Papua New Guinea III

Trip Report

11th to 28th August 2011 (18 days)

Tour Leaders: Glen Valentine & Andrew Sutherland

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

1. Southern Crowned Pigeon
2. King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise
3. Raggiana Bird-of-paradise
4. Greater Bird-of-paradise
5. Palm Cockatoo
6. Papuan Lorikeet
7. Superb Bird-of-paradise
8. Red-bellied Pitta
9. Crested Satinbird
10. King Bird-of-paradise

Tour Summary

Our third 2011 tour of Papua New Guinea got underway at the Gateway Hotel in Port Moresby. After meeting up with the final two tour participants we undertook a short pre-lunch stroll around the gardens, which yielded a few interesting species including Rufous-banded and Yellow-tinted Honeyeaters. After a delicious lunch we then set off for the nearby Pacific Adventist University on the outskirts of Port Moresby, the nation’s Capital. The birding here proved rather rewarding as usual with excellent views being obtained of a good variety of species. The small wetlands dotted around the campus yielded some good birds such as Spotted and Wandering Whistling Ducks, Raja Shelduck, Green Pygmy Goose, Australasian Grebe, Comb-crested Jacana and Nankeen Night Heron amongst others, while the surrounding woodland and grassland produced some smart birds that included the handsome Orange-fronted Fruit Dove, Torresian Imperial Pigeon, three wonderful Papuan Frogmouths, Sacred Kingfisher, Fawn-breasted Bowerbird, Streak-headed Honeyeater, New Guinea Friarbird, Black-backed Butcherbird, White-bellied Cuckooshrike, Australasian Figbird, Brown Oriole and several hundred Grey-headed Mannikins.

Departing for the highlands we boarded our flight to Tari, and upon arrival we met up with our local guide, loaded up the bus and began the drive uphill to our nearby accommodation situated in the luxurious and verdant forests below the Tari Gap. Good birding could be enjoyed immediately around the lodge and we found such specialties as Yellow-billed Lorikeet, Buff-faced Scrubwren, Black Fantail, bizarre Short-tailed Paradigalla, Slaty Robin, Sclater’s and Brown-backed Whistlers, Ashy Gerygone and Canary Flyrobin in the immediate vicinity of the lodge.

The area a little higher up above the lodge produced some excellent sightings in the form of Papuan, Plum-faced, Yellow-billed and Orange-billed Lorikeets, remarkably tame Painted Tiger Parrot, three Brown Quail that ambled across the road, several flocks of Papuan Mountain Pigeon, impressive Long-tailed Honey Buzzard, minute Red-breasted Pygmy Parrot, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Black-throated Honeyeater, Red-collared Myzomela, Papuan Scrubwren, lively Fan-tailed Berrypecker, bold Hooded and Black-bellied Cuckoooshrikes, superb Crested Berrypecker, beautiful Regent Whistler, strange Blue-capped Ifrita, exquisite Ribbon-tailed and Princess Stephanie’s Astrapias,
extraordinary King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise with its outrageous head plumes, Blue-faced Parrotfinch and Mountain Firetail.

The forest interior is always hard work but with perseverance we scored a number of targets that included the extremely secretive Spotted Jewel-babbler, boldly-patterned Black-breasted Boatbill and rather confiding Lesser Ground Robin, as well as Mountain Owlet-nightjar and Archbold’s Nightjar on their respective day roosts.

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 Collared Sparrowhawk, Papuan King Parrot, Marbled Honeyeater, Yellow-browed Melidectes, Brown-breasted Gerygone, Marbled Frogmouth on the day roost, distant but nonetheless impressive Black Sicklebill, sensational Superb Bird-of-paradise and the outstanding Blue Bird-of-paradise.

Leaving the rich and diverse forests 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, including legendary highland species such as 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, which were all in constant attendance. 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 unbeatable views of a fabulous pair of Chestnut Forest Rails on one of the trails around the lodge. Other noteworthy species seen here included Mountain Mouse-warbler, inquisitive parties of Large Scrubwren, skulking Lesser Melampitta, exceedingly attractive Tit Berrypecker, Loria’s Satinbird, confiding Dimorphic Fantail and an extremely vocal male Brown Sicklebill. The lower lying forest, grassland and secondary habitat offered some good birding and yielded Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove, Torrent Flyrobin, Magnificent, Superb and Blue Birds-of-paradise, Yellow-breasted Bowerbird, Black-headed Whistler, White-shouldered Fairywren, Mountain Honeyeater, aptly-named Ornate Melidectes and Papuan White-eye. Despite us being equipped with very capable four wheel drive vehicles, we were unfortunately unable to get to the Lesser Bird-of-paradise display area as the road leading there was completely impassable after the recent heavy rains. As a consequence we were forced to resort to a possible “new site” but the birds were unfortunately not in attendance. We did however pick up some other lovely species in this area including Grey Shrikethrush, Singing
Starling, Mountain Myzomela, Hooded Mannikin and Rainbow Bee-eater. Pre-dawn and evening walks around the lodge produced excellent views of a Cuscus as well as sightings of the rarely recorded Feline Owlet-nightjar.

Unfortunately our time in the highlands had come to an end and it was time to venture west towards the small mining town of Tabubil on the Irian Jaya border. We were however treated to excellent views of several Papuan Harriers quartering low over the airstrip before departing Mt. Hagen. Cruising above the heavy cloud that blanketed the vast New Guinean rainforest we soon slowed down and after circling the airport a few times our pilot made a sudden break through the cloud-cover and before we knew it we were cruising through the narrow Ok Tedi River valley towards the small mining town of Tabubil where we landed safely. 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. One of Tabubil’s best birds, the rare, localized and unpredictable Salvadori’s Teal showed extremely well early one morning and the highly sought-after Pesquet’s Parrot also put in a few flight appearances. Some of the other specialties that were seen in the surrounding forests included Pacific Baza, Papuan Boobook before dawn, Variable and Grey-headed Goshawks, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, the rarely seen Orange-fronted Hanging Parrot, outstanding Orange-breasted Fig Parrot, Fairy Lorikeet, Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo, elegant Moustached Treeswift, bizarre and much sought after Shovel-billed Kookaburra, Spotted, Tawny-breasted, Long-billed and Scrub Honeyeaters, seldom-seen Grey Scrubwren, Green-backed Gerygone, Black-fronted White-eye, Mountain Peltops, highly active Dwarf and Yellow-bellied Longbills, Black and Hooded Butcherbirds, Mottled, Rusty, Sclater’s, Black-headed and Grey Whistlers, Black and Black-winged Monarchs and the boldly patterned and rather elusive Torrent-lark, 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 Manucode, the incomparable Queen Carola’s Parotia and the stunning Magnificent Bird-of-paradise. Cuckooshrikes also abound in the area and we enjoyed views of Stout-billed, Boyer’s, Black-shouldered, Grey-headed and superb Golden Cuckooshrikes. One of the most memorable experiences of the entire trip occurred one afternoon at the Ok Menga Hydro Plant when literally hundreds of Dusky Lories were watched as they wielded in and out of the canopy in front of us, squawking loudly as they did so. Also in attendance were good numbers of both Coconut Lorikeet and brightly coloured Black-capped Lory, which made for a kaleidoscope of colour and beauty.

Leaving Tabubil in persistent drizzle, we meandered through the forested foothills down towards the coastal plain and after having to contend with some unexpected road-works, finally reached the lowland town of Kiunga for lunch. We were delighted that the weather had finally lifted and 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. This included Great Cuckoo-Dove, Dwarf, Pink-spotted, Superb and Orange-bellied Fruit Doves, Zoe’s Imperial Pigeon, Yellowish-streaked Lory in small flocks overhead, miniscule Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot at very close range, Red-flanked Lorikeet, noisy Red-
cheeked and Eclectus Parrots, Double-eyed Fig Parrot, often elusive Dwarf Koel, handsome Rufous-bellied Kookaburra, scarce and intricately-patterned Wallace’s Fairywren, Puff-backed, Mimic, Plain and Obscure Honeyeaters, Ruby-throated Myzomela, Meyer’s Friarbird, Papuan Babbler, Rusty Pitohui, Golden Monarch, Trumpet Manucode and Red-capped Flowerpecker, as well as four glowing Flame Bowerbirds that showed extremely well in flight!

Two of our most amazing and unexpected sightings also occurred along Boys Town Road: here we were blown away to have the very rarely seen New Guinea Bronewing fly across the road in front of us on three separate occasions and we also found the extremely elusive White-breasted Ground Dove feeding in a small fruiting tree right next to the track for several minutes – absolutely mind-blowing! These vast, tropical, lowland forests also produced one of our most memorable experiences of the trip and that was the witnessing of many spectacular male Greater Birds-of-paradise displaying with all their worth for the nearby females at a popular display site deep inside the forest. This was truly an unforgettable experience! We also undertook a short night drive in the area, which 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 began to cruise down the Fly River was a very impressive Great-billed Heron perched on a sandbank at the river’s edge. During the next hour we witnessed several gigantic Flying Foxes and good numbers of Collared Imperial Pigeons flying overhead from their roosting sites to their feeding spots. After a while we turned off the 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 we were seeing our first of many giant Blyth’s Hornbills and charismatic Palm Cockatoos. We also encountered several Glossy-mantled Manucodes along the way, as well as Shining Flycatcher, handsome Golden and Yellow-faced Mynas, strange-looking Grey Crow, Pinon’s Imperial Pigeon, Marbled Frogmouth on the nest, White-bellied Sea Eagle, a sub-adult Black Bittern, Pacific Koel, dozens of Oriental Dollarbirds and small groups of Channel-billed Cuckoo and Papuan Spine-tailed Swift. We also ducked into the forest where we located a vocal and spectacular King Bird-of-paradise and also bumped into a sleeping Death Adder! One of the area’s most exciting and well-known avian gems is the regal Southern Crowned Pigeon: these other-worldly creatures are truly spectacular and we were rewarded with many close and prolonged sightings of these gargantuan birds!

Other target species encountered during our boat trips along the river included the scarce Yellow-eyed Starling, Large-billed Gerygone, a squabbling pair of Ivory-billed Coucals and the lovely Lowland Peltops.

The birding along the trails that lead through the lowland swamp forest bordering the river did prove fairly hard work, but we managed to locate some incredible birds and the rewards were worth the effort. Highlights included such specialties as striking Common and Little Paradise Kingfishers, gorgeous Wompoo Fruit Dove, often
tricky-to-find Hooded Monarch, stunning Red-bellied Pitta in the scope, Black-billed Brushturkey, White-bellied Thicket Fantail and the very difficult Blue Jewel-babbler that showed well on a fallen log in the path! We also enjoyed excellent views of the truly bizarre Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise on its early morning display perch.

A night walk in the area added some excellent nocturnal birds, most exciting of which was a Sooty Owl that showed incredibly well right above our heads for a prolonged period! A wonderful Hooded Pitta was also found during the walk and gave us fabulous, close views!

Alas the end of the tour was drawing near and it was time to fly back to Port Moresby for our final leg of this sensational birding trip. Leaving Kiunga we picked up Australian Pratincole on the airstrip and upon arrival in Moresby we quickly checked into our rooms and departed for a nearby patch of mangroves and open Eucalyptus savannah. The birding here was rather productive and saw us adding Pacific Reef Heron, Brown Goshawk, Bar-shouldered Dove, impressive Blue-winged Kookaburra, Graceful Honeyeater and extremely localized Silver-eared Honeyeater to the tally.

We started very early the next morning and headed straight out into the hills towards the nearby Varirata National Park. Spending the entire day in the reserve, we were rewarded with some great birds. Specialties seen at the forest edge and clearings included splendid Pink-spotted and Beautiful Fruit Doves, dazzling Yellow-billed Kingfisher, Little Bronze Cuckoo, Papuan Black Myzomela, Black Cicadabird, Black Berryepecker and striking Hooded Pitohui, while we also had amazing views of Black-capped Lory and Papuan King and Red-cheeked Parrots.

The forest interior produced some real quality birds such as Wompoo Fruit Dove, Barred Owlet-nightjar on the day roost, spectacular Brown-headed Paradise and Variable Dwarf Kingfishers, Rusty Mouse Warbler, Pale-billed Scrubwren, Fairy and Yellow-bellied Gerygones, very attractive Goldenface, often-elusive Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Pygmy Drongo, Frilled and Black-faced Monarchs, inquisitive Chestnut-bellied Fantail, and the brilliant White-faced Robin. The woodland along the Park’s entrance road was also productive and yielded Lemon-bellied Flyrobin, low-density White-bellied Whistler, Leaden Flycatcher, Forest Kingfisher and Pheasant Coucal.

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. The males with their brilliant green throats, gold heads and stunning, expansive red tails really are a sight to behold and will remain in our memories forever!

Having done so well in the lowlands and at Varirata meant that we were able to spend our last full day in the Brown River and Hsui Mangroves area. This part of the country is extremely birdy and always produces a wonderful range of species, and we had a great time picking up dozens of new and exciting gems. Arriving at an area of forest edge and secondary habitat in the early morning we were greeted by many Dusky Mozomela as well as Brown-backed Honeyeater, gorgeous Emperor Fairywren, Black Cicadabird, Black Thicket Fantail, Olive-backed Sunbird and with some effort and excellent spotting a smart Hook-billed Kingfisher. We also came across a
flock of the rare and seldom-seen Streak-headed Mannikin, which was a great bonus! An area of nearby *eucalyptus* woodland produced some good birds such as Bar-shouldered Dove, a pair of Buff-faced Pygmy Parrots and White-throated Gerygone, while the drive en route to the mangroves added Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Papuan Harrier, Pheasant Coucal, and with a little effort small groups of Great-billed, Grey-headed and Chestnut-breasted Mannikins and Clamorous Reed Warbler. At the mangroves we were then entertained by soaring Lesser Frigatebird, Little Bronze Cuckoo, Mangrove Gerygone and a small flock of Tree Martin. After a lovely, relaxing picnic lunch on the beach, watching Brown Boobies and Lesser Crested, Swift and Common Terns, it was time to head back to Moresby. The drive was fairly uneventful but we did enjoy excellent views of a magnificent adult Gurney’s Eagle as well as small groups of Pinon’s Imperial Pigeon and Black-faced Cuckooshrike along the way.

Unfortunately our time in the remarkable country of Papua New Guinea had come to an end and alas, it was time to say farewell to a fantastic group of birders and begin the journey back home. So many incredible sightings and experiences were had by all in what is truly one of the world’s great and unforgettable birding destinations. We hope to see you all again soon on another exciting Rockjumper birding adventure!


Annotated Checklist of Birds Recorded

354 species recorded (29 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 [ ]

**Megapodes Megapodiidae**

**Black-billed Brushturkey (NG)**
*Talegalla fuscirostris*
Two separate sightings were had along the forested trails adjacent to the Elevala River, while another bird was seen as it crossed the path in Varirata NP. All three sightings were however brief.

**Orange-footed Scrubfowl**
*Megapodius reinwardt*
A total of three birds were seen during our day visit to the Brown River and Hsui Mangrove area.

**Pheasant, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae**

**Brown Quail**
*Coturnix ypsilophora*
A group of three crossed the road and showed well on the Tari Gap while another bird was seen briefly below Kumul Lodge.

**Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae**

**Spotted Whistling Duck**
*Dendrocygna eytoni*
Five of these sought-after ducks were encountered at PAU and showed well in the scope.

**Wandering Whistling Duck**
*Dendrocygna arcuata*
At least 25 birds were found at PAU.

**Raja (Radjah) Shelduck**
*Tadorna radjah*
A single bird was seen very well at PAU.

**Salvadori’s Teal (NG)**
*Salvadorina waigiuensis*
Excellent views were had of three of these scarce teal in the Tabubil area.

**Green Pygmy Goose**
*Nettapus pulchellus*
Five birds were seen well at PAU.

**Pacific Black Duck**
*Anas superciliosa*
Good numbers were found at PAU.

**Grebes Podicipedidae**

**Australasian Grebe**
*Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*
Six were seen at PAU including two juvenile birds.

**Ibises, Spoonbills Threskiornithidae**

**Australian [White] Ibis**
*Threskiornis molucca*
A small group of six ibises were found at PAU.

**Herons, Bitterns Ardeidae**

**Black Bittern**
*Dupetor flavicollis*
One juvenile bird was encountered along the Elevala River near Kwatu Lodge.

**Nankeen (Rufous) Night Heron**
*Nycticorax caledonicus*
Three were seen roosting in a large tree at PAU, where they provided great views.

**Striated Heron**
*Butorides striata*
A few of these widespread herons were seen daily along the Elevala River.
[Eastern] Cattle Egret

_Bubulcus coromandus_

Good numbers were seen in the Port Moresby region.

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_

A single bird was seen soon after we began our boat trip up the Fly River. This massive heron is always scarce and can be rather difficult to find.

Great Egret

_Ardea modesta_

Seen in small numbers in the lowlands.

Intermediate Egret

_Egretta intermedia_

Three birds were seen at PAU with a further individual being found near Port Moresby.

Pied Heron

_Egretta picata_

At least 20 of these beautiful herons were seen at PAU with a single bird being seen later near Hsui Mangroves.

Little Egret

_Egretta garzetta_

A single bird was found at PAU.

Pacific Reef Heron

_Egretta sacra_

Two birds were seen near Port Moresby with a further two being found near Hsui Mangroves.

Frigatebirds _Fregatidae_

Lesser Frigatebird

_Fregata ariel_

A total of four birds including a close male and juvenile were seen at and around Hsui Mangroves.

Gannets, Boobies _Sulidae_

Brown Booby

_Sula leucogaster_

Good numbers (more than 40) were seen flying around a small offshore island near Hsui Mangroves. Three juvenile birds came quite close on two occasions and provided good views.

Cormorants _Phalacrocoracidae_

Little Pied Cormorant

_Microcarbo melanoleucos_

Three birds were seen on the Elevala River with another being found near Hsui Mangroves.

Little Black Cormorant

_Phalacrocorax sulcirostris_

Several birds were seen at PAU.

Great Cormorant

_Phalacrocorax carbo_

A few birds were seen around the Wabag River and we found another bird on the beach near Hsui Mangroves.

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_

Two birds were seen well and close at PAU and we also encountered a few individuals in the Port Moresby and Hsui areas.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles _Accipitridae_

Pacific Baza

_Aviceda subcristata_
Pairs and individuals were seen on a few occasions in the Tabubil and Kiunga areas.

**Long-tailed Honey Buzzard (NE)**
*Hemicopernis longicauda*
This species was seen on seven days of the tour at several widely scattered localities.

**Black Kite**
*Milvus migrans*
Small numbers were 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*
Fair 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 single adult bird was seen during our boat trip along the Elevala River.

**Papuan (Eastern Marsh) Harrier (NG)**
*Circus spilonotus*
A few birds were seen quartering over grassland areas near Tari and Mt. Hagen with a further four being seen in grasslands near Hsui Mangroves. One bird seen and photographed in the Hsui grasslands probably refers to Swamp Harrier, which is a rare visitor to New Guinea.

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 several occasions throughout the tour.

**Brown Goshawk**
*Accipiter fasciatus*
Two birds were seen in dry grassland/savannah habitat near Port Moresby.

**Grey (Gray)-headed Goshawk**
*Accipiter poliocephalus*
A juvenile was seen well near Tabubil, while adults were seen briefly on both Dablin Creek and Boys Town Roads.

**Collared Sparrowhawk**
*Accipiter cirrocephalus*
Excellent scope views were had of a sub-adult bird near Tari.

**Meyer’s Goshawk (NG)**
*Accipiter meyerianus*
Some of the group was very lucky to see this rare forest raptor flying over the road during a comfort stop en route from Tari to Mt. Hagen.

**Papuan (New Guinea) Eagle (NG)**
*Harpyopsis novaeguineae*
The deep booming calls of this large forest eagle were heard one morning at Varirata NP.

**Gurney’s Eagle (NE)**
*Aquila gurneyi*
Excellent views were had of a perched bird near the Brown River.

**Falcons Falconidae**

**Oriental Hobby**
*Falco severus*
A pair of these scarce falcons was seen at close range in Varirata NP.

**Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae**

**Chestnut Forest (-) Rail (NG)**
*Rallina forbesi*
After a lot of hard work we managed to obtain unbeatable views of a magnificent pair of these secretive forest crakes along a forest trail at Kumul Lodge.

**Buff-banded Rail**
*Gallirallus philippensis*
We bumped into this species at the road edge near Tabubil.

**Pale-vented (Rufous-tailed) Bush-hen**
*Amaurornis moluccana*
A very tricky bird to see! We heard this species extremely close-by on several occasions near Tabubil and some of the group was extremely lucky to glimpse one near Yuk Creek.

**Purple Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio*
Small numbers were seen at PAU with a few birds later on at wetlands 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*
Good views were had of several birds at PAU.

**Buttonquail** *Turnicidae*

**Red-backed Buttonquail** *Turnix maculosus*
Some of the group happened to be looking in the right place and was lucky to see this species as it flushed up briefly and landed in dense impenetrable cover at the Kiunga Airstrip.

**Plovers & Lapwings** *Charadriidae*

**Masked Lapwing** *Vanellus miles*
At least a dozen were seen at PAU with further sightings in the general Port Moresby area.

**Grey (Black-bellied) Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*
A singleton was seen near Hsui Mangroves.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*
Two birds were found near Tabubil.

**Greater Sand (-) Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultia*
Three birds were seen near Hsui Mangroves.

**Jacanas** *Jacenidae*

**Comb-crested Jacana** *Irediparra gallinacea*
At least 10 of these beauties were seen at close range at PAU.

**Sandpipers, Snipes** *Scolopacidae*

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*
Three birds were encountered near Hsui Mangroves.

**Grey (Gray)-tailed Tattler** *Tringa brevipes*
A single bird was seen near Hsui Mangroves.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*
Singletons were seen at scattered localities throughout the tour.

**Coursers, Pratincoles** *Glareolidae*

**Australian Pratincole** *Stiltia isabella*
Several were seen at the Kiunga Airstrip.

**Gulls, Terns & Skimmers** *Laridae*

**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*
Fair numbers were found in the Port Moresby area.

**Swift (Great Crested) Tern** *Thalasseus bergii*
A small flock was found near Hsui Mangroves.

**Lesser Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bengalensis*
A few birds were seen amongst Swift Terns near Hsui Mangroves.

**Pigeons, Doves Columbidae**

**Common (Rock) Pigeon** *Columba livia*
A few birds were seen in the Port Moresby area.

**Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove** *Macropygia amboinensis*
Pairs and small family groups were seen on several days of the trip at various scattered localities.

**Great Cuckoo-Dove (NE)** *Reinwardtoena reinwardtii*
A few of these massive doves were seen in flight in the lowlands around Kiunga with especially good views along the Elevala River.

**New Guinea Bronzewing (NG)** *Henicophaps albifrons*
This rare pigeon was seen flying low across Boys Town Road on three occasions in one morning, which is exceptional! One of the sightings was actually quite good and one could even see the white forehead of this seldom-encountered pigeon.

**Peaceful Dove** *Geopelia placida*
Several birds were found in the Port Moresby area.

**Bar-shouldered Dove** *Geopelia humeralis*
Several encounters were had with this species in the Port Moresby and Brown River areas.

**White-breasted (White-bibbed) Ground (-) Dove (NG)** *Gallicolumba jobiensis*
This very shy and rather scarce species was seen exceptionally well on Boys Town Road when one was found feeding in a fruiting tree right next to the road. The bird amazingly stayed and fed in the open for at least five minutes before moving on! What an incredibly memorable sighting!

**Pheasant Pigeon (NG)** *Otidiphaps nobilis*
This shy understory pigeon is very difficult to see! Two separate birds were heard calling close-by on our final morning in Varirata NP but despite intensive effort we were not able to draw one in.

**Southern Crowned (-) Pigeon (NG)** *Goura scheepmakeri*
This gigantic and outrageous pigeon is undoubtedly one of PNG’s top birds! We enjoyed several unbeatable views of seven birds in total along the Elevala River.

**Wompoo Fruit (-) Dove** *Ptilinopus magnificus*
This rather shy but frequently heard understory dove was seen on two occasions: once along the trails in the Elevala area and another pair in Varirata NP.

**Pink-spotted Fruit (-) Dove (NG)** *Ptilinopus perlatus*
Small numbers were seen daily in the lowlands around Kiunga and Varirata NP, with especially good, close views at the picnic site at Varirata.

**Orange-fronted Fruit (-) Dove (NG)** *Ptilinopus aurantiifrons*
One bird showed very well at PAU as did another two birds near Port Moresby.

**Superb Fruit (-) Dove** *Ptilinopus superbus*
A few sightings were had of this beautiful dove in the lowlands around Kiunga.

**Beautiful Fruit (-) Dove** *Ptilinopus pulchellus*
This exquisite *ptilinopus* was seen extremely well in Varirata NP and proved to be one of the highlights of the tour.

**White-bibbed (White-breasted) Fruit (-) Dove** *Ptilinopus rivoli*
We heard this secretive forest interior dove on the King of Saxony trail near Kumul Lodge.

**Orange-bellied Fruit (-) Dove (NG)** *Ptilinopus iozonus*
Small numbers of these fruit doves were seen in the lowlands around Kiunga with highest numbers being along the Elevala River. We also encountered a few birds around Port Moresby.
Dwarf Fruit (-) Dove (NG)  
*Ptilinopus nanus*
This is a scarce bird and we were lucky to see a singleton flying over Boys Town Road during our final morning there.

**Purple-tailed Imperial (-) Pigeon (NE)**  
*Ducula rufigaster*
Unfortunately this species was just heard along Boys Town Road.

**Pinon[’s] Imperial (-) Pigeon (NG)**  
*Ducula pinon*
A few birds were sighted along the Elevala River and along Boys Town Road.

**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*
Fair numbers were seen on most days in the lowlands.

**Torresian Imperial (-) Pigeon**  
*Ducula spilorrhoa*
Our first sighting was of five birds at PAU, thereafter we saw this species again near Port Moresby and in the Hsui area.

*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*
Most of the most regularly recorded pigeons in PNG; we had many flight views as well as a few perched encounters in the Tari and Kumul areas.

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**Cockatoos Cacatuidae**

**Palm Cockatoo (NE)**  
*Probosciger aterrimus*
This magnificent species was encountered daily in the lowlands around Kiunga with the highest count of ten birds in one morning along Boys Town Road.

**Sulphur-crested Cockatoo**  
*Cacatua galerita*
This raucous parrot was commonly observed throughout the Tabubil, Kiunga, Varirata and Brown River areas.

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**Parrots Psittacidae**

**Pesquet’s Parrot (NG)**  
*Psittrichas fulgidus*
A total of four birds were seen in flight in the Tabubil area. Although distant, one could still see the deep scarlet and black of this rare parrot.

**Orange-fronted (Papuan) Hanging (-) Parrot (NG)**  
*Loriculus aurantiifrons*
We were very lucky to see a pair of these tiny parrots near Tabubil. This is an extremely scarce species and is usually very difficult to find!

**Yellow-capped Pygmy (-) Parrot (NG)**  
*Micropsitta keiensis*
Small numbers of these miniscule parrots were seen relatively briefly in Kiunga area but we later were treated to fabulous views of a group of five along Boys Town Road on our final morning there.

**Buff-faced Pygmy (-) Parrot (NG)**  
*Micropsitta pusio*
One bird was scoped on Dablin Creek Road and we later had a pair that showed well near Hsui Mangroves.

**Red-breasted Pygmy (-) Parrot (NG)**  
*Micropsitta bruijnii*
Two separate groups were seen in flight in the Tari area while three birds were later found on Dablin Creek Road.

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

**Dusky Lory (NG)**  
*Pseudeos fuscata*
Several hundred birds were seen flying over the Tabubil area in large flocks. We also had a very memorable experience with this beautiful parrot at the Ok Menga Hydro Plant where a large flock was seen and scoped for a long period as they fed in a fruiting tree close by.

**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).*

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

Several excellent sightings were had of this gaudy bird. Especially memorable sightings were had in the Tabubil area and at Varirata NP.

**Red-flanked Lorikeet (NE)**  
*Charmosyna placentis*

Small numbers were encountered, mainly in flight, in the lowlands around Kiunga.  
*Note: IOC only recognizes one species, C. placentis, whereas Clements splits C. placentis into C. placentis (Red-flanked Lorikeet) and C. diadema (New Caledonian Lorikeet).*

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

Several small flocks were seen in flight at Yuk Creek in the Tabubil area.

**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*

Two pairs were seen on the Tari Gap.

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

Excellent views were had of several birds in the Tari area with smaller numbers being found around Kumul.

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

This scarcer and higher altitude parrot was seen incredibly well near Tari with further views of a few birds in flight in the Kumul area.

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

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)**  
*Psittacella picta*

A female showed very well just below the Tari Gap.

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

This species was commonly seen 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*

Our first sighting of this splendid parrot was of three males that flew past us near Tari. Later a female landed in a nearby tree in the same area but our best views by far were in Varirata NP where a brilliant male showed extremely well.

**Orange-breasted Fig (-) Parrot (NG)**  
*Clycopsitta guielmitertii*

Fairly common in the lowlands and foothills around Tabubil and Kiunga where we scoped numerous birds. Particularly memorable sightings were had at the Ok Menga Hydro Plant.

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

**Large Fig (-) Parrot (NG)**

Psittaculirostris desmarestii

We had two birds flying over us during our trip up the Elevala River.

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**Cuckoos Cuculidae**

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

Centropus menbeki

After hearing this species on a few occasions we finally saw two birds chasing each other in the late afternoon along the edge of the Elevala River.

**Black-billed (Lesser Black) Coucal (NG)**

Centropus bernsteini

This secretive species was heard on many occasions in the lowlands and two birds showed briefly near Tabubil with another sighting had along Boys Town Road.

**Pheasant Coucal**

Centropus phasianinus

This large coucal was heard on a few occasions in the lowlands and we manage to obtain great views of several birds in Varirata NP and in the Hsui area.

**Dwarf Koel (NG)**

Microdynamis parva

We obtained excellent scope views of a vocal male on km 17. Several individuals were later heard in the lowlands around Kiunga and in Varirata NP.

**Pacific (Australian) Koel**

Eudynamys orientalis

Two separate sightings were had in the lowlands around Kiunga.

**Channel-billed Cuckoo**

Scythrops novaehollandiae

Fairly good numbers of these massive, bizarre cuckoos were seen along the Elevala and Fly Rivers.

**Long-billed Cuckoo (NG)**

Chrysococcyx megarhynchus

We heard this rare cuckoo on one occasion along Boys Town Road.

**White-eared Bronze (-) Cuckoo (NG)**

Chrysococcyx meyerii

We heard this species on a few occasions in the Tabubil area and had brief perched views on one on Dablin Creek Road.

**Little Bronze (-) Cuckoo**

Chrysococcyx minutillus

One bird was seen along km 17 with further views of a singleton in Varirata NP and several more seen at Hsui Mangroves. This species is sometimes split into two species, the northern Malay Bronze Cuckoo C. peninsularis and the nominate and southern Gould’s bronze Cuckoo. The form we saw at km 17 and at Hsui mangroves refer to Malay Bronze Cuckoo, while the individual seen in Varirata refers to Gould’s Bronze Cuckoo. The “Gould’s” race of Little Bronze Cuckoo has distinct rufous washing on its throat.

**White-crowned Cuckoo (Koel) (NG)**

Cacomantis leucolophus

Several were heard during our time in Varirata NP.

**Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo (NE)**

Cacomantis castaneiventris

This lowland species was heard and seen on a few occasions in the Tabubil area with a further brief encounter with a bird in Varirata NP.

**Fan-tailed Cuckoo**

Cacomantis flabelliformis

We scoped this highland cuckoo just above Makara Lodge in the Tari area.

**Brush Cuckoo**

Cacomantis variolosus

Several birds were seen at various localities and heard almost daily throughout the trip.

*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).*

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**Barn Owls Tytonidae**

**Sooty Owl**

Tyto tenebricosa
We tried two possible roost sites in the Tari area with no luck. Later on we found this sought-after owl along the Elevala River where we managed to obtain outstanding scope views of a single bird.

**Owls Strigidae**

**Papuan Boobook (Jungle Hawk-Owl) (NG)  ** *Ninox theomacha*
Excellent views were had of this endemic at the Ok Menga Tunnel near Tabubil.

**Frogmouths Podargidae**

**Marbled Frogmouth**  *Podargus ocellatus*
We first had this species on a day roost near Tari. Later we found another bird on nest along the Elevala River with further views of a singleton on the night drive along the Elevala River.

**Papuan Frogmouth**  *Podargus papuensis*
This huge frogmouth was seen during the day at PAU and another bird was seen at the Ok Menga Tunnel.

**Nightjars Caprimulgidae**

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

**Archbold’s Nightjar (NG)**  *Eurostopodus archboldi*
A pair of these scarce, highland nightjars was seen on the day roost in the Tari area.

**Owlet-nightjars Aegotheilidae**

**Feline Owlet-Nightjar (NG)**  *Aegotheles insignis*
After hearing this species on two consecutive nights we managed to obtain brief views of this rare and seldom-seen species at Kumul Lodge.

**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*
As with the previous species, we heard a pair along Boys Town Road and heard another pair behind Ekame Lodge.

**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 that was seen fairly regularly.

**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 (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*
After hearing this tricky species along the Elevala River and at km 17 we finally managed to obtain excellent views of a calling bird near the Brown River.

Common Paradise (-) Kingfisher (NE) *Tanysiptera galatea*
We had several great sightings of this spectacular kingfisher along the Elevala River with a further sighting near the Brown River.

Little Paradise (-) Kingfisher (NG) *Tanysiptera hydrocharis*
We glimpsed this species along the Elevala River and after a great deal of effort we managed to obtain good scope views of a stunning adult in a similar area.

Buff-breasted Paradise (-) Kingfisher *Tanysiptera sylvia*
Three separate birds were heard calling close-by at km 17 but unfortunately neither would show themselves. 
*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*
Good views of this stunning bird were had in Varirata National Park.

Shovel-billed Kookaburra (NG) *Clytoceyx rex*
We managed to obtain silhouetted views of this ultra-elusive kingfisher in the Tabubil area.

Blue-winged Kookaburra *Dacelo leachii*
Small numbers of these huge kingfishers were near Port Moresby, in the Brown River area and in Varirata NP.

Rufous-bellied Kookaburra (NG) *Dacelo gaudichaud*
This very attractive kingfisher was seen well in the lowlands with especially good sightings along the Elevala River.

Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii*
Good views were had of a single bird 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 in Varirata National Park.

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

Variable [Dwarf] Kingfisher *Ceyx Lepidus*
Good scope views were had of this tiny forest-dwelling kingfisher on two occasions in Varirata NP.
Azure Kingfisher  
*Ceyx azureus*
This species was only heard in Varirata NP.

Little Kingfisher  
*Ceyx pusillus*
We heard this species along the Elevala River as well as at Hsui Mangroves.

**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*
We were treated to amazing scope views of this species along a trail adjacent to the Elevala River!  
*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*
Unbeatable views were had of this gorgeous bird on a night roost near Ekame Lodge.

**Bowerbirds  Ptilonorhynchidae**

White-eared Catbird (NG)  
*Ailuroedus buccoides*
We heard the bizarre calls of this species close-by along the Elervala River in Varirata NP.

Spotted Catbird  
*Ailuroedus melanotis*
Like the previous species, this is an extremely tough bird to see, we unfortunately just heard it 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*
Four glowing males were seen streaking across the sky from our lookout along Boys Town Road.  
*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 total of three birds were seen in the Wabag River area below Kumul Lodge.

Fawn-breasted Bowerbird (NE)  
*Chlamydera cerviniventris*
At least 18 of these noisy and active birds were birds at Pacific Adventist University.

**Australasian Wrens  Maluridae**

Wallace’s Fairywren (NG)  
*Sipodotus wallacii*
Excellent views were had of this often tricky bird along Boys Town Road.

Campbell’s Fairywren (NG)  
*Chenorhamphus grayi*
This rare and elusive species was heard in the lowland forest at km 17.
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*  
We had several brief encounters with this species along Boys Town Road with much better views of several stunning birds near the Brown River.  

**White-shouldered Fairywren (NG)**  
*Malurus alboscapulatus*  
Fairly widespread and seen at several sites throughout the tour.  

**Orange-crowned Fairywren (NG)**  
*Clytomyias insignis*  
Two birds were seen briefly above Makara Lodge.

### Honeymellers  *Meliphagidae*

**Spotted Honeyeater (NG)**  
*Xanthotis polygrammus*  
Three birds were seen feeding in a flowering tree on Dablin Creek Road with a further sighting at a flowering tree along Boys Town 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 below the Tari Gap.  

**Obscure Honeyeater (NG)**  
*Lichenostomus obscurus*  
One bird was seen at Kwatu Lodge with another bird seen visiting a flowering tree along Boys Town Road.  

**Yellow-tinted Honeyeater (NE)**  
*Lichenostomus flavescens*  
Several were seen at the Gateway Hotel, Port Moresby.  

**Mottle-breasted Honeyeater (Spot-breasted Meliphaga) (NG)**  
*Meliphaga mimikae*  
One bird was seen briefly in a flowering tree along Boys Town Road.  

**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 the foothills and lowlands.  

**Graceful Honeyeater (NE)**  
*Meliphaga gracilis*  
A single bird was seen in a grove of mangroves near Port Moresby.  
*Note: IOC splits M. gracilis into M. gracilis (Graceful Honeyeater) and M. cinereifrons (Elegant Honeyeater), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, M. gracilis (Graceful Honeyeater).*  

**Puff-backed Honeyeater (NG)**  
*Meliphaga aruensis*  
Several birds were seen in the lowlands around Kiunga with a very good sighting of a pair at km 17.  

**Plain Honeyeater (NG)**  
*Pycnopygius ixoides*  
A few birds were seen well in Varirata NP.  

**Marbled Honeyeater (NG)**  
*Pycnopygius cinereus*  
Three birds were seen well in the Tari area with a further individual being found at the Wabag River.  

**Streak-headed Honeyeater (NG)**  
*Pycnopygius stictocephalus*  
We found this species at PAU, in the Kiunga area and in Varirata NP.  

**Meyer’s Friarbird (NG)**  
*Philemon meyeri*  
This elusive species was seen on two occasions in the Kiunga area.  

**New Guinea (Helmeted) Friarbird**  
*Philemon novaeguineae*  
Common in the lowlands, where it was 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] Smokey Honeyeater (NG)  
*Melipotes fumigatus*

Common in the high mountains, with good numbers 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 below Kumul Lodge.

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*

Fair numbers of these attractive honeyeaters were seen below Kumul Lodge and in the Tabubil area.

Rufous-backed Honeyeater (PNG)  
*Ptilopora guisei*

This scarce species was seen and photographed by Peter near Makara Lodge.

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.

Silver-eared Honeyeater (NG)  
*Lichmera alboauricularis*

This extremely localized endemic was seen brilliantly near Port Moresby.

Brown-backed Honeyeater  
*Ramsayornis modestus*

A single bird was sighted near the Brown River.

Rufous-banded Honeyeater (NE)  
*Conopophila albogularis*

Good numbers were seen at PAU.

Ruby-(Red)-throated Myzomela (NG)  
*Myzomela eques*

Two females were seen well and for a fairly prolonged period at a fruiting tree along Boys Town Road.

Dusky Myzomela  
*Myzomela obscura*

Fair numbers were found near the Brown River.

[Papuan] Black Myzomela (NG)  
*Myzomela nigrita*

Two birds were seen in Varirata NP.

Mountain Myzomela (NG)  
*Myzomela adolphinae*

Two stunning males and a female were encountered below Kumul Lodge.

Red-collared Myzomela (NG)  
*Myzomela rosenbergii*

Three birds were seen just below the Tari Gap.

Green-backed Honeyeater  
*Glycichaera fallax*

This elusive honeyeater was heard in the forest canopy in Varirata NP.

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**Australasian Warblers  Acanthizidae**

Rusty Mouse-warbler (NG)  
*Crateroscelis murina*

Two separate birds were seen briefly in the Tabubil area with much better sightings being had later on in Varirata NP.

Mountain Mouse-warbler (NG)  
*Crateroscelis robusta*

Good views were had of several birds in the highlands.

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 area.

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

Good views were obtained of small groups in the Kumul area.

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

Small numbers were seen in the Tari area with another bird sighted on the upper reaches of Dablin Creek Road.

**Grey-(Gray-) green Scrubwren (NG)** *Sericornis arfakianus*

A small flock of this rare and seldom-recorded species was seen excellently on the upper reaches of Dablin Creek Road.

**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.

**Mangrove Gerygone** *Gerygone levigaster*

Great views were had of a pair at Hsui Mangroves.

**Large-billed Gerygone** *Gerygone magnirostris*

One bird was found in the late afternoon along the Elevala River.

**Yellow-bellied Gerygone (NG)** *Gerygone chrysogaster*

A bird of the lowlands, one was seen along the Elevala River with a further good sighting of three birds in Varirata NP.

**Ashy (Mountain) Gerygone (NG)** *Gerygone cinerea*

A singleton was seen just above Makara Lodge in the Tari area.

**Green-backed Gerygone (NE)** *Gerygone chloronotus*

Its distinctive song was heard frequently in the lowlands and hills with two birds being seen in the Tabubil area.

**White-throated Gerygone** *Gerygone palpebrosa*

Excellent views were had of this species in *Eucalyptus* woodland near Hsui Mangroves.

**Fairy Gerygone** *Gerygone olivacea*

One male was seen perched up in the open on a dead snag along the King-of-Saxony trail below Kumul Lodge.

**Australasian Babblers Pomatostomidae**

**Papuan (New Guinea) Babbler (NG)** *Garritornis isidorei*

A flock of eight birds was eventually seen rather well at km 17.

**Logrunners orthonychidae**

**Papuan (Northern) Logrunner (NG)** *Orthonyx novaeguineae*

This scarce and secretive understory skulker was heard extremely close and some of the group managed to obtain brief views.

**Satinbirds Cnemophilidae**

**Loria's Satinbird (NG)** *Cnemophilus loriae*

A male was seen perched up in the open on a dead snag along the King-of-Saxony trail below Kumul Lodge.
Crested Satinbird (NG)  
_Cnemophilus macgregorii_
This extravagant species was seen at and around Kumul Lodge.

**Berrypeckers, longbills  Melanocharitidae**

Black Berrypecker (NG)  
_Melanocharis nigra_
One female was encountered along Dablin Creek Road with three birds that included two males seen later on at Varirata NP.

Fan-tailed Berrypecker (NG)  
_Melanocharis versteri_
Several males and females were seen in the montane forests in the Tari and Kumul areas.

Dwarf Longbill (Honeyeater) (NG)  
_Oedistoma liiolophus_
Two of these quiet and flighty birds were seen on Dablin Creek Road with another two seen in Varirata NP on our final morning there.

Pygmy Longbill (Honeyeater) (NG)  
_Oedistoma pygmaeum_
This species was heard on two occasions along Boys Town Road.

Dwarf Longbill (Honeyeater) (NG)  
_Oedistoma pygmaeum_
This fast-moving species was seen fairly well on a few occasions in the Tabubil area with a further sighting in the Elevala River area.

**Painted Berrypeckers  Paramythiidae**

Tit Berrypecker (NG)  
_Oreocharis arfaki_
Excellent views were had of this striking species in the highland forest around Kumul Lodge with especially good views had along the King-of-Saxony trail.

Crested Berrypecker (NG)  
_Paramythia montium_
A single bird showed well below the Tari Gap with another pair being seen at Kumul Lodge.

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

Spotted Jewel-babbler (NG)  
_Ptilorrhoa leucosticta_
We managed to coax this species out briefly along Benson’s Trail in the Tari area.

Blue Jewel-babbler (NG)  
_Ptilorrhoa caerulescens_
We obtained good but brief views of this stunner along a trail in the Elevala River area.

*Chestnut-backed Jewel-babbler (NG)*  
_Ptilorrhoa castanonota_
This extremely tough species was unfortunately just heard in the Tabubil area and in Varirata NP.

Painted Quail-thrush (NG)  
_Cinclosoma ajax_
On our final morning before departing Varirata NP we heard one calling from a forested slope and after an intensive effort to see this ultra-elusive species some of the group managed to get brief views of the male.

**Boatbills  Machaerirhynchidae**

Yellow-breasted Boatbill  
_Machaerirhynchus flaviventer_
A total of four birds were found in mixed flocks along Dablin Creek Road with another pair showing exceptionally well in Varirata NP.

Black-breasted Boatbill (NG)  
_Machaerirhynchus nigripectus_
This boldly-patterned species was seen very well along Benson’s Trail in the Tari area.
**Butcherbirds & Allies  Cracticidae**

**Black Butcherbird**  
*Cracticus quoyi*  
A total of five birds were seen in the Tabubil area.

**Black-backed Butcherbird (NE)**  
*Cracticus mentalis*  
Great views were had of these vocal and obtrusive birds at PAU with further looks in the Port Moresby area and in the woodland in Varirata NP.

**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*  
We found a single bird werched rather low down on a dead snag just as we were leaving the Elevala River on our way back to Kiunga. We also found a further individual along the Boys Town Road.

**Mountain Peltops (NG)**  
*Peltops montanus*  
A total of four of these handsome birds were seen 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 in the town of Tabubil.

**Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae**

**Black-faced Cuckooshrike**  
*Coracina novaehollandiae*  
About half a dozen birds were seen in flight overhead on the way back from the Brown River to Port Moresby.

**Stout-billed Cuckooshrike (NG)**  
*Coracina caeruleogrisea*  
Among New Guinea’s cuckooshrikes, this large and relatively scarce species is particularly impressive. We had views of two separate pairs along Dablin Creek Road with a further pair showing well in Varirata NP.

**Boyer’s Cuckooshrike (NG)**  
*Coracina boyeri*  
Fairly commonly seen at all foothill and lowland forest localities.

**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).*

**Hooded Cuckooshrike (NG)**  
*Coracina longicauda*  
Two fabulous groups were seen above Makara Lodge in the Tari area with a further group being found in the Kumul area. This is usually a very difficult species and we were very fortunate to have had so many good sightings!

**Black-shouldered Cicadabird (Papuan Cuckoo-shrike) (NG)**  
*Coracina incerta*  
One bird was seen along Dablin Creek Road.

**Grey-(Gray-) headed Cuckooshrike (NG)**  
*Coracina schisticeps*  
Fair numbers were encountered in the foothills and lowlands around Tabubil and Kiunga.

**Black Cicadabird (New Guinea Cuckoo-shrike) (NG)**  
*Coracina melas*  
This scarce cuckooshrike was seen well at Varirata NP and near the Brown River. Three birds were seen in total and all represented males.
Black-bellied Cuckooshrike (NG)  Coracina montana
Another scarce bird that was seen well above Makara Lodge in the Tari area.

Golden Cuckooshrike (NG)  Campochaera sloetii
Two pairs were seen on Dablin Creek Road, one of which showed well in the scope, while a further pair was found at Kwatu Lodge.

Varied Triller  Lalage leucomela
A few birds were seen in Varirata NP and in the Port Moresby and Brown River areas.
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).

Family Uncertain  Incertae Sedis

Wattled Ploughbill (NG)  Eulacestoma nigropectus
We heard this elusive species on two occasions in the Kumul area but despite intensive efforts we were not able to see one.

Whistlers & Allies  Pachycephalidae

Mottled Whistler (NG)  Rhagologus leucostigma
This scarce whistler was seen very well on the upper reaches of Dablin Creek Road.

Rusty Whistler (NG)  Pachycephala hyperythra
Some of the group found this species in a mixed flock on the upper reaches of Dablin Creek Road.

Brown-backed Whistler (PNG)  Pachycephala modesta
A pair was seen just below Makara Lodge in the Tari area.

Grey (Gray) Whistler (NE)  Pachycephala simplex
Several sightings were had in the Tabubil area and in Varirata NP.
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
Several excellent sightings were had of this beautiful bird in the Tari and Tabubil areas.
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 smart species in the highland areas of Tari and Kumul.

Black-headed Whistler (NG)  Pachycephala monacha
We first located this species near the Wabag River below Kumul and had further views on Dablin Creek Road.

Whit-e-bellied Whistler (NG)  Pachycephala leucogastra
A male was tracked down in Varirata NP. This is a scarce and often elusive whistler!

Little (Rufous) Shrikethrush  Colluricincla megareynchus
We first found this species in the Tari area where two birds were seen. Later we located one on Boys Town Road and we also heard a few in Varirata NP.

Grey (Gray) Shrikethrush  Colluricincla harmonica
Our first sighting was of a single bird perched up and calling on a dead tree below Kumul Lodge. Later on we encountered a pair in eucalyptus woodland near Hsui Mangroves.

Hooded Pitohui (NG)  Pitohui dichrous
We first encountered this species on Dablin Creek Road and later had excellent views of a few birds at 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)  \textit{Pitohui incertus}
We found a flock of five birds attending a mixed flock along the Elevala River.

Rusty Pitohui (NG)  \textit{Pitohui ferrugineus}
This species was heard in the Tabubil area and in Varirata NP and we managed to get brief views of three birds at km 17.

Crested Pitohui (NG)  \textit{Pitohui cristatus}
This species’ continuous song was heard in the distance at the head of Yuk Creek Road and again much closer in Varirata NP.

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

\textbf{Shrikes  Laniidae}
\textit{Lanius schach}
Regularly encountered in open grassland habitat throughout the highlands.

\textbf{Figbirds, Orioles  Oriolidae}
\textbf{Australasian Figbird}  \textit{Sphecotheres vieilloti}
We encountered at least ten birds during our afternoon at PAU.

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

\textbf{Drongos  Dicuridae}
\textbf{Pygmy (Papuan) Drongo (NG)}  \textit{Chaetorhynchus papuensis}
One was seen briefly in a mixed flock on Dablin Creek Road with another two showing much better in Varirata NP.

\textbf{Spangled Drongo}  \textit{Dicrurus bracteatus}
Encountered on most days in the lowlands and foothills.

\textbf{Fantails  Rhipiduridae}
\textbf{Willie Wagtail}  \textit{Rhipidura leucophrys}
This very widespread but charismatic bird was seen every day of the trip.

\textbf{Northern Fantail}  \textit{Rhipidura rufiventris}
This species was seen on Dablin Creek Road and near the Brown River.

\textbf{Black Thicket (-) Fantail (NG)}  \textit{Rhipidura maculipectus}
Views were had of this secretive species near the Brown River.

\textbf{White-bellied Thicket (-) Fantail (NG)}  \textit{Rhipidura leucothorax}
This is usually a devilishly hard bird to see! We were blown away to find an extremely vocal bird hanging around the canopy of a palm tree and showing very well in the forest along the Elevala River.

\textbf{Black Fantail (NG)}  \textit{Rhipidura atra}
Both males and females were encountered on several occasions in the Tari area with further views on Dablin Creek Road.

\textbf{Chestnut-bellied Fantail (NG)}  \textit{Rhipidura hyperythra}
This is a common bird in Varirata National Park and several pairs were seen very well during our time there.

\textbf{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)**  \( Rhipidura brachyrhyncha \)
A rather scarce fantail that was first seen in the Tari area with further views around Kumul Lodge.

**Rufous-backed Fantail (NG)**  \( Rhipidura rufidorsa \)
Unfortunately this scarce lowland species was only heard along Boys Town Road.

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**Monarchs Monarchidae**

**Black Monarch (NG)**  \( Symposiachrus axillaris \)
This species was seen briefly in a mixed flock on Dablin Creek Road.

**Hooded Monarch (NG)**  \( Symposiachrus manadensis \)
A total of three of these scarce monarchs were seen in the forests bordering the Elevala River.

**Black-faced Monarch**  \( Monarcha melanopsis \)
One bird was encountered along the Elevala River with further views of a few birds in Varirata NP.

**Black-winged Monarch**  \( Monarcha frater \)
We found two of these scarce birds in mixed flocks near the top of Dablin Creek Road.

**Golden Monarch (NG)**  \( Carterornis chrysomela \)
Three birds, including one bright male were seen along Boys Town Road. Another female was found along the Elevala River.

**Frilled Monarch (NG)**  \( Arses telescopthalmus \)
We enjoyed several sightings of this attractive monarch in the lowlands around Kiunga and in Varirata NP.

**Torrent-lark (NG)**  \( Grallina bruijni \)
After much searching below Kumul Lodge we finally found a pair of these sought-after birds at the Ok Menga Hydro Plant near Tabubil.

**Leaden Flycatcher**  \( Myiagra rubecula \)
One female was seen in Varirata NP with a pair being found at Hsui Mangroves.

**Shining Flycatcher**  \( Myiagra alecto \)
Common along the Elevala River where several males and females were seen.

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**Crows, Jays Corvidae**

**Grey (Gray) Crow (NG)**  \( Corvus tristis \)
This bizarre crow was seen regularly in the lowlands and foothills 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).*

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**Family Uncertain Incertae Sedis**

**Lesser Melampitta (NG)**  \( Melampitta lugubris \)
Another very difficult bird to see – A total of three birds were seen in the Kumul area.

**Blue-capped Ifrita (NG)**  \( Ifrita kowaldi \)
Two small groups of these attractive and unique birds were found in the Tari area. This is another of the ‘poison-birds’ and is believed to be the most poisonous of them all.

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**Birds-of-paradise Paradisaeidae**

**Glossy-mantled Manucode (NG)**  \( Manucodia ater \)

This species was seen on several occasions along the Elevala River where at least eight birds were seen in total.

**Crinkle-collared Manucode (NG)**  
*Manucodia chalybatus*  
A total of six birds were seen in the Tabubil area.

**Trumpet Manucode (NE)**  
*Phonygammus keraudrenii*  
One bird was scoped in the distance on Boys Town Road with many more being heard in the Kiunga area.

**Short-tailed Paradigalla (NG)**  
*Paradigalla brevicauda*  
This bizarre bird-of-paradise were seen visiting a fruiting tree at Makara Lodge where it showed well on a few occasions.

**Ribbon-tailed Astrapia (PNG)**  
*Astrapia mayeri*  
Several stunning sub-adult male and female birds were seen daily in the highland areas of Tari and Kumul. 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 stephanieae*  
One female was seen in flight just above Makara Lodge in the Tari area.

**[Queen] Carola’s Parotia (PNG)**  
*Parotia carolae*  
Our first sighting was of a very distant male that was scoped in a fruiting tree near Tabubil. Later on Dablin Creek Road we enjoyed good views of no less than eight of these outrageous birds as they regularly attended a nearby fruiting tree to feed. The males with their scruffy beards and six wires bobbing atop there heads really are outstanding!  
*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).*

**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. One of the major highlights of the trip was watching a male displaying on a vine tangle in the forest interior on Benson’s Trail and as he jumped up and down on the vine, so his head plumes bounced flamboyantly all around his head in an amazingly extravagant performance! Amazing stuff!

**Superb Bird-of-paradise (NG)**  
*Lophorina superba*  
We had wonderful views of this aptly named BOP displaying and calling in the Tari Valley. Several less exciting Females were also seen in the Mt. Hagen area.

**Magnificent Riflebird (NE)**  
*Ptiloris magnificus*  
We heard this elusive species at km 17 and on Boys Town Road.  
*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*  
This difficult species was heard in Varirata NP.

**Black Sicklebill (NG)**  
*Epimachus fastuosus*  
This massive BOP was scoped in the distance below Ambua Lodge. It’s bizarre and distinctive call was also heard.

**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 were also extremely lucky to see a calling male on the King-of-Saxony Trail. The adult male’s ‘machine-gun burst’ calls were amazing to listen to.

**Magnificent Bird-of-paradise (NG)**  
*Diphyllodes magnificus*  
A pair was first seen below Kumul Lodge with a further male and two females seen on Dablin Creek Road. Good views were finally obtained of this species, of which the male is a real stunner!
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*
A stunning male was seen on its calling perch near Kwatu Lodge while two further males were seen flying across the Elevala River.

Greater Bird-of-paradise (NG) *Paradisaea apoda*
We saw this species at a few sites near Kiunga and also witnessed the amazing display of several gorgeous full plumaged males! 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. We first saw this species near Tabubil and later were rewarded with mind-blowing views of several males, including a few displaying males, in Varirata National Park. They began calling loudly with their rich reddish flank plumes shivering every time a female appeared.

Blue Bird-of-paradise (PNG) *Paradisaea rudolphi*
Excellent views were had of two superb males and a female below Ambua Lodge. We also had good views of three females later on below Mt. Hagen.

Australasian Robins *Petroicidae*

Ashy Robin (NE) *Heteromyias albispecularis*
This secretive understory species was heard close-by on Benson’s Trail but as usual proved impossible to see.

Black-sided Robin (NG) *Poecilodryas hypoleuca*
This tiny black and white robin was heard on several occasions in the lowlands.

Black-throated Robin (NG) *Poecilodryas albonotata*
Some of the group managed to see this species just above Makara Lodge. Otherwise it was just heard on a few occasions.

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-grey) Robin (NG) *Peneothello cyanus*
This species was especially tame and conspicuous in the vicinity of Makara Lodge.

White-rumped Robin (NG) *Peneothello bimaculata*
This species was heard on two occasions on Dablin Creek Road.

White-faced Robin (NE) *Tregellasia leucops*
We had excellent views of one bird during our time in Varirata NP. As with most of New Guinea’s robins, 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.

Lemon-bellied Flyrobin (Flycatcher) (NE) *Microeca flavigaster*
This species was seen on Dablin Creek Road, in Varirata NP as well as near Hsui Mangroves.

Garnet Robin (NG) *Eugerygone rubra*
This elusive species was heard on one occasion below the Tari Gap.

**Northern Scrub (-) Robin**  
*Drymodes superciliaris*

We heard this extremely tricky species in Varirata NP.

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

Excellent views were had of this unobtrusive species on Benson’s Trail.

### 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 small flock of eight birds was seen near Hsui Mangroves.

### Leaf Warblers & Allies  *Phylloscopidae*

**Island Leaf Warbler**  
*Phylloscopus poliocephalus*

A small group of six birds was seen below Ambua Lodge.

### Reed Warblers and Allies  *Megaluridae*

**Clamorous Reed Warbler**  
*Acrocephalus stentoreus*

One bird was heard and then seen in a small wetland near Hsui Mangroves.

### Grassbirds and allies  *Megaluridae*

**Papuan (Tawny) Grassbird**  
*Megalurus macrurus*

We had good views of this species on several occasions in the Tari area.

*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*

One bird was encountered in a mangrove area near Port Moresby with a further sighting at a small wetland near Hsui Mangroves.

### White-eyes  *Zosteropidae*

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

Small groups of these lively and endearing birds were seen in the Tabubil area with further views in Varirata NP.

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

This scarce species was seen 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 heard and seen in flight on Boys Town Road with a further two seen associating with a massive flock of Metallic Starlings on the Elevala River.

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

A flock was seen below Kumul Lodge and another small group was encountered near Tabubil.

**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.

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**Thrushes  Turdidae**

**Island Thrush**  
*Turdus poliocephalus*

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

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**Chats, Old World Flycatchers  Muscicapidae**

**Pied Bush Chat**  
*Saxicola caprata*

Good numbers were seen daily in grassland habitat throughout the island.

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**Flowerpeckers  Dicaeidae**

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

Widespread and fairly common throughout the tour with some great views of several striking males being had, especially in the Tabubil area.

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**Sunbirds  Nectariniidae**

**Black Sunbird**  
*Leptocoma sericea*

Fairly common in the lowlands, we enjoyed good sightings in the Tabubil and Kiunga areas.

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

Several birds were encountered during our trip to the Brown River and Hsui Mangroves.

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**Old World Sparrows  Passeridae**

**House Sparrow**  
*Passer domesticus*

Small numbers were found in Port Moresby and Mt. Hagen.

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**Waxbills, Munias & Allies  Estrildidae**

**Mountain Firetail (NG)**  
*Oreostruthus fuliginosus*

Three of these beautiful red finches were seen just below the Tari Gap.

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

A total of three of these shy finches were seen below the Tari Gap.

**Streak-headed Mannikin (Munia) (NG)**  
*Lonchura tristissima*

We were thrilled to find a flock of these rare mannikins near the Brown River.

**Great-billed Mannikin (Grand Munia) (NG)**  
*Lonchura grandi*

We found and scoped two birds in grasslands near Hsui Mangroves. This is generally a very scarce mannikin!

**Grey(Gray)- headed Mannikin (Munia) (PNG)**  
*Lonchura caniceps*
Our first sighting was of a flock of 3 birds at PAU. Later in the afternoon a massive flock numbering several hundred was encountered near the entrance of the university. We also found another dozen near Hsui Mangroves.

**Hooded Mannikin (Munia) (NG)** *Lonchura spectabilis*
Small flocks were seen en route from Tari to Mt. Hagen with another massive flock showing very well below Kumul Lodge.

**Chestnut-breasted Mannikin (Munia)** *Lonchura castaneothorax*
Three birds were seen in a large expanse of grassland near Hsui Mangroves.

**Wagtails, Pipits Motacillidae**

**New Zealand (Australasian) Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*
Two birds were seen on the Mt. Hagen Airstrip.

### Annotated Checklist of Mammals Recorded

**Dusky Pademelon (NG)** *Tylogale brunii*
Some of the group were very lucky to see this species early in the morning at Kumul Lodge.

**Short-furred Dasyure (NG)** *Murexia longicaudata*
One of these arboreal marsupials was seen near Makara Lodge with a further two seen at Kumul Lodge.

**Agile Wallaby** *Macropus agilis*
One was encountered in Varirata NP with a further sighting near Hsui.

**Variable Flying-Fox** *Pteropus hypomelanus*
We found fair numbers of these massive mammals along the Elevala River.

**Black-tailed Giant Rat (NG)** *Uromys anak*
One of these gigantic rats was seen in the evening at the feeder at Kumul Lodge.

**Cuscus sp. (NG)**
We were delighted to find one of these adorable mammals on a night walk at Kumul Lodge.

### Annotated Checklist of Reptiles and Amphibians

**New Guinea Crocodile (NG)** *Crocodylus novaeguineae*
One of these reptiles was seen on a nocturnal boat ride along the Elevala River.

**Death Adder sp.**
We happened upon one of these beautiful but deadly snakes while watching a stunning male King Bird-of-paradise on one of the trails next to the Elevala River.

**Papuan Monitor** *Varanus salvadorii*
Two of these fascinating reptiles were seen while boating along the Elevala River.

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