

Black Sunbird  Leptocoma sericea
Fairly common in the lowlands, we enjoyed good sightings in the Tabubil and Kiunga areas.

Olive-backed Sunbird  Cinnys jugularis
A female was seen in Varirata NP with another four birds (including two striking males) seen near Kiunga Airport.

Old World Sparrows  Passeridae
House Sparrow \hspace{1cm} Passer domesticus  
Small numbers found in Port Moresby and Mt. Hagen.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow \hspace{1cm} Passer montanus  
A few birds were seen at the Gateway Hotel.

Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae

Mountain Firetail (NG) \hspace{1cm} Oreostruthus fuliginosus  
Pairs and small family groups were seen at the road edge near the Tari Gap as well as around Kumul Lodge.

Blue-faced Parrotfinch \hspace{1cm} Erythrura trichroa  
Most of the group saw this tricky and very striking species on the pathway to Makara Lodge.

Great-billed Mannikin (Grand Munia) (NG) \hspace{1cm} Lonchura grandis  
Great views were had of six birds near Varirata NP. This is generally a very scarce mannikin!

Grey-(Gray) headed Mannikin (Munia) (PNG) \hspace{1cm} Lonchura caniceps  
Two birds were seen briefly at PAU with a further sighting of one bird associating with a small flock of Great-billed Mannikin near Varirata NP.

Hooded Mannikin (Munia) (NG) \hspace{1cm} Lonchura spectabilis  
Small flocks were seen most days in the highlands.

Wagtails, Pipits Motacillidae

New Zealand (Australasian) Pipit \hspace{1cm} Anthus novaeseelandiae  
This species was seen in small numbers on the Tari Gap as well as at the Mt. Hagen Airport.

Annotated Checklist of Mammals Recorded

Short-furred Dasyure (NG) \hspace{1cm} Murexia longicaudata  
Two or three of these little animals were seen in the immediate vicinity of the Kumul Lodge.

Great Flying Fox (NE) \hspace{1cm} Pteropus neohibernicus  
Several of these massive mammals were identified along the Elevala River.

Variable Flying-fox  
We found good numbers in the early morning and evening along the Elevala River

Bat sp.  
Several unidentified species of bat were seen in flight during the evenings and early mornings at many sites during the tour.

Mouse sp.  
An unidentified species of mouse was seen in the Kumul area.

Raffray’s Bandicoot \hspace{1cm} Peroryctes raffrayana  
This bizarre mammal was seen well as it hung around for a while underneath the feeding table at Kumul Lodge.

Rockjumper Birding Tours  
Worldwide Birding Adventures  
PO Box 13972, Cascades, 3202, South Africa
Tel: +27 33 394 0225
Fax: +27 88 033 394 0225
Email: info@rockjumperbirding.com
Alternative Email: rockjumperbirding@yahoo.com
Website: www.rockjumperbirding.com