



*This cracking Wallace's Fairywren was voted bird of the trip. (DLV)*

# PAPUA NEW GUINEA I

**30 MAY– 16 / 20 JUNE 2018**

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Our first tour to Papua New Guinea –including New Britain- in 2018 was a great success and delivered a high number of quality birds. A total of 21 species of Birds-of-paradise (BoPs) - undoubtedly one of the most extraordinary, and “out of this world” bird families in the world-, were recorded, perhaps most memorable being a superb male Blue BoP, seen at close range near Kumul for as long as we wished. Just as impressive though were spectacular performances by displaying Raggiana and Greater BoPs in excellent light, stunning males King and Twelve-wired BoPs in the Kiunga area, a cracking adult male Growling Riflebird at Varirata, several amazing King-of-Saxony BoPs, waving their incredible head plumes like some strange insect antennae in the mossy forest of Tari Valley, great sightings of both Princess Stephanie's and Ribbon-tailed Astrapias with their ridiculously long tail feathers, superb scope studies of Black –doing full display!- and Brown Sicklebills, uttering their machine-gun like calls, and so on. While Birds-of-paradise are certainly the signature family in PNG, there is of course plenty more besides, and this year the cracking and little-known Wallace's Fairywren was awarded bird of the trip, ahead of BoPs, crowned pigeons and owl-nightjars! We recorded a grand total of 33 species of pigeons and doves, -they reach their greatest diversity here in New Guinea, as do kingfishers-, including 11 Fruit Doves, and, during the extension, the rare Eastern Bronze Ground Dove. Skulking and always highly sought-after Blue, Chestnut-backed and Spotted Jewel-babblers showed well, with an amazing show provided by the former for some of the group, and we also saw

no less than 18 species of Kingfishers, including the rare Shovel-billed Kookaburra and both Papuan and New Britain Dwarf Kingfishers. 31 Parrots and 35 Honeyeaters were good too. Another great success was seeing the 7 recognized New Guinea endemic families, with both Painted Berrypeckers (Paramythiidae), Berrypeckers and Longbills (Melanocharitidae), both Satinbirds (Cnemophilidae), the monotypic Mottled Berryhunter (Rhagologidae), Lesser Melampitta (Melampittidae), the monotypic Wattled Ploughbill (Eulacestomatidae) and the monotypic Blue-capped Ifrit (Ifritidae), all seen very well, with particularly memorable sightings those of a pair of Mottled Berryhunters and Wattled Ploughbills in the highlands.



*This male Wattled Ploughbill was one of our highlights in the Tari Valley. (DLV)*

Other highlights included stellar views of the near-mythical Golden Masked Owl in New Britain, one of 7 owls seen during the trip that also included perched Papuan Hawk-Owl and Rufous Owl. The very rarely seen Wallace's Owlet-Nightjar was a superb find at Kiunga, and a Birdquest lifer nonetheless. In Varirata, Pheasant Pigeon –heard by everyone and seen by Rainer-, Barred Owlet-Nightjar, Papuan Scrub Robin, Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher, Piping Bellbird (photographed!), White-faced Robin, Olive Flyrobin and White-bellied Whistler were logged. The very rare Striated, Fairy and Josephine's Lorikeets, White-crowned Cuckoo, Torrent-lark, Spotted Honeyeater, Red Myzomela, White-rumped Robin, as well as Salvadori's Teal, were seen near Tabubil. Two days on the Fly and Elevala Rivers near Kiunga delivered great views of immense Sclater's (Southern) Crowned Pigeons, White-bellied Pitohuis, Hook-billed Kingfisher, Common Paradise Kingfisher and White-throated Nightjar amongst many others, in spite of heavy rain, while a week in the highlands produced an abundance of both quality and quantity. At Kumul Lodge we found perched New Guinea Woodcock, Lesser Melampitta, delightful Blue-capped Ifrit, with Yellow-breasted Bowerbird seen not far from the lodge, while Brehm's Tiger Parrots, Brown Sicklebills and many others were regular visitors to the feeders. At Ambua we encountered an excellent selection of BoPs, including Short-tailed Paradigalla, plus Papuan Eagle (New Guinea Harpy), Papuan Harrier, Archbold's Nightjar, Chestnut Forest Rail, Spotted Berrypecker, Papuan Treecreeper and Black Sittellas. Those who came on the extension to New Britain had great views of most-wanted Nicobar Pigeons and stonking Beach Kingfishers on some wonderful offshore islands. A pelagic trip there was very productive as well, securing good views of the rare Heinroth's Shearwater. Blue-eyed Cockatoos were pleasantly common on New Britain (though outnumbered by abundant Eclectus Parrots) where we found a great selection of endemics and near-endemics, including



Red-knobbed, Finsch's and Yellowish Imperial Pigeons, Knob-billed Fruit Doves, White-necked and Violaceous Coucals, White-mantled and Melanesian Kingfishers, Black-capped Paradise Kingfisher, Melanesian Megapode, Black-bellied Myzomela, Red-banded Flowerpecker, exquisite Black-tailed Monarch, Velvet Flycatcher, Long-tailed Myna plus a fantastic New Britain Boobook at its day roost. The rarely-seen Bismarck Pitta, split from Red-bellied, made us work hard, but we were ultimately rewarded with great views. Tour logistics ran very smoothly by PNG standards, with not a single cancelled or delayed flight.



*This Blue Jewel Babbler performed brilliantly for some of the group in Kiunga. (DLV)*

The tour began at Port Moresby Airport in the morning, and after a quick freshen up at the hotel, we set off towards Varirata NP. Soon after arrival we were seeing our first quality birds from the clearing. Some fruiting and flowering trees attracted Zoe's Imperial Pigeon, Red-cheeked and Eclectus Parrots, Black-capped Lory, confusing Elegant, Mimic, Plain and Tawny-breasted Honeyeaters, New Guinea Friarbird, Red-capped Flowerpecker, and others. Other birds seen here included Boyer's and White-bellied Cuckooshrikes, Black Cicadabird, Varied Triller, Brown Oriole and Torresian Crow. Venturing a short distance into the forest interior gave us a smart Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher, a single Wompoo Fruit Dove, Fairy, Green-backed and Yellow-bellied Gerygones, Dwarf Longbill, Rusty and Hooded Pitohuis, Little Shrikethrush, Grey Whistler, Chestnut-bellied Fantail, Spot-winged, Frilled and Black-faced Monarchs and a couple of Black Berrypeckers. We also admired our first Raggiana Birds-of-Paradise, including a cracking male, and while walking the river trail we enjoyed great views of Papuan Dwarf Kingfisher and a fabulous Barred Owlet-Nightjar, roosting at its usual hole. A calling Pheasant Pigeon remained, unfortunately, unseen, despite our efforts. Other birds seen during the morning included Papuan King Parrot, Coconut Lorikeet, Azure Kingfisher, Blue-winged Kookaburra, Pacific Baza, Amboyna Cuckoo Dove, Rusty Mouse Warbler and Stout-billed Cuckooshrike. After lunch at the clearing, where we had great views of a Yellow-billed Kingfisher, we moved downhill into the savannah woodland, where further additions to our fast-growing list included the localized endemic White-bellied Whistler, as well as Lemon-bellied Flyrobin, White-throated Honeyeater and Black-faced Cuckooshrike. A roosting Barking Owl was a great find by CJ! Afterwards we drove back to our hotel in PM.



*Barking Owl at Varirata and Orange-fronted Fruit Dove at PAU. (DLV)*

An early return to Varirata next day found us watching Raggiana Birds-of-Paradise displaying noisily soon after dawn, an unforgettable 'Attenborough moment'. Most of the rest of the morning was spent along the river trail where we encountered some excellent birds. After considerable effort, a pair of very sneaky Chestnut-backed Jewel Babblers gave decent views to most of the group. The rare and super secretive Piping Bellbird (formerly Crested Pitohui) showed exceedingly well, much to our surprise, but on the other hand Papuan Scrub Robin was only seen briefly by a couple of us. We also had good views of Growling Riflebird, both male and female. Other interesting species seen during the morning included a perched Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon found by Dave, several Papuan Mountain Pigeons, Pale-billed Scrubwren in a mixed flock and a noisy Black Butcherbird. In the afternoon we headed to the Pacific Adventist University's campus, on the outskirts of Port Moresby. We started off at the small lakes where good numbers of birds were gathered, including Nankeen Night Heron, Little Black Cormorants, Pied Herons and Pacific Black Ducks. Both Wandering and Plumed Whistling Ducks showed well and we also found two smart looking Raja Shelducks and some Grey Teals. Further highlights of a productive visit before we returned to our hotel included a cracking Orange-fronted Fruit Dove, two roosting Papuan Frogmouths, good numbers of Fawn-breasted Bowerbirds and Australasian Figbirds, Black-backed Butcherbirds, Whistling Kites, Australasian Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, Torresian Imperial Pigeons, Bar-shouldered and Peaceful Doves, Masked Lapwings, Comb-crested Jacanas, Pheasant Coucal, Rainbow Bee-eater, Rufous-banded Honeyeaters and a flock of endemic Grey-headed Mannikins.





*Displaying male Raggiana BoP at Varirata. What a bird!*

Next day, our plane to Mt Hagen departed on time. On arrival we transferred to Kumul Lodge where our upland birding began immediately at the feeding table as Brown Sicklebill, Ribbon-tailed Astrapia, Brehm's Tiger Parrot, Belford's Melidectes, Common Smoky Honeyeater, White-winged Robin, Island Thrush, Papuan Scrubwren and Grey-streaked Honeyeaters all appeared in very quick succession. The usually retiring Rufous-naped Bellbird performed brilliantly in the lawn. A short walk into the forest gave us excellent views of a flock of Blue-capped Ifrits, as well as Lesser Melampitta, an all-too-brief Sooty Melidectes, Mountain Mouse Warbler, Fan-tailed and Crested Berrypeckers, Black-breasted Boatbill, Regent Whistler, Friendly Fantail, Canary Flyrobin and a pair of Mountain Firetails. At dusk, we positioned ourselves in a small forest clearing, and right on time our target New Guinea Woodcock landed on a dead tree and sat for a while, much to everyone's delight. Afterwards we spent some time looking for Mountain Owlet-Nightjar. We heard one, but as usual here, it was unresponsive.

Most of the following day was spent driving from Kumul to Ambua lodge, in the Tari valley. We normally fly there, but a recent earthquake had destroyed the airstrip, and thus the only way of getting to Tari was by road. The journey was rather uneventful, although a short stop on the way produced a pair of Ornate Melidectes, as well as a male Raggiana Bird-of-paradise, and later we had a Pygmy Eagle flying over. Once we arrived to Ambua, we settled in our wonderful cabins and then spent the rest of the afternoon birding the lodge gardens. Our first Lawe's Parotias, a distant male Princess Stephanie's Astrapia, a singing Rufous-throated Bronze Cuckoo, Great Woodswallow, Yellow-browed Melidectes, Island Leaf Warbler, Rufous-backed Honeyeater, Hooded Cuckooshrikes, Slaty Robin and Yellow-billed Lorikeet were all seen.

The next 3 days were spent birding both around Ambua and on the road to Tari Gap. It rained a lot, but nevertheless we managed to see a very good selection of specialities. A male Spotted Berrypecker was seen daily at its usual tree in the garden, where a pair of Mountain Peltops also obliged. The lookout by the heliport was productive, with a massive Papuan Eagle being the best find, but supporting cast included perched Papuan King Parrot, spotted by Sue, male Lawes's Parotia and a calling Black-billed Sicklebill that refused to show. The access road and parking lot area gave us Great Cuckoo-Dove, Black Pitohui, Slaty-headed Longbill, Black Monarch, Sclater's Whistler, Lesser Ground Robin and Grey Thornbill (or Ashy Gerygone), amongst others. A memorable walk along the waterfall trail produced excellent views of a pair of



uncommon Motled Berryhunters (formerly Mottled Whistler), now on its own monotypic endemic family, and Dave's and Sue's last world family! Detinitely a trip highlight for everyone. Also in the same area, Josh found a Madarasz's Tiger Parrot, while a Short-tailed Paradigalla was much appreciated too.



*Some good birds from Ambua: Short-tailed Paradigalla, Rufous Owl and Mottled Berryhunter. (DLV)*



On the way to Tari Gap, and on 2 different occasions, we walked for a short distance on a trail through degraded forest until we reached a clearing. Here, two fully plumaged adult male King of Saxony BoPs were observed at length in the scope, much to Ian's delight, giving stellar views, together with some females. The antenna-like head plumes of the males were waving in the wind, and we could see the bright green colour inside of the mouth when they called. Brilliant stuff! We also enjoyed several cracking male Brown Sicklebills, while a pair of Chestnut Forest Rails showed nicely on the trail. White-bibbed (Mountain) and a brief Ornate Fruit Doves, and a singing Black-throated Robin were all found, while a lively flock of Black Sittellas, Brown-backed Whistler, Dimorphic Fantail and some Black-bellied Cuckooshrikes were also added to our list. The finding of Brendan's lost umbrella by Dave was also noteworthy! In a rainy afternoon we also saw a male Crested Satinbird in the same area. Further up the road up we walked on a trail that lead to good, old mossy forest. Here, another Chestnut Forest Rail performed, and we had walk-away views of a pair of Wattled Ploughbills, including a brilliant male. Papuan Logrunners were not very responsive this time, and only one was glimpsed. On the other hand, we managed to coax into view a Spotted Jewel Babbler, which crossed the trail a couple of times, and Josh also saw a rare New Guinean Quoll. In the same area, a pair of Papuan Treecreepers showed well, and 2 shy McGregor's Bowerbirds were seen by some. Some more roadside near Tari Gap birding produced a perched Black-mantled Goshawk, a male Modest Tiger Parrot, a pair of Brown Quails, Papuan Harrier, a brief Archbold's Bowerbird, Black-throated Honeyeater, while Papuan Grassbirds perched prominently on the sides of the road. A couple of adult male Ribbon-tailed Astropias, with their amazing tails, were seen too. Back in the lodge, a staff member found Hercules moth –the largest on earth!-, but when released, it was expertly taken in flight by a Great Woodswallow!



*Male King of Saxony BoP. One of the most amazing birds in the world! (DLV)*

On the only dry evening we had in Tari, we tried for Archbold's Nightjar at our usual stakeout, and within seconds of arriving we saw 2 birds perched up in the cliff face, giving good views in the torch beam. To round off our nightbirding, we enjoyed terrific views of a perched Rufous Owl, a very rarely seen species in New Guinea, near the lodge, while Papuan Boobook was seen by some.

One of the highlights of our stay in Tari this year was seeing, much to our surprise, the amazing full display of 2 male Black Sicklebills, in the ridge below the lodge. And also in the same area we also had 2 distant male Blue Birds-of-Paradise. You can't complain after seeing two of the world's best birds!!





*Some more highland forest birds – Rufous-naped Bellbird, Blue-faced Parrotfinch and Chestnut Forest Rail- (DLV)*

It was then time to say goodbye to this amazing place, and to our trusted and excellent local guide Joseph, and we headed back to Hagen. It was again a long and uneventful (bird-wise) journey, and by the time we got to Kumul it was raining heavily, thus spoiling our chances for any birding.

Next morning we departed early and visited a site for Blue Bird-of-Paradise down the valley. On arrival we soon heard the calls of our target bird, and after a while we had a cracking male Blue Bird-of-Paradise, arguably the best bird in the world, fixed in the scope. Excellent stuff, and much better and closer views than the ones we had in Tari. The bird spent most of the morning calling from the same tree, and we enjoyed every piece of its spectacular plumage. Later, another male, really glowing blue, was seen in an even closer



tree. Also in the area we had cracking views of several Greater Lophorinas (part of the Superb BoP complex, now split into 3 species). Marbled Honeyeater, Mountain Myzomela and White-shouldered Fairywren were also noted here. We then visited another spot in the Minamba Valley for Yellow-breasted Bowerbird. Several bowerbirds gave excellent views, and a pair of Black-headed Whistlers were also found. We got back to the hotel for lunch, and next on the agenda was a ridge 45 minutes from the lodge. The birding there was excellent. Flowering and fruiting trees hosted Plum-faced, Papuan and, best of all, Goldie's Lorikeets, as well as many Tit Berrypeckers. A confiding Black-capped (Ashy) Robin hopped around, and there were good numbers of Blue-faced Parrotinches too. We saw yet another pair of Mottled Berryhunters here. At night, we tried for Mountain Owlet-Nightjar again around the lodge, but we couldn't find any.



*We had wonderful views of 2 male Blue Bird-of-Paradise near Kumul.*

At dawn next morning the calls of Great Sooty Owl interrupted breakfast, and after some running around we managed to see the bird briefly. Goot start of the day! Our flight to Kiunga left on time, and not earlier as we had been told, and after a quick lunch in town and a quick check for mannikins at the airfield, we drove north towards Tabubil. Before reaching town, we diverted to Ok Menga. It was raining heavily, but some diligent scanning eventually produced a pair of Salvadori's Teal swimming in the river, giving good scope views. Not much else was found, and after getting quite wet we carried on towards Tabubil.

A full day in the Tabubil area began at Dablin Creek at dawn. A big bus was stuck at the beginning of the track, so we had to walk up, again under heavy rain, seeing a Torrent Flyrobin on the way. Once we reached the usual spot, we mounted an extended vigil, hoping that the fog would disappear. After a while, the hoped-for Queen Carola's Parotia showed up, first some females and then a full adult male. A male Magnificent Bird-of-Paradise was seen briefly too. By late morning, weather started to improve, and we picked out some more new birds, including Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo, Orange-breasted Fig Parrot, Grey-headed Cuckooshrike, Long-billed and Scrub Honeyeaters and Southern Variable Pitohui, although there was no sign of Obscure Berrypecker. A small group of Yellow-eyed Starlings found by Dave gave good scope views, and were higher than usual. We had lunch back in Tabubil, and were surprised to find a trio of rare Orange-fronted Hanging Parrots in some trees by our hotel, giving excellent scope views. We then returned to OK Menga, and decided to try a newly open track up from the power station. We were the very first group to bird



the spot, so we were not sure what to expect, although the habitat looked promising. And, as things turned out, the birding was excellent, and this will definitely become a must-visit place in the future. One of the first birds seen was a pair of cracking Wallace's Fairywrens, which gave amazing eye-level views, and which ended up being voted as bird of the trip! Another very rare bird seen here was Striated Lorikeet, and we saw several flocks of them. Other good birds like White-eared Bronze Cuckoo, Papuan Black and Red Myzomelas, Spotted Honeyeater, Golden Monarch, Magnificent Riflebird and Magnificent Bird-of-Paradise were all seen. Given the altitude and the type of forest, we thought we should wait until dusk to try for the rare Shovel-billed Kookaburra, instead of going to the usual spot near the tunnel, where the birds are largely unresponsive. This turned out to be a good decision, as just before dusk, no less than 4 kingfishers started calling. After a bit of playback, one bird flew straight in, and landed in view for everyone. We even scoped it! Definitely one of the best and more difficult birds in New Guinea, in the bag! Very happy with our success, we returned back to Tabubil.



*Golden Monarch and White-crowned Cuckoo in Tabubil. (DLV)*



Given how good the birding was at this spot, we decided to return next morning. And new birds came thick and fast! On the way up, a Torrent-lark was seen briefly in the river. Some flowering trees held several Josephine's and Fairy Lorikeets, giving terrific scopw views. A singing White-crowked Cuckoo, normally a very retiring bird, was scoped at very close quarters. We also ventured into a short trail into the forest, where a Chestnut-backed Jewel Babbler showed well. A singing White-rumped Robin also obliged, and as we got out, some of us glimpsed a very vocal Sooty Thicket Fantail. Other new birds included Metallic Pigeon, Blue-collared Parrot, Streak-headed Honeyeater, Ruby-throated Myzomela and Yellow-breasted Boatbill. Sadly, it was then time to return to the hotel. After lunch we commenced the return drive to Kiunga. We stopped to watch a long-overdue Long-tailed Honey Buzzard, followed by an impressive Gurney's Eagle. We eventually reached Km17. We first headed to the King Bird-of-Paradise display tree, and after a while we manage to get decent views of a male up in the canopy. It was getting late, and by the time we got to the Greater Bird-of-Paradise display tree, the males were already gone. We then waited until it was dark to try for the rare Wallace's Owlet-Nightjar. After a while we got a response, and just when the bird was getting closer, the heavens opened, spoiling our chances to see it.



*The rare Wallace's Owlet-Nightjar was one of the many good birds seen in the Kiunga area. Birdquest lifer! (DLV)*

Next morning we visited Boystown Road, where in spite of a long vigil, no Flame Bowerbirds were seen. However, we picked out a few bits and pieces. A fruiting tree attracted Pink-spotted, Orange-bellied, Superb and Beautiful Fruit Doves. Josh had a Grey-headed Goshawk flying by, and parrots included Red-flanked Lorikeet, Double-eyed and Orange-breasted Fig Parrots and Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot. A calling Black-eared Catbird crossed the path a couple of times, while a Trumpet Manucode was also scoped. Others birds seen include Green-backed and a convincing Yellow-gaped Honeyeaters and Little Bronze Cuckoo. Afterwards it was time to go back to Kiunga and head up the Fly River towards Kwatu Camp, a boat journey that provided views of Golden Mynas, Palm Cockatoos, Moustached Treeswift, Papuan Spine-tailed Swift, Glossy-mantled Manucode, Collared Imperial Pigeon and Pacific Koel. We finally reached our basic accommodation, where we had lunch. The afternoon was spent birding a trail through the forest on the other side of the river. After some hard work, we eventually had good views of 2 Common Paradise Kingfishers. In the same area we also heard Little PK, but unfortunately it didn't come close enough. On the other hand, a

stunning Hooded Pitta gave great views to everyone. In another patch of forest, we spent considerable time trying to coax into view a calling Blue Jewel Babbler. The bird came very close several times, and some of the group saw it briefly. Other good birds seen throughout the afternoon included Hooded Monarch, Papuan Babbler, Large-billed Gerygone by the river and Yellow-bellied Longbill. Before dark we went on a short boat trip, hoping to find Sclater's (Southern) Crowned Pigeon, and after a while we succeeded, getting good views of 2 of these impressive birds. We then waited until it got dark to do some owling. At dusk, a White-throated Nightjar flew around the clearing, and not long afterwards we heard the calls of the rare Wallace's Owlet-Nightjar. A pair came to the canopy above us, but were frustratingly elusive and impossible to locate in the foliage. After some tense moment, one of the birds came lower down and our local guide Edmund located it with the torch. We had absolutely amazing, eye-level views of the bird for as long as we wanted, much to everyone's delight. A Birdquest lifer nonetheless! Pleased with our success, we returned back to the camp. Owling was not over yet, and while cruising down the river we found a perched Papuan Hawk-Owl, which was also seen very well, next to a Papuan Frogmouth! Once in the camp, a calling Marbled Frogmouth was seen by Josh and Dani.







*Hook-billed Kingfisher, Pesquet's Parrot and Long-tailed Honey Buzzard from the lowland forest of Kiunga. (DLV)*

Then next 2 days were spent birding on foot and on boat various areas around the Elevala river. At first light we went down river a short distance and enjoyed brilliant views of a wonderful male Twelve-wired Bird-of-Paradise, displaying to a female on a stump at close quarters. Amazing stuff! The very localized White-bellied Pitohui gave multiple good views in the forest interior, and our sharp-eyed local guides found us a perched Hook-billed Kingfisher, which gave unbeatable views. In the same area both Black-sided Robin and White-bellied Thicket Fantail obliged. While cruising upstream, we found a Bat Hawk – a very rare bird in New Guinea-, while a pair of Large Fig Parrots sitting on a dead tree were studied at length. A couple of Great-billed Herons were flushed from the river, and we scoped some smart Dwarf Fruit Doves from a clearing. We were lucky to find a sitting Ivory-billed Coucal by the water edge, while a calling Papuan (Red-bellied) Pitta near our camp proved challenging to see. The uncommon Obscure Honeyeater gave good views in the camp clearing too, and not far, a Rufous-backed Fantail was found too, next to a Wallace's Fairywren. One of our best sightings was that of a pair of perched Pesquet's Parrots at close quarters, giving the best views I've ever had of this bizarre-looking parrot. We spent considerable time at night trying to track down the rare Starry Owlet-Nightjar. We eventually found a pair, that responded well and came close a couple of times, but unfortunately every time we put the torch on the place they called from, they would fly off. In spite of a lot of trying and some hard work, they never gave us a chance. Frustrating, but that's birding. One morning we spent some time in a blind overlooking a brushturkey mound, but nothing showed up. However, on the way back, Dave and Sue had a Painted Quail Thrush. On our last afternoon, some of the group opted to try a newly-built New Guinea Flightless Rail hide. These rails are extremely shy and elusive, but are sometimes attracted to sago-harvesting sites. None were seen, but luckily for them, on the way back they had great views of a Black-billed Brushturkey! At the same time, the other group decided to try a Flame Bowerbird blind. Again, the target bird didn't show up, however, they enjoyed walk-away views of a pair of Blue Jewel Babblers, circling the blind just a few feet from them. Meanwhile, Rainer stayed in the boat, and saw a Long-billed Cuckoo, amongst other things. So, all in all, a good afternoon for everyone! After these 2 action-packed days we went back to Kiunga, for a well-deserved hot shower.

In the morning we paid another visit to Km17 again. A surprise find here was a stonking Sclater's (Southern) Crowned Pigeon, sitting on a branch and offering brilliant scope views. We also heard a Red-necked Crake, which was seen by some. At the King BoP tree several males were in full display, with several females in

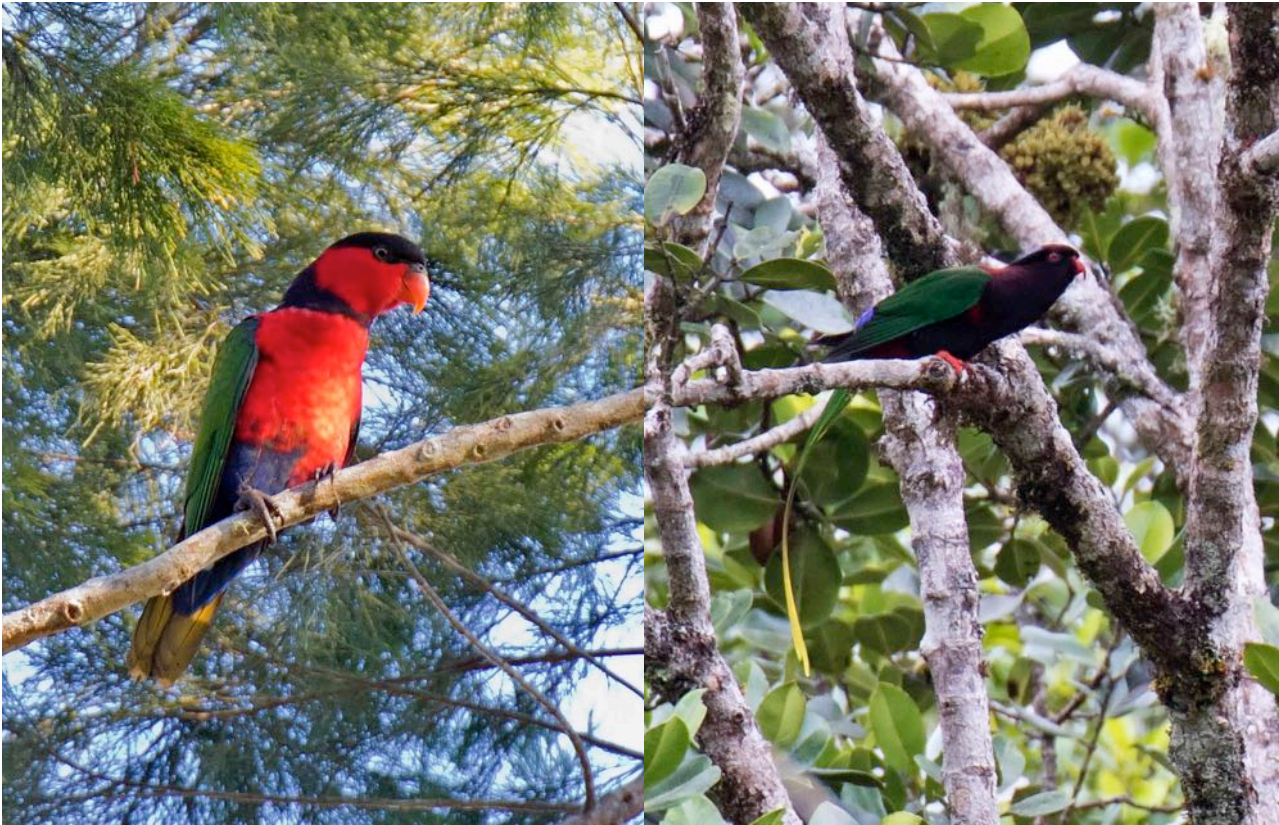
attendance, giving a great show. And, to round off things, Greater Birds-of-Paradise performed amazingly well at their display tree. The BoPs were unusually active, and we stood in awe as we experienced one of the greatest avian spectacles on earth, with absolutely mind-blowing views of up to 9 Greater BoP males, all dancing together in the same tree. Afterwards, several group members said this was enough reason for coming to this tour. Very pleased we returned back to our bus, and headed back to the airport. We had enough time to try for mannikins near the runway, but the only thing of note was a Crimson Finch. We got back to Port Moresby on time, and after lunch we decided to visit PAU again. We saw more or less the same birds as on our previous visit, but it was still a pleasant afternoon out.



*Greater BoP and Sclater's (Southern) Crowned Pigeon at Km 17, Kiunga. (DLV)*



We returned to Varirata next day. Most of the morning was spent along the lookout trail where we encountered some good birds. A mixed flock gave us Goldenface and Drongo Fantail, both new birds for the trip. An Olive Flyrobin was a good find, but a calling Pheasant Pigeon refused to show, only to be seen later by Rainer! Josh found a White-faced Robin, which was seen well, and Javi found a retiring Papuan Scrub Robin. Barred Cuckooshrike, found by Brendan, and Papuan Black Myzomela were seen from the clearing too. A short stop in the savannah forest produced 2 Forest Kingfishers. Once in the city we went to our Silver-eared Honeyeater stake-out, and soon found a pair of these uncommon honeyeaters.



*Black-capped Lory and Papuan Lorikeet. (DLV)*

Next morning, those joining the New Britain extension caught a flight to Hoskins, and an hour later we arrived at the wonderful Walindi Plantation Resort for a four-night stay. As soon as we left our bags and had lunch we started our birding in a nearby ridge. Here we spent the rest of the afternoon scanning the treetops and familiarizing ourselves with some of the island species. Pleasantly numerous Eclectus Parrots, Blue-eyed Cockatoos, Red-flanked Lorikeets and Purple-bellied Lories (Eastern Black-capped L) put on a spectacular and colourful show. Our first Red-knobbed and Yellowish Imperial Pigeons and Knob-billed Fruit Doves and Long-tailed Mynas were scoped and both Ashy and endemic Black-bellied (New Britain Red-headed) Myzomelas flittered around in the canopy.

Walindi has recently become famous because of several sightings of the near-mythical Golden Masked Owl, an almost unknown species endemic to the island that had only been seen a couple of times ever before 2015. Now, sightings have become regular, so already on the first night we went on a night drive through the oil palm plantations in order to search for it. Thanks to our guide Joseph It didn't take long to find our first bird, and in the course of the drive we had 3 different sightings of perched birds, much to everyone's delight. Mission accomplished!

At first light we boarded a diving boat and set off into Kimbe Bay. First stop was at Restorff Island, where we saw numerous Island Imperial Pigeons and several Sclater's Myzomelas. Moving on we soon reached Malu Malu Island where we enjoyed excellent views of several priced Nicobar Pigeons, as well as Mangrove Golden Whistler. On a nearby islet we also found a cracking Beach Kingfisher. Our boatman deemed the conditions calm enough to venture further out to sea, so once we reached the right distance offshore, we

started chumming. The seas were quite choppy, and hardly anything was around! However, after a while we were very pleased to connect with one of the star seabirds of the area, the rare and seldom-seen Heinroth's Shearwater. A handful of these small, long-billed dark shearwaters were seen, giving good views. A couple of Brown Boobies, hundreds of Leeser Frigatebirds and some Black Noddies were also found. The weather started to deteriorate, and with a storm approaching, we decided to head back to shore. After a picnic lunch, most of us opted to do some world-class snorkelling in the crystal-clear, turquoise waters of Restorff Island. On the way back we saw some flocks of Black-naped, Greater-crested and Common Terns, mixed with Black Noddies. As soon as we returned to dry land we set off to Kilu River. We spent the rest of the afternoon searching for the rare Bismarck Pitta. We heard a couple of them, but they refused to show. On the other hand, Melanesian Megapode and Velvet Flycatcher were seen nicely, as well as some White-rumped Swiftlets.



*Golden Masked Owl near Walindi. Best photo ever of this once near-mythical bird! (DLV)*





*Heinroth's Shearwater and Nicobar Pigeon from our boat trip off Kimbe Bay, New Britain. Below, sunrise from Walindi resort. (DLV)*

Next morning an hour long drive took us to Garu Wildlife Management Area soon after dawn with Black Bittern and Nankeen Night Heron and lots of Stephan's Emerald Doves seen in the oil palms along the way. Once at Garu we walked slowly along the road finding both Violaceous and White-necked Coucals. A perched Finsch's Imperial Pigeon was scoped, and endemic kingfishers performed: a pair of White-mantled Kingfishers showed well, a single Melanesian Kingfisher –split from Collared- was found, and the smart and tiny New Britain Dwarf Kingfisher posed. In spite of all of our efforts, several calling Black-capped Paradise Kingfisher remained invisible, and there was no sign of the hoped- for Black-tailed Monarch. Small numbers of Buff-faced Pygmy Parrots were seen, as well as some Red-banded Flowerpeckes, and a short trail gave decent views for most of a rare Eastern Bronze Ground Dove.

Next morning we decided to go back to Kilu river and try for the pitta again. This time, our efforts were rewarded with great views of the pitta crossing the trail a couple of times. Persistence pays off! And also in the same path of forest we had wonderful scope studies of a Black-capped Paradise Kingfisher. Garu was our next destination, and we spent the remaining of the morning walking along the track. Here, Josh found our target Black-tailed Monarch, which ended up showing very well. A Song Parrot flew by, and apart from



that, we saw more or less the same birds as yesterday. In the afternoon we went to the usual New Britain Boobook spot, and after a bit of a walk, our local man Joe showed us a pair of these good-looking owls. Before it was dark, we went to some pastures nearby where we found some Buff-banded Rails, a pair of King Quails, one of them killed later by a Variable Goshawk (!), a large flock of Buff-bellied Mannikins and a couple of singing Australian Reed Warblers.



*Some good birds from New Britain: Blue-eyed Cockatoo, Black-capped Paradise Kingfisher and Knob-billed Fruit Dove. (DLV)*



In the hotel garden, Ed found us an Olive-backed Sunbird. Next morning we were on our way back to Hoskins airport, in time for our flight back to Port Moresby, where the tour ended.

A big thanks to the whole group for making this tour such an enjoyable and successful one.



*Blyth's Hornbill and 12-wired BoP from the Elevala River, Kiunga. (DLV)*



*Female Brown Sickiebill from Kumul lodge. (DLV)*





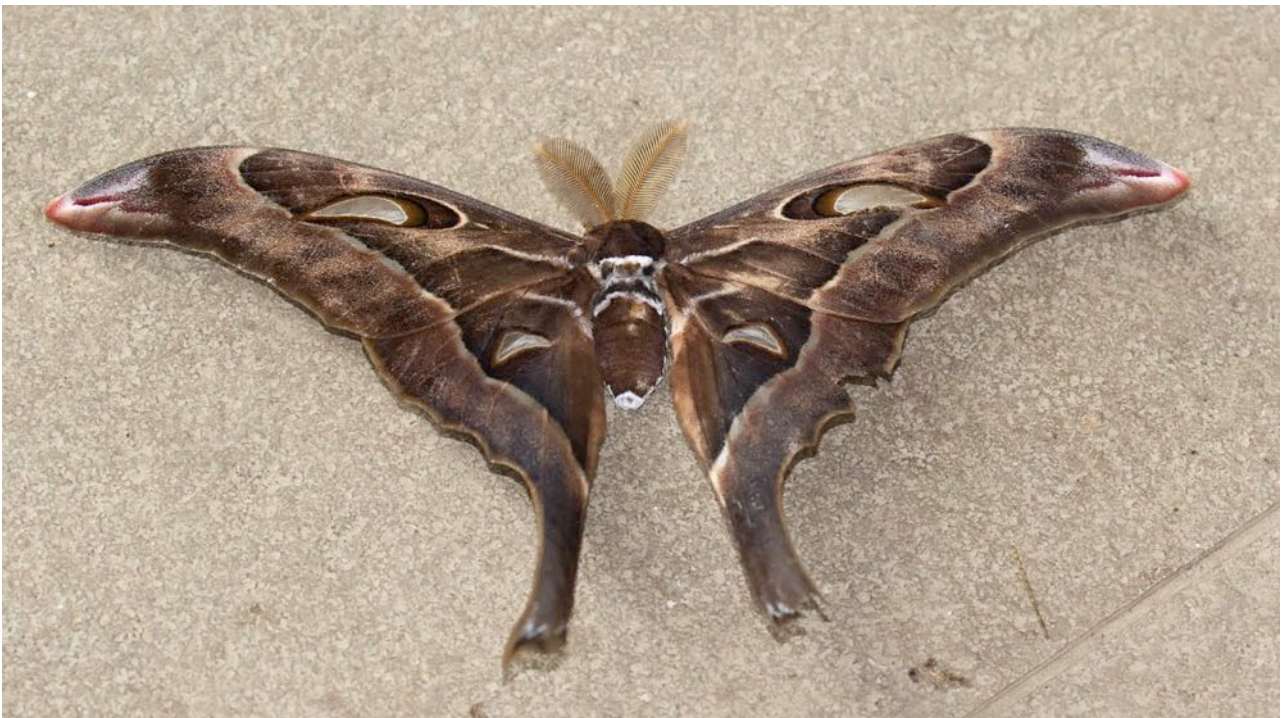
*Yellow-billed Kingfisher above, and Pied Heron next to an Australasian Swamphen, below. (DLV)*







*The group birding the “new site” near Ok Menga, where Shovel-billed Kookaburra was seen well. Hercules moth below. (DLV)*





## SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **IOC World Bird Names**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>.

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

Conservation threat categories and information are taken from *Threatened Birds of the World*, BirdLife International's magnificent book on the sad status of the rarest 10% of the world's avifauna, and updates on the BirdLife website: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home>

**E** = Endangered, **V** = Vulnerable, **NT** = Near Threatened, **DD** = Data Deficient.

**Southern Cassowary** *Casuarus casuarinus* (H) One heard in Kiunga.

**Plumed Whistling Duck** ◊ *Dendrocygna eytoni* About 50 at PAU ponds.

**Wandering Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna arcuata* A few at PAU ponds.

**Raja Shelduck** ◊ (White-headed S) *Tadorna radjah* 2 at PAU ponds.

**Salvadori's Teal** ◊ *Salvadorina waigiensis* Great scope views of a pair at Ok Menga.

**Pacific Black Duck** *Anas superciliosa* About 100 at PAU ponds, scattered records elsewhere.



*Pacific Black Duck and Brown Booby- (DLV)*

**Grey Teal** *Anas gracilis* Seen at PAU.

**Black-billed Brushturkey** ◊ (Yellow-legged B) *Talegalla fuscirostris* Seen well by most of the group in Kiunga.

**Melanesian Megapode** ◊ (M Scrubfowl, Volcano S) *Megapodius eremita* Seen well in New Britain.

**Brown Quail** *Coturnix ypsilophora* Seen at Tari Gap.

**King Quail (Blue-breasted Q)** *Excalfactoria chinensis* Good views near Walindi, NB.

**Heinroth's Shearwater** ◊ *Puffinus heinrothi* Several of these rare shearwaters seen very well off Kimbe bay.

**Australian White Ibis** *Threskiornis moluccus* Seen at PAU ponds .

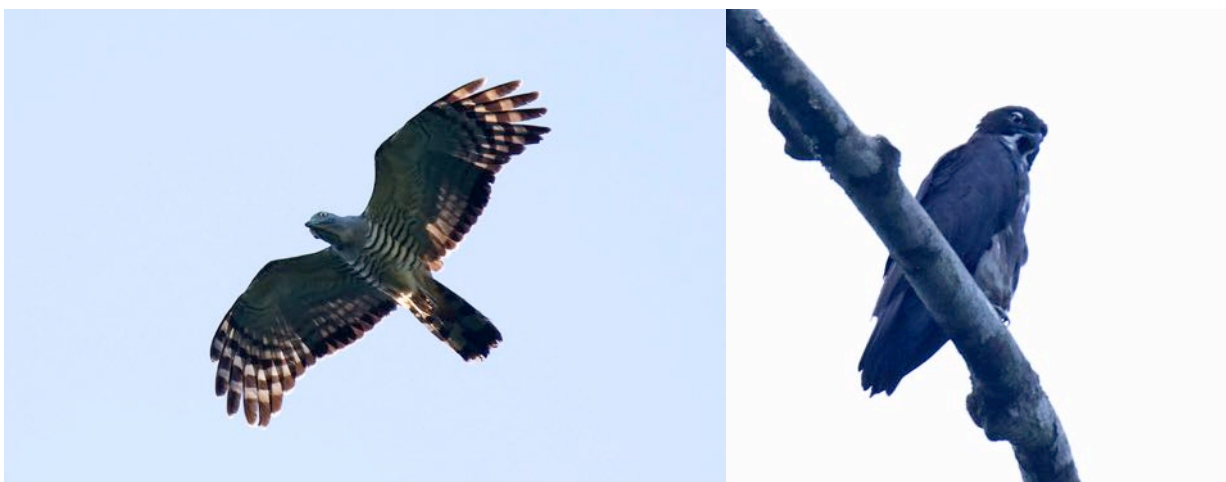
**Black Bittern** *Dupetor flavicollis* Seen in the plantations on New Britain .

**Nankeen Night Heron (Rufous N H)** *Nycticorax caledonicus* Seen at PAU ponds and a few in New Britain

**Eastern Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus coromandus* Widespread in the lowlands but never common.

**Great-billed Heron** *Ardea sumatrana* Seen well on the Elevala River

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* Ones and twos at widespread sites.  
**Intermediate Egret** *Egretta intermedia* A handful at PAU Ponds.  
**Pied Heron** ♦ *Egretta picata* A few at PAU ponds.  
**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* A few encounters. See note.  
**Pacific Reef Heron (Easter R Egret)** *Egretta sacra* Seen in Kimbe Bay, NB.  
**Lesser Frigatebird** *Fregata ariel* Hundreds in Kimbe bay.  
**Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster* A couple in Kimbe Bay  
**Little Pied Cormorant** *Microcarbo melanoleucos* 2 at PAU ponds.  
**Little Black Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* About 20 at PAU ponds and a couple elsewhere.  
**Eastern Osprey** *Pandion cristatus* Seen in New Britain.  
**Pacific Baza (Crested Hawk)** *Aviceda subcristata* Regularly seen, especially on New Britain.



Some raptors: Gurney's Eagle near Tabubil, a rare Bat Hawk seen along the Elevala river, and Pacific Baza.

**Long-tailed Honey Buzzard** ♦ (L-t B) *Henicopernis longicauda* Noted at widespread sites on the mainland .  
**Bat Hawk** *Macheiramphus alcinus* One perched up in a tree along the Elevala. Very rare species in New Guinea.  
**Papuan Eagle** ♦ (New Guinea Harpy E) *Harpyopsis novaeguineae* One seen at Ambua.  
**Pygmy Eagle** *Hieraaetus weiskei* Seen near Tabubil, at Kiunga and at Varirata.



**Gurney's Eagle** ♦ *Aquila gurneyi* Seen very well near Tabubil.

**Variable Goshawk** *Accipiter hiogaster* Small numbers throughout, several on New Britain.

**Brown Goshawk** *Accipiter fasciatus* Seen well in the Minamba valley.

**Black-mantled Goshawk** ♦ *Accipiter melanochlamys* One adult seen well by most of us below Tari Gap.

**Grey-headed Goshawk** ♦ *Accipiter poliocephalus* Seen briefly by some of us in Boystown Road.

**Collared Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter cirrocephalus* One seen briefly in Tari.

**Papuan Harrier** *Circus spilothorax* Seen well at Tari Gap.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* Common around Kumul with a few elsewhere on the mainland

**Whistling Kite** *Haliastur sphenurus* Two or three at PAU.

**Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus* Fairly common and very widespread .

**White-bellied Sea Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster* Ones and twos along the Fly River and on New Britain.

**Chestnut Forest Rail** ♦ *Rallidula rubra* Amazing views of 3 different birds below Tari Gap.

**Red-necked Crake** ♦ *Rallina tricolor* (H) Heard in Kiunga.

**Buff-banded Rail** *Gallirallus philippensis* Seen at Tari and in New Britain.

**Australasian Swamphe** *Porphyrio melanotus* Common at PAU ponds.

**Dusky Moorhen** *Gallinula tenebrosa* About 10 at PAU ponds.

**Masked Lapwing** *Vanellus miles* 20 at PAU and a few elsewhere around Port Moresby

**Comb-crested Jacana** *Irediparra gallinacea* Seen at PAU.

**New Guinea Woodcock** ♦ *Scolopax rosenbergii* Seen perched, extremely well, at Kumul Lodge.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* Up to 20 on New Britain.

**Grey-tailed/Wandering Tattler** *Tringa brevipes/incana* One on a reef in New Britain, too far to be ID.

**Black Noddy** *Anous minutus* Hundreds in Kimbe Bay.

**Greater Crested Tern (C T, Swift T)** *Thalasseus bergii* Several in Kimbe Bay .

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo* Common in Kimbe Bay

**Black-naped Tern** *Sterna sumatrana* Many in Kime bay.

**Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)** *Columba livia* A few in urban contexts.

**Metallic Pigeon (White-throated P)** *Columba vitiensis* 2 seen near Tabubil

**Amboyna Cuckoo-dove** ♦ *Macropygia amboinensis* Noted at widespread sites . See note.

**Bar-tailed Cuckoo-dove** ♦ (Black-billed C-d) *Macropygia nigrirostris* Small numbers at widespread sites

**Great Cuckoo-dove** ♦ (Long-tailed C-d) *Reinwardtoena reinwardtii* Seen a few times.

**Stephan's Emerald Dove (S's Ground D)** *Chalcophaps stephani* Common in New Britain.

**Peaceful Dove** *Geopelia placida* A few at PAU

**Bar-shouldered Dove** *Geopelia humeralis* A few at PAU.

**Nicobar Pigeon** ♦ *Caloenas nicobarica* Several on Malu Malu, Kimbe Bay.

**(Eastern) Bronze Ground Dove** ♦ *Alopocoenas (beccarii) johannae* One seen at Garu. Rarely seen species.

**Pheasant Pigeon** ♦ *Otidiphaps nobilis* Seen by Rainer, and 3 more heard by the rest in Varirata.

**Sclater's (Southern) Crowned Pigeon** ♦ *Goura sclaterii* Great views in the Kiunga area.

**Wompoo Fruit Dove** ♦ (Magnificent F D) *Ptilinopus magnificus* Seen well in Varirata.

**Pink-spotted Fruit Dove** ♦ *Ptilinopus perlatus* A few seen in the lowlands.

**Ornate Fruit Dove** ♦ *Ptilinopus ornatus* One seen briefly in Tari.

**Orange-fronted Fruit Dove** ♦ *Ptilinopus aurantiifrons* Seen well at PAU.

**Superb Fruit Dove** *Ptilinopus superbus* Seen in Variarata and New Britain.

**Coroneted Fruit Dove** ♦ *Ptilinopus coronulatus* One gave good views. Rare species in PNG.

**Beautiful Fruit Dove** ♦ *Ptilinopus pulchellus* Seen well in Kiunga.

**White-bibbed Fruit Dove** ♦ (W-breasted F D) *Ptilinopus rivoli* Seen well at Tari and near Kumul.

**Orange-bellied Fruit Dove** ♦ *Ptilinopus iozonus* Widespread.

**Knob-billed Fruit Dove** ♦ *Ptilinopus insolitus* Small numbers on New Britain, some good scope studies.

**Dwarf Fruit Dove** ♦ *Ptilinopus nanus* Great views in Kiunga .

**Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeon** ♦ *Ducula rubricera* Fairly common in New Britain .

**Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon** ♦ *Ducula rufigaster* Great views at Varirata, also recorded in Kiunga.

**Finsch's Imperial Pigeon** ♦ *Ducula finschii* Great views at Garu WMA, New Britain .

**Island Imperial Pigeon** ♦ (Grey I P) *Ducula pistrinaria* Common on the Kimbe Bay islands .

**Pinon's Imperial Pigeon** ♦ *Ducula pinon* Several in the lowlands.

**Collared Imperial Pigeon** ♦ *Ducula mullerii* Common along the Fly and Elevala Rivers.

**Zoe's Imperial Pigeon** ♦ *Ducula zoeae* Several at Varirata and around Kiunga.

**Torresian Imperial Pigeon** ♦ *Ducula spilorrhoa* A couple at PAU.

**Yellowish Imperial Pigeon** ♦ (Yellow-tinted I P) *Ducula subflavescens* Several in New Britain



Stephan's Emerald Dove and New Britain Boobook. (DLV)

**Papuan Mountain Pigeon** ♦ *Gymnophaps albertisii* Regularly seen at widespread sites . Also lowlands.

**White-necked Coucal** ♦ (Pied C) *Centropus ateralbus* Several seen well in New Britain.

**Ivory-billed Coucal** ♦ (Greater Black C) *Centropus menbeki* One seen well for most of us along the Fly River.

**Violaceous Coucal** ♦ *Centropus violaceus* A couple seen at Garu WMA, New Britain.

**Black-billed Coucal** ♦ (Lesser Black Coucal) *Centropus bernsteini* One sighting.

**Pheasant Coucal** *Centropus phasianinus* One near Varirata.

**Dwarf Koel** ♦ *Microdynamis parva* (H) Heard near Tabubil.

**Pacific Koel** *Eudynamis orientalis* Several near Kiunga and one on New Britain.

**Long-billed Cuckoo** ♦ *Chrysococcyx megarhynchus* Seen by Rainer along the Elevala river



Rufous-throated Bronze Cuckoo ♦ *Chrysococcyx ruficollis* One at Ambua Lodge showed very well .

Little Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus* 2 sightings.

White-eared Bronze Cuckoo ♦ *Chrysococcyx meyerii* Several good views near Tabubil .

White-crowned Cuckoo ♦ (W-c Koel) *Cacomantis leucolophus* Great views near Ok Menga

Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo ♦ *Cacomantis castaneiventris* Seen at Ok Menga.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis* Seen well at Tari and Kumul.

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus* Fairly widespread but more often heard than seen.

Golden Masked Owl ♦ *Tyto aurantia* Excellent views of at least 3-4 birds of this mega rarity near Walindi, NB.

Papuan Boobook ♦ (Jungle Hawk Owl) *Ninox theomacha* Seen in Ambua by some. Endless rain didn't help.

New Britain Boobook ♦ (Russet Hawk Owl) *Ninox odiosa* 1 roosting bird showed well near Walindi.

Barking Owl *Ninox connivens* One seen very well at Varirata.

Rufous Owl ♦ *Ninox rufa* Great views at night in Ambua.

Papuan Hawk-Owl ♦ *Uroglaux dimorpha* Great views of a perched bird in the spotlight near Kwatu Camp.

Marbled Frogmouth ♦ *Podargus ocellatus* (LO) Seen at Kwatu camp during the middle of the night.

Papuan Frogmouth ♦ *Podargus papuensis* Good views at PAU and Kiunga.

Archbold's Nightjar ♦ (Mountain N) *Eurostopodus archboldi* 2 spotlighted near Ambua Lodge.

White-throated Nightjar ♦ *Eurostopodus mystacalis* Repeated good flight views near Kwatu.

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus* (H)

Mountain Owlet-Nightjar ♦ *Aegotheles albertisi* (H) Heard at Kumul Lodge but failed to show .

Barred Owlet-Nightjar ♦ *Aegotheles bennettii* Great views at a daytime roost at Varirata.

Wallace's Owlet-Nightjar ♦ *Aegotheles wallacii* Excellent views of this Birdquest lifer at Ekame.

Starry Owlet-Nightjar ♦ *Aegotheles insignis* (H) Heard only in spite of a lot of effort at Ekame.

Moustached Treeswift *Hemiprocne mystacea* Several on New Britain.

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta* Common and widespread.

Mountain Swiftlet ♦ *Aerodramus hirundinaceus* Fairly common in the Central Highlands.

White-rumped Swiftlet ♦ *Aerodramus spodiopygius* Small numbers seen well in New Britain.

Uniform Swiftlet *Aerodramus vanikorensis* Common at lower elevations throughout.

Papuan Spine-tailed Swift ♦ (P Needletail) *Mearnsia novaeguineae* Several around Kiunga.

Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis* Widespread at lower elevations.

Hook-billed Kingfisher ♦ *Melidora macrorrhina* Seen very well in Kiunga.

Common Paradise Kingfisher ♦ *Tanysiptera galatea* One seen well, others heard, at Kwatu.

Little Paradise Kingfisher ♦ (Aru P K) *Tanysiptera hydrocharis* (H) Heard in Kwatu .

Black-capped Paradise Kingfisher ♦ (B-headed P K) *Tanysiptera nigriceps* Seen very well near Garu, WNB.

Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher ♦ *Tanysiptera danae* Good views at Varirata .

Shovel-billed Kookaburra ♦ (S-b Kingfisher) *Clytoceyx rex* Seen well near Ok Menga! Mega bird!

Blue-winged Kookaburra *Dacelo leachii* Small numbers seen around Port Moresby.

Rufous-bellied Kookaburra ♦ *Dacelo gaudichaud* Several at Varirata and near Kiunga.

Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii* Seen well near Varirata.

White-mantled Kingfisher ♦ (New Britain K) *Todiramphus albonotatus* Excellent sighting of a pair at Garu, NB.

Beach Kingfisher ♦ *Todiramphus saurophagus* Good views on the Kimbe Bay islands.

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus* Ones and twos at several widespread sites.

Melanesian Kingfisher ♦ *Todiramphus tristrami* Seen well in New Britain. See note.

Yellow-billed Kingfisher ♦ (Lesser Y-b K) *Syma torotoro* Great views in Varirata and Kiunga.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* Seen in Varirata and New Britain.

Papuan Dwarf Kingfisher ♦ (Variable D K) *Ceyx solitarius* Good views for everyone at Varirata.

New Britain Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx sacerdotis* Great views at Garu, NB.

Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azureus* Excellent views at Varirata.

Rainbow Bee-Eater *Merops ornatus* Scattered records at lower elevations .

Blyth's Hornbill ♦ (Papuan H) *Rhyticeros plicatus* Fairly common in the lowlands, especially in New Britain .

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis* (LO) One seen.

Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides* 2 sightings.

Palm Cockatoo ♦ *Probosciger aterrimus* Some great views along the Fly and Elevala Rivers.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita* Fairly common in the lowlands of the mainland .



Papuan Dwarf, left, and New Britain Dwarf Kingfishers, right. (DLV)

- Blue-eyed Cockatoo** ♦ *Cacatua ophthalmica* Pleasantly common on New Britain.
- Pesquet's Parrot** ♦ *Psittarchas fulgidus* Amazing perched views near Kwatu.
- Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot** ♦ *Micropsitta keiensis* Seen near Kiunga.
- Buff-faced Pygmy Parrot** ♦ *Micropsitta pusio* A handful on New Britain.
- Papuan King Parrot** ♦ *Alisterus chloropterus* Great views of males and females, in Ambua and Varirata.
- Red-cheeked Parrot** *Geoffroyus geoffroyi* Fairly common at Varirata and Kiunga, a handful elsewhere.
- Blue-collared Parrot** ♦ *Geoffroyus simplex* Seen high up in the sky at Tabubil.
- Song Parrot** ♦ *Geoffroyus heteroclitus* One in flight at Garu WMA, New Britain, also heard near there
- Eclectus Parrot** ♦ *Eclectus roratus* Several at Varirata, PAU and near Tabubil, common on New Britain.
- Brehm's Tiger Parrot** ♦ *Psittacella brehmii* A handful at Kumul Lodge, regularly on the feeding table there.
- Modest Tiger Parrot** ♦ *Psittacella modesta* Seen at Tari.
- Madarasz's Tiger Parrot** ♦ *Psittacella madaraszii* Seen near Ambua by some.
- Plum-faced Lorikeet** ♦ (Whiskered L) *Oreopsittacus arfaki* A handful seen well near Kumul.
- Red-flanked Lorikeet** ♦ *Charmosyna placensis* A few in the mainland and in New Britain.
- Striated Lorikeet** ♦ *Charmosyna multistriata* Several flocks of this rare species seen near Ok Menga.
- Fairy Lorikeet** ♦ (Little Red L) *Charmosyna pulchella* Up to 10 in a flowering tree at Ok Menga.
- Josephine's Lorikeet** ♦ *Charmosyna josefinae* Great views at a flowering tree near Ok Menga.
- Papuan Lorikeet** ♦ *Charmosyna papou* Several in the Central Highlands, some excellent views.
- Yellow-billed Lorikeet** ♦ *Neopsittacus musschenbroekii* Fairly common around Ambua.
- Orange-billed Lorikeet** ♦ *Neopsittacus pullicauda* A handful at Tari and Hagen.
- Black-capped Lory** ♦ (Western B-c L) *Lorius lory* Fairly common in the lowlands of the mainland.
- Purple-bellied Lory** ♦ (Eastern B-c L) *Lorius hypoinochrous* Fairly common on New Britain.
- Yellowish-streaked Lory** ♦ (Greater Streaked L) *Chalcopsitta sintillata* Several near Kiunga.
- Coconut Lorikeet** ♦ *Trichoglossus haematodus* Fairly common, mainly at lower elevations.
- Goldie's Lorikeet** ♦ *Psitteuteles goldiei* Some good views near Kumul.
- Large Fig Parrot** ♦ *Psittaculirostris desmarestii* Great views of perched birds in Kiunga.
- Orange-breasted Fig Parrot** ♦ *Cyclopsitta gullemitertii* Common around Tabubil and Kiunga.
- Double-eyed Fig Parrot** ♦ *Cyclopsitta diophthalma* Several at Boystown Road and on the Elevala River.
- Orange-fronted Hanging Parrot** ♦ *Loriculus aurantiifrons* 3 scoped birds at Tabubil, excellent perched views.
- Papuan Pitta** ♦ (Red-bellied P) *Erythropitta macklotii* Seen by some at Kwatu.
- Bismarck Pitta** ♦ *Erythropitta novaehibernicae* Great views after some hard work near Garu, New Britain.
- Hooded Pitta** *Pitta sordida* Seen well near Kwatu Camp.
- Ochre-breasted Catbird** ♦ (White-eared C) *Ailuroedus stonii* (H) Heard in Kiunga.





Large Fig Parrot, Palm Cockatoo and Purple-bellied Lory. (DLV)

**Black-eared Catbird** ♦ *Ailuroedus melanotis* Seen briefly along Boystown Rd.

**Arcbold's Bowerbird** ♦ *Archboldia papuensis* A couple of birds showed briefly at Tari Gap.

**MacGregor's Bowerbird** ♦ *Amblyornis macgregoriae* Seen briefly at Tari gap.

**Flame Bowerbird** ♦ *Sericulus ardens* 2 females in Kiunga.

**Yellow-breasted Bowerbird** ♦ *Chlamydera lauterbachii* 2 in the Minamba Valley below Kumul .

**Fawn-breasted Bowerbird** ♦ *Chlamydera cerviniventris* Several at PAU .



Fawn-breasted Bowerbird, above, and Zoe's Imperial Pigeon carrying nesting material, below. (DLV)



**Papuan Treecreeper** ♦ *Cormobates placens* Seen at Tari Gap and Ambua.

**Wallace's Fairywren** ♦ *Sipodotus wallacii* Great views of this rare bird in Ok Menga, Kiunga and Varirata!

**Emperor Fairywren** ♦ *Malurus cyanocephalus* (H)

**White-shouldered Fairywren** ♦ *Malurus alboscapulatus* Fairly common and widespread .

**Ashy Myzomela** ♦ (Bismarck M) *Myzomela cineracea* A handful in New Britain.

**Ruby-throated Myzomela** ♦ *Myzomela eques* Great views around Kiunga and Tabubil.

**Red Myzomela** ♦ *Myzomela cruentata* A male and a female at Ok Menga.

**Papuan Black Myzomela** ♦ *Myzomela nigrita* Seen a couple of times.

**Mountain Myzomela** ♦ (M Red-headed M) *Myzomela adolphinae* Seen near Kumul.

**Sclater's Myzomela** ♦ (Scarlet-bibbed M) *Myzomela sclateri* Common on the Kimbe Bay islands.

**Black-bellied Myzomela** ♦ (New Britain Red-headed M) *Myzomela erythromelas* Seen well in New Britain.

**Red-collared Myzomela** ♦ *Myzomela rosenbergii* Seen at Ambua and Kumul .

**Green-backed Honeyeater** ♦ *Glycichaera fallax* Seen a Varirata and Boystown road.

**Rufous-backed Honeyeater** ♦ *Ptiloprora guisei* Several at Ambua .

**Grey-streaked Honeyeater** ♦ (Black-backed H) *Ptiloprora perstriata* Several at Kumul .

**Plain Honeyeater** ♦ *Pycnopygius ixoides* Sen at Boystown Road.

**Marbled Honeyeater** ♦ *Pycnopygius cinereus* Seen below Kumul.

**Streak-headed Honeyeater** ♦ *Pycnopygius stictocephalus* Several at lower elevations.

**Silver-eared Honeyeater** ♦ *Lichmera alboauricularis* Seen well in Port Moresby.



Silver-eared Honeyeater, Common Smoky Honeyeater and Island Thrush. (DLV)



**Spotted Honeyeater** ♦ *Xanthotis polygrammus* Good views at Ok Menga.  
**Tawny-breasted Honeyeater** ♦ *Xanthotis flaviventer* Fairly common.  
**New Guinea Friarbird** ♦ *Philemon novaeguineae* Common at lower elevations .  
**New Britain Friarbird** ♦ *Philemon cockerelli* Fairly common on New Britain.  
**White-throated Honeyeater** ♦ *Melithreptus albogularis* Several near Varirata.  
**Common Smoky Honeyeater** ♦ *Melipotes fumigatus* Common in the highlands .  
**Long-billed Honeyeater** ♦ *Melilestes megarhynchus* Brief views at Dablin Creek and Boystown Road .  
**Rufous-banded Honeyeater** ♦ *Conopophila albogularis* Fairly common at Port Moresby sites .  
**Black-throated Honeyeater** ♦ *Lichenostomus subfrenatus* Several at Tari and Kumul.  
**Obscure Honeyeater** ♦ *Caligavis obscura* Seen well at Kwatu.  
**Sooty Melidectes** ♦ *Melidectes fuscus* One seen briefly at Kumul.  
**Yellow-browed Melidectes** ♦ (Y-b Honeyeater) *Melidectes rufocrissalis* Common around Ambua .



Yellow-browed Melidectes. (DLV)

**Belford's Melidectes** ♦ (B's Honeyeater) *Melidectes belfordi* Common at Kumul with a few above Ambua.  
**Ornate Melidectes** ♦ (Cinnamon-breasted M) *Melidectes torquatus* Seen below Kumul and near Mindi.  
**Yellow-tinted Honeyeater** ♦ *Lichenostomus flavescens* Seen near Port Moresby .  
**Mountain Honeyeater** ♦ (M Meliphaga, Hill Forest M) *Meliphaga orientalis* Several seen below Kumul.  
**Scrub Honeyeater** ♦ (S White-eared Meliphaga) *Meliphaga albonotata* Several at Tabubil sites.  
**Mimic Honeyeater** ♦ (M Meliphaga, Mimetic M) *Meliphaga analoga* Several at Varirata and near Kwatu Camp.  
**Elegant Honeyeater** ♦ (E Meliphaga) *Meliphaga cinereifrons* Seen well at Varirata.  
**Yellow-gaped Honeyeater** ♦ *Meliphaga flavirictus* One, presumably this species, studied in Kiunga.  
**Goldenface** ♦ (Dwarf Whistler) *Pachycare flavogriseum* Seen well at Varirata.  
**Rusty Mouse-Warbler** ♦ (Lowland M-w) *Crateroscelis murina* Seen well at Varirata and Dablin .  
**Mountain Mouse-Warbler** ♦ *Crateroscelis robusta* Seen at Kumul and Ambua lodge.  
**Pale-billed Scrubwren** ♦ *Sericornis spilodera* A handful at Varirata .  
**Papuan Scrubwren** ♦ *Sericornis papuensis* Several below Tari Gap and Kumul.  
**Large Scrubwren** *Sericornis nouhuysi* Several in the highlands  
**Buff-faced Scrubwren** ♦ *Sericornis perspicillatus* A few at Ambua .  
**Brown-breasted Gerygone** ♦ (Treefern G) *Gerygone ruficollis* Quite common in the highlands.



**Yellow-bellied Gerygone** *Gerygone chrysogaster* Several at Tabubil and Kiunga sites.  
**Grey Thornbill** ♦ (Ashy Gerygone, Mountain G, Grey G) *Gerygone cinerea* Seen at Ambua  
**Green-backed Gerygone** ♦ *Gerygone chloronota* A few seen.  
**Fairy Gerygone** *Gerygone palpebrosa* A handful at Varirata on on each visit.  
**Papuan Babbler** ♦ (Rufous B, New Guinea B) *Garritornis isidorei* Seen well in Kiunga.  
**Papuan Logrunner** ♦ *Orthonyx novaeguineae* (LO) One briefly and others heard at Tari gap.  
**Loria's Satinbird** ♦ (L's Bird of Paradise) *Cnemophilus loriae* One seen by some in Ambua. Others heard.  
**Crested Satinbird** ♦ (C Bird of Paradise) *Cnemophilus macgregorii* A cracking male seen well above Ambua.  
**Black Berrypecker** ♦ *Melanocharis nigra* Several at Varirata and Kiunga.  
**Fan-tailed Berrypecker** ♦ *Melanocharis versteri* A handful in the highlands.  
**Spotted Berrypecker** ♦ *Rhamphocharis crassirostris* One male at Ambua Lodge.



Three good mountain birds: male Spotted Berrypecker, male Mottled Whistler, and Crested Berrypecker. (DLV and Dave Williamson)



**Dwarf Longbill** ◇ (D Honeyeater, Plumed H) *Oedistoma iliolophus* Seen well a couple of times.

**Pygmy Longbill** ◇ *Oedistoma pygmaeum* Seen briefly at Kiunga.

**Yellow-bellied Longbill** ◇ (Green-crowned L) *Toxorhamphus novaeguineae* A few at sites near Kiunga.

**Slaty-headed Longbill** ◇ (S-chinned L, Grey-winged L) *Toxorhamphus poliopterus* One at Ambua.

**Tit Berrypecker** ◇ *Oreocharis arfaki* Seen well near Kumul.

**Crested Berrypecker** ◇ *Paramythia montium* A handful at Kumul.

**Spotted Jewel-babbler** ◇ *Ptilorrhoa leucosticta* 1 seen at Tari gap.

**Blue Jewel-babbler** ◇ *Ptilorrhoa caerulescens* Seen briefly near Kwatu, and amazing views for some later on.

**Chestnut-backed Jewel-babbler** ◇ *Ptilorrhoa castanonota* Good views in Varirata and Ok Menga. Very shy!

**Painted Quail-thrush** ◇ *Cinclosoma ajax* Seen by Dave and Sue at Kiunga, and briefly by some in Varirata.

**Yellow-breasted Boatbill** ◇ *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer* A few at Varirata and Kiunga .

**Black-breasted Boatbill** ◇ *Machaerirhynchus nigripectus* Several at Kumul and Ambua Lodge.

**White-breasted Woodswallow** *Artamus leucorhynchus* Several the lowlands and on New Britain .

**Great Woodswallow** ◇ (New Guinea W) *Artamus maximus* Fairly common at higher elevations.

**Lowland Peltops** ◇ *Peltops blainvillii* (H)

**Mountain Peltops** ◇ *Peltops montanus* Seen well at Dablin Creek and Ambua Lodge.

**Black Butcherbird** *Cracticus quoyi* Several seen.

**Black-backed Butcherbird** ◇ *Cracticus mentalis* Several at sites near Port Moresby .

**Hooded Butcherbird** ◇ *Cracticus cassicus* A few in the western lowlands.



Wattled Ploughbill. What a bizarre-looking bird! (DLV)

**Mottled Berryhunter** ◇ *Rhagologus leucostigma* Seen extremely well at Ambua, and later near Kumul.

**Black-faced Cuckooshrike** *Coracina novaehollandiae* A few at Varirata.

**Stout-billed Cuckooshrike** ◇ *Coracina caeruleogrisea* First seen at Varirata.

**Barred Cuckooshrike** ◇ (Yellow-eyed C) *Coracina lineata* Seen in Varirata.

**Boyer's Cuckooshrike** ◇ *Coracina boyeri* Several at Varirata, a few elsewhere.

**White-bellied Cuckooshrike** *Coracina papuensis* A few seen.

**Hooded Cuckooshrike** ◇ *Coracina longicauda* Seen well at Ambua.

**Grey-headed Cuckooshrike** ◇ *Coracina schisticeps* A few sightings.

**Black Cicadabird** ◇ (B Cuckooshrike, New Guinea C) *Coracina melas* First seen at Varirata.



**Black-bellied Cuckooshrike** ♦ *Coracina montana* Seen well at Tari.  
**Golden Cuckooshrike** ♦ *Campochaera sloetii* Seen at Kiunga and Tabubil.  
**Varied Triller** *Lalage leucomela* Small numbers seen.  
**Black Sittella** ♦ *Daphoenositta miranda* Excellent views at Tari gap.  
**Wattled Ploughbill** ♦ *Eulacestoma nigropectus* Amazing views of a pair at tari gap.  
**Rufous-naped Whistler** ♦ (R-n Bellbird) *Aleadryas rufinucha* Several seen well in the highlands.  
**Piping Bellbird** ♦ (Crested Pitohui) *Omorectes cristatus* One of these extremely shy birds seen very well at Varirata.  
**Black Pitohui** ♦ *Pitohui nigrescens* A male seen well at Ambua.  
**Brown-backed Whistler** ♦ *Pachycephala modesta* Several at Kumul and Ambua.  
**Grey Whistler** ♦ *Pachycephala simplex* A handful at Varirata and Tabubil.  
**Sclater's Whistler** ♦ *Pachycephala soror* A few at Ambua.  
**Mangrove Golden Whistler** ♦ (Black-tailed W) *Pachycephala melanura* A couple on the Kimbe Bay islands.  
**Regent Whistler** ♦ *Pachycephala schlegelii* Several in the highlands.



Drongo Fantail at Varirata. (DLV)

**Black-headed Whistler** ♦ *Pachycephala monacha* A pair in the Minamba Valley.  
**White-bellied Whistler** ♦ *Pachycephala leucogastra* A male in the savana woodland near Varirata.  
**Little Shrikethrush (Rufous S)** *Colluricincla megarhyncha* Seen at Varirata, Kwatu and Ambua. See note.  
**Grey Shrikethrush** *Colluricincla harmonica* Seen well at PAU and below Varirata.  
**White-bellied Pitohui** ♦ *Pitohui incertus* Seen very well in the Elevala trails.  
**Rusty Pitohui** ♦ *Pitohui ferrugineus* A few at Varirata and Kiunga.  
**Long-tailed Shrike** *Lanius schach* A few seen.  
**Australasian Figbird** *Sphecotheres vieilloti* Several at PAU.  
**Southern Variable Pitohui** ♦ *Pitohui uropygialis* A few at Kiunga. See note.  
**Hooded Pitohui** ♦ *Pitohui dichrous* Several at Varirata.  
**Brown Oriole** ♦ *Oriolus szalay* Fairly common at lower elevations.  
**Spangled Drongo** *Dicrurus bracteatus* Small numbers at widespread sites.  
**Willie Wagtail** *Rhipidura leucophrys* Common and very widespread.  
**Northern Fantail** ♦ *Rhipidura rufiventris* Seen in New Britain.  
**Sooty Thicket Fantail** ♦ *Rhipidura threnothorax* Seen briefly by some at Ok Menga.  
**White-bellied Thicket Fantail** *Rhipidura leucothorax* Seen well at Kiunga.

**Black Fantail** ♦ *Rhipidura atra* Small numbers at Ambua.  
**Chestnut-bellied Fantail** ♦ *Rhipidura hyperythra* A few at Varirata.  
**Friendly Fantail** ♦ *Rhipidura albolimbata* Fairly common in the highlands.  
**Dimorphic Fantail** ♦ *Rhipidura brachyrhyncha* Seen at Kumul and at Ambua.  
**Rufous-backed Fantail** ♦ *Rhipidura rufidorsa* Seen very well at Kwatu.  
**Drongo Fantail** ♦ (Pygmy Drongo) *Chaetorhynchus papuensis* Seen well at Varirata.  
**Black Monarch** ♦ *Symposiachrus axillaris* Seen at Ambua.  
**Spot-winged Monarch** ♦ *Symposiachrus guttula* Small numbers at Varirata and near Kwatu Camp  
**Hooded Monarch** ♦ *Symposiachrus manadensis* A handful near Kwatu Camp  
**Black-tailed Monarch** ♦ (Bismarck Pied M) *Symposiachrus verticalis* Seen well Garu WMA.  
**Black-winged Monarch** ♦ *Monarcha frater* Seen at Varirata..  
**Black-faced Monarch** *Monarcha melanopsis* Seen in Kiunga-.



Male Ribbon-tailed Astrapia. (DLV)



**Golden Monarch** ♦ *Carterornis chrysomela* Good views near Kiunga and Ok Menga.  
**Frilled Monarch** ♦ *Arses telescopthalmus* Small numbers at several lowland and foothills sites .  
**Torrent-lark** ♦ *Grallina bruijnii* Seen at Ok Menga by some.  
**Shining Flycatcher** *Myiagra alecto* A few along the Fly and Elevala Rivers and on New Britain.  
**Velvet Flycatcher** ♦ (Dull F, Lesser Shining F) *Myiagra hebetior* Seen well in NB.  
**Grey Crow** ♦ (Bare-eyed C) *Corvus tristis* Seen at Varirata, Tabubil and Kiunga.  
**Torresian Crow** *Corvus orru* Scattered records in the lowlands, especially around Port Moresby .  
**Bismarck Crow** ♦ (Island C) *Corvus insularis* Widespread on New Britain.  
**Lesser Melampitta** ♦ *Melampitta lugubris* Good views in the trails at Kumul.  
**Blue-capped Ifrit** ♦ (B-c Ifrita) *Ifrita kowaldi* Excellent views at Kumul and Ambua .  
**Glossy-mantled Manucode** ♦ *Manucodia ater* Fairly common at Varirata and Kiunga in edge habitats.  
**Crinkle-collared Manucode** ♦ *Manucodia chalybatus* A couple of sightings.  
**Trumpet Manucode** ♦ *Phonygammus keraudrenii* Seen well at Kiunga.  
**Short-tailed Paradigalla** ♦ *Paradigalla brevicauda* Good close encounters near Ambua Lodge.  
**Ribbon-tailed Astrapia** ♦ *Astrapia mayeri* A good display at Kumul and Tari Gap.  
**Princess Stephanie's Astrapia** ♦ (S's A) *Astrapia stephaniae* A handful at Ambua and near Hagen.  
**Queen Carola's Parotia** ♦ (C's P) *Parotia carolae* Seen well at Dablin Creek.  
**Lawes's Parotia** ♦ *Parotia lawesii* Several birds at Ambua Lodge .



Male Growling Riflebird from Varirata. (DLV)

**King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise** ♦ *Pteridophora alberti* Good encounters at Kumul and Ambua, mostly males.  
**Greater Lophorina (Superb Bop)** ♦ *Lophorina superba* A scattering in the highlands including nice males.  
**Growling Riflebird** ♦ (Eastern R) *Ptiloris intercedens* A handful seen well including a male at Varirata.  
**Magnificent Riflebird** ♦ *Ptiloris magnificus* Seen at Tabubil.  
**Black Sicklebill** ♦ *Epimachus fastosus* Scope views of 2 displaying males below ambua. MEGA!  
**Brown Sicklebill** ♦ *Epimachus meyeri* Great views at at Ambua and Kumul.  
**Black-billed Sicklebill** ♦ *Drepanornis albertisi* (H) Heard in Ambua several times, bu no luck.  
**Magnificent Bird-of-paradise** ♦ *Diphyllodes magnificus* Some brief views at Dablin and Ok Menga.

**King Bird-of-paradise** ♦ *Cicinnurus regius* Good views of 4, inc 2 males, at k17 in Kiunga  
**Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise** ♦ *Seleucidis melanoleucus* 1 great male pole danced for a female at Kwatu Camp.  
**Greater Bird-of-Paradise** ♦ *Paradisaea apoda* Fairly common near Kiunga, several were displaying at Km 17.  
**Raggiana Bird-of-paradise** ♦ *Paradisaea raggiana* Common at Varirata with a few near Kiunga, stunning in display.  
**Blue Bird-of-paradise** ♦ *Paradisaea rudolphi* Great scope views of 2 males at Kumul. Also 2 distant males Ambua.  
**Ashy Robin (Black-capped R)** ♦ *Heteromyias albispecularis* Seen well near Kumul.  
**Black-sided Robin** ♦ (B-bibbed R) *Poecilodryas hypoleuca* Seen well near Kwatu Camp.  
**Black-throated Robin** ♦ *Poecilodryas albonotata* Seen well at Ambua.



Robin galore! White-rumped, White-winged, Black-capped (Ashy) and White-faced Robins. (DLV and Dave Williamson)

**White-winged Robin** ♦ *Peneothello sigillata* Common at Kumul with a couple above Ambua.  
**Slaty Robin (Blue-grey R)** *Peneothello cyanus* Several good views around Ambua.  
**White-rumped Robin** ♦ *Peneothello bimaculata* Good views at Ok Menga.  
**White-faced Robin** ♦ *Tregellasia leucops* Seen very well at Varirata.  
**Torrent Flyrobin** ♦ (T Flycatcher, River F) *Monachella muelleriana* Seen well at the Minamba Valley.  
**Canary Flyrobin** ♦ (C Flycatcher, Montane F) *Microeca papuana* Several in the highlands around Ambua.



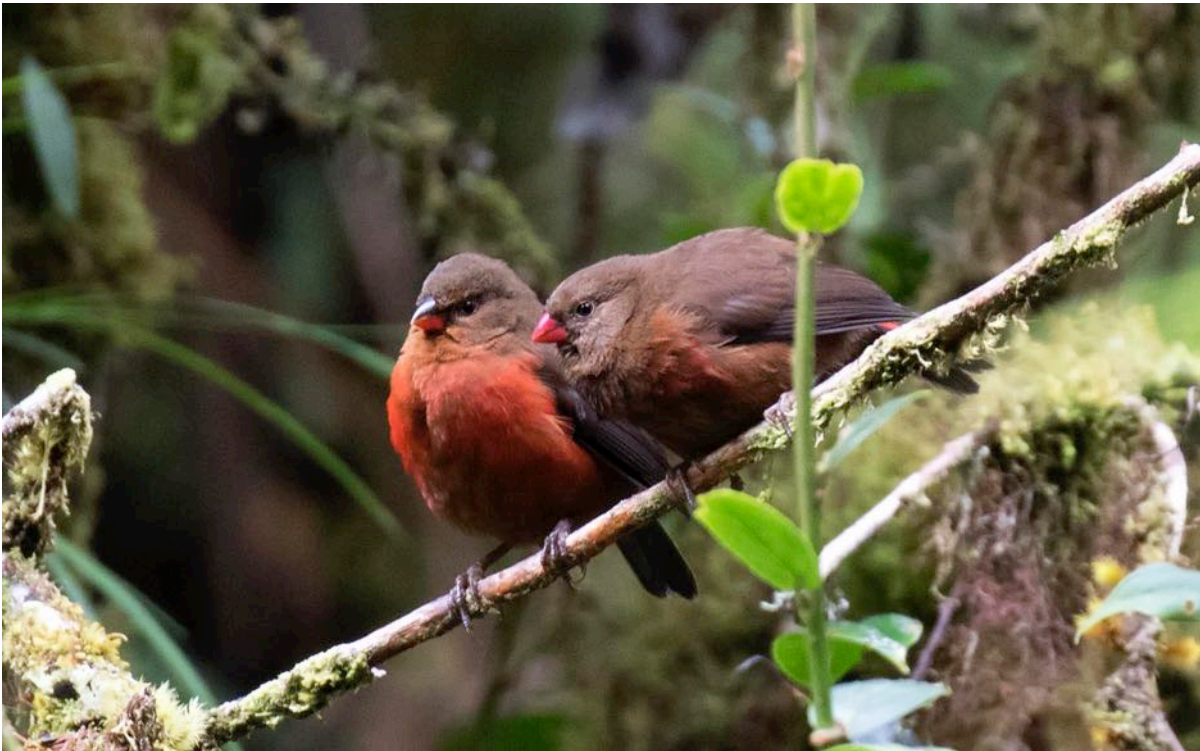
**Olive Flyrobin** ♦ (O Flycatcher) *Microeca flavovirescens* One seen well at Varirata.  
**Lemon-bellied Flyrobin** ♦ (L-b Flycatcher) *Microeca flavigaster* 2 in the savana at Varirata.  
**Garnet Robin** ♦ *Eugerygone rubra* (H)  
**Papuan Scrub Robin** ♦ *Drymodes beccarii* Seen by some in Varirata. Very shy.  
**Lesser Ground Robin** ♦ *Amalocichla incerta* Seen well at Ambua.



Juvenile Lesser Ground Robin. (DLV)

**Pacific Swallow** *Hirundo tahitica* Widespread except at higher elevations.  
**Island Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus poliocephalus* Scattered records in the highlands.  
**Clamorous Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus stentoreus* A couple seen and others heard at Walindi fields.  
**Papuan Grassbird** ♦ *Megalurus macrurus* A few at Tari Gap and in the Walindi fields.  
**Black-fronted White-eye** ♦ *Zosterops minor* Small numbers at Varirata and Dablin Creek.  
**Capped White-eye** ♦ *Zosterops fuscicapilla* Seen above Dablin. Lower than usual.  
**Metallic Starling (Shining S)** *Aplonis metallica* Common in the lowlands on both islands.  
**Yellow-eyed Starling** ♦ *Aplonis mystacea* 3 perched and scoped In Dablin. Pretty high elevation.  
**Singing Starling** ♦ *Aplonis cantoroides* A handful at Port Moresby Airport and in New Britain.  
**Yellow-faced Myna** ♦ *Mino dumontii* Regularly seen in the lowlands and foothills .  
**Long-tailed Myna** ♦ *Mino kreffti* Fairly common on New Britain.  
**Golden Myna** ♦ *Mino anais* Several along the Fly and Elevala Rivers .  
**Island Thrush** *Turdus poliocephalus* A few at Kumul Lodge and Tari Gap.  
**Pied Bush Chat (P C)** *Saxicola caprata* Several, mainly in the highlands.  
**Red-capped Flowerpecker** ♦ *Dicaeum geelvinkianum* Widespread in small numbers, less so in the lowlands.  
**Red-banded Flowerpecker** ♦ (Bismarck F) *Dicaeum eximium* A handful on New Britain.  
**Black Sunbird** ♦ *Leptocoma sericea* Fairly common and widespread, especially in the lowlands .  
**Olive-backed Sunbird (Yellow-bellied S)** *Cinnyris jugularis* A few in the garden of Walindi Resort .  
**House Sparrow (introduced)** *Passer domesticus* Scattered records throughout the lowlands.  
**Eurasian Tree Sparrow (introduced)** *Passer montanus* Fairly widespread in small numbers.  
**Mountain Firetail** ♦ *Oreostruthus fuliginosus* A pair showed very well at Kumul.  
**Crimson Finch** ♦ *Neochmia phaeton* One at Kiunga airport.

**Blue-faced Parrotfinch** *Erythrura trichroa* Seen very well near Kumul.  
**Grey-headed Mannikin** ♦ *Lonchura caniceps* Seen at PAU .  
**Hooded Mannikin** ♦ *Lonchura spectabilis* Several small flocks in the highlands.  
**Buff-bellied Mannikin** ♦ (Bismarck M) *Lonchura melaena* Common in open areas on New Britain.  
**Australian Pipit** *Anthus australis* Seen in Hagen airport.



Mountain Firetail at Kumul. (DLV)

## MAMMALS

**Speckled Dasyure** *Neophascogale lorentzii* 1 above Ambua.  
**Mountain Cuscus** *Phalanger carmelitae* One in Ambua seen by Dave, at night.  
**New Guinean Quoll** *Dasyurus albopunctatus* Seen by Josh in Tari Gap.  
**Spectacled Flying Fox** *Pteropus conspicillatus* Many near Kiunga.  
**Bismarck Bare-backed Fruit Bat (New Britain Naked-b B)** *Dobsonia praedatrix* Seen in New Britain.  
**Greater Flying Fox** *Pteropus neohibernicus* Some of the flying foxes seen In NB were most likely this species.

## MOTHS -Compiled by Dave & Sue Williamson-

### *Saturniidae (Silk Moths)*

**Hercules Moth** *Coscinocera hercules* Male at Ambua - the largest moth in the world -  
**Emperor Moth sp** *Syntherata janetta* Seen at Ambua - the world's largest Saturnid moth.

### *Sphingidae (Hawk or Sphinx Moths)*

**Convolvulus Hawkmoth** *Agrius convolvuli* Seen at Ambua.  
**Hippotion boerhaviae** Seen at Ambua

### *Erebidae (Erebid Moths)*

**Cocytia durvilli** Seen along the Elevala River - a spectacular day-flying species.  
**Phyllodes sp.** Ambua - a fantastic dead leaf mimic.

### *Drepanidae (Hooktips & relatives)*



**Hook-tip moth sp** *Tridrepana lunulata* Seen at Ambua.

***Uraniidae (Swallowtail Moths)***

***Alcides aurora*** Seen in New Britain - very attractive day-flying species.



*Orchard Swallowtail, Alcides aurora and Syntherata janetta. (Dave Williamson)*

***Geometridae***

***Gonodontis sp.*** Seen in Ambua

***Emerald sp.*** Ambua , where various species.



**BUTTERFLIES - Compiled by Dave & Sue Williamson (thanks!)-**

***Papilionidae (Swallowtails)***

Orchard Swallowtail *Papilio aegeus* Seen at Varirata.

Chequered Swallowtail *Papilio demoleus* Seen in New Britain.



*Phyllodes moth, Palmfly Butterfly, Convolvulus Hawk Moth . (Dave Williamson)*

***Nymphalidae (Brush-foots)***

***sub-family Limenitidinae***

Clipper *Parthenos sylvia* Seen in New Britain

***sub-family Nymphalinae***



**Varied Eggfly** *Hypolimnnae bolina* Seen along the Elevala River.  
**Spotted Crow Eggfly** *Hypolimnnae antelope* Seen in New Britain.  
**Meadow Argus** *Junonia villida* Seen at Varirata.

**sub-family Heliconiinae**

**Red Lacewing** *Cethosia cydippe* Seen in Varirata.  
**Cruiser** *Vindula arsinoe* Seen in New Britain.  
**Bordered Rustic** *Cupha prosopis* Seen in Varirata.

**sub-family Satyrinae**

**Palmfly** *Elymnias agondas* Seen in Varirata.  
**Orange Bush-Brown** *Mycalesis terminus* Seen in Varirata  
**Dingy Bush-Brown** *Mycalesis perseus* Seen in New Britain

**sub-family Morphinae**

**Silky Owl** *Taenaris catops* Seen in Varirata  
*Taenaris onolaus* Seen in Varirata

**Lycaenidae (Blues, Coppers, Hairstreaks)**

**Fiery Jewel** *Hypochrysops ignite* Seen along the Elevala River.  
**White-banded Line-Blue** *Nacaduba kurava* Seen in Tabubil.  
**Papuan Line-Blue** *Catopyrops ancira* Seen in New Britain.  
**Dark Ciliate-Blue** *Anthene seltuttus* Seen along the Elevala River

**NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST**

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

The form concerned is Australasian *nigripes* which differs from nominate *garzetta* in having black feet and bright yellow loreal skin. Species status may be warranted.

**Amboyna Cuckoo-Dove** *Macropygia amboinensis*

This species was formerly considered part of Brown Cuckoo-Dove *M. phasianella* but is now generally accepted as a separate species. The name Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove has also been used for *M. amboinensis* but then included taxa not contained within the present species.

**Melanesian Kingfisher** *Todiramphus tristrami*

This recent split from Collared Kingfisher *T. chloris* is endemic to New Britain.

**Southern Variable Pitohui** *Pitohui uropygialis*

This species was formerly included in Northern Variable Pitohui *P. kirhocephalus* with the name Variable Pitohui used for the enlarged species.

**Papuan Pitta** *Erythropitta macklotii*

This species was formerly part of Red-bellied Pitta *Erythropitta erythrogaster* which has recently been split into multiple species, it occurs in New Guinea and northern Queensland.



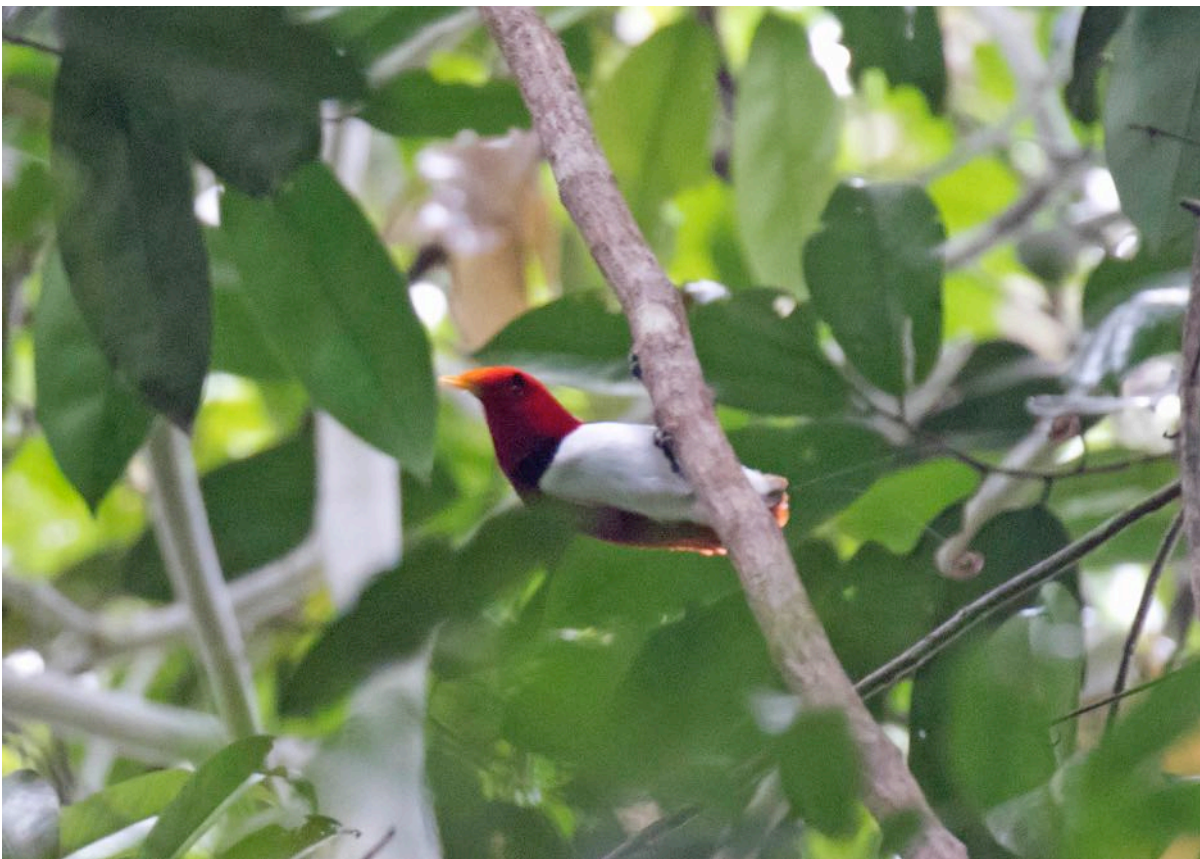
*Golden and Yellow-faced Mynas in Kiunga. Brehm's Tiger parrot at Kumul. (DLV)*



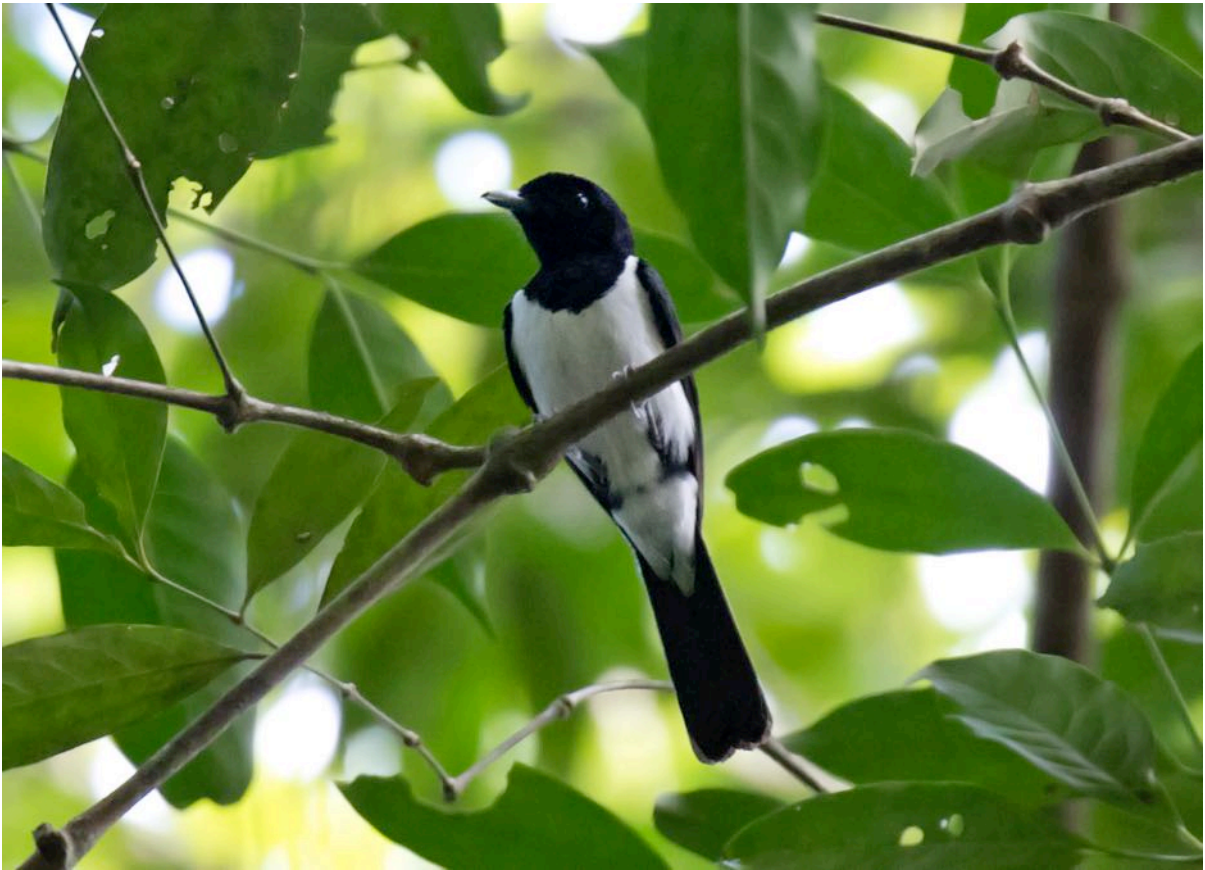




*Greater Crested and Black-naped Terns and Black Noddy, Kimbe. King Bird-of-Paradise. (DLV)*







*Hooded Monarch and Birdquesters cruising the Fly river. (DLV)*

