



**DAVID BISHOP BIRD TOURS**  
**Papua New Guinea 2014**

**Leader: David Bishop**

**Compiled By: David Bishop**

*Adult male Wattled Ploughbill © K. David Bishop*

## David Bishop Bird Tours Papua New Guinea and NE Queensland

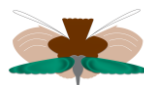
March 20 – April 6, 2014

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This bespoke tour was specially designed to seek out some very distinctive, elusive families and near-families in addition to as many as possible of the distinctive genera. In this and just about everything else I think it fair to say we were enormously successful. This was in no small part due to Tim's skill in the field and general diligence plus some fine help in from the likes of Leonard, Daniel, Sam and Max. Undoubtedly this was one of the most thoroughly enjoyable and stimulating tours I have ever operated. We both learnt a great deal, for me not least that birding in PNG during late March and early April makes a very pleasant and productive change from the more traditional months. Needless to say we shared a great deal of fun in addition to enjoying some truly spectacular birds, landscape as well some fine cultural experiences. Despite PNG's sometimes, insalubrious reputation, the people are undoubtedly among the most friendly and fascinating peoples on our planet.

Just a handful of this tour's highlights included:

- An enormous adult male Southern Cassowary permitted a very close encounter for 30 minutes at Cassowary House - I do believe New Guineans are correct in NOT classifying this beast as a bird!
- One of the very best day's birding I can ever recall in Varirata National Park. The forest was still moist (and humid) at the conclusion of the wet season and many birds were in song and easy to observe.
- Exceptional views of the extraordinary Pheasant Pigeon as it strutted up and down just a few feet from us - Varirata National Park.
- Numerous exciting mixed species flocks including unusually good views of Goldenface - Varirata National Park.
- A very territorial male Chestnut-backed Jewelbabbler marched straight into us permitting astonishingly close views - Varirata National Park.
- Three species of paradise-kingfisher: Common, Brown-headed and Buff-breasted all provided easy and prolonged and sometimes multiple views.
- A pair of Dwarf Koels feeding unconcernedly at dawn in a low shrub at the edge of the forest. Late that day we were treated to similarly fine views of Mottle-breasted Meliphaga feeding in the same shrub.





- Numerous Black Berrypeckers including at least one giving an unfamiliar song - Varirata National Park.
- As always a memorable day on the Elevara River in the midst of such a vast stretch of primeval forest.
- A group of four very obliging Southern Crowned Pigeons peering down at us from their dawn perch. Truly sensational.
- Thanks to Sam a wonderful encounter, via the 'scope, with a male King Bird of Paradise.
- Just as dawn broke a fully plumaged male Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise displayed to two females atop his spike along the mighty Fly River.
- Salvadori's Teal foraging in the turbulent waters of the Ok Menga.
- Simply unforgettable views of at least two fully adult breeding plumage Ribbon-tailed Astrapias at the Kumul Lodge feeder.
- A Bronze Ground-Dove (one of those impossible to see forest dwellers) foraged for twenty minutes actually on the Kumul Lodge feeder.



- Two females and a male Forbes' Forest-Rail turned over the local garbage pit at Kumul Lodge providing us with some priviledged views of such a skulker.
- A superlative male and female Wattled Ploughbill concluded our nap hand of Tim's desired families.

It is always a privilege to return to New Guinea, which has become in many ways my second home during the thirty-eight years I have lived and visited there. To return to this spectacular continental-island with such a wonderful client was sheer joy. Thank you Tim.

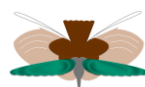
Thanks too, to all the people in PNG who helped make this trip so much fun and so successful: Leonard and Daniel in Port Moresby; Sam and Miro in Kiunga, plus all the girls at the Raintree Lodge and Kiunga Guest House; and the incomparable Max II at Kumul Lodge along with all the wonderful folks there who make us feel so welcome.

This remarkable country never fails to astonish me. New Guineans are undoubtedly some of the finest and most interesting people on our planet, and they, together with the continuing vastness of this island-continent's forests, its birds and other wildlife, combine to not only produce an outstanding tour, but one that literally rejuvenates the soul. Who will ever forget that flight from Port Moresby to Kiunga over thousands and thousands of square miles of tropical forest wilderness? So yes there really is still hope for our planet. What a place!

The following is a summary of our daily activities as well as a list of what we heard and saw. You may be surprised at just how many species we saw well AND were able to study through the scope! While a report such as this tells something of what we saw and heard, it only tells part of the story and can never really convey the wonderful overall sights and sounds of New Guinea, its forests, and its people.

Thank you.

*David*





## DIARY

21<sup>st</sup> March - Arrive Cairns midday, drive and bird southwards then up on to the Atherton Tablelands, stopping at Cathedral Fig and Lake Eacham before driving onto Cassowary House in a rather roundabout route.

22<sup>nd</sup> March - 07.00 - 09.30 Cassowary House incl. an extraordinarily close encounter with a male Southern Cassowary; Pickford's Road adjacent to Mareeba Wetlands, Mt Molloy, Abbertoir Swamp, 14.00 - 15.30 Kingfisher Park, Julatten School Flowering Eucalypts and back to Cassowary House 17.15

23<sup>rd</sup> March - 07.00 - 09.30 Cassowary House (after a night of torrential rain), Emerald Falls Creek, Tinaroo Dam, Cathedral Fig, Cairns Esplanade, Barron River Mouth.

24<sup>th</sup> March - 07.00 fly to Port Moresby, PNG, 14.00 - 17.15 Pacific Adventist College (PAU) ponds.

25<sup>th</sup> March - 05.10 - 18.00 Varirata National Park: Gorgeous fiery sunrise; road in poor condition, very glad I insisted on Daniel organising a 4WD vehicle instead of his 'little car'. Perfect weather



day, sunny but with plenty of cloud; forest notably lush and moist, humidity high; birds notably active and vocal with many terrestrial species easy to observe; several small to medium sized mixed species flocks encountered; flowering Euclyptus in the picnic grounds.

26<sup>th</sup> March - 06.00 to 08.00 Road to Lea Lea followed by a spectacular flight to Kiunga via Daru, 16.10 - 17.50 Boy's Town Road.

27<sup>th</sup> March - 05.35 - 12.15 Boy's Town Road - lookout hill and then drive onto Kakonda village and beyond on raised swamp road at the edge of the Ok Tedi. 15.30 - 18.30 Km 17 Trail.

28<sup>th</sup> March - 05.00 - 18.20 The Fly, Elevara and Ketu rivers all day.

29<sup>th</sup> March - 05.50 Fly River - 12-wired BOP display; then all day drive to Tabubil incl. OK Menga for Salvadori's Teal (09.00 - 18.30).

30<sup>th</sup> March - Fly to Mt Hagen (departed 1.5 hours early); drive to Kumul Lodge. PM observing the amazing Kumul feeder.

31<sup>st</sup> March - 06.45 - 10.30 observing the feeder, Kumul Lodge; then walked along the Highlands Highway over the pass and down the road to 2600m in the Minamb Valley. PM Max's Trail.

1<sup>st</sup> April - 07.00 - 12.15 Walked along Highlands Highway from 2600m down to 1800m in the Minamb Valley; PM Max's Trail - finally found a pair of Wattled Ploughbills at 17.30.

2<sup>nd</sup> April - 06.40 long drive to Kopia and tough walk in to try and seen Magnificent and Lesser BOPs - frustratingly too late for the latter! PM Pouring rain.

3<sup>rd</sup> April - Drive to the Whagi Valley to inspect drainage and agricultural systems; then fly to Port Moresby and a brief visit to PNG Artefacts.

4<sup>th</sup> April - 06.45 - 09.00 PAU pods; then fly to Sydney (very bumpy latter part of flight) arrive hotel 19.30.

5<sup>th</sup> April - Depart 05.30 drive to Barren Grounds Nature Reserve where we successfully found a pair of Eastern Bristlebirds before continuing on Minnamurra Falls National Park and Royal National Park before returning to Sydney and a long drive in traffic for an unsuccessful search for Powerful Owl at Lane Cove.



New Guinea is without doubt a place that lifts the spirits, dazzles the eye and challenges the mind. I cannot wait to return.



*Papuan Frogmouth © K. David Bishop*



## ANNOTATED BIRD LIST

Species with common and scientific names highlighted in bold are endemic to New Guinea.

# - Species marked thus were seen well.

(H) - Heard only

### NON-PASSERINES

#### CASUARIDAE

1. #Southern Cassowary *Casuarius casuarius* - An adult male of this spectacular and fascinatingly 'primitive' species permitted an extraordinarily close and prolonged encounter for some 30 minutes in the grounds of Cassowary House, Kuranda, NE Queensland.

In the Fly River drainage of Western Province, PNG we noted the tracks of three diagnosably different individuals within primary, ephemerally inundated, swampy lowland forest. The tracks were fresh and followed just inland of the banks of the Elevara and Ketu Rivers. The presence of at least three cassowaries in this area clearly illustrates what positive results can be achieved for conservation. For such highly sought after game species to persist within this area is a testimony to the soundness of the conservation agreement concluded by Sam Kepuknai with the local landowners. Birdlife International classifies this species as globally Vulnerable.

#### ANATIDAE

2. #Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata* - One or two on the Atherton Tablelands and one at a small ephemeral wetland near the PAU. The latter is the first time I have observed this species in 37 years in the Port Moresby area.
3. Spotted Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna guttata* - Two on a small pool beneath large raintrees in the grounds of the PAU.
4. #Plumed Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni* - A total of 25 of this rare Australian migrant to New Guinea. This total is approximately 50% down on the astonishingly high number recorded in 2012. Prior to these observations this species was known in New Guinea from just one or two records.
5. #Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata* - Just two at the PAU ponds.
6. #Radjah Shelduck *Tadorna radjah* - Four of these handsome 'puddle-ducks' at the ephemeral swamp near and within the grounds of the PAU.





7. **#**Maned Duck *Chenoetta jubatatta* - Sixteen at Tinaroo dam and several in the Kangaroo Valley.
8. **#**Salvadori's Teal *Salvadorina waigiuiensis* - Superlative views of an adult perching on rocks and feeding within a raging torrent in the OK Menga near Tabubil. Birdlife International classifies this species as globally Vulnerable.
9. **#**Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa* - Three on the Atherton Tablelands and 12 at the PAU ponds.

#### MEGAPODIDIIAE

10. **#**Australian Brush-Turkey *Alectura lathami* - Low numbers at Cathedral Fig, Cassowary House and Kingfisher Park.
11. **(H) Black-billed Brush-Turkey *Talegalla fuscirostris*** - Oh that New Guinea megapodes were as confiding as those in Australia; we heard this species in lowland forests in Varirata NP, and throughout the Kiunga area along the Elevara and Ketu Rivers in addition to observing their huge active nest mounds.
12. **#**Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt* - Two in the grounds of Cassowary House.

#### PHASIANIDAE

13. Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora* - Heard in rank grassland near Kumul Lodge and three flushed from Max's garden.

#### PODICIPEDIDAE

14. **#**Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae* - A total of 12 in breeding plumage at the PAU ponds including one attending a nest.

#### PROCELLARIDAE

15. **#**Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus* - Common off Royal NP.

#### SULIDAE

16. **#**Australasian Gannet *Morus serrator* - Common off Royal NP.

#### PHALACROCORACIDAE

17. **#**Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* - Circa 20 at the PAU ponds.
18. **#**Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos* - Singles on two days on the Atherton Tablelands but notably none at the PAU ponds and or along the Elevara River.



### PELECANIDAE

19. **#**Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus* - One at the Cairns Esplanade and at least 18 with many other waterbirds at the mouth of the Barron River.

### ARDEIDAE

20. **#**Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis* - An exceptional study of an adult as it flew out of dense reeds in response to tape-playback at a small pond just outside the grounds of the PAU.
21. **#**Great Egret *Ardea alba* - Low numbers on the Atherton Tablelands. Three and subsequently five at the PAU ponds. **NOTE:** Placed by some authorities in *Egretta* or *Casmerodius*.
22. **#**Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia* - One and subsequently three at the PAU ponds which made a valuable comparison with the nearby Great Egret.
23. White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae* - One in the Kangaroo Valley.
24. Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* - Two and subsequently four at the PAU ponds.
25. **#**Pied Heron *Egretta picata* - A very handsome heron. Twelve and subsequently 15 at the PAU ponds and adjacent ephemeral wetlands. **NOTE:** Placed by some authorities in *Ardea*.
26. **#**Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* - Circa 20 in cattle pasture near the Mareeba Wetlands; circa 50 near the PAU ponds; 10+ on Port Moresby airstrip and circa 100 near the PAU ponds including a large roost of 60+.
27. **#**Rufous Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus* - Four on the Atherton Tablelands and a maxima of nine in the grounds of the PAU. Also known as Nankeen Night-Heron.

### THRESKIORNITHIDAE

28. **#**Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* - Three and subsequently one on a small ephemeral wetland near the PAU. This is a rare species in the Port Moresby area.
29. **#**Australian (White) Ibis *Threskiornis molucca* - One at the PAU ponds represents an increasingly regular occurrence of this species in the Port Moresby area.
30. **#**Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis* - Common on the Atherton Tablelands. Two on a small ephemeral wetland near the PAU. Again this is the first time in 37 years that I have encountered this species in the Port Moresby area.



31. **#Royal Spoonbill** *Platalea regia* - Three on the Atherton Tablelands and four on a small ephemeral wetland near the PAU.

#### ACCIPITRIDAE

32. **#Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* - One in farmland within the Wahgi Valley, Mt Hagen.
33. **#Australian Kite** *Elanus axillaris* - A fine pair in farmland near the Cathedral Fig.
34. **#Long-tailed Honey-buzzard** *Henicopernis longicauda* - One over the Elevara River. This is a very striking and distinctive endemic.
35. **#Pacific Baza** *Aviceda subcristata* - One within forest in Varirata NP; one along the Boy's Town Road and three over the Elevara River. Also known as Crested Hawk.
36. **#Wedge-tailed Eagle** *Aquila audax* - Superlative views of a pair soaring over farmland near Tinaroo Dam.
37. **#Variable Goshawk** *Accipiter hiogaster* - One in Savannah Woodland on the Lea Lea Rd. and one along the Boy's Town Road.
38. **#Grey-headed Goshawk** *Accipiter poliocephalus* - Superb views of two individuals along the Elevara River.
39. **#Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* - Moderately and locally common on the Atherton Tablelands. Twenty-two counted as we drove from Mt Hagen to Kumul Lodge. Thereafter moderately common daily in and around the Highlands Highway.
40. **#Whistling Kite** *Haliastur sphenurus* - One on the Atherton tablelands. A pair attending a nest in the grounds of the PAU.
41. **#Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus* - Widespread and moderately common; one heard in Varirata NP; one adult in Savanna Woodland on the Lea Lea Road; 12 counted along the Elevara and Ketu Rivers; ten along the Fly River; and four near Kopia.
42. **#White-bellied Sea-Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster* - Two adults along the Elevara River.

#### RALLIDAE

43. **#Forbes' Forest-Rail** *Rallina forbesi* - Undoubtedly one of the highlights of the entire tour! Exceptional and prolonged views of two females and a male foraging at the forest edge, Kumul Lodge.



44. **#**Red-necked Crake *Rallina tricolor* - Fine views of at least one adult and three young in the grounds of Cassowary House.
45. **(H)** Rufous-tailed Bush-hen *Amaurornis moluccana* - Heard briefly in rank grass at the Kiunga Port site on the Fly River.
46. **#**Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyria melanotus* - Circa 30 and subsequently 20 at the PAU ponds including several large black, fluffy young. **NOTE:** Some authorities split the swamphens into five species.
47. **#**Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa* - Fifteen and subsequently 12 at the PAU ponds including two active nests.

#### BURHINIDAE

48. **#**Bush Thick-knee *Burhinus grallarius* - Wonderful encounters with this engaging species on the main streets of Kuranda after dinner!

#### CHARADRIIDAE

49. **#**Pacific Golden-Plover *Pluvialis fulva* - One at an ephemeral wetland near the PAU was well found by Tim. We found six more on our last morning in PNG in the grounds of the PAU.
50. **#**Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles* - Common on the Atherton Tablelands. Eight at the PAU ponds during our second visit.
51. **#**Lesser Sand-Plover *Charadrius mongolus* - Fabulous 'scope studies of six in almost perfect breeding dress on the Cairns Esplanade.
52. **#**Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* - Fine 'scope studies of seven in breeding dress at a small ephemeral wetland near the PAU.

#### JACANIDAE

53. **#**Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea* - One on the Atherton Tablelands. Five and subsequently four, including displaying birds at the PAU ponds.

#### SCOLOPACIDAE

54. **#**Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* - Three on two occasions on the Cairns Esplanade.
55. **#**Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* - Four along the Elevara River and six the next morning along the Fly River; one along the Minamb River and two at the PAU ponds.



56. #Grey-tailed tattler *Tringa brevipes* - A good 'scope study of just one on the Cairns Esplanade.
57. #Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* - Circa 30 at the mouth of the Barron River.
58. #Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* - Circa 40 at the mouth of the Barron River.
59. #Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* - Circa 20 on the Cairns Esplanade including several in partial breeding dress.
60. #Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* - A great way to start the trip with circa 100 of this much desired species, most of which were largely in breeding dress, on the Cairns Esplanade.
61. #Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* - Five on the Cairns Esplanade.

#### TURNICIDAE

62. Red-backed Buttonquail *Turnix maculosus* - Our last new bird in PNG and something of a surprise as one was flushed twice in Savannah Woodland for excellent flight views in the grounds of the PAU.

#### LARIDAE

63. #Silver Gull *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae* - Common along the Cairns waterfront and around Sydney especially off Royal NP.
64. #Little Tern *Sternula albifrons* - Six fishing at the Barron River Mouth.
65. #Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* - Ten at the Barron River Mouth.
66. #Great Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii* - Twenty at the Barron River Mouth.

#### COLUMBIDAE

67. #Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* - Common in urban areas of Australia.
68. White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela* - Four within the township of Atherton.
69. Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis* **Intro.** - Two on the Atherton Tablelands.
70. Brown Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia phasianella* - One or two on the Atherton Tablelands.
71. #Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis* - Seen most days in low numbers (1-8) throughout PNG's lowland forests.



72. **#**Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia nigrirostris* - A total of eight as we drove north from Kiunga to Tabulbil.
73. **#**Great Cuckoo-Dove *Reinwardtoena reinwardtii* - Two within Varirata NP; three through forest along the Km 17 trail and six along the Elevara River.
74. Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* - One at Kingfisher Park.
75. **(H)** New Guinea Bronzewing *Henicophaps albifrons* - Heard in lowland forest along the Boy's Town Road, Kiunga.
76. **#**Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps leuphotos* - Several in Royal NP.
77. **#**Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata* - Common throughout the Cairns and Atherton Tablelands area. **NOTE:** Peaceful Dove is lumped by some authorities with Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata* of SE Asia.
78. **#**Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis* - Moderately common throughout the Cairns and Atherton Tablelands area. Four and subsequently ten in the grounds of the PAU.
79. **#**Bronze Ground-Dove *Gallicolumba beccarii* - Exceptional views of a very confiding individual at the Kumul Lodge feeder.



80. **#Pheasant Pigeon** *Otidiphaps nobilis* - We enjoyed absolutely amazing views of a bird that walked right up to us within Varirata NP. This is without doubt one of the best experiences I have ever enjoyed with this charismatic endemic.
81. **#Southern Crowned-Pigeon** *Goura scheepmakeri* - Much to my surprise we heard one at very close quarters to the viewing mound along the Boy's Town Road. We then observed a group of four at dawn along the Elevara River and heard two others later in the day.
82. **Wompoo Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus magnificus* - One at Cathedral Fig; we heard low numbers in Varirata NP and throughout the lowland forests of the Kiunga area.
83. **#Pink-spotted Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus perlatus* - Notably common throughout the Kiunga lowland forests including some fine 'scope studies. Also heard and seen in Varirata NP.
84. **#Orange-fronted Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus aurantifrons* - Notably common with at least 15 counted in mangroves and Savanna Woodland along the Lea Lea Road and along the Boy's Town Road.
85. **Superb Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus superbus* - Heard near Cassowary House and a female seen feeding in Varirata NP.
86. **(H) Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus regina* - Heard near Cassowary House.
87. **(H) Beautiful Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus pulchellus* - Several heard throughout the lowland forests of the Kiunga area.
88. **#White-breasted Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus rivoli* - One female seen in secondary woodland in the Minamb Valley.
89. **Orange-bellied Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus iozonus* - Rather uncommon this year with low numbers seen and heard throughout the lowland forest of the Kiunga area.
90. **Dwarf Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus nanus* - A rather poor showing this year with just three seen in flight along the Elevara River and several others heard.
91. **#Purple-tailed Imperial-Pigeon** *Ducula rufigaster* - A good trip for this usually elusive species; seen on three occasions and 1-2 heard daily throughout the lowland forests of the Kiunga area. Also heard in Varirata NP.
92. **#Pinon Imperial-Pigeon** *Ducula pinon* - One provided a good 'scope view at Km 17 and then we saw a total of ten along the Elevara River.



93. **Collared Imperial-Pigeon** *Ducula muellerii* - A total of 12 counted along the Elevara River.
94. **#Zoe Imperial-Pigeon** *Ducula zoeae* - Seen and heard daily in modest numbers at all sites visited in the lowland forests of the Kiunga area and Varirata NP.
95. **#Torresian Imperial-Pigeon** *Ducula spilorrhoa* - Very common throughout the Cairns area, also the PAU area and Boy's Town Road. **NOTE:** The taxonomy of this group requires revision. Some authors treat Wallacean, Bismarck, New Guinea and Australian populations as a separate species whereas others lump them all as a single species.
96. **#Papuan Mountain-Pigeon** *Gymnophaps albertisii* - Just one seen as we drove north from Kiunga to Tabubil.

#### CUCULIDAE

97. **White-crowned Koel** *Cacomantis (Caliecthrus) leucolophus* - Heard in Varirata NP and one seen in flight along the Elevara River.
98. **Oriental Cuckoo** *Cuculus optatus* - Singles of this uncommon Palearctic migrant were seen in flight along the Boy's Town Road near the village of Kakonda and along the Elevara River.
99. **#Brush Cuckoo** *Cacomantis variolosus* - Several heard in scubby Savannah Woodland along the Lea Lea Road where one was seen very nicely; also heard daily in low numbers through the Kiung area.
100. **#Rufous-throated Bronze-Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx ruficollis* - Fabulous views of a singing male along Max's Trail near Kumul Lodge and several others heard.
101. **#Little Bronze-Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx minutillus* - One very responsive bird seen superbly in swamp forest along the OK Tedi near the village of Kakonda; several others heard along the Elevara River.
102. **#Long-billed Cuckoo** *Rhamphomantis megarhynchus* - A pair of this rare endemic seen superbly from the viewing mound along the Boy's Town Road.
103. **#Dwarf Koel** *Microdynamis parva* - A very confiding pair provided an exceptional study as they fed on a fruiting shrub at the forest edge within Varirata NP.
104. **#Asian Koel** *Eudynamis scolopacea* - One or two seen and heard daily in the lowland forests of the Kiunga area. **NOTE:** Asian Koel is lumped by some authorities with populations from Australia. This species complex requires a great deal more field and museum work to resolve its true taxonomic status.





105. **#**Australian Koel *Eudynamys cyanocephalus* - A female seen well along Pickford's Road near the Mareeba Wetlands.
106. **#**Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae* - Two over the Lea Lea Road; three over the Elevara River and one over the Fly River.
107. **(H)** **Greater Black Coucal** *Centropus menbeki* - Heard daily throughout the lowland forests of the Kiunga area.
108. **#**Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianus* - Heard commonly and seen in small numbers in Savanna Woodland in the grounds of the PAU, Varirata NP and along the Lea Lea Road.
109. **(H)** **Lesser Black Coucal** *Centropus bernsteini* - Heard between Kiunga and Tabubil.

#### TYTONIDAE

110. **(H)** Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa* - Despite a huge storm we heard this distinctive species' call right next to our rooms at Cassowary House.

#### AEGOTHELIDAE

111. **(H)** **Mountain Owlet-Nightjar** *Aegotheles albertisii* - Heard repeatedly in the montane forests surrounding Kumul Lodge.
112. **#****Barred Owlet-Nightjar** *Aegotheles bennettii* - Undoubtedly one of the highlights of this fabulous tour; thanks to local knowledge we were able to dwell on this fabulous and rarely seen species as it peered from its new roost hole in Varirata NP.



*Orchids in Max's garden © K. David Bishop*



### PODARGIDAE

113. **#Papuan Frogmouth** *Podargus papuensis* - Thanks to some exceptional work by Tim we enjoyed great 'scope studies of two birds in the grounds of the PAU. This is truly a special bird.

### APODIDAE

114. **#Papuan Spine-tailed Swift** *Mearnsia novaeguineae* - Good views of two during our first afternoon in lowland forest along the Boy's Town Road and four over the Elevara River.
115. **#Glossy Swiftlet** *Collocalia.esculenta* - Widespread and common in Varirata NP and throughout the highlands.
116. **#Australian Swiftlet** *Aerodramus terraereginae* - Notably common throughout the Cairns area and Atherton Tablelands.
117. **Mountain Swiftlet** *Collacalia hirundinacea* - Just two in the Minamb Valley.
118. **#Uniform Swiftlet** *Collocalia vanikorensis* - Seen commonly, daily at all sites visited in the Kiunga lowlands.

### HEMIPROCNIDAE

119. **#Moustached Tree-Swift** *Hemiprocne mystacea* - One seen nicely during our first afternoon along the Boy's Town Road and then two the following morning observed regularly in flight from the viewing mound.

### ALCEDINIDAE

120. **(H) Variable Dwarf Kingfisher** *Ceyx lepidus* - Heard in forest along the Elevara River.
121. **#Blue-winged Kookaburra** *Dacelo leachii* - Small numbers seen and heard on the Atherton Tablelands; three in the grounds of the PAU and eight in Savanna Woodland within Varirata NP.
122. **#Laughing Kookaburra** *Dacelo novaeguineae* - Three daily on the Atherton Tablelands.
123. **#Rufous-bellied Kookaburra** *Dacelo gaudichaud* - Several of these spectacular birds seen and heard almost daily in the forested lowlands of the Kiunga area and hill forests of Varirata NP.



124. **#Forest Kingfisher** *Todiramphus macleayi* - One along Pickford's Road near Mareeba Wetlands.
125. **#Sacred Kingfisher** *Todiramphus sanctus* - Low numbers throughout the Atherton Tablelands and two in the grounds of the PAU.
126. **(H) Hook-billed Kingfisher** *Melidora macrorrhina* - Notably quiet during this trip to PNG, we heard this species before dawn in the lowland forests along the Boy's Town Road and as we made our way up the Elevara River. Despite our best efforts once within the forest we just could not find a suitably responsive individual.
127. **#Yellow-billed Kingfisher** *Syma torotoro* - Sensational views of one in Varirata NP where several others were also heard; several heard in the lowland forests throughout the Kiunga area.
128. **#Common Paradise-Kingfisher** *Tanysiptera galatea* - Two seen superbly and at least six heard in the lowland forests along the Elevara and Ketu Rivers.
129. **#Brown-headed Paradise-Kingfisher** *Tanysiptera danae* - Quite unbelievable looks at two very confiding adults and an immature in Varirata NP with at least eight others heard.
130. **#Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher** *Tanysiptera Sylvia* - Fine views of three of these very striking birds in the grounds of Kingfisher Park.

#### MEROPIDAE

131. **#Rainbow Bee-eater** *Merops ornatus* - Notably common on the Atherton Tablelands including circa 40 along the East Mary River Road and although heard in the grounds of the PAU and within Varirata NP we only saw two on our last morning at the PAU.

#### CORACIIDAE

132. **#Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis* - Two on two days on the Atherton Tablelands; two in the grounds of the PAU; at least 60 counted along the Elevara and Ketu Rivers and three the following morning on the Fly River.

#### BUCEROTIDAE

133. **#Blyth's Hornbill** *Rhyticeros plicatus* - We enjoyed superb views of four from the viewing mound along Boy's Town Road and another two near Kakonda village; a total of 12 the following day along the Elevara and Ketu Rivers and two the next morning on the Fly River.

#### FALCONIDAE

134. **#Nankeen Kestrel** *Falco cenchroides* - Two on the Atherton Tablelands.



### CACATUIDAE

135. **#Palm Cockatoo** *Probosciger aterrimus* - Absolutely cosmic views of one of THE great birds of the trip: a total of 12 along the Elevara and Ketu Rivers; also heard along the Boy's Town Road.
136. **#Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo** *Calyptorhynchus* - Fine views of this very charismatic bird in Barren Ground Reserve.
137. **#Galah** *Eolophus roseicapillus* - Several throughout the Sydney region.
138. **#Sulphur-crested Cockatoo** *Cacatua galerita* - Locally common, especially around granaries on the Atherton Tablelands; four in Varirata NP; eight along the Elevara River and six along the Fly River.

### PSITTACIDAE

139. **#Greater Streaked Lory** *Chalcopsitta scintillata* - Moderately common throughout the lowland forests of the Kiunga area
140. **Dusky Lory** *Pseudeos fuscata* - A flock of 12 in flight over the Elevara and a flock of 30 over the Kiunga to Tabulbil mine road.
141. **#Rainbow Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus haematodus* - Widespread and locally common throughout the Atherton Tablelands; the grounds of the PAU and Varirata NP; low numbers in the Kiunga area and Minamb Valley.
142. **#Black-capped Lory** *Lorius lori* - Heard and seen daily in good numbers (2-10 per field session) in the lowland forests of the Kiunga area. Truly a spectacular bird.
143. **#Red-flanked Lorikeet** *Charmosyna placensis* - Notably common in the lowland forests throughout the Kiunga area. Circa 10 flew out from the canopy of a leafy tree next to the viewing mound, where they had presumably been roosting overnight.
144. **#Papuan Lorikeet** *Charmosyna papou* - Fabulous views both in flight and as they foraged at flowering trees within upper montane forest near Kumul Lodge.





*Papuan Lorikeet* © K. David Bishop

145. **Plum-faced Lorikeet** *Oreopsittacus arfaki* - Two along Max's Trail near Kumul Lodge.
146. **#Yellow-billed Lorikeet** *Neopsittacus musschenbroekii* - A total of circa 20 in the Minamb Valley.
147. **Orange-billed Lorikeet** *Neopsittacus pullicauda* - Small numbers seen at and near Kumul Lodge.
148. **Yellow-capped Pygmy-Parrot** *Micropsitta keiensis* - Heard and seen daily at all sites visited in the lowland forests of the Kiunga area.
149. **#Orange-breasted Fig-Parrot** *Cyclopsitta guliemiterti* - Moderately common in the lowland forests of the Kiunga area including fine and prolonged 'scope views of a group of three near the viewing mound.
150. **Double-eyed Fig-Parrot** *Cyclopsitta diophthalma* - Seen all too briefly near Cassowary House and at Km 17 near Kiunga.
151. **#Brehm's Tiger-Parrot** *Psittacella brehmii* - A maxima of six seen daily at the Kumul Lodge feeder.
152. **#Pale-headed Rosella** *Platycercus adscitus* - Two feeding quietly at the interface of riverine and savannah woodland within Emerald Falls Creek NP.
153. **#Crimson Rosella** *Platycercus elegans* - Several in the Barren Grounds Reserve and Sydney area.



154. **#**Eastern Rosella *Platycercus eximius* - Several in the Kangaroo Valley and around Sydney.
155. **#**Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi* - Astonishingly few seen other than 1s and 2s in flight over lowland forest in the Kiunga area. Finally we enjoyed fine views in perfect light of four in flight low over the PAU ponds.
156. **#**Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus* - Also rather uncommon throughout the lowland forests of the Kiunga area with just eight counted on our day on the Elevara and Ketu Rivers and ten the following morning along the Fly River. Notably none heard or seen within Varirata NP.
157. Australian King-Parrot *Alisterus scapularis* - Heard in Cathedral Fig Reserve.

## PASSERINES

### PITTIDAE

158. **(H)** Hooded Pitta *Pitta erythrogaster* - Amazingly just one heard in lowland forest along the Elevara River.

### PTILONORHYNCHIDAE

159. **#**Spotted Catbird *Ailuroedus melanotis* - One seen nicely at Cassowary House and at least ten at a fruiting tree near the Cathedral Fig.
160. **(H)** Tooth-billed Catbird *Scenopeetes dentiostriis* - One or two heard at the Cathedral Fig.
161. **#**Archbold's Bowerbird *Archboldia papuensis* - Fine looks at one or two females, daily at Kumul Lodge.
162. **Flame Bowerbird** *Sericulus aureus* - One female seen in flight along the Elevara River.
163. **#**Great Bowerbird *Chlamydera nuchalis* - Fine views of an adult female at Mt Molloy trade-store.
164. Fawn-breasted Bowerbird *Chlamydera cerviniventris* - Notably common with as many as 12 counted in the grounds of the PAU including one very active bower.



### MALURIDAE

165. **#Wallace's Fairy-Wren** *Sipodotus wallacii* - One foraging high in the midstorey with a mixed species flock in lowland forest along the Boy's Town Road.
166. **#Red-backed Fairy-Wren** *Malurus melanocephalus* - Fine views of a very confiding pair at the edge of Sugar Cane along Pickford's Road.
167. **Superb Fairy-Wren** *Malurus cyaneus* - Several family groups, all in non-breeding plumage, throughout the Sydney region.
168. **#White-shouldered Fairy-Wren** *Malurus alboscapulatus* - One male at the PAU ponds and several in the Minamb Valley.
169. **Emperor Fairy-Wren** *Malurus cyanocephalus* - One pair permitted brief but clear views in the lowland forests along the Boy's Town Road, Kiunga.

### MELIPHAGIDAE

170. **#Eastern Spinebill** *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris* - Several in the Sydney area.
171. **#Plain Honeyeater** *Pycnopygius ixoides* - Two foraging at the forest edge within Varirata NP and two more very close by along the Boy's Town Road provided exceptional views of this poorly known species.
172. **#Streak-headed Honeyeater** *Pygnopygius stictocephalus* - Two seen well from the viewing mound along the Boy's Town Road.
173. **#Spot-breasted Meliphaga** *Meliphaga mimikae* - Exceptional close and prolonged views of a single bird as it fed at a flowering shrub at the forest edge within Varirata NP.
174. **Mountain Meliphaga** *Meliophaga orientalis* - Two in a remnant forest patch within the Minamb Valley.
175. **(H) Puff-backed Meliphaga** *Meliphaga aruensis* - Several heard in Varirata NP and the lowland forests of the Kiunga area.
176. **#Mimic Meliphaga** *Meliphaga analoga* - Four in Varirata NP at a flowering Eucalypt.
177. **Graceful Honeyeater** *Meliphaga gracilis* - One in the grounds of the PAU and another along the Lea lea Road.
178. **#Yellow-spotted Honeyeater** *Meliphaga notata* - Several at Kingfisher Park.



179. **(H) Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*** - Heard commonly in wetter areas of forest in the Sydney area.
180. **#Black-throated Honeyeater *Lichenostomus subfrenatus*** - Fine views of one at the head of the Minamb Valley.
181. **Obscure Honeyeater *Lichenostomus obscurus*** - One seen poorly from the viewing mound along the Boy's Town Road, Kiunga.
182. **#Bridled Honeyeater *Lichenostomus frenatus*** - Excellent views of one feeding at a flowering *Grevillea robusta* near Abbatoire Swamp.
183. **#Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops*** - Two together with several other species of honeyeaters at a flowering tree near Julatten School.
184. **#Varied Honeyeater *Lichenostomus versicolor*** - Seen well on the Cairns Esplanade.
185. **#Yellow Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops*** - One together with several other species of honeyeaters at a flowering tree near Julatten School.
186. **#Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala*** - Common in the Sydney area and one seen by Tim on the Atherton Tableland.
187. **#Rufous-banded Honeyeater *Conopophila albogularis*** - Several seen well in the grounds of the PAU.
188. **#Dusky Myzomela *Myzomela obscura*** - At least six at a flowering tree within the grounds of Cassowary House and two together with several other species of honeyeaters at a flowering tree near Julatten School.
189. **#Red Myzomela *Myzomela cruentata*** - A single female along the Boy's Town Road was an unusual record.
190. **#Black Myzomela *Myzomela nigrita*** - Two feeding at a large flowering Eucalypt within Varirata NP.
191. **#Mountain Myzomela *Myzomela adolphinae*** - Two handsome males in Varirata NP.
192. **#Red-collared Myzomela *Myzomela rosenbergii*** - Lovely views of several males and females at and below Kumul Lodge.
193. **#Scarlet Myzomela *Myzomela sanguinolenta*** - Fine views of a single male together with several other species of honeyeaters at a flowering tree near Julatten School.





194. **#**Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta* - Four together with several other species of honeyeaters at a flowering tree near Julatten School. Six in Emerald Creek NP.
195. **#**White-cheeked Honeyeater *Phylidonyris niger* - Three seen well in Emerald Creek NP.
196. **#**White-throated Honeyeater *Melithreptus albogularis* - Two together with several other species of honeyeaters at a flowering tree near Julatten School.
197. **#**Black-chinned Honeyeater *Melithreptus gularis* - Fine views of this uncommon species together with several other species of honeyeaters at a flowering tree near Julatten School.
198. **(H)** Meyer's Friarbird *Philemon meyeri* - One heard in the Kiunga lowlands.
199. **#**Helmeted Friarbird *Philemon buceroides* - Widespread and common; seen and heard daily throughout the lowlands and foothills of PNG and throughout the Atherton Tablelands.
200. **#**Tawny-breasted Honeyeater *Xanthotis flaviventer* - Widespread and moderately common in the foothills and lowlands.
201. **#**Macleay's Honeyeater *Xanthotis macleayanus* - One at a flowering tree at Cassowary House.
202. **(H)** Long-billed Honeyeater *Melilestes megarhynchus* - Rather elusive this year; just one or two heard briefly in the Kiunga lowlands.
203. **#(Common)** Smoky Honeyeater *Melipotes fumigatus* - Common, seen and heard daily throughout the Kumul Lodge area and Minamb Valley.
204. **(H)** Sooty Melidectes *Melidectes fuscus* - One heard near Kumul Lodge.
205. **#**Belford's Melidectes *Melidectes belfordi* - Common, seen and heard daily throughout our time at Kumul Lodge.





206. **#Yellow-browed Melidectes** *Melidectes rufocrissalis* - Small numbers encountered in the Minamb Valley.
207. **#Ornate Melidectes** *Melidectes torquatus* - Common at lower elevations in the Minamb Valley.
208. **#Black-backed (Grey-streaked) Honeyeater** *Ptiloprora perstriata* - Surprisingly few seen or heard at Kumul Lodge.

#### DASYORNIDAE

209. **#Eastern Bristlebird** *Dasyornis brachypterus* - Despite a cool, wet, misty morn we helped ourselves to amazing close and prolonged views of first one then a pair of these very intriguing birds at the Barren Grounds Reserve.

#### PARDALOTIDAE

210. **(H)** Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus* - Heard in Royal NP.
211. **(H)** Striated Pardalote *Pardalotus striatus* - Heard on the Atherton Tablelands.

#### ACANTHIZIDAE

212. **#Goldenface (Dwarf Whistler)** *Pachycare flavogriseum* - Exceptional views of this very lovely but elusive endemic as it called very occasionally whilst foraging with a mixed species flock in Varirata NP.



213. **Rusty Mouse-Warbler** *Crateroscelis murina* - As many as 20 seen and heard within Varirata NP.
214. **#Mountain Mouse-Warbler** *Crateroscelis robusta* - Exceptionally confiding and easy to observe in the grounds of Kumul Lodge.
215. **#White-browed Scrubwren** *Sericornis frontalis* - Several seen well in Minnamurra Falls National Park.
216. **#Large Scrubwren** *Sericornis nouhuysi* - Widespread and common in montane forest in the grounds of Kumul Lodge.
217. **#Large-billed Scrubwren** *Sericornis magnirostra* - Common at Kingfisher Park and Cathedral Fig.
218. **#Pale-billed Scrubwren** *Sericornis spilodera* - Excellent views of as many as five in Varirata NP.
219. **Buff-faced Scrub-Wren** *Sericornis perspicillatus* - One in roadside scrub at 1820m in the Minamb Valley.
220. **#Fairy Gerygone** *Gerygone palpebrosa* - Heard in Kingfisher Park and two seen with mixed flocks in Varirata NP.
221. **#Yellow-bellied Gerygone** *Gerygone chrysogaster* - Commonly seen and heard in Varirata NP and the lowland forests of the Kiunga area.
222. **#Large-billed Gerygone** *Gerygone magnirostris* - A very responsive pair along the Elevara River.
223. **(H) Brown gerygone** *Gerygone mouki* - Heard in Royal NP.
224. **#De Vis' Tree-Fern Warbler (Brown-breasted Gerygone)** *Gerygone ruficollis* - Common around Kumul Lodge and in the Minamb Valley.

#### POMATOSTOMIDAE

225. **#New Guinea (Rufous) Babbler** *Pomatostomus isidorei* - A very approachable flock of eight in primary lowland forest along the Boy's Town Road and another group of six on the Km 17 Trail.

#### ORTHONYCHIDAE

226. **#Chowchilla** *Orthonyx spaldingii* - Fabulous views of a very confiding pair in the grounds of Cassowary House.



**CNEMOPHILIDAE**

227. **#Crested (Bird of Paradise) Satinbird *Cnemophilus macgregorii*** - Single females seen well feeding at a fruiting tree in the grounds of Kumul Lodge.



*Female Crested Satinbird* © K. David Bishop

**MELANOCHARITDAE**

228. **#Black Berrypecker *Melanocharis nigra*** - Impressively common in Varirata NP where they were noted singing! Small numbers seen and heard in the lowland forests of the Kiunga area.
229. **#Fan-tailed Berrypecker *Melanocharis versteri*** - Good looks at a male near Kumul Lodge.
230. **#Streaked Berrypecker *Melanocharis striativentris*** - We enjoyed exceptional views of two of these very rarely encountered birds as they fed in roadside mature secondary woodland within the Minamb Valley.
231. **#Yellow-bellied Longbill *Toxorhamphus novaeguineae*** - Rather vocal and responsive in lowland forests of the Kiunga area.



232. Dwarf Longbill *Oedistoma iliolophum* - One seen very briefly in Varirata NP.

**PARAMYTHIDAE**

233. #Tit Berrypecker *Oreocharis arfaki* - Common in the Minamb Valley.

234. #Crested Berrypecker *Paramythium montium* - Fabulous looks at several of these handsome birds at Kumul Lodge.



**PSOPHODIDAE**

235. (H) Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus* - Heard in forest at Minamurra Falls.

**CINCLOSOMATIDAE**

236. Painted Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma ajax* - One very vocal and excitable individual sang and danced around us in Varirata NP.



237. (H) **Blue Jewel-Babbler** *Ptilorrhoa caerulescens* - Heard in the lowland forests of the Kiunga area.

238. **#Chestnut-backed Jewel-Babbler** *Ptilorrhoa castanonotus* - Wonderfully exciting and memorable views of at least two of these very smart looking endemics as they walked right up to us in Varirata NP.

#### MACHAERIRHYNCHIDAE

239. **#Yellow-breasted Boatbill** *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer* - Heard at Kingfisher Park and seen well with a mixed species flock in Varirata NP.

#### ARTAMIDAE

240. **#White-breasted Wood-Swallow** *Artamus leucorhynchus* - Common on the Atherton Tablelands and in the grounds of the PAU.

#### CRACTICIDAE

241. **#Lowland Peltops** *Peltops blainvillii* - Fine views of one at the viewing mound along the Boy's Town Road and three between Kiunga and Tabubil.

242. **#Black-backed Butcherbird** *Cracticus mentalis* - Great looks at several in the grounds of the PAU and one along the Lea Lea Road.

243. **#Hooded Butcherbird** *Cracticus cassicus* - Truly one of the world's great vocalists. Widespread and common, seen and/or heard daily at all sites visited in the lowland forests of the Kiunga area and just one in Varirata NP.

244. **Pied Butcherbird** *Cracticus nigrogularis* - Two on the Atherton Tablelands.

245. (H) **Black Butcherbird** *Cracticus quoyi* - Heard one in Varirata NP.

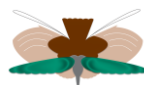
246. **#Australasian Magpie** *Gymnorhina tibicen* - Common on the Atherton Tablelands.

247. **#Pied Currawong** *Strepera graculina* - Common on the Atherton Tablelands and in the Sydney region.

#### CAMPEPHAGIDAE

248. **#Boyer's Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina boyeri* - A pair seen well at the viewing mound along the Boy's Town Road, Kiunga and the three along the Elevara River.

249. **#Black-faced Cuckooshrike** *Coracina novaehollandiae* - Two along Pickford's Road and five along the Lea Lea Road.



250. **#White-bellied Cuckooshrike** *Coracina papuensis* - Low numbers on the Atherton Tablelands, in the grounds of the PAU and along the Lea Lea Road.
251. **#Golden Cuckoo-shrike** *Campochaera sloetii* - A group of three seen foraging and calling high in the canopy of tall forest along the Elevara River.
252. **#Varied Triller** *Lalage leucomela* - Single birds seen on the Atherton Tablelands and single birds heard in the grounds of the PAU and along the Elevara River.
253. **(H) Common Cicadabird** *Edolisoma tenuirostris* - Heard in the grounds of the PAU.
254. **(H) Grey-headed Cicadabird** *Edolisoma schisticeps* - Notably quiet at this time with just one heard along the Km 17 trail near Kiunga.
255. **(H) Black Cicadabird** *Edolisoma melas* - Heard with mixed species flocks in Varirata NP. **NOTE:** The specific name of Black Cuckoo-Shrike has changed from *melaena* to *melas*.

#### PACHYCEPHALIDAE

256. **#Wattled Ploughbill** *Eulacestoma nigropectus* - Undoubtedly one of THE highlights of the trip! We watched for 20 minutes as a pair foraged quietly in dense strangling bamboo along Max's Trail within the grounds of Kumul Lodge. The adult male is surely one of the world's most bizarre-looking passerines.
257. **#Rusty Pitohui** *Colluricincla ferruginea* - A flock of six in Varirata NP and along Boy's Town Road and two during the afternoon along the Km 17 Trail.
258. **#White-bellied Pitohui** *Colluricincla incerta* - This very localised and rather specialised endemic was in full voice with at least three flocks of 6-8 birds in each. Despite their curiosity they only permitted flight views or the briefest of glimpses.
259. **#Rufous Shrike-thrush** *Colluricincla megarhyncha* - Heard and seen on the Atherton Tablelands including two at Kingfisher Park, Varirata NP and the Boy's Town Road. Also known as Little Shrike-thrush
260. **#Grey Shrike-thrush** *Colluricincla harmonica* - One and subsequently two in the grounds of the PAU and one along the Boy's Town Road.
261. **#Bower's Shrike-thrush** *Colluricincla boweri* - Fabulous close encounters with one at Cathedral Fig.
262. **#Regent Whistler** *Pachycephala schlegelii* - One male and then a female of these very striking birds seen nicely at Kumul Lodge and again in the Minamb Valley.



263. **#Golden Whistler** *Pachycephala pectoralis* - One female at Kingfisher Park
264. **#Gray Whistler** *Pachycephala simplex* - Common in Varirata NP where 1-2 seen with several mixed species flocks, one with a mixed species flock along the Boy's Town Road.
265. **#White-bellied Whistler** *Pachycephala leucogastra* - Fine 'scope views in Savannah Woodland at the edge of Varirata NP.
266. **#Rufous-naped Whistler** *Aleadryas rufinucha* - Several good views of individuals at the Kumul Lodge feeder.
267. **(H) Crested Pitohui** *Ornorectes cristatus* - Heard in Varirata NP.

#### LANIIDAE

268. **#Long-tailed Shrike** *Lanius schach* - One at the edge of farmland in the Waghi Valley.

#### ORIOOLIDAE

269. **#Hooded Pitohui** *Pitohui dichrous* - The 'poison bird' was seen and heard commonly in Varirata NP.
270. **(H) Variable Pitohui** *Pitohui kirhocephalus* - Heard several times in lowland forest in the Kinga area.
271. **#Brown Oriole** *Oriolus szalayi* - Widespread and moderately common; heard or seen almost daily throughout the lowlands and foothills.
272. **#Australasian Figbird** *Sphecotheres viridis* - Common on the Atherton tablelands and in the grounds of the PAU.

#### DICRURIDAE

273. **#Spangled Drongo** *Dicrurus hottentotus* - Low numbers seen on the Atherton Tablelands and throughout the lowlands and hills of PNG.

#### RHIPIDURIDAE

274. **#Black Fantail** *Rhipidura atra* - One over a small stream within a remnant forest patch in the Minamb Valley.
275. **#Willie Wagtail** *Rhipidura leucophrys* - Widespread and common, seen almost daily throughout the entire tour.
276. **#Friendly Fantail** *Rhipidura albolimbata* - Moderately common and widespread throughout montane forest.





277. **#Chestnut-bellied Fantail** *Rhipidura hyperythra* - Great looks at several birds with mixed species flocks in Varirata NP.
278. **(H) Sooty Thicket-Fantail** *Rhipidura threnothorax* - One heard along the Boy's Town Road, Kiunga.
279. **(H) White-bellied Thicket-Fantail** *Rhipidura leucothorax* - One heard along the Elevara River.
280. **#Dimorphic Fantail** *Rhipidura brachyrhyncha* - One put on a great show in upper montane forest along Max's Trail near Kumul Lodge.
281. **#Rufous-backed Fantail** *Rhipidura rufidorsa* - After a bit of a battle fine views of this attractive species as it foraged with a mixed species flock in lowland forest along the Boy's Town Road.
282. **#Grey Fantail** *Rhipidura albiscapa* - Low numbers on the Atherton Tablelands and in the Sydney area.

#### MONARCHIDAE

283. **#Blue-capped Ifrita** *Ifrita kowaldi* - Fine looks at single birds of this very distinctive taxon as it foraged nuthatch-like high in an epiphyte encrusted tree within the grounds of Kumul Lodge. The assignment of this species to the Monarchidae is only one of a series of such designations and this very unusual looking endemic may well represent a separate family.
284. **#Golden Monarch** *Carteoronis chrysomela* - Fabulous views of a male along the Boy's Town Road.
285. **#Black-faced Monarch** *Monarcha melanopsis* - Two with a mixed flock at Kingfisher Park.
286. **Black-winged Monarch** *Monarcha frater* - One with a mixed flock in Varirata NP.
287. **#Spectacled Monarch** *Symposiachrus trivirgatus* - Moderately common on the Atherton Tableland including two with a mixed flock at Kingfisher Park.
288. **(H) Hooded Monarch** *Symposiachrus manadensis* - Heard persistently in lowland forest along the Ketu River.
289. **#Spot-winged Monarch** *Symposiachrus guttula* - Several seen well with mixed species flocks in Varirat NP and along the Boy's Town Road.



290. **#Frisled Monarch** *Arses telescopthalmus* - Several of this striking species in Varirata NP and the Boy's Town Road.
291. **#Magpie-lark** *Grallina cyanoleuca* - Common on the Atherton Tablelands.
292. **#Leaden Flycatcher** *Myiagra rubecula* - A total of four in Savanna Woodland at the periphery of Varirata NP.
293. **#Restless Flycatcher** *Myiagra inquieta* - A pair seen nicely on the Atherton Tablelands.
294. **#Shining Flycatcher** *Myiagra alecto* - At least eight seen at the edge of lowland forest along the Elevara River.

#### CORVIDAE

295. **Grey Crow** *Gymnocorvus tristis* - Heard and seen moderately commonly throughout the lowlands especially along the Elevara River where we saw both dark and pale morphs. Also known as Bare-eyed Crow.
296. **#Torresian Crow** *Corvus orru* - Small numbers on the Atherton Tableland and throughout the Kiunga lowlands.
297. **#Australian Raven** - Several in the Sydney region.

#### PARADISAEDAE

298. **Trumpet Manucode** *Manucodia keraudreni* - Just two along the Elevara River.
299. **#Glossy-mantled Manucode** *Manucodia atra* - Common in the lowland forests of the Kiunga area where several pairs were observed displaying.
300. **King of Saxony Bird of Paradise** *Pteridophora albertisii* - Heard and one or two female plumaged birds seen in the upper Minamb Valley.
301. **#Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise** *Seleucidis melanoleucus* - Undoubtedly one of the highlights of this wonderful trip. We arrived at the perfect moment along the Fly River to hear and then see the male fly to his perch and commence displaying to two females including tickling the chin of one female with his wires!
302. **#Superb Bird of Paradise** *Lophorina superba* - We were treated to good 'scope views of a male in the Minamb Valley in addition to many female plumaged birds. Also heard near Kopia.
303. **(H) Victoria's Riflebird** *Ptiloris victoria* - Heard at Cassowary House.



304. (H) **Magnificent Riflebird** *Ptiloris magnificans* - Heard within Varirata NP.
305. **#Brown Sicklebill** *Epimachus meyeri* - At least two female plumaged birds gave us long and superb views as they attended the Kumul Lodge feeder.
306. **#Ribbon-tailed** *Astrapia Astrapia mayeri* - Surely one of the most alluring birds on our planet. Our sightings of this species began with a bang with simply breathtaking views of a fully plumaged adult male attending the feeder at Kumul Lodge. We encountered up to four immatures, two females and three males at the same site.



307. **#King Bird of Paradise** *Cicinnurus regius* - The unbelievably lovely male was 'scoped in lowland forest along the Ketu River. Several others were heard throughout the lowland forests of the Kiunga area.
308. **#Magnificent Bird of Paradise** *Cicinnurus (Diphyllodes) magnificus* - One male apparently attending a display lek was seen exceptionally well; two others were heard at the same site near Kopia in the Minamb Valley.
309. (H) **Blue Bird of Paradise** *Paradisaea rudolphi* - One heard in the Minamb Valley circa 1820m asl.



310. **Lesser Bird of Paradise** *Paradisaea minor* - Most frustratingly several birds were heard but only one glimpsed in flight near Kopia in the Minamb Valley.
311. **#Raggiana Bird of Paradise** *Paradisaea raggiana* - Common but not in full breeding plumage at Varirata NP and in the lowland forests of the Kiunga area.
312. **#Greater Bird of Paradise** *Paradisaea apoda* - Several fully plumaged males seen along the Km 17 Trail near Kiunga.
313. **#Lesser Melampitta** *Melampitta lugubris* - At least two pairs seen supremely well on two days deep within montane forest near Kumul Lodge. **NOTE:** Placed with the birds-of-paradise by Sibley and Alquist (1990), however, further study of this interesting taxonomic decision is surely required.

#### PETROICIDAE

314. **#Torrent Flycatcher** *Monacella mulleriana* - One in the Minamb Valley.
315. **#Lemon-bellied Flycatcher** *Microeca flavigaster* - Low numbers in the Savannah Woodland both on the Atherton Tablelands and at the periphery of Varirata NP.
316. **#Canary Flycatcher** *Microeca papuana* - Just one heard and seen in the upper Minamb Valley.
317. **#Garnet Robin** *Eugerygone rubra* - One adult male of this lovely but very elusive endemic was seen rather fortuitously in the Minamb Valley.
318. **#Pale Yellow Robin** *Tregallasio capito* - Common in rainforest on the Atherton Tablelands.
319. **#Eastern Yellow Robin** *Eopsaltria australis* - Good looks at several confiding birds in the forest at Minnamurra Falls.
320. **(H) Black-sided Robin** *Poecilodryas hypoleuca* - Heard commonly throughout the Kiunga lowlands.
321. **#White-winged Robin** *Peneothello sigillatus* - Notably common in montane forest at or near Kumul Lodge. Mostly adults seen but also a couple of well advance immatures (they were no longer speckled).
322. **#Grey-headed Robin** *Heteromyias cinereifrons* - Heard commonly and one seen superbly at the Cathedral Fig.



323. **(H)** Northern Scrub-Robin *Drymodes superciliaris* - One heard giving a rather half-hearted song in Varirata NP.

#### HIRUNDINIDAE

324. **#**Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica* - Widespread and moderately common in open habitat.
325. **#**Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena* - Common on the Atherton Tablelands.

#### PHYLLOSCOPIIDAE

326. Island Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus poliocephalus* - Common in secondary woodland in the Minamb Valley. **NOTE:** The taxonomy of the *Phylloscopus* warblers east of Wallace's Line requires a major revision.

#### LOCUSTELLIDAE

327. **#**Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis macrurus* - Two to three on three days in montane grasslands near Kumul Lodge. **NOTE:** Recently split as Papuan Grassbird in Vol 11 of the Handbook of Birds of the World.

#### CISTICOLIDAE

328. **#**Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis* - One in cattle pasture along Pickford's Road and two in scrubby grassland at the periphery of Varirata NP.

#### ZOSTEROPIDAE

329. **#**Black-fronted White-eye *Zosterops minor* - Common in the Minamb Valley.
330. **#**Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis* - Four at Kingfisher Park.

#### MUSCICAPIDAE

331. **#**Pied Bush-Chat *Saxicola caprata* - Low numbers regularly observed in rank regrowth along the roadside margins of the Minamb Valley.

#### TURDIDAE

332. **#** Island Thrush *Turdus poliocephalus* - Superb views of this upper montane species at the Kumul Lodge feeder and adjoining areas of grassland.

#### STURNIDAE

333. **#**Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica* - Common throughout the Kiunga lowlands.
334. **#**Yellow-faced Myna *Mino dumontii* - Widespread and common, seen daily throughout the lowlands and foothills.



335. **#Golden Myna** *Mino anais* - Good views of this handsome endemic on several occasions in the Kiunga lowland forests.

336. **#European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* **Intro.** - Locally common on the Atherton Tablelands.

337. **Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis* **Intro.** - Unfortunately common on the Atherton Tablelands.

#### DICAEIDAE

338. **#Red-capped Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum pectorale* - Fine views of a male and a female in the Minamb Valley.

339. **#Mistletoebird** *Dicaeum hirundinaceum* - One male seen very nicely at Cathedral Fig.

#### NECTARINIDAE

340. **#Black Sunbird** *Leptocoma sericea* - Notably quiet and consequently seemingly uncommon in the Kiunga lowlands. **NOTE:** Previously placed in the genus *Nectarinea* and given the species name *aspasia*.

341. **#Olive-backed Sunbird** *Cinnyris juglaris* - One female seen well along Pickford's Road.

#### MOTACILLIDAE

342. **#Australasian Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae* - Singles on two days on the Atherton Tablelands.

#### PASSERIDAE

343. **#House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* - **Intro.** Low numbers on the Atherton Tablelands; 12 along the Lea Lea Road near Port Moresby; one or two in Tabubil Township and at least 50 in Mt Hagen.

#### ESTRILIDAE

344. **#Mountain Firetail** *Oreostruthus fuliginosus* - One superb male in the grounds of Kumul Lodge.

345. **#Red-browed Firetail** *Neochmia temporalis* - Ten at Kingfisher Park.

346. **#Double-barred Finch** *Taeniopygia bichenovii* - Four along Pickford's Road.

347. **#Blue-faced Parotfinch** *Erythrura papuana* - One heard calling in flight near Kopia.



348. #Streak-headed Munia *Lonchura tristissima* - Two at the viewing mound along the Boy's Town Road. **NOTE:** Often split as White-spotted Munia.

The genus *Lonchura* is sometimes referred to as Manakin but *Munia* is better as it avoids confusion with a totally different family in South America. In addition it is the preferred name for this genus in the Oriental Region.

349. #Hooded Munia *Lonchura spectabilis* - Large numbers of birds seen in rank grassland within the Minamb Valley and near Kumul Lodge.

350. #Grey-headed Munia *Lonchura caniceps* - Common in the grounds of the PAU. Many immatures observed plus one active nest in a disused building.

351. #Chestnut-breasted Munia *Lonchura castaneothorax* - Common on the Atherton Tablelands.

## MAMMALS

1. Musky Rat Kangaroo *Hypsiprimnodon muschatus* - Several in the grounds of Cassowary House and at the Cathedral Fig.
2. Agile Wallaby *Macropus agilis* - One along Pickford's Road.
3. Giant Fruit-Bat *Pteropus neohibernicus*
4. Little Red Fruit-Bat *Pteropus scapulatus* - Several large camps near Kuranda.
5. Black-tailed Giant Rat *Uromys anak* - Kumul Lodge feeder.

