Papua New Guinea I

Trip Report
29th June to 16th July 2014 (18 days)

Trip report compiled by Tour Leader: Markus Lilje

Top 10 birds as voted by tour participants:
1. Ribbon-tailed Astrapia
2. Southern Crowned Pigeon
3. Blue Bird-of-paradise
4. Raggiana Bird-of-paradise
5. New Guinea Bronzewing
6. Papuan Eagle
7. Greater Bird-of-paradise
8. Papuan Frogmouth
9. Obscure Berypecker
10. Hooded Pitta & Crested Berypecker
Tour Summary

Many of Earth’s most amazing birds inhabit the island of New Guinea, and we were fortunate to have been treated to sensational views and intimate encounters with so many of these mouth-watering species during our 18-day trip around the island’s eastern half (Papua New Guinea).

Of the many fabulous and unforgettable birds seen on this unbeatable birding voyage, some of the most noteworthy highlights included seeing 20 of the 22 birds-of-paradise possible along the route, both Loria’s and Crested Satinbirds (formally in the Bird-of-paradise family), Crested and Tit Berrypeckers, the magnificent Great-billed Heron, Papuan (New Guinea Harpy) and Pygmy Eagles, Red-backed Buttonquail, New Guinea Woodcock, the rarely seen New Guinea Bronzewing, scarce Dwarf Fruit Dove and Bronze Ground Dove, Papuan Logrunner, spectacular Southern Crowned Pigeon, strange and highly-prized Pesquet’s (Vulturine) Parrot, incredible Palm Cockatoo, Brehm’s Tiger Parrot, Marbled and Papuan Frogmouths, Barred Owlet-nightjar, Brown-headed and Buff-bellied Paradise Kingfishers, spectacular Red-bellied and Hooded Pittas, a remarkable 5 species of bowerbird including the sensational Flame Bowerbird, Chestnut-backed Jewel-babbler, the gorgeous Golden Cuckooshrike, Papuan Sittella, bizarre Wattled Ploughbill, strange Lesser Melampitta, nuthatch-like Blue-capped Ifrita, immaculate Garnet Robin and skulking Lesser Ground Robin! Phew, what an incredible list of New Guinea specialties! Read on for the full experience…

Our adventure began in the country’s capital city, Port Moresby. A few exciting and productive birding sites are within easy reach of the city and Moresby provided us with a good base from where to explore the rich birding localities of Varirata National Park, the Pacific Adventist University, the lowland grasslands, mangroves and shoreline of the Hisiu area, and patches of lowland forest around the Brown River. Our first outing of the trip took to us to the nearby Pacific Adventist University (PAU) on the outskirts of the city and this provided us with a wonderful introduction to New Guinea birds and birding. The small wetlands yielded Plumed and Wandering Whistling Ducks, Raja Shelduck, a vagrant Hardhead, Australasian Grebe, Pied and Nankeen Night Herons and Comb-crested Jacana, while the surrounding woodland gave us Brahminy and Whistling Kites, Torresian Imperial Pigeon, Orange-fronted Fruit Dove, Coconut Lorikeet, the monstrous Papuan Frogmouth, regal Blue-winged Kookaburra, Fawn-breasted Bowerbird, New Guinea Friarbird, Yellow-tinted and Rufous-banded Honeyeaters, Black-backed Butcherbird, Grey Shrikethrush, Metallic and Singing Starlings, Masked Lapwing and handsome Yellow-faced Myna.

A full day in Varirata National Park then provided us with potentially some of the best birding in the entire country, although birding here can be slow-going at times! The forest edge and clearings often produce a great variety of species, and we were not disappointed with specialties including Beautiful and Orange-bellied Fruit Doves, the sensational Raggiana Bird-of-paradise, Red-cheeked and gaudy Eclectus Parrots, Plain and Steak-headed Honeyeaters, Boyer’s Cuckooshrikes, Hooded Pithohui, Black-fronted White-eye and Red-capped Flowerpecker. Varirata’s network of trails gave us access to the luxuriant forest interior and here we picked up some of the many challenging and highly sought-after species such as Barred Owlet-nightjar...

on the day roost, exquisite Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher, miniscule Variable Dwarf and brilliant Yellow-billed Kingfishers, Fairy Gerygone, Black Berrypecker, Slender-billed and Great Cuckoo-Doves, Black Cicadabird, Chestnut-bellied Fantail, Stout-billed and Barred Cuckooshrikes and Spot-winged and boldly-patterned Frilled Monarchs. A wander through the Eucalyptus woodland along the entrance road in the late afternoon gave us White-throated Honeyeater, brilliant Rainbow Bee-eater, Black-backed and Hooded Butcherbirds, White-bellied Cuckooshrikes, electric Black-capped Lory, Oriental Dollarbird, Lemon-bellied Flyrobin and Papuan Black Myzomela.

Our second full day in the Port Moresby area saw us heading out west towards the Hisiu region. Here we concentrated in the early morning on the small patch of mangroves for which the Hisiu area is famous among birders. We started with huge numbers of egrets and Little Pied and Little Black Cormorants, as well as hundreds of Torresian Imperial Pigeons flying over. In the area closer to the actual mangroves we enjoyed good views of Mangrove Gerygone, large flocks of Dusky Lory, a mixed flock of Lesser and Great Frigatebirds overhead, Bar-shouldered Dove, Black-billed Coucal, Black Thicket Fantail, Grey-headed Mannikin and Olive-backed Sunbird. The nearby Hisiu Estuary turned up Gull-billed and Greater Crested Terns as well as Whimbrel, Great Sand Plover and Striated Heron, while the stretch of beach and estuary on the other side of the village gave us Pacific Reef Heron. After lunch we then birded stretches of grassland and scrub that largely dominate the area and enjoyed views of White-winged Triller, Silver-eared and Brown-backed Honeyeaters, Tree Martin, Golden-headed Cisticola, Forest Kingfisher, Blue-winged Kookaburra, White-throated Gerygone, Brush Cuckoo and amazing close views of a flock of the miniscule Buff-faced Pygmy Parrot! At a nearby lake we were also not disappointed, managing great views of Spotted and Wandering Whistling Ducks, many Green Pygmy Geese, Comb-crested Jacana and Australasian Darter. In the late afternoon we stopped alongside the main road and birded a productive stretch of secondary lowland forest and this yielded a number of other species including Golden Myna, Glossy-mantled Manucode and Sulphur-crested Cockatoo.

Next up were the highlands of Tari and the wonderful Ambua Lodge! Our flight from Port Moresby was almost on time and we arrived in the small village of Tari raring to go and looking forward to the whole new suite of birds waiting for us in the highlands. We quickly rounded up the luggage and boarded our bus and began the drive uphill along the muddy, gravel road to the world renowned Ambua Lodge, our delightfully pleasant base for the next three nights. After a fine lunch we were greeted by some good weather and we decided to use the
opportunity to bird the Tari Gap, working our way down as the clouds descended later. Even with the very little time we had here, we managed to pick up a great diversity of species, including one of the trip’s stand-out highlights when we had a phenomenal Ribbon-tailed Astrapia right on the roadside! Other birds on the first afternoon included Papuan and Yellow-billed Lorikeets, Yellow-browed and Belford’s Melidectes, Tit Berrypecker, Great Woodswallow perched on the rooftops, Princess Stephanie’s Astrapia, Canary Flyrobin, Mid-mountain Berrypecker and Brown-backed and Regent Whistlers.

Most of the next two days were spent birding the length of the Tari Gap road between The Gap and an area below Ambua Lodge and this remarkable stretch of road produced many of the island’s most prized birds. The stunted high-altitude forest and grassland near The Gap itself yielded great but brief looks at the magnificent Papuan Eagle, Plum-faced Lorikeets, Rufous-throated Bronze Cuckoo, Red-collared Myzomela, Grey-streaked Honeyeater, Mountain Firetail, Papuan Logrunner, Forbes’s Forest Rail, Papuan Scrubwren, the eye-catching Crested Berrypecker, King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise and Black-throated and Garnet Robins. In forest near Ambua Lodge there were many other species for us as we added incredible Short-tailed Paradigalla, Blue-capped Ifrita, Black-breasted Boatbill, bizarre Wattled Ploughbill, female Lawes’s Parotia, Yellow-billed Lorikeet, Buff-faced and Papuan Scrubwrens, Papuan Sittella, Fan-tailed Berrypecker, Hooded and Black-bellied Cuckooshrikes, Rufous-backed Honeyeater and MacGregor’s Bowerbird. During a spotlighting excursion later that evening in the lodge grounds a Papuan Boobook turned up. In secondary habitats and gardens below the lodge there were a few other targets for us and we managed to find distant Black Sicklebill, male and female Superb and Blue Birds-of-paradise, as well as Yellow-billed Lorikeet and Hooded Mannikin! Elsewhere we also obtained great views of Marbled Frogmouth, and then some participants had brief views of a flying Sooty Owl nearby. We visited a local Huli wig school as well and the fascinating traditional “wig-growing” was explained to us by some of the remaining practitioners.

Our next leg saw us embarking very early on the long drive to Kumul Lodge, near Mount Hagen. Most of drive was uneventful, although a change of vehicles was necessary at about the half-way point, where the road had been washed away and we were glad to have our police convoy with us to make the switch as smooth as possible. During the drive we did not find much to look at, but did enjoy a large flock of
feeding Bar-tailed Cuckoo-Doves, Yellow-breasted Bowerbird and some great White-shouldered Fairywrens along the roadside. The next two nights were spent around Kumul Lodge, which is situated at 2900m (almost 10000ft) right inside lush montane forest. The beautiful moss-draped forest here gave us repeat views of many of the Tari species and also produced a lovely array of new and exciting highland birds. The famous feeder at Kumul did not disappoint and we were treated to a constant performance by Brehm’s Tiger Parrot, female Brown Sicklebill, Belford’s Melidectes, Common Smoky Honeyeater, female and sub-adult male Ribbon-tailed Astrapia, White-winged Robin, Island Thrush and the occasional female Archbold’s Bowerbird, among others. Probably the species highlight here, however, was the very shy Bronze Ground Dove that came back repeatedly.

Other species seen at and along the trails around and below the lodge included the skulking Lesser Melampitta and Mountain Mouse Warbler, Large Scrubwren, Crested Berrypecker, exquisite Regent Whistler, spectacular Papuan Lorikeet and Brown Quail. Night walks in the area turned up a roding New Guinea Woodcock, while Feline Owlet-nightjar was unfortunately only heard. The real nocturnal highlight here though was the feeder that produced Silky Couscous, and De Vis’s Woolly and Black-tailed Giant Rats! We also journeyed downhill to a new Lesser Bird-of-paradise site, which yielded distant views of our target and also delivered Mountain and Marbled Honeyeaters, a very large flock of Papuan White-eye, attractive Ornate Melidectes, Mountain Myzomela and Torrent Flyrobin. The highlight here, however, was seeing a huge flock of Goldie’s Lorikeet making their way into and then feeding off a small fruiting tree, just a few metres away from the road we were on – what a spectacle!

The western portion of the country beckoned, but we had a little bit of time after our flight to the capital, which we spent back in Varirata NP looking to add a few more of the trickier species that are possible here. Some of the good birds we found included Pink-spotted Fruit Dove, Chestnut-backed Jewel-babbler and Barred Cuckooshrike. The next morning we then flew to Kiunga, and after lunch we headed out to begin the drive up to the mining town of Tabubil. We arrived at our comfortable hotel after very little time birding in the surroundings, though we were still able to find Pesquet’s Parrot and Little Ringed Plover.

Most of our time in the Tabubil area was spent along the Ok Menga and Dablin Creek Roads and both of these sites produced an array of excellent and
noteworthy birds, although our plans were slightly altered a few times by ongoing road repairs after a recent flooding event. Once when we were turned around on the way to one of the sites we got lucky with amazing views of 2 Buff-banded Rails that were just walking around in the open, obviously having gotten used to many people walking around on the path they were on. Highlights during our time along the Dablin Creek Road to the north of town included the fairly recently-discovered Obscure Berryecker, Ornate Melidectes, scarce Grey-green Scrubwren, Papuan Mountain Pigeon, Long-billed Honeyeater, melodious Green-backed Gerygone, stunning Torrent-lark, Black Monarch, Capped White-eye, Black Butcherbird, Mountain Peltops, Grey-headed and gorgeous Golden Cuckoo-shrikes, many flock-feeding Queen Carola’s Parotia, a few distant Magnificent Bird-of-paradise and White-bibbed Fruit Dove.

One of the days was spent at and around the nearby Ok Menga Hydro Plant and we were in luck here, as soon after arriving we were treated to wonderful views of one of the area’s very special birds, the rare Salvadori’s Teal! We also found Torrent Flyrobin, while a leisurely walk along the road birding the forest edge back towards the Ok Menga Tunnel produced Tawny-breasted and Scrub Honeyeaters, Orange-breasted Fig Parrot, White-rumped Robin, Pale-billed Scrubwren, Rusty Mouse Warbler, Black Sunbird, stunning Superb Fruit Dove, a flock of Blue-collared Parrot overhead, White-eared Bronze Cuckoo and White-bellied Thicket Fantail. Coming back to Tabubil late, we heard Shovel-billed Kookaburra and found a few Large-tailed Nightjar in flight.

After being entertained by some very rare birds at Tabubil, it was time to head back into the lowlands around Kiunga for the final leg of the trip. An afternoon spent at the km 17 site was worthwhile and here we were awed by several displaying male Greater Birds-of-paradise. Watching these extravagant birds dance about, fluffing out the bright white-and-yellow plumes while noisily calling away has to be one of the world’s great birding spectacles! We were also treated to good scope views of King Bird-of-paradise, always tricky to find in its canopy call site. Pinon’s Imperial Pigeon showed up in this area as well, as did a few other more widespread species on an otherwise fairly quiet afternoon.

Our main focus in the Kiunga area was the Boy’s Town Road, which offers access to some very good lowland forest and forest edge habitat. We effectively spent a full day here and managed to pick up some great species, including good views of the scarce Doria’s Goshawk, Meyer’s Friarbird, vocal and obtrusive Rufous-bellied Kookaburra, flocks of Red-flanked Lorikeet, Black-capped and Yellowish-streaked Lories, close Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot, distant Double-eyed Fig Parrot, Wompoo, Pink-spotted, Beautiful, Orange-bellied and
Dwarf Fruit Doves, dazzling male and female Flame Bowerbirds in flight, Moustached Treeswift, our first Papuan Spine-tailed Swift, Blyth’s Hornbill, Golden Monarch, Emperor Fairywren and Little Bronze Cuckoo. Later near the airport a short walk got us some phenomenal views of the tiny Red-backed Buttonquail trying to stay hidden in very short and open grassland.

One of the main reasons for going to Kiunga is to visit the extensive lowland forests along the Fly and Elevala Rivers. It is in these humid, wet, tropical lowland forests that some of New Guinea’s and the region’s most wonderful and unusual birds are to be found. We departed on our motorised boats just before dawn and began the journey to our remote and rustic lodge on the banks of the Ketu River, a small tributary of the Elevala River, which in turn is a minor tributary of the expansive Fly River. Cruising up the Fly River we passed by scores of Great Flying Foxes and Collared Imperial Pigeons. We also encountered a perched White-bellied Sea Eagle before stopping at the river’s edge soon after dawn. We were in luck as a glorious male Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise appeared and showed well, displaying on its typical vertical stick for a few minutes before dropping down into the forest to begin feeding. Carrying on along the Fly River we soon turned off onto a tiny, forest-lined channel that led to the Elevala River. Here the river is much narrower than the Fly and in our time in this area we saw some species a lot closer, including Glossy-mantled Manucode, Pinon’s Imperial Pigeon, regal Palm Cockatoo, Pacific Baza, Long-tailed Honey Buzzard, Eclectus Parrot, Pacific Koel, a fabulous and handsome Moustached Treeswift, grand Blyth’s Hornbill, Shining Flycatcher, Grey Crow, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Golden Myna, Large-billed Gerygone and a variety of colourful colombrids.

Around the lodge itself Orange-breasted Fig Parrot and Lowland Peltops gave us some amazing views feeding on nearby flowers and insects respectively, and we were entertained by the huge resident butterflies. The dense lowland rainforest in this area is well-known for being very hard work, although the host of very special birds that occur here make it difficult to overlook. With time and effort we did manage to pick up a great variety of good species: along the trails around the lodge itself we caught up with our first birds that included Yellow-bellied Longbill, Papuan Babbler, Orange-footed Scrubfowl, White-bellied and Southern Variable Pitohuis, Hooded and Spot-winged Monarchs and Common Paradise Kingfisher.

A little further on along the river there were a few trails we explored for additional species, and here the distinctive calls of both Hooded and Red-bellied Pittas revealed their presence, and with a lot of effort most participants managed to obtain good views of both of these spectacular and often tricky species. Black-sided Robin was another skulker that showed very well, while Hook-billed and Little Paradise Kingfishers and Blue Jewel-babbler stayed frustratingly unseen. After hearing it nearby, a scarce New Guinea Bronzewing was also coaxed into view, eventually giving great scope views. Purple-tailed Imperial
Pigeon and Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher were also seen well here, quietly perched on their respective branches, watching their surroundings. We spent a fair amount of time along the river in this area, mainly targeting the Southern Crowned Pigeon, one of the most sought-after species of the area; and, indeed, the entire region. We were not disappointed at all with this species, eventually managing a number of views both on trails and along the rivers, giving some excellent photographic opportunities! Great-billed Heron was another impressive species that was seen well in this area, as was a trio of Frogmouths that were disturbed in their amazing camouflaged hiding place above the water, while a few more Pesquet’s Parrots and Large Fig Parrots were also seen flying overhead. We ended our exciting trip up the river, when we arrived back in Kiunga late on the second day, exhausted and looking forward to a hot shower.

All that was left for us now was to head back to Port Moresby and then make use of the final morning we had there to try to add a few species in the wonderful Varirata NP. We were not to be disappointed here either as we eventually got there after the usual transport adventures. Finding a few flocks, we managed to get some good views of the endemic Pygmy Drongo, Chestnut-bellied Fantail, Goldenface, Fairy Gerygone, Black Cicadabird, Black-faced Monarch and the incredible Growling Riflebird! On the ground we also managed to find Black-billed Brushturkey as well as a brief look at Painted Quail-thrush.

Papua New Guinea offers one the very special and unique chance of seeing many species of spectacular birds-of-paradise, along with a wealth of other marvellous avian delights in a land that is largely still untouched by man (although this is no longer the case along roads and near settlements), but with this fabulous opportunity comes the distinct possibility of logistical havoc occurring and the chance of this disrupting otherwise greatly enjoyable tours through the country. We were fortunate in this regard, beside some flight issues before the tour began, and did not have too many problems of his nature during our trip and could generally just enjoy what was in front of us. It was great to share this tour with all of you and I greatly look forward to another birding adventure with you in the future!

**Annotated Checklist of Birds Recorded**

333 species recorded (12 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
Square bracket refers to the part of the name used only by IOC [ ]
Round bracket refers to the part of the name used only by Clements ( )
Names with no brackets refers to the name used by both IOC and Clements

**Megapodes Megapodiidae**

*Black-billed Brushturkey (NG)*  
*Talegalla fuscirostris*
This shy forest species was heard on numerous days during the last week of the tour, before half the participants saw a single bird well on the last morning in Varirata NP where we also saw their nest mounds.

*Orange-footed Scrubfowl*  
*Megapodius reinwardt*
A single bird was seen briefly on its nesting mound by some participants near Kwatu Lodge.

**Pheasant, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae**

*Brown Quail*  
*Coturnix ypsilophora*
A total of three birds were flushed near Kumul Lodge, where they were seen well in flight.

**Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae**

*Spotted Whistling Duck*  
*Dendrocygna guttata*
At least 10 were seen during our visit to Hisui area.

*Plumed Whistling Duck*  
*Dendrocygna eytoni*
Around 50 birds were seen at PAU.

*Wandering Whistling Duck*  
*Dendrocygna arcuata*
A few birds were seen well in both the PAU grounds and near Hisui mangroves.

*[Raja](Rajah) Shelduck*  
*Tadorna radjah*
Two of these attractive pied ducks were seen at PAU.

*Salvadori’s Teal (NG)*  
*Salvadorina waigiuensis*
We were fortunate to have had amazing views of a pair near the Ok Menga Hydro Plant near Tabubil.

*Green Pygmy Goose*  
*Nettapus pulchellus*
Many birds were seen in ideal habitat near the Hisui mangroves.

*Pacific Black Duck*  
*Anas superciliosa*
Good numbers were enjoyed at PAU with more birds near the Hisui area.

*[Hardhead] (White-eyed Duck)*  
*Aythya australis*
A single male was seen very well at PAU.

**Grebes Podicipedidae**

*Australasian Grebe*  
*Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*
Small numbers were seen at PAU, 2 more near Hisui.

**Ibises, Spoonbills Threskiornithidae**

*Australian [White] Ibis*  
*Threskiornis molucca*
We had good views of good numbers of this species, mainly in flight near the Hisui mangroves.
**Heron, Bitterns Ardeidae**

[Nankeen] (Rufous) Night Heron  
_Nycticorax caledonicus_

Five birds were seen at the PAU.

**Striated Heron**  
_Butorides striata_

2 birds were seen near the Hisui mangroves, another later along the Elevala River.

**[Eastern] Cattle Egret**  
_Bubulcus coromandus_

Sightings were had sporadically throughout the trip.

*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 fairly scarce and shy bird that was seen twice on one day along the river near Kwatu Lodge.

**Great Egret**  
_Ardea modesta_

Seen in small numbers in the lowlands.

**Intermediate Egret**  
_Egretta intermedia_

A few were seen at the PAU ponds, while there were good numbers near Hisui wetlands.

**Pied Heron**  
_Egretta picata_

Small numbers were found at PAU. A striking heron!

**Little Egret**  
_Egretta garzetta_

3 birds at the PAU ponds, before we found another bird along the Fly River.

**Pacific Reef Heron**  
_Egretta sacra_

A single dark morph bird was seen in the Hisui area.

**Frigatebirds Fregatidae**

**Great Frigatebird**  
_Fregata minor_

Around 4 birds were seen amongst a large flock of Lesser Frigatebirds at Hisui Mangroves.

**Lesser Frigatebird**  
_Fregata ariel_

At least 20 birds were seen during our time in the Hisui area.

**Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae**

**Little Pied Cormorant**  
_Microcarbo melanoleucos_

Small numbers seen at PAU and scattered wetlands around Port Moresby.

**Little Black Cormorant**  
_Phalacrocorax sulcirostris_

Found at several scattered water bodies throughout the Port Moresby area.

**Great Cormorant**  
_Phalacrocorax carbo_

A single bird was seen along the Ok Menga River near Tabubil.

*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_

Around 10 of these birds were seen in the Hisui area.

**Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae**

**[Black-shouldered] (Australian) Kite**  
_Elanus axillaris_

A pair of these birds were seen well near Mount Hagen.

**Pacific Baza**  
_Aviceda subcristata_

We found a total of 4 birds near Kiunga and the Elevala River – a distinctive species.
**Long-tailed Honey Buzzard** (NE)  *Henicopernis longicauda*
We had some wonderful views at scattered sites, including a very close fly-over along the Ketu River.

**[Papuan] (New Guinea) Eagle** (NG)  *Harpyopsis novaeguineae*
This rare and pinnacle raptor of the island was seen very well at the Tari gap, where we had flight views as well as brief perched views of this sought-after species.

**[Pygmy] (Little) Eagle**  *Hieraaetus weiskei*
3 single birds were seen during the tour, including in Varirata NP, near Kumul lodge and Tabubil.  
*Note: IOC splits H. morphnoides into H. morphnoides (Little Eagle) and H. weiskei (Pygmy Eagle), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, H. morphnoides (Little Eagle).*

**Doria’s Goshawk** (NG)  *Megatriorchis doriae*
A very sought-after species that was seen briefly but very well along the Boyes Town Road.

**Variable Goshawk**  *Accipiter hiogaster*
Widespread and seen on 5 days of the trip.

**[Papuan](Eastern Marsh) Harrier** (NG)  *Circus spilothorax*
Unfortunately this was only seen briefly as it flew over us near the Lai River.  
*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**  *Haliaetus leucogaster*
A total of three of these impressive eagles were seen, including one with a fish along the Fly River.

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### Rails, Crakes & Coots  *Rallidae*

**Forbes’s Forest Rail**  *Rallina forbesi*
This rarely seen forest crake was seen fairly well by some participants in forest near the top of the Tari gap near Ambua.

**Buff-banded Rail**  *Gallirallus philippensis*
After a brief view near Hisui, we had wonderful looks at this species in the Tabubil area.

**Purple Swamphen**  *Porphyrio porphyrio*
Small numbers were seen very well at PAU and near Hisui mangroves.  
*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 numbers were found at PAU and the Hisui mangroves.

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### Buttonquail  *Turnicidae*

**Red-backed Buttonquail**  *Turnix maculosus*
We enjoyed great views of 2 birds sticking to thick tufts of grass near the Kiunga airstrip.

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### Plovers & Lapwings  *Charadriidae*

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

**Little Ringed Plover**  *Charadrius dubius*
Around 10 birds were seen at a well-known area near the Ok Menga River, where they were seen well.

**Greater Sand Plover**  *Charadrius leschenaultii*
Around 4 birds were seen well along the beach near the Hisiu mangroves.

**Jacanas  Jacanidae**

**Comb-crested Jacana**  *Irediparra gallinacea*
At least 8 of these striking birds were encountered at PAU, more at a greater distance near Hisui.

**Sandpipers, Snipes  Scolopacidae**

*[New Guinea] (Dusky) Woodcock (NG)*  *Scolopax rosenbergii*
Some of the group were very fortunate and managed to see this scarce species from a clearing near Kumul lodge, where a roding bird was heard well at close range.

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

**Whimbrel**  *Numenius phaeopus*
2 birds were seen at Hisui Estuary.

**Common Sandpiper**  *Actitis hypoleucos*
1 was seen briefly by some, while boating along the Elevala River.

**Gulls, Terns & Skimmers  Laridae**

**Gull-billed Tern**  *Gelochelidon nilotica*
At least 6 birds were seen sitting on the beach at the Hisui Estuary.

**Great[er] Crested Tern**  *Thalasseus bergii*
Fair numbers were seen out at sea off the Hisui Estuary and Beach.

**Pigeons, Doves  Columbidae**

**Rock [Dove] (Pigeon)**  *Columba livia*
A flock was seen in Port Moresby.

**Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove**  *Macropygia amboinensis*
A common species seen on 10 days of the tour, including some great views at various places.

*[Bar-tailed](Black-billed) Cuckoo-Dove (NG)*  *Macropygia nigrirostris*
We had a great look at many birds feeding on berries during our drive to Kumul Lodge.

**Great Cuckoo-Dove (NE)**  *Reinwardtoena reinwardtii*
Although we did have views of this species a few times at scattered locations, they were all seen in flight, best views along the Boys Town Road.

**Stephan’s [Emerald] Dove (NE)**  *Chalcophaps stephani*
This lowland forest species was seen briefly in flight on one occasion along Boys Town Road and the Fly River.

**New Guinea Bronzewing (NG)**  *Henicophaps albifrons*
We had excellent views of this scarce, shy and sought-after species in the forest near Kwatu Lodge.

**Peaceful Dove**  *Geopelia placida*
A number of birds were seen at PAU and the Port Moresby area and the Hisui area.

**Bar-shouldered Dove**  *Geopelia humeralis*
Small numbers were seen at PAU and later in the Hisui area.

**White-[breasted](bibbed) Ground Dove (NE)**  *Gallicolumba jobiensis*
A single bird was seen briefly but well in flight near the Tari Gap.

**Bronze Ground Dove (NE)**  *Gallicolumba beccarii*
This tiny and shy species was seen well around the feeder at the Kumul Lodge.

**Southern Crowned Pigeon (NG)**  *Goura scheepmakeri*
A total of around 7 birds were seen along the Elevala and Kwatu rivers, where some showed very well! A spectacular bird and voted the second favourite bird of the trip!

**Wompoo Fruit Dove**  
*Ptilinopus magnificus*

We had some good views of this stunning species in Varirata NP and in flight along the Boys Town road, heard more frequently at scattered locations.

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

After a first bird was seen in Varirata NP and was later encountered numerous times in the lowlands around Kiunga.

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

3 beautiful birds were seen in the PAU grounds, 2 birds were seen distantly later along the Fly River.

**Superb Fruit Dove**  
*Ptilinopus superbus*

A pair was seen very close and well in flight near the Ok Menga tunnel, another female scoped on the Dablin Creek Road.

**Beautiful Fruit Dove**  
*Ptilinopus pulchellus*

This gorgeous fruit dove was first seen in Varirata NP with more seen later in the Tabubil area.

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

Another great species that was seen and scoped very well along the Dablin Creek road.

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

Seen on 5 days near Port Moresby and around the Kiunga area.

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

This scarce, miniscule fruit dove was seen on 3 consecutive days, with one perched bird seen along the Elevala River.

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

Single birds were seen on 2 consecutive days in the forest near Kwatu Lodge.

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

We had around 17 birds in the Brown River area, then they were seen perched and in flight on 3 further days in the Kiunga area.

**Collared Imperial Pigeon (NG)**  
*Ducula mulleri*

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

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

A single bird near the Brown River, before we had nice views of a number of birds in the Kiunga area.

**Torresian Imperial Pigeon**  
*Ducula spilorrhoa*

A few birds were seen in the PAU area, before we had many of these attractive, black-and-white pigeons in the Hisui area, where they flew over in large flocks.

*Note: IOC splits *D. spilorrhoa* into *D. spilorrhoa* (Torresian Imperial Pigeon) and *D. subflavescens* (Yellowish Imperial Pigeon), whereas Clements only recognizes one species, *D. spilorrhoa* (Torresian Imperial Pigeon).*

**Papuan Mountain Pigeon (NE)**  
*Gymnophaps albertisii*

Widespread and relatively common at all altitudes, we saw this species in small to medium-sized flocks on 10 days of the tour.

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**Cockatoos  Cacatuidae**

**Palm Cockatoo (NE)**  
*Probosciger aterrimus*

This magnificent species was encountered in the lowlands along the Elevala River where we enjoyed perched and flight views. What a fantastic bird!

**Sulphur-crested Cockatoo**  
*Cacatua galerita*

This raucous parrot was seen in small numbers daily in the lowlands around Kiunga after first views along the Brown River area.
Parrots Psittacidae

Pesquet’s Parrot (NG) *Psittrichas fulgidus*
We were extremely fortunate with this usually rare and elusive species this trip! First we had 3 birds flying over at close range near Tabubil, before we later had a flock of around 7 birds near Kwatu Lodge.

Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot (NG) *Micropsitta keiensis*
We had stunning close views of around 8 tiny birds along the Boys Town Road, where they fed in a very thick bush near the road.

Buff-faced Pygmy Parrot (NG) *Micropsitta pusio*
After one participant found a huge flock of these tiny parrots, about 8 stayed behind, allowing for great views for the entire group.

Red-breasted Pygmy Parrot (NG) *Micropsitta bruijini*
We had views of about 10 birds in the tall forest near Ambua lodge. Unfortunately in bad light.

Yellow[ish]-streaked Lory (NG) *Chalcopsitta sintillata*
Some of the numerous birds we had in the Kiunga area were seen very well, including birds feeding on small red berries along Boys Town Road.

Dusky Lory (NG) *Lorius lory*
We had good views of a number of these birds in the coconut plantations near the Hisui mangroves.

[Coconut] (Rainbow) Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*
During 7 days on the trip we had views of this bird, including great views at PAU and near Kumul Lodge.

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

Goldie’s Lorikeet *Psitteuteles goldiei*
This usually very tricky species showed incredibly well in a fruiting bush near Kumul Lodge.

Black-capped Lory (NG) *Lorius lory*
This gorgeous bird was first seen at Varirata NP and was later encountered fairly regularly in the foothills and lowlands around Tabubil and Kiunga.

Red-flanked Lorikeet (NE) *Charmosyna placensis*
Small to medium sized flocks were seen in the lowlands around Kiunga, including a few perched birds.

Papuan Lorikeet (NG) *Charmosyna papou*
This stunning species was encountered a number of times between Ambua Lodge and the Tari Gap. This must rate as one of the world’s most beautiful parrots!

Plum-faced Lorikeet (NG) *Oreopsittacus arfaki*
A number of these birds were seen well near the Tari Gap, before we had a few more later near Kumul Lodge – a few briefly seen perched.

Yellow-billed Lorikeet (NG) *Neopsittacus musschenbroekii*
Small numbers were seen daily in the Tari area and later below Kumul Lodge.

Orange-billed Lorikeet (NG) *Neopsittacus pullicauda*
We had great perched views of this species above Ambua Lodge and near Kumul.

Brehm’s Tiger Parrot (NG) *Psittacella brehmii*
After getting views of a single bird below the Tari gap, we had amazing close views at Kumul’s feeder.

Red-cheeked Parrot (NE) *Geoffroyus geoffroyi*
Commonly seen in the lowlands and foothills throughout the tour.

Blue-collared Parrot (NE) *Geoffroyus simplex*
This species that is usually only heard was seen flying overhead on two occasions in the Tabubil area.

Eclectus Parrot (NE) *Eclectus roratus*
Seen regularly in small numbers in the foothills and lowlands, most along the Elevala River.
Papuan King Parrot (NG)  
Alisterus chloropterus
A single bird was seen briefly in flight in the Boys Town area.

Orange-breasted Fig Parrot (NG)  
Clycopsitta guliemimitertii
6 days gave us views of these lovely little parrots, with best views in some fruiting trees near Kwatu Lodge.

Double-eyed Fig Parrot  
Cyclopsitta diophthalma
Seen on 3 days in the Kiunga/Kwatu areas, including distant scope views.

Large Fig Parrot (NG)  
Psittaculirostris desmarestii
A single bird was seen flying over the river near Kwatu Lodge.

Cuckoos  
Cuculidae

[Ivory-billed] (Greater Black) Coucal (NG)  
Centropus menbeki
We heard this secretive species on several occasions in the lowlands around Kiunga.

[Black-billed] (Lesser Black) Coucal (NG)  
Centropus bernsteini
2 birds were seen fairly well near the Brown River, a shy and retiring species.

Pheasant Coucal  
Centropus phasianinus
Singletons were seen in the Varirata NP and Hisui areas.

[Pacific] (Australian) Koel  
Eudynamys orientalis
A few birds (both males and females) were seen while boating along the Elevela River and along Boys Town Road.

Channel-billed Cuckoo  
Scythrops novaehollandiae
Two birds were seen in flight along the Fly River. A large and bizarre cuckoo!

Rufous-throated Bronze Cuckoo (NG)  
Chrysococcyx ruficollis
Unfortunately we only had very brief views of this high-altitude species near the Tari Gap.

White-eared Bronze Cuckoo (NG)  
Chrysococcyx meyerii
Excellent, prolonged views were had of this species along the Ok Menga Road in the Tabubil area.

Little Bronze Cuckoo  
Chrysococcyx minutillus
Good views were had of this species along the Boys Town Road and from the Elevela River.

Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo (NE)  
Cacomantis castaneiventris
More often heard than seen, although we enjoyed good views of one bird near the Ok Menga tunnel.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo  
Cacomantis flabelliformis
We had views in the Ambua area, with distant looks later near Kumul and a juvenile at Kwatu Lodge.

Brush Cuckoo  
Cacomantis variolosus
A common bird that was seen occasionally, including near the Hisui Mangroves, 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

[Greater] Sooty Owl  
Tyto tenebricosa
This rather elusive owl was seen briefly by a few fortunate participants when it flushed from a dense tree in the Tari valley.

Owls  
Strigidae

[Papuan Boobook] (Jungle Hawk-Owl) (NG)  
Ninox theomacha
Excellent views were obtained of this species during a night walk at Ambua Lodge. This species also heard a number of different locations.

Frogmouths  
Podargidae
Marbled Frogmouth  
*Podargus ocellatus*
A pair was seen in the Tari Valley and 3 of probably this species along the Kwatu River, where it was also heard at night.

Papuan Frogmouth  
*Podargus papuensis*
This huge species was seen well in the PAU grounds.

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**Nightjars**  
**Caprimulgidae**

Large-tailed Nightjar  
*Caprimulgus macrurus*
We had sightings of this bird along the road to Varirata NP, with other sightings later in the Tabubil area.

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**Owlet-nightjars**  
**Aegothelidae**

Feline Owlet-nightjar (NG)  
*Aegotheles insignis*
Unfortunately this rare and highly elusive species was only heard on one occasion at Kumul Lodge.

Barred Owlet-nightjar (NG)  
*Aegotheles bennettii*
This species was scoped at 2 daytime roost holes 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).*

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**Treeswifts**  
**Hemiprocnidae**

Moustached Treeswift (NE)  
*Hemiprocne mystacea*
This handsome species was seen on 4 days in total with sightings near Kiunga and along the Elevala River, with one bird seen over Varirata NP on the last morning.

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**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*
Fairly good numbers were found in the western lowlands, mainly around Kiunga Lodge.

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**Rollers**  
**Coraciidae**

[Oriental] Dollarbird  
*Eurystomus orientalis*
Seen regularly in the lowlands with especially good numbers along the Elevala River.

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**Kingfishers**  
**Alcedinidae**

Hook-billed Kingfisher (NG)  
*Melidora macrorrhina*
This very shy bird was unfortunately only heard in the lowlands near Kwatu Lodge.

Common Paradise Kingfisher (NE)  
*Tanysiptera galatea*
After a very brief view of this species near the Brown River, we managed to get great scope looks in the lowlands near Kwatu Lodge.

Little Paradise Kingfisher (NG)  
*Tanysiptera hydrocharis*
This bird was heard near Kwatu Lodge in dense rainforest.
Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher *Tanysiptera sylvia*
A migrant from Australia, it was recorded very well in forest near the Kwatu River area.

Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher (PNG) *Tanysiptera danae*
Single birds were seen on 2 different days in the forests of Varirata NP – a stunning species!

Shovel-billed Kookaburra (NG) *Clytoceyx rex*
This ultra-elusive kingfisher was unfortunately just heard in the Tabubil area.

Blue-winged Kookaburra *Dacelo leachii*
This huge kingfisher was seen well at PAU and again in woodland near the Hisui mangroves.

Rufous-bellied Kookaburra (NG) *Dacelo gaudichaud*
After a first good view in Varirata NP, we had a number of good views in the lowlands around Kiunga.

Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii*
2 birds showed well in open woodland areas near the Hisui mangroves.

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

Yellow-billed Kingfisher (NE) *Syma torotoro*
This attractive and often tricky kingfisher was heard on numerous occasions, while we had a single sighting in Varirata NP.

Mountain Kingfisher (NG) *Syma megarhyncha*
This extremely elusive kingfisher was heard a number of times in the Ambua area and later near Kumul.

Variable [Dwarf] Kingfisher *Ceyx Lepidus*
Scope views were obtained by some of the group of this tiny forest kingfisher in Varirata NP.

Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azureus*
Wonderful views were had of this kingfisher on the way out of Varirata NP. A stunning bird!

**Bee-eaters Meropidae**

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*
This Australasian migrant was commonly seen throughout the Port Moresby area.

**Hornbills Bucerotidae**

Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus*
This large, impressive hornbill was commonly seen along the Elevala and Fly rivers.

**Pittas Pittidae**

Red-bellied Pitta *Pitta erythrogaster*
This elusive species was heard and then seen incredibly well, while we birded in forest along the Ketu 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*
Excellent views were had of this fairly widespread pitta in forest along the Ketu River. We had a brief sighting on the ground and then a good view of it in flight.

**Bowerbirds Ptilonorhynchidae**

White-eared Catbird *Ailuroedus buccoides*
An extremely tough bird to see in New Guinea, we just heard this species along Boys Town Road.

Archbold’s Bowerbird (NG) *Archboldia papuensis*
A female was seen fairly regularly attending the Kumul Lodge feeder.
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).

**MacGregor’s Bowerbird (NG)**
*Amblyornis macgregoriae*
We enjoyed good views of 2 birds, including a juvenile in forest near the Ambua Lodge.

**Flame Bowerbird (NG)**
*Sericulus ardens*
A total of 3 birds were seen, including brief views of 2 perched birds 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 lauterbachii*
Good views were obtained of this species during our drive from Tari to Kumul Lodge.

**Fawn-breasted Bowerbird (NE)**
*Chlamydera cerviniventris*
Birds were seen during the first 3 days of the tour, with biggest numbers in the PAU grounds.

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**Australasian Wrens Maluridae**

**Emperor Fairywren (NG)**
*Malurus cyanocephalus*
A pair of these stunners was seen near the Boys Town Road, more heard along the Elevala River.

**White-shouldered Fairywren (NG)**
*Malurus alboscapulatus*
Fairly widespread and seen at several localities throughout the tour, generally in tall grassland.

**Orange-crowned Fairywren (NG)**
*Clytomyias insignis*
This species is very shy and fast-moving, they were glimpsed on 2 occasions in the Kumul Lodge area.

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**Honeyeaters Meliphagidae**

**Spotted Honeyeater (NG)**
*Xanthotis polygrammus*
A single bird was seen very briefly in the Dablin Creek area.

**Tawny-breasted Honeyeater (NE)**
*Xanthotis flaviventer*
Small numbers were seen daily in the Tabubil and Kiunga areas, with one seen near the Brown River.

**Obscure Honeyeater (NG)**
*Lichenostomus obscurus*
A single bird was seen near Kwatu Lodge after we heard numerous birds calling along Boys Town Road.

**Yellow-tinted Honeyeater (NG)**
*Lichenostomus flavescens*
This scarce lowland honeyeater was seen once in the PAU grounds.

**Mountain [Honeyeater] (Meliphaga) (NG)**
*Meliphaga orientalis*
Around 4 birds were seen near the Lai River.

**Scrub Honeyeater (NG)**
*Meliphaga albonotata*
First seen in the Tari Valley, more common later near Tabubil.

**Mimic Honeyeater (NG)**
*Meliphaga analoga*
The most common and widespread of the group – seen on numerous occasions.

**Puff-backed Honeyeater (NG)**
*Meliphaga aruensis*
A single bird was briefly seen in the forest near Kwatu Lodge.

**White-throated Honeyeater**
*Melithreptus albogularis*
3 birds were seen briefly but well in woodland outside Varirata NP.

**Plain Honeyeater (NG)**
*Pycnopygius ixioides*
Recorded on 4 days of the tour – including in Varirata NP and around Kwatu Lodge.

**Streak-headed Honeyeater (NG)**
*Pycnopygius stictocephalus*
Seen in Varirata NP, on Boys Town Road and at Km 17 near Kwatu Lodge.

**Meyer’s Friarbird (NG)**
*Philemon meyeri*
This often elusive species was seen extremely well during our morning along Boys Town Road.

**[New Guinea](Helmeted) Friarbird (NG)**
*Philemon novaeguineae*
Commonly seen and heard throughout the lowlands and foothills.

*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 and seen daily in the Tari and Kumul areas, a few later on Dablin Creek Road.

**Sooty Melidectes (NG)**  
*Melidectes fuscus*

A single juvenile bird was seen very well in a clearing near Kumul Lodge.

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

Mostly below the elevation zone dominated by Belford’s Melidectes. We observed several birds in the area just above and below Ambua Lodge.

**Belford’s Melidectes (NG)**  
*Melidectes belfordi*

Common at high elevations and heard constantly with dozens in the Tari and Mt. Hagen areas. Particularly obvious and aggressive at the Kumul Lodge feeder.

**Ornate Melidectes (NG)**  
*Melidectes torquatus*

A number of these birds were seen quite well near the Lai River and later on the Dablin Creek Road.

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

This sometimes tricky honeyeater was seen in small numbers just above Ambua Lodge on all 3 days we had in this area.

**[Grey-streaked](Black-backed) Honeyeater (NG)**  
*Ptiloprora perstriata*

Seen a few times in montane forest at both sites we visited in the highlands.

**Long-billed Honeyeater (NG)**  
*Melilestes megarhynchus*

We had brief looks of this bird in the Tabubil area and again later near Kwatu Lodge.

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

A pair was seen very well in the open woodland near the Hisui Mangroves. This is a scarce and localized endemic!

**Brown-backed Honeyeater**  
*Ramsayornis modestus*

Around 4 birds showed well near Hisui, where we could watch at least a pair around its nest.

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

Commonly seen during our visit to PAU and the Hisui area.

**Dusky Myzomela (NG)**  
*Myzomela obscura*

A single male was seen well, feeding in flowering mistletoe near Hisui.

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

2 birds were seen in open woodland at Varirata NP.

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

A total of about 7 of these tiny but handsome birds were seen below Kumul Lodge, in Varirata NP and on the Dablin Creek Road.

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

A number of these smart birds were seen in the higher elevation forests, mainly around Ambua Lodge.

**Green-backed Honeyeater**  
*Glycichaera fallax*

A single bird showed well in a mixed flock in Varirata NP.

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**Australasian Warblers Acanthizidae**

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

After struggling to get everyone on this bird at first we ended up with good views of a few birds near the Ok Menga tunnel.

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

At least 3 birds were seen very well in the forest around Kumul Lodge.
Pale-billed Scrubwren (NG)  
Sericornis spilodera
A single bird was seen briefly in the scrubby edges near Ok Menga tunnel.

Papuan Scrubwren (NG)  
Sericornis papuensis
Small parties were seen a few times in the forests around the Ambua Lodge.

Large Scrubwren (NG)  
Sericornis nouhuysi
Good views were obtained of small groups in the Tari and Kumul areas.

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

Grey-green Scrubwren (NG)  
Sericornis arfakianus
This is a scarce bird that we don’t often find during our tours here – this time though it proved fairly common near the top of Dablin Creek Road.

Brown-breasted Gerygone (NG)  
Gerygone ruficollis
Heard and on most days in the mountains near both Kumul and Ambua Lodges, while it was seen very well a number of times in the Tari Valley.

Mangrove Gerygone  
Gerygone levigaster
A single bird showed well at the Hisui Mangroves.

Large-billed Gerygone  
Gerygone magnirostris
A total of 4 of these river-side specialists were seen along the Ketu River.

Yellow-bellied Gerygone (NG)  
Gerygone chrysogaster
A single bird was seen in Varirata NP, with at least 2 more later on in forest near Kwatu Lodge.

[Ashy](Mountain) Gerygone (NG)  
Gerygone cinerea
We had this often scarce high-altitude species on all 3 days in the Ambua Lodge area.

Green-backed Gerygone (NE)  
Gerygone chloronotus
This was seen on 3 consecutive days, mainly in the Tabubil area.

White-throated Gerygone  
Gerygone olivacea
After trying for a long time, we finally managed some great views of a single bird in Hisui woodland.

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

[Ashy](Dwarf Whistler) (NG)  
Gerygone chloronotus
On the final morning in Varirata NP, we managed to find this species and see it well.

Australasian Babblers  Pomatostomidae

[Papuan](New Guinea) Babbler (NG)  
Garritornis isidorei
We had wonderful views of at least 3 birds as we left the Kwatu Lodge area.

Logrunners  Pomatostomidae

[Papuan](Northern) Logrunner (NG)  
Orthonyx novaeguineae
A pair of these uncommon and sought-after birds was quite responsive near the Tari gap, where most of the group managed to get good views.

Satinbirds  Cnemophilidae

Loria’s Satinbird (NG)  
Cnemophilus loriae
Best views were enjoyed in a fruiting tree at Ambua, later we had a few more birds near Kumul Lodge.

Crested Satinbird (NG)  
Cnemophilus macgregorii
A few people first saw a female and then briefly a male bird in the forest just below the Tari Gap.

Berrypeckers, Longbills  Melanocharitidae

Rockjumper Birding Tours
Obscure Berrypecker (NG)  
*Melanocharis arfakiana*
A single bird showed exceptionally well in the upper area of the Dablin Creek road.

Black Berrypecker (NG)  
*Melanocharis nigra*
A number of birds showed, mainly around the edge of forest in Varirata NP.

[Mid-mountain](Lemon-breasted) Berrypecker (NG)  
*Melanocharis longicauda*
We had 2 birds on 3 consecutive days in the roadside forest above Ambua Lodge.

Fan-tailed Berrypecker (NG)  
*Melanocharis versteri*
Single birds were seen on 2 consecutive days in the forest above Ambua Lodge.

Streaked Berrypecker (NG)  
*Melanocharis striativentris*
Just one participant managed brief views of this scarce species in forest canopy near the Kumul area.

Dwarf [Longbill] (Honeyeater) (NG)  
*Oedistoma iliolophus*
A single bird showed well in Varirata NP, where it was seen in forest canopy in the early morning.

Yellow-bellied Longbill (NG)  
*Toxorhamphus novaeguineae*
This fast-moving species was seen briefly on both days we had in forest near the Kwatu Lodge.

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Painted Berrypeckers  *Paramythiidae*

Tit Berrypecker (NG)  
*Oreocharis arfaki*
This very handsome species was seen daily in a fruiting tree at Ambua Lodge.

Crested Berrypecker (NG)  
*Paramythia montium*
This highly attractive species was seen very well near the Tari Gap and again in small numbers around Kumul Lodge.

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

Blue Jewel-babbler (NG)  
*Ptilorhoo caerulescens*
This lowland species was heard daily in the Kiunga area and near 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)  
*Ptilorhoo castanomota*
This is an extremely difficult to see bird, although most participants managed at least a brief look in Varirata NP and it was heard on numerous occasions there and in the Dablin Creek area.

Painted Quail-thrush (NG)  
*Cinclosoma ajax*
After just hearing this ultra-elusive understory skulker in Varirata NP on our first visit, we managed views for some participants on our other 2 visits later.

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Boatbills  *Machaerirhynchidae*

Black-breasted Boatbill (NG)  
*Machaerirhynchus nigriceps*
This boldly-patterned species was seen very well on two days in the Tari and Kumul areas.

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Butcherbirds & Allies  *Craticidae*

Black Butcherbird  
*Cracticus quoyi*
Recorded on 7 days of the tour, with birds recorded at various locations including around Ambua and Tabubil.

Black-backed Butcherbird (NE)  
*Cracticus mentalis*
Great views were had of these birds in PAU as well as near Varirata NP.

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

Lowland Peltops (NG)  
*Peltops blainvillii*
A few of these striking, miniature butcherbirds were found along near Kwatu Lodge.

**Mountain Peltops (NG)**  *Peltops montanus*
A single bird was seen near Ambua Lodge, before we had a good number of others later 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 Ambua Lodge and in the town of Tabubil.

**Cuckooshrikes  Campephagidae**

**Black-faced Cuckooshrike**  *Coracina novaehollandiae*
A single bird was seen briefly in woodland in the Hisui area.

**Stout-billed Cuckooshrike (NG)**  *Coracina caeruleogrisea*
This very large species was seen on 3 days during the tour, in Varirata NP, in the Tari area and along the Dablin Creek Road.

**Barred Cuckooshrike**  *Coracina lineata*
A total of 3 birds were seen over two visits in Varirata NP.

**Boyer's Cuckooshrike (NG)**  *Coracina boyeri*
This fairly common cuckooshrike was seen at various locations.

**White-bellied Cuckooshrike**  *Coracina papuensis*
A large species that was recorded in woodland during the first 3 days of 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**  *Coracina longicauda*
A group of three of these scarce birds were 3 time in one day on various parts of the Tari Gap road.

**[Grey](Gray)-headed Cuckooshrike (NG)**  *Coracina schisticeps*
Small numbers were seen daily on Dablin Creek Road and near Kwatu Lodge.

**[Black Cicadabird](New Guinea Cuckoo-shrike) (NG)**  *Coracina melas*
A pair of these scarce cuckooshrikes was seen in Varirata NP on two occasions we were there.

**Black-bellied Cuckooshrike (NG)**  *Coracina montana*
We recorded 5 of these birds in forest along the Tari Gap Road.

**Golden Cuckooshrike (NG)**  *Campochaera sloetii*
We found these gorgeous birds on the Dablin Creek Road and again in lowland forest near Kwatu Lodge.

**White-winged Triller**  *Lalage tricolor*
A very scarce bird on our route – we had 4 birds in the woodland near the Hisui area.

**Varied Triller**  *Lalage leucomela*
More common than the previous species in PNG, we had it in forest in PAU, in Varirata NP and along Boys Town Road.
*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*
We were very fortunate to get 3 separate sightings of these scarce birds over the course of 2 days in the Tari Valley area.

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)**  
_Eulacea nigropectus_

One female, one immature male and one sensational adult male were seen along Tari Gap road in one flock, with a second female seen there on the following day too!

**Whistlers & Allies Pachycephalidae**

**Brown-backed Whistler (PNG)**  
_Pachycephala modesta_

Small numbers seen daily in the Tari area.

**[Grey](Gray) Whistler (NE)**  
_Pachycephala simplex_

A total of around 8 birds were seen 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_

These great birds were seen well in forest along the Tari Gap Road and near Kumul, while we had a juvenile bird in riverine forest between these two areas.

**Regent Whistler (NG)**  
_Pachycephala schlegelii_

This stunner was seen on several occasions around Ambua and Kumul Lodges.

**Black-headed Whistler (NG)**  
_Pachycephala monacha_

Heard only in altered habitats near houses below Kumul Lodge.

**[Little](Rufous) Shrike-thrush**  
_Colluricincla megarhyncha_

A number of these birds were seen well on a few occasions in forest areas.

**[Grey](Gray) Shrike-thrush**  
_Colluricincla harmonica_

We had 4 birds that showed well in woodland at PAU, with other birds seen in the Hisui area and near Mendi.

**[Southern] Variable Pitohui (NG)**  
_Pitohui uropygialis_

This shy and secretive lowland species was seen fantastically well very near Kwatu Lodge.

**Hooded Pitohui (NG)**  
_Pitohui dichrous_

We had about a dozen of these birds, many feeding on fruit and berries 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 had a small group of these vocal but sneaky birds in forest near Kwatu Lodge.

**Rusty Pitohui (NG)**  
_Pitohui ferrugineus_

A single bird showed briefly along the Boys Town Road for a few of the participants.

**Crested Pitohui (NG)**  
_Pitohui cristatus_

Heard on two days in Varirata NP, this is a very tough bird to see!

**Rufous-naped Whistler (NG)**  
_Aleadryas rufinucha_

We were surprised to find just a single bird in roadside forest above Ambua Lodge.

**Shrikes Laniidae**

**Long-tailed Shrike**  
_Lanius schach_

A few birds were seen in open country in the Tari Valley and near the Lai River.
Figbirds, Orioles Oriolidae

Australasian Figbird  
*Sphecotheres vieilloti*
A few were seen on our trip to PAU, with a big flock seen later at the Hisui mangroves.

Brown Oriole (NG)  
*Oriolus szalayi*
This rather drab oriole was seen on numerous occasions in the lowlands and foothills.

Drongos Dicruridae

[Pygmy](Papuan) Drongo  
*Chaetorhynchus papuensis*
Encountered on the final morning of the tour, where we found at least 2 birds.

Spangled Drongo  
*Dicrurus bracteatus*
Encountered on most days in the lowlands and foothills, especially during the final week.

Fantails Rhipiduridae

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

Northern Fantail  
*Rhipidura rufiventris*
Single birds were seen on 2 days on the Dablin Creek Road.

Black Thicket Fantail (NG)  
*Rhipidura maculiceps*
We had brief views of these secretive fantails as they flitted across the trail at Hisui Mangroves.

White-bellied Thicket Fantail (NG)  
*Rhipidura leucothorax*
This is another exceptionally difficult bird to see! We did manage views on 2 days in the Tabubil area.

Black Fantail (NG)  
*Rhipidura atra*
Birds were seen singly and in pairs a few times in the Forest near Ambua Lodge and on the upper parts of the Dablin Creek Road.

Chestnut-bellied Fantail (NG)  
*Rhipidura hypertythra*
A few birds were seen in mixed flocks in Varirata NP on 2 separate visits.

Friendly Fantail (NG)  
*Rhipidura albolimbata*
One of the most commonly seen birds in the highlands and seen daily around Ambua and Kumul Lodges.

Dimorphic Fantail (NG)  
*Rhipidura brachyrhyncha*
A single bird was seen only briefly in forest canopy in forests above the Ambua Lodge.

Monarchs Monarchidae

Black Monarch (NG)  
*Symposiachrus axillaris*
We had around 3 birds around the upper parts of the Dablin Creek Road.

Spot-winged Monarch (NG)  
*Symposiachrus guttula*
Around 8 birds were seen in Varirata NP with a single bird seen near Kwatu Lodge.

Hooded Monarch (NG)  
*Symposiachrus manadensis*
This scarce and usually secretive monarch was seen well in a mixed flock behind Kwatu Lodge.

Black-faced Monarch  
*Monarcha melanopsis*
A single bird was seen in a flock on the final morning in Varirata NP.

Golden Monarch (NG)  
*Carterornis chrysomela*
This brilliant yellow-and-black monarch was seen along Boys Town Road and again in a mixed flock near Kwatu Lodge.

Frilled Monarch (NG)  
*Arses telescopthalmus*
We enjoyed several sightings of this attractive monarch in Varirata followed by further encounters in the lowlands near Kiunga.

Torrent-lark (NG)  
*Grallina bruijni*
After we heard this bird near Kumul, we had sightings a few times along the Dablin Creek Road.

**Leaden Flycatcher**

*Myiagra rubecula*

Around 3 birds were seen in woodland in the Hisui area.

**Broad-billed Flycatcher**

*Myiagra ruficollis*

A single one of these scarce birds was seen well in the Hisui area.

**Shining Flycatcher**

*Myiagra alecto*

The very different male and female birds were seen well a number of times along the Elevala and Ketu river margins.

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**Crows, Jays Corvidae**

**[Grey](Gray) Crow (NG)**

*Corvus tristis*

After first views in Varirata NP, we had better views later near Tabubil and along the Elevala River.

**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*

This rather strange and unique species proved to be more difficult than it often is, although some participants did manage a sighting in the Kumul Lodge area.

**Blue-capped Ifrita (NG)**

*Ifrita kowaldi*

A very sought-after bird that was seen on 2 days in the Ambua area, including one near the Tari Gap. 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 unlikely bird-of-paradise was first seen near the Brown River, before we found a number of other birds near Kiunga and the Elevala River.

**Crinkle-collared Manucode (NG)**

*Manucodia chalybatus*

A single bird was briefly seen in a fruiting tree in Varirata NP.

**Trumpet Manucode (NE)**

*Phonygammus keraudrenii*

We enjoyed unusually good views of this species in the Kiunga area and along the Fly River.

**Short-tailed Paradigalla (NG)**

*Paradigalla brevicauda*

Superb views were had of this strange bird-of-paradise at Ambua Lodge.

**Ribbon-tailed Astrapia (PNG)**

*Astrapia mayeri*

One of the most sensational and memorable experiences of the tour occurred when we located an unbelievably plumaged male next to the road below the Tari Gap that showed for an extended period and then flew leisurely across the road. Incredible! We also saw several more birds in the same area and also enjoyed repeat views of females and sub-adult males at and around Kumul Lodge. 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*

We had a total of around 4 birds over the days in the Ambua area, including a great look at an iridescent male bird and a very relaxed and close female in a fruiting tree.

**[Queen] Carola’s Parotia (PNG)**

*Parotia carolae*

This scarce species proved quite common on this tour around Dablin Creek Road where we had great views of both male and female birds.
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
At least one female of this species was seen visiting a fruiting tree at Ambua Lodge. Males of this species are unfortunately almost never encountered!

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
A very distant but fabulous male and two females were encountered along the Tari Gap Road above Ambua Lodge.

Superb Bird-of-paradise (NG)  
Lophorina superba
A total of around 5 birds (males and females) were seen during our time in the Tari Valley and beyond. The green breast shield of the male is totally outrageous!

Magnificent Riflebird (NE)  
Ptiloris magnificus
This very shy and elusive lowland species was only heard in the Kiunga area.

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
After hearing this species calling on numerous occasions in Varirata NP, we finally glimpsed a single bird in the forest there on the final morning.

Black Sicklebill (NG)  
Epimachus fastuosus
A distant male was found and scoped below Ambua Lodge, where it eventually even displayed. A female was briefly seen in the same area a little later.

Brown Sicklebill (NG)  
Epimachus meyeri
Heard and very briefly seen below the Tari Gap, before we had many sightings at the Kumul Lodge feeders and was undoubtedly one of the major trip highlights!

Magnificent Bird-of-paradise (NG)  
Diphyllodes magnificus
First heard near the Ok Menga tunnel, before we had a number of views in distant fruiting trees on the Dablin Creek Road near Tabubil. A few females gave closer views.

King Bird-of-paradise (NG)  
Cicinnurus regius
This show-stopper was seen very well around the top of a tree near km 17, offering great scoped views! A female was seen near Kiunga, while we heard more birds around the forests along the Elevela River.

Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise (NG)  
Seleucidis melanoleucus
We had phenomenal views of a displaying male bird along the Fly River, before we found a female briefly in the forest near Kwatu Lodge. Another bizarre and extremely attractive bird-of-paradise!

Greater Bird-of-paradise (NG)  
Paradisaea apoda
We were truly spoilt by several spectacular males calling and displaying for extended periods along the trail at km 17. These sightings must certainly rank as one of the most remarkable birding experiences on earth and we felt most privileged to have experienced such a special display of one of the world’s most extravagant birds.

Raggiana Bird-of-paradise (PNG)  
Paradisaea raggiana
This is the national bird of Papua New Guinea, endemic to PNG. We enjoyed views of several males and females during our time in Varirata NP and also encountered a glorious male displaying with Greater Bops and flying across the flying across the Elevela River.

Lesser Bird-of-paradise (NG)  
Paradisaea minor
2 distant male birds showed very well and were scoped well in open forest below Kumul Lodge. An exquisite bird!

Blue Bird-of-paradise (PNG)  
Paradisaea rudolphi
A gorgeous male was seen near Ambua Lodge, before we had good views of a female during the drive to Kumul a few days later.

**Australasian Robins Petroicidae**

Black-sided Robin (NG)  
*Poecilodryas hypoleuca*
This tiny black and white robin was heard and glimpsed frequently before we had a fantastic scope views near Kwatu Lodge.

Black-throated Robin (NG)  
*Poecilodryas albonotata*
A single bird was seen well in roadside forest below the Tari Gap.

White-winged Robin (NG)  
*Peneothello sigillata*
Regular and superb sightings were had of this species around Kumul Lodge.

[Slaty] (Blue-gray) Robin (NG)  
*Peneothello cyanus*
There were a few of these birds hanging around the forest near Ambua Lodge.

White-rumped Robin (NG)  
*Peneothello bimaculata*
Like Black-sided Robin this species is always difficult to observe. We were extremely fortunate to have good and close views near the Ok Menga tunnel.

Torrent [Flyrobin] (Flycatcher) (NG)  
*Monachella muelleriana*
We had great views of several birds at the Lai River and again a few days later in the Tabubil area.

Canary [Flyrobin] (Flycatcher) (NG)  
*Microeca papuana*
We had regular sightings throughout the highlands in the Tari area.

Lemon-bellied [Flyrobin] (Flycatcher)  
*Microeca flavigaster*
A few individuals were seen along the entrance road to Varirata NP, before we had numerous sightings in Hisui woodlands.

Garnet Robin (NG)  
*Eugerygone rubra*
A beautiful male showed well for the whole group near the Tari Gap. A gorgeous little bird!

Northern Scrub Robin  
*Drymodes superciliaris*
Heard well and at very close range in Varirata NP.

Lesser Ground Robin (NG)  
*Amalochil a incerta*
We enjoyed views of this bird on two days in the forest near the Tari Gap – including good close views for some participants.

**Swallows, Martins Hirundinidae**

Pacific Swallow  
*Hirundo tahitica*
This is the common swallow of the region and was seen on most days of the trip.

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*
We had at least a dozen birds flying over open country in the Hisui area.

**Leaf Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae**

Island Leaf Warbler  
*Phylloscopus poliocephalus*
A few birds were seen below Ambua Lodge.

**Grassbirds and allies Megaluridae**

[Papuan](Tawny) Grassbird  
*Megalurus macrurus*
Excellent views were had on several occasions below the Tari Gap and near Tabubil.
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 & allies  *Cisticolidae*

**Golden-headed Cisticola**  *Cisticola exilis*

A total of 3 birds were seen in the Hisui area.

### White-eyes  *Zosteropidae*

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

2 birds were seen in a large white-eye flock during the drive to Kumul Lodge. We had closer and better views of this species later in the Tabubil area.

**Capped White-eye (NG)**  *Zosterops fuscicapilla*

A few birds were seen in secondary forest along the Dablin Creek Road.

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

We had very large flocks of this species on 2 days near the Mt. Hagen area.

### 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).

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

Best looks at our Port Moresby hotel, with other views in the Hisui area and in the Kumul 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 first scoped in the Brown River area, before we had more on 3 days around Kiunga/Kwatu areas.

### Thrushes  *Turdidae*

**Island Thrush**  *Turdus poliocephalus*

Seen regularly and at close range around Kumul Lodge.

### Chats, Old World Flycatchers  *Muscicapidae*

**Pied Bush Chat**  *Saxicola caprata*

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

### Flowerpeckers  *Dicaeidae*

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

Widespread and fairly commonly seen in small numbers throughout the tour with some good views of several striking males.

### Sunbirds  *Nectariniidae*

**Black Sunbird**  *Leptocoma sericea*

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

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

At least 20 birds were seen around Hisui Mangroves.
Old World Sparrows  Passeridae

House Sparrow  Passer domesticus
A few birds were seen around Port Moresby.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow  Passer montanus
Recorded fairly frequently during sections we had in and around towns and cities.

Waxbills, Munias & Allies  Estrildidae

Mountain Firetail (NG)  Oreosuthorus fuliginosus
Seen very briefly near the top of the Tari Gap.
Grey-headed [Mannikin] (Munia) (PNG)  Lonchura caniceps
A few birds were seen very briefly in the grasslands around the Brown River area.
Hooded [Mannikin] (Munia) (NG)  Lonchura spectabilis
We had very good views of these birds in tall grass below Ambua Lodge.

Annotated Checklist of Mammals Recorded

Dusky Pademelon (NG)  Tylogale brunii
This rarely seen forest kangaroo was seen briefly on one of the trails in Varirata NP.
Silky Couscous (NG)  Phalanger sericeus
A single animal was seen by some participants around the feeder at Kumul Lodge.
Great Flying Fox (NE)  Pteropus neohibernicus
Good numbers of these massive mammals were seen along the Elevala River.
Bat sp.
Several unidentified species of bat were seen during the trip, including a tiny species near Kwatu Lodge.
Black-tailed Giant Rat (NG)  Uromys anak
This species was seen by 2 participants at the feeder at Kumul Lodge.
De Vis’s Wooly Rat (NG)  Mallomys aroaensis
A pied and very large rat that was seen by most participants near the Kumul feeder.

Reptiles recorded

New Guinea Crocodile (NG)  Crocodylus novaeguineae
This crocodile was seen very well during our boat trip back to Kiunga.
Forest Dragon sp
Seen in Varirata NP and near Tabubil.
Snake sp
Seen at close range near Kwatu Lodge.