

13 October 2009_KDB

**The Birds, Mammals and other wildlife
recorded on the VENT PAPUA NEW GUINEA Tour 2009**



Ribbon-tailed Astrapia - © K. David Bishop

Compiled by
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The Papua New Guinea Tour Report 2009

This was one of those tours you just dream of; a fabulous group of sharp-eyed, charming and entertaining participants and some truly spectacular birds. This was arguably THE most comprehensive tour ever offered to PNG and the enormous bird-list reflects this coming in at a whopping 435 species of birds and at least ten species of mammals identified. But the list and numbers can never really convey the wonder of such a journey; yes we did see 23 species of birds of paradise and 18 species of kingfishers but any trip and especially this one to PNG is so very much more. Despite PNG's sometimes unsalubrious reputation the people are undoubtedly among THE most friendly and fascinating peoples on our planet.

Thunder literally did 'rumble across the heavens' and from the early hours the skies deluged our mountain fastness - Kumul Lodge with rain Australia can only dream of. Not you might think a propitious beginning to our one full day in the high-mountians of New Guinea. Think again. Despite the rain which did relent now and again we were absolutely in the right place at the right time. Kumul Lodge hosts one of the finest bird feeders in the world (ironically it is the only bird-feeder in all of PNG) and is host to some of the world's most spectacular birds. A delicious breakfast under our belt the entire group repaired to the large verandah overlooking the feeder. Birds came and went; more food was added by our obliging and thoughtful hosts; some of us took up vigil on the lower floor and all the while our local guide Max wandered around looking for anything to add to our already sumptuous feast. Imagine sitting coffee and cake in hand leisurely watching a full adult male Ribbon-tailed *Astrapia* or Brown Sicklebill just a few yards away and then suddenly Max is yelling in a hushed voice to come look at a male Crested Satinbird behind one of the cabins. The rain continued so it was back to the feeder and gradually this absolute gem of a place began to share its secrets. First it was the female Archbold's Bowerbird, pugnacious and not very attractive it nevertheless providing prolonged and unparalleled views of a bird that is normally very difficult to see. Brehms' Tiger-Parrots, Belford's *Melidectes*, Common Smoky Honeyeater and occasionally a male Regent Whistler - how dapper is he! And the normally secretive Rufous-naped Whistler pattered to and fro and provided a never ending scene of fascination. Cameras continued to click; the rain pattered on and another break to see a White-winged Robin at the nest. Much to everyones delight a Speckled *Dasyure* - one of New Guinea's oh so elusive carnivorous marsupials arrived at the feeder and foraged assiduously for maggots buried in the table of mosses that now cover the feeder. What a charmer! Then just a moment before lunch a female Chestnut Forest Rail wandered into view beneath the feeder. Simply unbelievable! The rain continued and so after lunch most of us continued our watch although a half-way decent break in the torrent permitted a short leg-stretch into the lodge grounds to enjoy Crested Berrypeckers but sadly the Painted Tiger-Parrots seen earlier by Max and Dion had disappeared. Back at the feeder things were really hotting up and much to this leader's astonishment a Bronze Ground-Dove had put in a brief appearance. Fortunately we had a very quite and patient group and within 30 minutes he

was back and so confident that he actually hopped from the ground right onto the feeder before being poked at and driven off by a pesky Belford's Melidectes! To see any *Gallicolumba* is exceptional but to see one repeatedly and so well is nothing short of astonishing. Just to conclude this 'rained-out' day we, at dusk all trooped down into the forest (happily the rain had finally stopped) to a clearing where Max had discovered a spot where we could actually see the almost mythical New Guinea Woodcock. Barely had we settled into position than we heard the strange calls of a woodcock roding; one bird briefly dropped into the forest and clambered along an angled trunk before disappearing again. Was that it? Fortunately not. Just as Max had predicted this fantastic bird called again and flew in and perched right in front of us on a clear, exposed tree limb permitting us the most wonderful views of this so very rarely encountered endemic. As always we had enquired about the resident owlet-nightjars but Max shook his head and said they had been too disturbed by some visiting birders and was now very difficult. Well the goddess Orni was with us and for those who persisted we were treated to some exquisite views of this most un-avian of birds!

This then is just one of the many remarkable days on this year's VENT rour of PNG. I have lived in and visited PNG (and West Papua) for 34 years and yet there is still so much new to see and be excited about. Just a handful of this tours highlights for me included:

- Returning down the might Fly River as the sun set I have never seen skies so immense, gilded in the most fabulous colours from horizon to horizon. A fitting tribute to one of the finest day's birding I have ever experienced in 34 years in New Guinea and many would agree THE finest sunsets they have witnessed.
- Exceptional views of the very poorly known Little Paradise Kingfisher
- A male Buff-tailed Sicklebill (Bird of Paradise) that granted me my first sound-recording of this very elusive endemic and some wonderful views as he displayed and foraged in the high canopy of the montane forest.
- A pair of Chestnut Forest Rails feeding young at the Kumul Lodge feeder.
- A pair of the rarely seen Doria's Hawks attending a huge nest deep within the forest.
- Good looks at a New Britain Buzzard as it floated right over our heads one morning.
- Oh then there were fabulous views of Southern Crowned Pigeon, male Blue Birds of Paradise; for a lucky couple three New Guinea Flightless Rails trundling down the track and, and Oh yes a hunting New Guinea Harpy Eagle!!!!!!!

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

Thanks too to all the people in PNG who help make this trip so much fun and so successful: Stephen, Anton, Loenard, Jenny, Jimmy and Gary in Port Moresby; Sam in Kiunga and Tabubil plus all the girls at the Kiunga Guest House; Benson and all our Huhli and Australian hosts at Ambua; Lyn, Max and Daniel and everyone at Kumul Lodge and Florence and everyone at Walindi.

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 Tabubil to Tari over thousands and thousands of square miles of tropical forest wilderness. 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. Some of you may be surprised at just how many species we saw well AND were able to study through the 'scope! Whilst 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 Bishop and Dion Hobcroft

DIARY

21 September 2009 - Arrive Port Moresby, PNG; Pacific Adventist College ponds. A vagrant Plumed Whistling Duck is a new species for David and Dion's PNG list!

22 September 2009 - Fly to Hoskins, West New Britain drive to Walindi Dive Resort. PM Kulu River.

23 September 2009 - AM drive to Tove logging concession; ascend to ca. 300m elevation; PM relict forest patch. Fabulous views of the rare New Britain Buzzard and Black Imperial Pigeon plus Webster's and White-mantled kingfishers.

24 September 2009 - Depart 05.30; boat to Malumalu and Restoffen islands; PM relict forest patch. Fine views of several Nicobar Pigeons and a New Britain Boobook to round off the day.

25 September 2009 - AM Kulu River then fly to Port Moresby; PM Houses of Parliament, Waigani and a brief tour of Port Moresby including the harbour. After much persistence good looks for near all at a Black-backed Paradise-kingfisher, Red-bellied Pitta and a Violaceous Coucal.

26 September 2009 - KDB's group flies to Mt Hagen and on thence by charters in the very fine new TNT aircraft to Bensbach; PM boat trip downstream on the Bensbach River. DH's group visit Varirata National Park in the am and then wait unsuccessfully for their flight to Daru and onto Bensbach. Eventually ON at the Airways.

27 September 2009 - KDB's group birds woodlands and forest around Bensbach Lodge; DH's group finally arrives Bensbach 11.30. PM boat trip down stream along the Bensbach River and a little hick-up! Great views of Great-billed Heron and Spangled Kookaburra.

28 September 2009 - 06.30 - 07.30 Birding woodlands and forest around Bensbach Lodge; 09.00 - 18.00 all day down Bensbach River as far as 'Three Hole'. Nocturnal walk. Palm Cockatoos, Sarus Cranes, White-spotted Munia.

Tues. 29 September 2009 - KDB's group depart Bensbach 07.45 arrive Kiunga 09.00; DH's group birding upstream of lodge; fly Bensbach to Kiunga arrive 12.45. PM Km 17.

Wed. 30 September 2009 - 05.30 depart to Boy's Town Road and Flame Bowerbird Hill; PM looking for New Guinea Flightless Rail. A vagrant Oriental Plover.

Thurs. 1 October 2009 - 05.30 depart on Fly River, Elevala River, return 18.00.

Fri. 2 October 2009 - AM Km 17 and forest trails; PM Kiunga airstrip and Boy's Town Road. A slow morning that included 'scope views of Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon; Oriental Plover at the airstrip and great views of Blue Jewel-babbler and Yellow-gaped Meliphaga in the afternoon.

Sat. 3 October 2009 - 05.15 depart up river to 12 wired BOP display site; King BOP display site; Common Paradise Kingfisher and super Wallace's Fairy-Wren; after lunch drive to Tabubil.

Sun. 4 October 2009 - AM Dablin Creek Track; PM Ok Menga area. Salvadori's Teal.

Mon. 5 October 2009 - AM Dablin Creek Track; Mid-AM fly to Tari and drive to Ambua Lodge, Southern Highlands Province. PM birding above the Bailey bridge and at the Tari Gap. Spectacular flight from Tabubil to Tari; exceptionally clear and smooth permitting a direct route over the Strickland Gorge and some truly magnificent tropical wilderness forest.

Tues. 6 October 2009 - AM Tari Valley - Blue Bird of Paradise; PM - Largely rained out.

Wed. 7 October 2009 - AM KDB to Benson's Trail; DH to lodge trails; PM KDB to lodge trails; DH to Benson's Trail. Buff-tailed Sicklebill; Chestnut Forest-Rail

Thurs. 8 October 2009 - AM KDB 07.30 depart for Tari and fly to Mt Hagen, drive to Rondon Ridge; DH birding lodge trails; depart for Tari 11.00 and fly to Mt Hagen; drive to Rondon Ridge; then entire group drives to Kumul Lodge in late afternoon. Papuan Treecreeper; 4 x Myzomela spp.

Fri. 9 October 2009 - Despite torrential rains all night and all day a very profitable time was spent watching the fabulous bird-feeder at Kumul Lodge - Ribbon-tailed Astrapia; Archbold's Bowerbird.

Sat. 10 October 2009 - Depart 05.00 to Kama Village, Laiap Valley return for lunch; PM fly to Port Moresby.

Sun. 11 October 2009 - Varirata National Park all day; Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher; nesting Doria's Hawk.

Mon. 12 September 2009 - Fly to Cairns; end tour.

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



Mountain Owlet-nightjar - © 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 by most if not all the group on one or more occasion.

* - Heard only

NON-PASSERINES

1. #Spotted Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna guttata* - Five seen well, roosting in large raintrees near the PAU ponds; ca. 20+ per day on the Bensbach River; one at dawn on the Fly River.
2. #Plumed Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni* - One seen delightfully well at the PAU ponds. This vagrant to New Guinea is known there from fewer than six records.
3. #Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata* - Ten at the PAU ponds and a flock of 40+ on the Bensbach River.
4. #Green Pygmy-Goose *Nettapus pulchellus* - A total of 30+ of these attractive waterfowl on the Bensbach River.
5. #Salvadori's Teal *Anas salvadorina* - A single adult swimming, diving and apparently feeding in the Ok Menga provided prolonged and very satisfying views of this usually difficult to find endemic. A second bird was seen by John near Ambua Lodge.
6. #Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa* - Twenty at the PAU ponds; 6-10 daily in WNB; a maxima of 15 on two days along the Bensbach River.
7. *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 throughout the Kiunga area; along the Elevala River and at Varirata NP and also saw their huge active nest mounds.
8. Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardti* - Disappointingly only one seen briefly near the Bensbach Lodge although several heard at night.
9. **Melanesian Scrubfowl** *Megapodius eremita* - Seen all too briefly in lowland forest, WNB.
NOTE: Until recently most scrubfowl taxa were lumped under one species: Common Scrubfowl *Megapodius freycinet*, however, Jones *et al* (1995) present clear and

compelling evidence that this is in fact a complex of several species. The species we encountered in West New Britain is *M. eremita*.

10. Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora* - One near the PAU College and two in the grasslands of the Tari Gap.
11. #Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae* - Two in breeding plumage at the PAU ponds.
12. #Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus* - A total of 30 on 28 Sept. mostly soaring over the Bensbach River.
13. #Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* - Circa 20 at the PAU ponds; low numbers (<10) along the Bensbach River and one along the Laiap River.
14. #Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos* - One on the Kulu River, WNB; Two and four daily on the Bensbach River; 15 along the Elevala River and two on the Fly River.
15. #Australian Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* - Low numbers (<10) daily along the Bensbach River.
NOTE: The Old World populations of Darter represent one of a handful of species whose taxonomic status has flipped back-and-forth at the vagary of taxonomic opinion. Some authorities treat the three forms of the Darter which inhabit Africa, Asia and Australia as a single species *Anhinga melanogaster*. Other authorities treat the taxa of each continent as separate species. Clearly the three taxa form a superspecies, whether or not these taxa have yet evolved as fully-fledged species is open to conjecture. The taxon found in the Americas, *Anhinga anhinga* is widely regarded as specifically distinct from Old World form(s).
16. #Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel* - Four females over Malumalu and Restoffen islands, WNB.
17. #Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis* - One adult along the Kulu River and one in cattle pasture within a small patch of trees near a small pool, Numundo Plantation, WNB.
18. #Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana* - A maxima of six recorded along the Bensbach River where observed daily including adults and immatures. Wonderfully confiding and heard roaring indicating that some birds were breeding.
19. #Great Egret *Casmerodius alba* - Small numbers at the PAU ponds; along the Bensbach River and along the Elevala River.
NOTE: Placed by some authorities in *Egretta* or *Ardea*.

20. **#Pied Heron** *Egretta picata* - A very handsome heron; ca 10 at the PAU ponds and flocks as large as 20+ in the Bensbach region.
NOTE: Placed by some authorities in *Ardea*.
- #Intermediate Egret** *Mesophoyx intermedia* - Ten at the PAU ponds; low numbers (<10) daily along the Bensbach River. Also known as Plumed or Short-billed Egret.
NOTE: Placed by some authorities in *Egretta*.
21. Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* - Two at the PAU ponds and one or two daily along the Bensbach River.
22. **#Pacific Reef-Heron** *Demigretta sacra* - One dark morph on Malumalu and Restoffen islands, WNB. Also known as Eastern Reef-Heron
23. **#Eastern Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus coromandus* - Several en route to and 20+ at the PAU ponds; 50+ on Port Moresby airstrip; 40+ most days in the Bensbach region; Interestingly none recorded this year in WNB.
NOTE: Previously treated as single species *Bulbulcus ibis*.
24. **#Striated Heron** *Butoroides striatus* - 1-3 daily along the Bensbach River and four along the Elevala River. Also known as Little, Mangrove and Green-backed Heron.
25. **#Rufous Night-Heron** *Nycticorax caledonicus* - Small numbers daily at the PAU ponds and in WNB. Large numbers mainly derived from a large roost of 50+ along the Bensbach River. Also known as Nankeen Night-Heron.
26. **#Australian White Ibis** *Threskiornis molucca* - Six near the PAU ponds represents an increasingly regular occurrence of this species in the Port Moresby area. Low numbers (<10) daily in the Bensbach region.
27. **#Straw-necked Ibis** *Threskiornis spinicollis* - Low numbers (<10) daily in the Bensbach region.
28. **#Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* - Very low numbers (<6) most days along the Bensbach River.
29. **#Royal Spoonbill** *Platalea regia* - One or two seen daily in flight over the Bensbach River.

30. **#Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*** - One over the PAU ponds and one or two daily in West New Britain; one on two days along the Bensbach River. Likely all of these birds were migrants from the Palearctic.
31. **#Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*** - One at Tove forest, WNB; two on two days near Bensbach Lodge; one or two daily in the lowland forests around Kiunga and along the Elevala River and one in the Tari Valley; observations included several individuals exhibiting their spectacular display flight. Also known as Crested Hawk.
32. **#Long-tailed Buzzard *Henicopernis longicauda*** - One or two most days in the Bensbach and Kiunga area. This is a very striking and distinctive endemic.
33. **#New Britain Buzzard *Henicopernis infuscatus*** - At least two individuals seen, including superlative views of one in flight right over our heads along a ridge (250 m asl) within primary forest in the Tove area, WNB.
34. **#Black Kite *Milvus migrans*** - Common in the Mt Hagen/Kumul Lodge area; one or two near the PAU ponds.
35. **#Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*** - Several at the PAU ponds and very common in the Bensbach area including a flock of ca. 150 seen at one site along the river.
36. **#Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*** - Widespread and moderately common; 1-20 seen on many days except at the highest elevations.
37. **#White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*** - One pair nesting on Restoffen Island, WNB; as many as 15 counted along the Bensbach River where recorded daily; one along the Fly River.
38. **#New Guinea Pied Harrier *Circus spilothorax*** - One female on the ground at Mt. Hagen airstrip and good views of an immature hunting close to our bus over a scrubby clearing in the Tari Valley.
NOTE: The New Guinea field guide makes a real hash of this taxon calling it 'Spotted Marsh Harrier'. Whilst New Guinea Pied Harrier (a.k.a. Papuan Harrier) still awaits formal recognition as a separate species from Asian and European marsh harriers, it is clearly so very distinct and geographically isolated that most recent authors have referred to it as a full separate and therefore endemic species.
39. **#Variable Goshawk *Accipiter hiogaster*** - One or two daily in West New Britain; one in the Bensbach area; one along the Elevala River and or two soaring low over the Dublin Creek Track on two days.

NOTE: Grey Goshawk *A. novaehollandiae* is now confined to Australia and the highly variable populations that inhabit the islands of Wallacea, New Guinea and the Solomon Is. are now treated as a separate species *A. hiogaster*. White morphs are extremely rare within *hiogaster* whereas they are moderately common in *novaehollandiae*.

40. **#Brown Goshawk** *Accipiter fasciatus* - One soaring distantly as we approached the PAU ponds; one near Bensbach Lodge.
41. **Black-mantled Goshawk** *Accipiter melanochlamys* - One adult seen distantly by Dion within forest near Ambua Lodge.
42. **#Grey-headed Goshawk** *Accipiter poliocephalus* - Super 'scope views of this handsome endemic along the Boy's Town Road.
43. Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrhocephalus* - One male along the Bensbach River.
44. Meyer's Goshawk *Accipiter meyerianus* - One immature soaring, mid-morning over the Tari Valley.
45. **#New Guinea Harpy Eagle** *Harpyopsis noveaguineae* - Undoubtedly one of THE highlights of the entire tour! An adult initially flushed from on our near the floor of lowland forest at Km 17, Kiunga area then proceeded to scramble about in the canopy - seemingly hunting for presumably a 'cuscus' as we watched and photographed in wonder.
46. **#Doria's Hawk** *Megatriorchis doriae* - Yet another tour highlight with one adult studied at length perched on its large stick nest deep within Varirata Nat. Pk. We subsequently saw two birds flying very low over the canopy looking very large, powerful and long-winged. This is one New Guinea's least known endemics.
47. Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax* - Distant views of two soaring near 'Three Hole' along the Bensbach River.
48. **New Guinea Hawk- (Little) Eagle** *Hieraetus weiskei* - Singles seen in flight along the Elevala River; Boy's Town Road, Kiunga area and Varirata Nat. Pk.
49. Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis* - One seen at dusk as it flew over our boat near Bensbach Lodge.
50. **#Brown Falcon** *Falco berigora* - One near Bensbach Lodge; two in the Tari Valley and one in the Western Highlands.

51. Red-backed Buttonquail *Turnix maculosa* - One flushed by Bill and Dion in rank grassland near the PAU ponds.
52. **#**Brolga Crane *Grus rubicunda* - A maxima of ten seen on one day but also seen daily in the Bensbach area. This species breeds in the southern TransFly of New Guinea.
53. **#**Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* - Totals of six on two days including one immature along the Bensbach River. This impressive species breeds in the southern TransFly of New Guinea.
54. **#**Chestnut Forest-Rail *Rallina rubra* - A male seen sensationally at close range on Benson's Trail, Ambua area and a pair seen superbly and at length on two days at Kumul Lodge, including feeding a fluffy black chick on our last morning.
55. **Forbes' Forest-Rail** *Rallina forbesi* - Heard along Benson's Trail, Ambua area and seen briefly by Dion along the Waterfall Track.
56. **#**Red-necked Crake *Rallina tricolor* - Superb extended views of one foraging along the river bank, Elevara River, Western Province. Heard the following morning within swampy forest in the same area.
57. *****Rufous-tailed Bush-Hen *Amaurornis moluccanus* - Heard in a small forest patch in WNB; along the Bensbach River; near Kiunga on the Fly River.
NOTE: Split from Plain Bush-hen *Amaurornis olivaceus*.
58. **#**Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis* - Good looks at one in a pasture in WNB and singles on two days near the Bensbach Lodge.
59. *****Pink-legged Crake *Gallirallus insignis* - Heard in lowland forest, WNB.
60. *****White-browed Crake *Porzana cinerea* - Heard at the PAU ponds; heard at a small pond in WNB.
61. **#**New Guinea Flightless Rail *Megacrex inepta* - Two or three seen very well as they trundled along a bush-track near Boy's Town Road, Kiunga area, Western Province.
62. **#**Black-backed (Purple) Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio* - Very common at the PAU ponds and several along the Bensbach River.
NOTE: The swamphens have now been split into five species.
63. **#**Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa* - Several at the PAU ponds.

64. **#Masked Lapwing** *Vanellus miles* - Widespread and locally common in open habitat.
65. **#Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva* - One in partial breeding plumage at the PAU ponds; low numbers on the airstrip at Hoskins, WNB and in the Bensbach area.
66. **#Greater Sandplover** *Charadrius leschenaultia* - Two at a high tide roost in Kimbe Bay, WNB.
67. **#Oriental Plover** *Charadrius veredus* - One first year bird seen well at Kiunga airstrip represents an unusual record and a rare opportunity to study this attractive 'shorebird'.
68. **#Comb-crested Jacana** *Irediparra gallinacea* - Two at the PAU ponds and small numbers (<4) along the Bensbach River.
69. **#Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus* - Four at a high-tide roost near Walindi, Kimbe Bay, WNB.
70. **#Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* - Scattered low numbers along most rivers and coastal areas.
71. **#Grey-tailed Tattler** *Tringa brevipes* - A high-tide roost of 30+ near Walindi, Kimbe Bay, WNB.
72. **#Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* - One at a high-tide roost near Walindi, Kimbe Bay, WNB.
73. **#Little Curlew** *Numenius minutus* - One at Hoskins airstrip, WNB; three at Daru and several hundred (ca. 400 total) on short grasslands, Bensbach.
74. **#Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* - 2-3 in Kimbe Bay, WNB.
75. **#Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* - Three at a high-tide roost near Walindi, Kimbe Bay, WNB.
76. **#Snipe sp.** *Gallinago sp* - One seen superbly at the PAU ponds and then a total of six in cattle pasture in West New Britain.
77. **#New Guinea Woodcock** *Scolopax rosenbergii* - Thanks to some truly fine field work by Max we were all treated to amazing views of a single adult as it flew in at dusk and perched at the appointed place deep within beautiful moss-forest near Kumul Lodge. Listening to the peculiar roding calls of this rarely seen species and, for a few of us

brief glimpses of individuals on the forest floor and clambering along sloping trees in the mid-storey only added to the mystic of this strange creature.

NOTE: A paper recently reviewed this taxon and others to the west Indonesia and The Philippines and concluded that in view of the considerable physical isolation of the New Guinea birds together with differences in morphology and vocalisations New Guinea birds should be treated as a separate species from Dusky Woodcock *Scolopax russatus*.

78. **#**Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella* - Fairly common in the Bensbach River plains with maxima of 20 on one day.
79. **#**Black Noddy *Anous minutus* - One seen well in flight in Kimbe Bay, WNB.
80. **#**Little Tern *Sternula albifrons* - One in Kimbe Bay, WNB and one daily along the Bensbach River.
81. **#**Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* - One along the Bensbach River.
82. Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* - One or two along the Bensbach River.
83. **#**Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana* - Ten of these elegant birds in Kimbe Bay, WNB.
84. **#**Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* - Twenty on one day and 30 on another observed in Kimbe Bay, WNB.
85. **#**Great Crested Tern *Sterna bergii* - Small numbers in Kimbe Bay, WNB.
86. **#**Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* - Port Moresby; Mt Hagen.
87. **#**Amboina Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis* - Seen most days in low numbers throughout the lowlands and hills. Also known as Slender-billed Cuckoo-dove.
88. **#**Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia nigrirostris* - Three in the Waghi Valley just below Rondon Ridge Lodge.
89. **#**Mackinlay's Cuckoo-dove *Macropygia mackinlayi* - Great views of this supertramp on Restoffen Island, WNB.
90. Great Cuckoo-Dove *Reinwardtoena reinwardtii* - Nice looks at this handsome species in flight along the Elevala River, at Km 17 and along the Dablin Creek Track.

91. Giant Pied Cuckoo-dove *Reinwardtoena browni* - One seen several times in flight in the Tove Forest area, WNB.
92. Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* - One in flight at the PAU ponds.
93. **#**Stephan's Ground-Dove *Chalcophaps stephani* - Singles seen briefly in flight, daily in the lowland forests of West New Britain; superb 'scope views of one near the Kulu River, WNB and ones and twos seen daily in flight in the lowland forests of the Kiunga area.
94. **#**Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata* - Several at the PAU ponds and in the Bensbach area. **NOTE:** Peaceful Dove is lumped by some authorities with Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata* of SE Asia.
95. **#**Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis* - One at the PAU ponds and then seen daily in the Bensbach area including a flock of 30+ congregating along the river.
96. *Cinnamon Ground-Dove *Galicolumba rufigula* - Heard very closeby in slightly rolling lowland forest along the Boy's Town Road, Kiunga area, WP. This is an extremely rarely encountered species.
97. **#**Bronze Ground-Dove *Gallicolumba beccarii* - Unbeleivable views of a relatively coinfigiding male at the Kumul Lodge feeder including this individual actually on the feeder.
98. *Thick-billed Ground-Pigeon *Trugon terrestris* - Heard along the Boy's Town Road.
99. **#**Southern Crowned Pigeon *Goura scheepmakeri* - One of THE major highlights of the entire tour; one gorgeous individual sat out and graced us with wonderful views in the early morning sun along the Elevela River, WP. Wow what a bird.
100. **#**Wompoo Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus* - Heard at Varirata NP and throughout the lowland forests of the Kiunga area and seen nicely on a couple of occasions but inparticular by the entire group on our last morning at Varirat NP.
101. **#**Pink-spotted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus perlatus* - Notably common throughout the Kiunga lowland forests including some fine 'scope studies; also seen in Varirata NP;
102. **#**Ornate Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus ornatus* - Good 'scope views of two above Ambua Lodge.

103. **#Orange-fronted Fruit-dove *Ptilinopus aurantifrons*** - Sumptuous views of this very lovely fruit-dove at several sites in the Bensbach area.
104. **#Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*** - Several along the Elevela River and in Varirata NP and a superb study of a very handsome male along the Dablin Creek Track.
105. **Coroneted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus coronulatus*** - Heard and seen briefly in the Bensbach area and Varirat Nat. Pk.
106. **#Beautiful Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus pulchellus*** - Several seen and heard throughout the Kiunga lowland forests; along the Dablin Creek Track and within Varirata NP.
107. **#White-breasted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus rivoli*** - One seen at Varirata NP - a very unusual record; as many as four seen superbly at fruiting trees on Benson's Trail, Ambua area.
108. **#Orange-bellied Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus iozonus*** - Widespread and common in the lowland forests around Kiunga.
109. **#Knob-billed Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus insolitus*** - Common in lowland forest of WNB.
110. **Dwarf Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus nanus*** - A rather poor showing this year with ones and twos seen in flight and heard throughout the Kiunga area and along the Elevela River; seen and heard on our last day at Varirata Nat. Pk.
111. **#Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula rubricera*** - Common throughout the lowland forests of northern West New Britain.
112. **#Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula rufigaster*** - 1-3 heard or seen daily in the Kiunga lowland forests and at least half the group were able to enjoy wonderful 'scope views of this elusive endemic. Several seen in flight over the Elevela River.
113. **#Finsch's Imperial Pigeon *Ducula finschii*** - Several heard and superbly seen in the lowland forests of northern West New Britain.
114. **#Island Imperial Pigeon *Ducula pistrinaria*** - Notably common in and around Restoffen Island, WNB. Also known as Grey Imperial Pigeon
115. **#Pinon Imperial Pigeon *Ducula pinon*** - Good to see this favourite for the hunter's pot still fairly common in the Kiunga area lowland forests and along the Elevela River.
116. **#Black (Bismarck) Imperial Pigeon *Ducula melanochroa*** - Exceptional 'scope views of 2-3 of these predominantly montane species in the Tove area, WNB.

117. **#Collared Imperial Pigeon *Ducula muellerii*** - Notably uncommon this year along the Elevala and Fly rivers although several small groups seen exceptionally well along the Bensbach River.
118. **#Zoe Imperial Pigeon *Ducula zoeae*** - Seen and heard daily in modest numbers at all sites visited in the Kiunga lowland forests and around Tabubil and within Varirata NP.
119. **#Bismarck Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula subflavescens*** - Moderately common in the lowland forest of northern West New Britain.
NOTE: See below
120. **#Torresian Imperial Pigeon *Ducula spilorrhoa*** - A flock of five at the PAU ponds and common daily in the Bensbach area.
NOTE: The taxonomy of this group requires revision. Some authors treat Wallacea, Bismarck, New Guinea and Australian populations as a separate species whereas others lump them all as a single species
121. **#Papuan Mountain Pigeon *Gymnophaps albertisii*** - Notably uncommon this year with a handful of small flocks seen in flight on several days in the Kiunga lowlands. Also seen giving display flights above Ambua Lodge.

What a truly spectacular assemblage of parrots, lorries, cockatoos and lorikeets we encountered on this tour including fine views of some very special species.

122. **#Palm Cockatoo *Probosciger aterrimus*** - Absolutely cosmic views of one of THE great birds of the trip; several individuals seen in the Bensbach area including a group of four early one morning over the airstrip near the lodge; a total of eight along the Elevala River and one or two daily in the lowland forests of the Kiunga area.
123. **#Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*** - Seen and heard in modest numbers on most days in the Bensbach and Kiunga areas and along the Elevala River.
124. **#Blue-eyed Cockatoo *Cacatua ophthalmica*** - Rather uncommon this year with just a handful seen in the lowland forests of northern West New Britain.
125. **#Greater Streaked Lory *Chalcopsitta scintillata*** - Low numbers daily throughout the Kiunga lowland forests including good 'scope views of two along the Boy's Town Road.
126. **#Dusky Lory *Pseudeos fuscata*** - Several groups seen very nicely along the Dabblin Creek track, Tabubil area.

127. **#Rainbow Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus haematodus* - Widespread and locally common.
128. **Goldie's Lorikeet** *Psitteuteles goldei* - Only seen very briefly in flight in the Tari Valley.
129. **#Eastern Black-capped Lory** *Lorius hypoinochrous* - Wonderfully common throughout the lowland forests of West New Britain.
130. **#Western Black-capped Lory** *Lorius lori* - Heard and seen daily in good numbers (2-20 per day) at all sites visited in the lowlands and hills. Truly a spectacular bird.
131. **#Red-flanked Lorikeet** *Charmosyna placentis* - Moderately common in the lowlands of West New Britain and we finally obtained good 'scope views at the Walindi Lodge; notably uncommon this year in the lowlands of the Kiunga area.
132. **Little Red Lorikeet** *Charmosyna pulchella* - Several heard in flight and flock of 20+ zoomed low over our heads along the Dablin Creek Track, Tabubil area.
133. **#Papuan Lorikeet** *Charmosyna papou* - Fabulous views both in flight and as they foraged within upper montane forest above Ambua Lodge.
134. **Plum-faced Lorikeet** *Oreopsittacus arfaki* - Heard and seen regularly in flight and above Ambua Lodge.
135. **#Yellow-billed Lorikeet** *Neopsittacus musschenbroekii* - Common throughout the Ambua Lodge area including good looks at one in the Tari Valley.
136. **Orange-billed Lorikeet** *Neopsittacus pullicauda* - Common above Ambua Lodge but mostly seen in flight; one seen well during a soggy afternoon at Kumul Lodge.
137. ***Pesquet's Parrot** *Psittarchas fulgidus* - Heard by your leaders at Dablin Creek but other than a sniff of this one of New Guinea's few truly threatened species.
138. **Yellow-capped Pygmy-Parrot** *Micropsitta keiensis* - Heard and seen daily at all sites visited in the Kiunga lowlands but only one seen reasonably well, perched.
139. **Buff-faced Pygmy-Parrot** *Micropsitta pusio* - Common in the lowland forests of northern West New Britain and Varirata Nat. Park but only seen by a few thru the 'scope.
140. **Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrot** *Micropsitta bruijnii* - Very few heard or seen this year; just a couple seen and heard briefly in flight along the Dablin Creek Track.

141. **#Orange-breasted Fig-Parrot** *Cyclopsitta guilmiterti* - Notably common in the Bensbach area; the Kiunga lowland forests and Tabubil area including many fine and prolonged 'scope views.
142. **Double-eyed Fig-Parrot** *Cyclopsitta diophthalma* - Moderately common throughout the lowland forests of the Kiunga area.
143. **Large Fig-Parrot** *Psittaculirostris desmarestii* - Three seen in flight along the Elevel River.
144. **Painted Tiger-Parrot** *Psittacella picta* - Two seen by Dion and Maz at Kumul Lodge.
145. **#Brehm's Tiger-Parrot** *Psittacella brehmi* - Fabulous views of this unusual and handsome species at Kumul Lodge; one seen on the waterfall trail at Ambua Lodge.
146. **#Red-cheeked Parrot** *Geoffroyus geoffroyi* - Notably common and widespread with good to modest numbers (10 - 20) seen most days in the Bensbach and Kiunga areas.
147. **Blue-collared Parrot** *Geoffroyus simplex* - Several heard and seen very poorly (as usual) from the Dablin Creek Track.
148. **#Eclectus Parrot** *Eclectus roratus* - Wonderfully common throughout the lowland woodlands and forests of West New Britain (a flock of 70+ emerging from a nighttime roost presented a wonderful spectacle); the Bensbach and Kiunga areas.
149. **#Papuan King-Parrot** *Alisterus chloropterus* - One or two of these spectacular birds seen supremely well by everyone in the Tari Valley; also recorded in Varirata Nat. Pk.
150. **#Red-winged Parrot** *Aprosmictus aprosmictus* - Common on one day in the Bensbach area when seen very nicely albeit in flight.
151. **Papuan Hanging-Parrot** *Loriculus aurantifrons* - Two seen briefly in flight along the Boy's Town Road and the Ok Menga.
152. **#Oriental Cuckoo** *Cuculus saturatus* - One along the Boy's Town Road and a group of three along the Fly River provided a unusual sighting of this uncommon Palearctic migrant.
153. **#Brush Cuckoo** *Cacomantis variolosus* - Widespread, heard and/or seen most days in the lowlands and hills.

154. Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis castaneiventris* - Very quiet this year with just one seen rather briefly along the Dablin Creek Track.
155. Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis* - One seen in the Laiam Valley.
156. ***Rufous-throated Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx ruficollis*** - Despite being heard several times near Ambua Lodge it just would not common in to our sound-recording.
157. **#White-eared Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx meyeri*** - One seen well along the Dablin Creek track in the Tabubil area.
158. **#Little Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*** - Notably vocal and thus seemingly common and conspicuous this year with one or two seen or heard daily in the Bensbach and Kiunga areas.
NOTE: The taxonomy of the closely related *Chrysococcyx* taxa requires considerably more work before the group's species limits are fully understood. Until this group's taxonomy is resolved we prefer to identify the various taxa we encounter in the field as separate species.
159. **White-crowned Koel *Caliechthrus leucolophus*** - Seen well in flight along the Elevala River; also heard along the Dablin Creek Track and at Varirata National Park.
160. **#Dwarf Koel *Microdynamis parva*** - Thanks to some good work by Daphne we all enjoyed good scope views of this very difficult to see, aberrant cuckoo along the Boy's Town Road. Hear elsewhere in the Kiunga lowlands; along the Dablin Creek Track and in Varirata Nat. Pk.
161. **#Australian Koel *Eudynamis cyanocephala*** - One female seen well in flight along the Elevala River and several males seen throughout the Kiunga areas; Heard several times in the Kiunga lowland forests and Tabubil area.
NOTE: Australian Koel is lumped by some authorities with populations from southern Asia, east and southwards to Wallacea. Again this species complex requires a great deal more field and museum work to resolve its true taxonomic status.
162. ***Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea*** - Heard in West New Britain.
163. **#Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*** - Surprisingly just one seen; a single in flight over Restoffen Island, WNB.
164. **#Violaceous Coucal *Centropus violaceus*** - One seen very well near the Kulu River and heard daily throughout the lowland forests of West New Britain.

165. ***Greater Black Coucal *Centropus menbeki*** - Heard daily around Kiunga.
166. **#Pied Coucal *Centropus ateralbus*** - Good looks a several individuals in the lowland forest of northern West New Britain.
167. **#Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianus*** - Seen well on a number of occasions near the PAU ponds; the Bensbach area and Varirata Nat. Pk.
168. **#Lesser Black Coucal *Centropus bernsteini*** - Singles seen superbly in the Kiunga lowland forests.
169. **#Greater Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa*** - Good views of one at its roost in the Tari Valley.
170. **#New Britain Boobook *Ninox odiosa*** - Seen very nicely by all on our second night of trying; several others heard; WNB.
171. **#Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*** - One found by our guide during the day near the Bensbach Lodge.
172. **#Papuan Boobook *Ninox theomacha*** - Seen superbly at the same roosting tree as Greater Sooty Owl in the Tari Valley.
173. **#Mountain Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles albertisi*** - Fabulous views of this most un-avian-looking species as it gathered moths from the windows of Kumul Lodge.
174. **#Barred Owlet-Nightjar *Aegotheles bennettii*** - Undoubtedly one of the highlights of this fabulous tour; thanks to local knowledge we were all able to dwell on this fabulous and rarely seen species as it peered from its roost hole in Varirata NP; both at the start and end of our tour!
175. **#Papuan Frogmouth *Podargus papuensis*** - Great 'scope studies of one at the PAU; heard at Bensbach and an adult seen on the nest with one young in Varirata Nat. Pk. This is truly a special bird.
176. **#Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*** - At least one seen well on the airstrip at Bensbach Lodge.
177. **#Papuan Spine-tailed Swift *Mearnsia novaeguineae*** - Superb views, daily, of this wonderful forest swift, at all sites visited in the Kiunga lowlands. Surprisingly a group of ten seen along the Bensbach River on one day.

178. **#White-throated Needletail** *Hirundapus caudacutus* - Two of these impressive Palearctic migrants seen nicely over the Bensbach River.
179. **#Glossy Swiftlet** *Collocalia.esculenta* - Widespread.
180. **#Mountain Swiftlet** *Collocalia hirundinacea* - Several daily throughout the Ambua and Tabubil areas; also at Rondon Ridge.
181. **#White-rumped Swiftlet** *Collocalia spodiopygia* - Common, WNB.
182. **#Uniform Swiftlet** *Collocalia vanikorensis* - Seen commonly daily at all sites visited in the West New Britain and Kiunga lowlands.
183. **#Moustached Tree-Swift** *Hemiprocne mystacea* - Several superb 'scope views of this very handsome species in West New Britain; the Bensbach area; the Kiunga area and Varirata Nat. Pk.
184. **#Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis* - Two at a small pond on cattle pasture, WNB.
185. **#Azure Kingfisher** *Alcedo azurea* - One seen beautifully along the Bensbach River; two along the Elevala River; and one at Varirata Nat. Pk.
186. **#Little Kingfisher** *Ceyx pusillus* - One flew across our boat and then three were seen the following day along the Bensbach River.
187. **#Variable Dwarf Kingfisher** *Ceyx lepidus* - Two seen very nicely along the Boy's Town Road and one seen by a lucky few in Varirata Nat. Pk.
188. **#Webster's Kingfisher** *Ceyx websteri* - Fabulous and prolonged views of this increasingly rarely seen endemic on our first morning in the lowland forests of northern West New Britain.
189. **#Spangled Kookaburra** *Dacelo tyro* - Wonderful to see this splendid and very localised endemic right on the door-step of the Bensbach Lodge; several seen daily.
190. **#Blue-winged Kookaburra** *Dacelo leachii* - Two near the PAU ponds; two at Varirata Nat. Pk., two daily in the Bensbach area.
191. **#Rufous-bellied Kookaburra** *Dacelo gaudichaud* - Several of these spectacular birds seen and heard most days in the forested lowlands of the Bensbach and Kiunga areas and Varirata Nat. Pk.

192. **#Forest Kingfisher** *Halcyon macleayi* - Notably common along the Bensbach River with as many as ten seen daily.
193. **#Collared Kingfisher** *Todiramphus chloris* - One or two seen rather well in WNB.
194. **#Beach Kingfisher** *Todiramphus saurophaga* - Marvellous views of this handsome species on Restoffen Island, WNB.
195. **#White-mantled Kingfisher** *Todiramphus albonotata* - Amazing views of two pairs of this very elusive endemic in the lowland forests of northern West New Britain.
196. **#Sacred Kingfisher** *Todiramphus sanctus* - Widespread and present in low numbers in West New Britain but common and seen daily the Bensbach area
197. **Hook-billed Kingfisher** *Melidora macrorrhina* - Notably quiet this year; this charismatic species but frustratingly ultra shy, skulker despite our best efforts eluded our eyes this year.
198. **#Yellow-billed Kingfisher** *Syma torotoro* - Sensational views of three in Varirata Nat. Pk. And near Bensbach Lodge; several heard in the Kiunga lowlands.
199. ***Mountain Kingfisher** *Syma megarhyncha* - Heard in the Tari Valley.
200. ***Buff-breasted Paradise-kingfisher** *Tanysiptera sylvia* - One heard but only seen by Dion inside forest at Km 17, Kiunga area.
201. **#Lesser Paradise-Kingfisher** *Tanysiptera hydrocharis* - A pair of these exquisite birds put on a great show permitting exceptional 'scope views of this very poorly known endemic; Ketu River, Western Province.
202. **#Common Paradise-Kingfisher** *Tanysiptera galatea* - Two to three responsive individuals flew in permitting everyone good views of this spectacular species; Elevela River. Several others heard and seen in the same general area of swampy lowland forest.
203. **#Brown-headed Paradise-Kingfisher** *Tanysiptera danae* - Quite unbelievable looks at a very confiding adult and several others heard in Varirata Nat. Pk.
204. **#Black-backed Paradise -Kingfisher** *Tanysiptera nigriceps* - Fabulous 'scope views of this exciting endemic in the lowland forests of northern West New Britain; many others heard.

NOTE: Sometimes lumped with Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher.... but not by anyone who really knows this bird!

205. **#**Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippensis* - Notably common in any open areas throughout the Bensbach area, WP.
206. **#**Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus* - One or two at the PAU ponds. We were probably lucky to see this species as most birds appear to have migrated south to Australia.
207. **#**Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis* - Common and seen daily in the Bensbach, Kiunga and Tabubil areas.
208. **#**Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus* - Superb views of both males and females both perched and in flight in the forests of northern West New Britain and along the Elevala River and Boy's Town Road.

PASSERINES

209. *Hooded Pitta *Pitta erythrogaster* - Heard in flooded lowland forest along the Elevala River and throughout the Kiunga area.
210. Blue-breasted Pitta *Pitta erythrogaster* - Good but brief views of one very responsive individual in forest along the Kulu River, WNB.
211. **#**Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica* - Widespread and moderately common; recorded almost daily.
212. **#**Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans* - Twenty along the Bensbach River and one along the Boy's Town Road.
213. **#**Horsfield's (Australian) Bushlark *Mirafra javancia* - Several in the short grass Bulla Plains of the Bensbach area.
214. Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeselandiae* - One a Mt. Hagen airport.

215. Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* - One of these uncommon Palearctic migrants along the Dablin Creek Track.
216. **#Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina novaehollandiae* - Several in and around Port Moresby, PAU and the Bensbach area..
217. **#Stout-billed Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina caeruleogrisea* - A group of five along the Dablin Creek track put on a good show; also recorded at Varirata Nat. PK.
218. **#Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina lineate* - Two in Varirata Nat. PK.
219. **#Boyer's Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina boyeri* - Low numbers daily in the Kiung lowland forests; also recorded in Varirata Nat. PK.
220. **#White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina papuensis* - Widespread and moderately common in WNB; the Bensbach and Kiunga areas.
221. ***Hooded Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina longicauda* - A groups of three heard and seen poorly along the waterfall trail at Ambua Lodge.
222. **#Common Cicadabird** *Coracina tenuirostris* - One or two most days in the Bensbach area; one in Varirata Nat. PK.
223. **#Black-shouldered (Sharpe's;Papuan) Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina incerta* - One male seen well along the Dablin Creek Track and one in the Tari Valley.
NOTE: This taxon is now widely regarded as a separate species from that in Sulawesi. As a consequence New Guinea birds acquire the species name *incerta*.
224. **#Grey-headed Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina schisticeps*- Notably uncommon this year in the Kiunga lowlands but much more common along the Dablin Creek Track where seen nicely.
225. **Black Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina melas* - A total of four seen and several others heard, Varirata Nat. PK.; one male with a black-and-brown flock along the Ketu River and two on our last day in Varirata Nat. PK.
NOTE: The specific name of Black Cuckoo-Shrike has changed from *melaena* to *melas*.
226. **#Golden Cuckoo-shrike** *Campochaera sloetii* - One pair seen superbly on two days along the Dablin Creek track.
227. **#Varied Triller** *Lalage leucomela* - Heard and seen on several days, in low numbers in the lowlands and hills.

228. **#**Island Thrush *Turdus poliocephalus* - Superb views of this upper montane species at the Tari Gap and Kumul Lodge.
229. Island Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus trivirgatus* - At least one at Ambua Lodge and one at Rondon Ridge.
NOTE: The taxonomy of the *Phylloscopus* warblers east of Wallace's Line requires a major revision.
230. Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis* - Daru Island and the Bensbach area.
231. **#**Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* - Several 'scoped in the Bensbach area.
232. Australian Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus australis* - One or two along the Bensbach River and one at the Kiunga port-site on the Fly River.
233. **Papuan Grassbird** *Megalurus macrurus* - Widespread and locally common in montane grasslands.
NOTE: Recently split from Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis* in Vol 11 of the Handbook of Birds of the World.
234. **#**Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis* - Several seen in the grasslands along the Bensbach River.
235. **#**Pied Bush-Chat *Saxicola caprata* - Widespread and common: Port Moresby, and throughout the highlands.
236. Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris* - One in lowland forest in northern West New Britain; one daily in the Bensbach area; and one seen well along the Dablin Creek Track.
237. **#**Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys* - Widespread and common; seen almost daily throughout the entire tour.
238. **#**Friendly Fantail *Rhipidura albolimbata* - Common and widespread throughout montane forest.
239. **#**Chestnut-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura hyperythra* - Great looks at several birds with mixed species flocks in Varirata Nat. Pk.
240. ***Sooty Thicket-Fantail** *Rhipidura threnothorax* - One pair heard along the Boy's Town Road, Kiunga area.

241. **White-bellied Thicket-Fantail** *Rhipidura leucothorax* - One seen along the Boy's Town Road and heard along the Elevela River.
242. **#Black Fantail** *Rhipidura atra* - One male seen nicely along Dablin Creek Track and several near Ambua Lodge.
243. **#Dimorphic Fantail** *Rhipidura brachyrhyncha* - Several seen and heard, upper montane forest above Ambua and Kumul lodges.
244. **#Rufous-backed Fantail** *Rhipidura rufidorsa* - Several in the Kiunga lowlands.
245. **Black Monarch** *Monarcha axillaris* - Two near Ambua Lodge.
246. **Black-faced Monarch** *Monarcha melanopsis* - One seen well by Dion with a mixed species flock, Varirata NP.
247. **#Spot-winged Monarch** *Monarcha guttula* - One very confiding individual with mixed species flocks along the Dablin Creek Track and in Varirata Nat. Pk.
248. **Hooded Monarch** *Monarcha manadensis* - One in lowland forests along the Ketu River.
249. **#Golden Monarch** *Monarcha chrysomela* - Fabulous views of a male along the Boy's Town Road and the Elevela River, Kiunga area.
250. **#Frisled Monarch** *Arses telescopthalmus* - Several fine looks at this striking species especially at Varirata Nat. Pk.
251. **#Leaden Flycatcher** *Myiagra rubecula* - Good looks at both males and females in the Bensbach area and Varirata Nat. Pk.
252. **#Shining Flycatcher** *Myiagra alecto* - One or two seen at the edge of lowland forest in WNB; the Bensbach area and the Kiunga lowlands. Thanks to some great work by Brit we all got to enjoy fine views of a female along the Elevela River.
253. **#Lesser Shining Flycatcher** *Myiagra hebetor* - Good looks at a very responsive male on our first morning in the lowland forests of northern West New Britain.
254. **#Black-breasted Boatbill** *Machaerirhynchus nigripectus* - Several seen very nicely in the Ambua Lodge area. A truly gorgeous montane endemic.

255. **#Yellow-breasted Boatbill** *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer* - Several seen well with mixed species flocks along the Km 17 track, Kiunga area and in Varirata Nat Pk.
256. **Lesser Ground-Robin** *Amalocichla incerta* - Rather quiet and unresponsive this year with just one seen all too briefly in montane forest above Ambua.
257. **#Torrent Flycatcher** *Monachella muelleriana* - One seen seen beautifully along the Ok Menga and two along the Laiap River.
258. **#Lemon-bellied Flycatcher** *Microeca flavigaster* - One in savannah woodland, Bensbach and a pair along the Dablin Creek Track.
259. **#Canary Flycatcher** *Microeca papuana* - Several daily in the Ambua Lodge area.
260. **#Garnet Robin** *Eugeryone rubra* - Super views of a male, female and immature along Benson's Track, Ambua area.
261. **#White-faced Robin** *Tregallasia leucops* - Two individuals in Varirata Nat. Pk.
262. ***Black-sided Robin** *Poecilodryas hypoleuca* - Heard commonly throughout the Kiunga lowlands.
263. **#Black-throated Robin** *Poecilodryas albonotata* - One adult feeding a persistently begging, striking orange and black juvenile along Benson's Track, Ambua area.
264. **#White-winged Robin** *Peneothello sigillatus* - One seen attending a nest at Kumul Lodge and another in the area of the famed bird-feeder.
265. ***White-rumped Robin** *Peneothello bimaculatus* - Heard very close-by along the Ok the Dablin Creek track.
266. **#Blue-grey Robin** *Poecilodryas cyanus* - One or two seen and heard daily in the Ambua area.
267. ***Black-cheeked Robin** *Heteromyias albispecularis* - One heard in montane forest, along Benson's trail; as always very shy.
NOTE: Split from the very different looking and sounding Ashy Robin of Australia.
268. ***Northern Scrub-Robin** *Drymodes superciliaris* - Heard Varirata NP.
269. **Mottled Whistler** *Rhagalogus leucosticte* - One male seen well on the Dablin Creek Track and one along the Ambua Lodge trail.

270. **Dwarf Whistler** *Pachycare flavogrisea* - One along the Dablin Creek Track. Also known as Goldenface
271. **#Rufous-naped Whistler** *Aleadryas rufinucha* - Frequent superb views of several confidings individuals in the Ambua and Kula lodge areas.
272. ***Rusty Whistler** *Pachycephala hyperythra* - Heard (seen by Dion) along the Dablin Creek Track.
273. **Brown-backed Whistler** *Pachycephala modesta* - Several seen in the Ambua Lodge area.
274. **#Grey Whistler** *Pachycephala simplex* - One along the Km 17 track, Kiunga area; and several with mixed flocks in Varirata Nat. Pk.
275. **Mangrove Golden Whistler** *Pachycephala melanura* - OK views of a male on Restoffen Island, WNB.
276. **#Regent Whistler** *Pachycephala schlegelii* - Several of these very striking birds on Benson's Tail, Ambua area and at Kumul Lodge.
277. **#Sclater's Whistler** *Pachycephala soror* - One male along the Dablin Creek Track and several seen nicely above Ambua Lodge.
278. **#Black-headed Whistler** *Pachycephala monacha* - One feeding in Albizia sp. Trees along the Dablin Creek Track; heard in the Tari Valley.
279. **#Rufous Shrike-thrush** *Colluricincla megarhyncha* - Widespread. Also known as Little Shrike-thrush
280. **#Grey Shrike-Thrush** *Colluricincla harmonica* - Good 'scope views of one at the PAU ponds; also seen in the Bensback area and very unusually the Boy's Town Road, Kiunga area.
281. **#Hooded Pitohui** *Pitohui dichrous* - The 'poison bird' was seen well along the Dablin Creek Track and in Varirata Nat. Pk.
282. **#White-bellied Pitohui** *Pitohui incertus* - A noisy group of six together several Variable Pitohuis and other members of a black-and- brown flock put on a fine show within lowland swamp forest along the Ketu River, Western Province. This is an infrequently seen and very localised species. The old name Mottled-breasted Pitohui may be more appropriate.

283. **Rusty Pitohui** *Pitohui ferrugineus* - Several along the Boy's Town Road and heard in Varirata Nat. PK.
284. ***Crested Pitohui** *Pitohui cristatus* - Heard superbly in Varirata NP but we just could not get it to reveal itself. Also heard along the Dablin Creek Track.
285. **#Variable Pitohui** *Pitohui kirhocephalus* - Several seen rather nicely in the Kiunga lowlands.
286. ***Wattled Ploughbill** *Eulacestoma nigropectus* - Several heard along Benson's Trail, above Ambua Lodge.
287. **#New Guinea Rufous Babbler** *Pomatostomus isidorei* - Notably conspicuous this year with large flocks of 6-12 seen on several occasions in the Kiunga lowland forests and a pair seen attending a nest within swampy lowland forest along the Keyu River, Western province.
288. **#Grey-crowned Babbler** *Pomatorhinus temporalis* - Several flocks seen in the Bensbach area.
289. ***Papuan Logrunner** *Orthonyx papuana* - Hearing the lovely call of this endemic was a delightful experience above Ambua Lodge.
NOTE: A recent paper presents convincing evidence that the New Guinea population should be treated as a separate species from that in Australia (see Joseph *et al* 2001. Molecular systematics and phlogeography of New Guinea logrunners (Orthonychidae). Emu 101 part 4.
290. **Spotted Jewel-Babbler** *Ptilorrhoa leucosticte* - Two pairs seen nicely but all too quickly on the new Benson's trail, Ambua area.
291. **#Blue Jewel-Babbler** *Ptilorrhoa caerulescens* - Thanks to some amazing imitative work by Jimmy several of us enjoyed super views of this lovely arch-skulker.
292. ***Chestnut-backed Jewel-Babbler** *Ptilorrhoa castanonotus* - Heard along the Dablin Creek Track.
293. **#Painted Quail-thrush** *Cinclosoma ajax* - Fabulous views of this very difficult to see species for half the group at Varirata Nat. PK.
294. **#Blue-capped Ifrita** *Ifrita kowaldi* - Seen well by Todd and Dion at Kumul Lodge. There is now good evidence that this too is a 'poison bird'.

295. **#Wallace's Fairy-Wren** *Sipodotus wallacei* - Remarkably this very rarely encountered gem was seen superbly well by all on this tour: a pair, initially high in the canopy in the Kiunga lowlands came down to give everyone exceptional views of this rare sprite.
296. **#White-shouldered Fairy-Wren** *Malurus alboscapulatus*- Fine looks at several pairs in the Bensbach area and at Rondon Ridge.
297. **#Emperor Fairy-Wren** *Malurus cyanocephala* - Quite simply the very finest experience I have ever enjoyed with this gorgeous species; a pair put on a fine show along the Boy's Town Road, in the Kiunga lowland forests. One of the most spectacular of New Guinea's small 'bush-birds'.
298. **#Orange-crowned Fairy-wren** *Clytomyias insignis* - Two seen very nicely on the new Benson's trail, Ambua area. This is a very rarely encountered species.
299. **Rusty Mouse-Warbler** *Crateroscelis murina* - Heard commonly in the Kiunga lowlands, the Tabubil area and Varirata Nat. Pk. and as usual glimpsed a few times.
300. **#Bicoloured Mouse-Warbler** *Crateroscelis nigrorufa* - Seen by Dion on the waterful track near Ambua Lodge.
301. **#Mountain Mouse-Warbler** *Crateroscelis robusta* - Two seen very nicely near Kumul Lodge; also above Ambua Lodge.
302. **#Large Scrubwren** *Sericornis nouhuysi* - Widespread and common in montane forest above Ambua and Kumul lodges.
303. **#Buff-faced Scrub-Wren** *Sericornis perspicillatus* - Seen well near Ambua Lodge.
304. **Papuan Scrub-Wren** *Sericornis papuensis* - Several seen in the Ambua and Kumul lodge areas.
305. **Pale-billed Scrubwren** *Sericornis spilodera* - A pair foraging with a mixed species flock, Varirata NP
306. **Green-backed Gerygone** *Gerygone chloronotus* - Several seen and heard in the Bensbach area; Kiunga lowlands; Tabubil area and Varirata Nat. Pk.
307. **#Fairy Gerygone** *Gerygone palpebrosa* - Several with a mixed species flock near Bensbach Lodge and in Varirata Nat. Pk.

308. **#Yellow-bellied Gerygone** *Gerygone chrysogaster* - Several seen and heard in the Kiunga lowlands; Tabubil area and Varirata Nat. Pk.
309. **#Large-billed Gerygone** *Gerygone magnirostris* - Seen well, daily around Bensbach Lodge; seen briefly along the Elevala River.
310. **#De Vis' Tree-Fern Warbler (Brown-breasted Gerygone)** *Gerygone ruficollis* - Very common in the Ambua and Kumul Lodge areas; also heard in the Tari Valley.
311. **#Varied Sittella** *Daphoenositta chrysoptera* - Good views of a flock of five near Ambua Lodge.
312. **#Papuan Treecreeper** *Climacteris papuana* - A pair seen nicely on the waterfall track near Ambua Lodge.
313. **#Black Sunbird** *Leptocoma sericea* - Widespread and common, seen almost daily throughout the Papua New Guinea and WNB lowlands.
NOTE: Previously placed in the genus *Nectarinea* and given the species name *aspasia*.
314. **#Olive-backed Sunbird** *Nectarinea jugularis* - Ones and twos at the PAU pinds, WNB and the Bensbach area.
315. **Obscure Berrypecker** *Melanocharis arfakianus* - One seen by Karen and Sam along the Dablin Creek Track. Note this very little known species is NOT illustrated in the field guide.
316. **Black Berrypecker** *Melanocharis nigra* - Several seen in the Kiunga lowlands and on both visits to Varirata Nat. Pk.
317. **Mid-mountain Berrypecker** *Melanocharis longicauda* - One female seen a couple of times near Ambua Lodge.
318. **#Fan-tailed Berrypecker** *Melanocharis versteri* - Good for some looks at a male along Benson's trail above Ambua Lodge.
319. **#Yellow-bellied Longbill** *Toxorhamphus novaeguineae* - Rather vocal and responsive this with several heard and seen daily in the Kiunga lowland forests.
320. **Slaty-chinned Longbill** *Toxorhamphus poliopterus* - One or two at the lovely, deep-pink cauliflorous at Varirata Nat. Pk.

321. **Dwarf Longbill** *Toxoramphus iliolophus* - Two at the lovely, deep-pink cauliflorous flower in Varirata Nat. Pk.
322. **Pygmy Longbill** *Oedistoma pygmaeum* - One along the Km 17 track in the Kiunga lowlands and heard in Varirata Nat. Pk.
323. **#Tit Berrypecker** *Oreocharis arfaki* - Several superb males seen in the Ambua Lodge area.
324. **Crested Berrypecker** *Paramythium montium* - OK looks at a couple of these handsome birds above Ambua Lodge and at Kumul Lodge.
325. **#Papuan Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum pectorale* - Widespread and common.
326. **Beautiful Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum eximium* - Widespread and common in the lowlands of WNB.
327. **#Black-fronted White-eye** *Zosterops atrifrons* - Two on two days along the Dablin Creek track feeding at a flowering Scheffleria sp.
328. **Western Mountain Guinea White-eye** *Zosterops fuscicapillus* - One seen by Sam and couple of participants at the flowering Schedffleria sp along the Dablin Crek Track.
329. **New Guinea White-eye** *Zosterops novaeguineae* - Several seen in the Laiap Vlley and at Varairata Nat. Pk.
330. **#Long-billed Honeyeater** *Melilestes mearghynchus* - Rather elusive this year with just one or two seen briefly except along the Dablin Creek Track.
331. **#Green-backed Honeyeater** *Glycichaera fallax* - One with a mixed flock near Bensbach Lodge and one seen in the 'scope along the Dablin Creek track.
332. **Ashy Myzomela** *Myzomela cinearacea* - Several in the lowland forests of northern West New Britain.
333. **Dusky Myzomela** *Myzomela obscura* - One at the PAU ponds and one near Bensbach Lodge.
334. **#Red Myzomela** *Myzomela cruentata* - Two on two days along the Dablin Creek Track.

335. **Papuan Black Myzomela** *Myzomela nigrata* - One female along the Dablin Creek Track; one male at Rondon Ridge.
336. **#Mountain Red-headed Myzomela** *Myzomela adolphinae* - Four in the gardens at Rondon Ridge gave us superlative views and two at Kama village gave us excellent 'scope views.
337. **#Sclater's Myzomela** *Myzomela sclateri* - Moderately common this year on Restoffen Island, WNB with some great looks at the handsome male.
338. **#Black-and-carmine Myzomela** *Myzomela erythromelas* - Superb looks at a couple of males in the lowland forests of northern West New Britain.
339. **#Red-collared Myzomela** *Myzomela rosenbergii* - Lovely views of several males above Ambua Lodge and at Rondon Ridge. Surprisingly two along the Dablin Creek Track.
340. **#Ruby-throated Myzomela** *Myzomela eques* - One at Rondon Ridge, Wahgi Valley, WHP.
341. **#Spot-breasted Meliphaga** *Meliphaga mimikae* - Good views of at least one persistently foraging at a cauliflorous flower on our last day in Varirata Nat. Pk. All others originally assigned to this species during the tour were likely misidentifications.
342. **#Mountain Yellow-eared Meliphaga** *Meliphaga orientalis* - Two or more seen regularly feeding at a flowering Scheffleria sp along the Dablin Creek track. One pair also seen attending a nest on the upper section of this site in much less disturbed forest.
343. **#Scrub White-eared Meliphaga** *Meliphaga albonotata* - Two along the Dablin Creek track.
344. **Puff-backed Meliphaga** *Meliphaga aruensis* - One seen and several heard in the Kiunga lowlands.
345. **#Mimic Meliphaga** *Meliphaga analoga* - One studied nicely in the 'scope at Bensbach; also seen in the Kiunga lowlands and heard at Varirata Nat. Pk.
346. **#Eastern Graceful Meliphaga** *Meliphaga cinereifrons* - Three seen in Varirata Nat. Pk.

347. Southern Graceful Meliphaga *Meliphaga gracilis* - This year just two near Bensbach Lodge.
348. **#Yellow-gaped Meliphaga *Meliphaga flavirictus*** - Exceptional 'scope views of this very rarely seen species along the Boy's Town Road, Kiunga area.
349. **Black-throated Honeyeater *Lichenostomus subfrenatus*** - Seen well by Ben at Kumul Lodge; several heard above Ambua Lodge and near Kumul Lodge.
350. ***Obscure Honeyeater *Lichenostomus obscurus*** - Heard along Boy's Town Road.
351. **#Yellow-tinted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus flavescens*** - Several in the Port Moresby area.
352. **#Tawny-breasted Honeyeater *Xanthotis flaviventer*** - Widespread and common in the foothills and lowlands.
353. **#Spotted Honeyeater *Xanthotis polygramma*** - One along Dablin Creek Track and then seen superbly by everyone at the deep-pink cauliflorous flower in Varirata Nat. Pk.
354. **#White-throated Honeyeater *Melithreptus albogularis*** - Several savannah woodland of Varirata Nat. Pk.
355. **Plain Honeyeater *Pycnopygius ixoides*** - Two in the Kiunga lowlands.
356. **Marbled Honeyeater *Pyconopygius cinereus*** - Two in the Laiam Valley; heard in the Tari Valley.
357. **#Streak-headed Honeyeater *Pygnopygius stictocephalus*** - One seen well at Km 17 and another along the Boy's Town Road in the Kiunga lowlands.
358. **#Meyer's Friarbird *Philemon meyeri*** - Just one seen in the Kiunga lowlands.
359. **#Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*** - Common in the Bensbach area.
360. **#Helmeted Friarbird *Philemon buceroides*** - Widespread and common; seen and heard daily throughout the lowlands and foothills.
361. **#New Britain Friarbird *Philemon cockerelli*** - Common throughout WNB.

362. **#Rufous-backed Honeyeater** *Ptiloprora guisei* - Low numbers seen and heard in the Ambua area.
363. **#Grey-streaked Honeyeater** *Ptiloprora perstriata* - Common throughout the Ambua and Kumul lodge areas.
364. **Yellowish-streaked Honeyeater** *Ptiloprora meekiana* - One heard and seen near Ambua Lodge; a rather infrequent species in this area.
365. **#Belford's Melidectes** *Melidectes belfordi* - Common, seen and heard daily throughout the Ambua and Kumul Lodge areas.
366. **#Yellow-browed Melidectes** *Melidectes rufocrissalis* - Common in the Tari Valley.
367. **#Ornate Honeyeater** *Melidectes torquatus* - Common in the Laiap Valley - a very handsome honeyeater and seen rather well.
368. **#Common Smoky Honeyeater** *Melipotes fumigatus* - Common; seen and heard daily throughout the Ambua and Kumul lodge areas.
369. **#Brown Honeyeater** *Lichmera indistincta* - Common around the Bensbach Lodge.
370. **#Brown-backed Honeyeater** *Ramsyornis modestus* - Several seen in the Bensbach area.
371. **#Rufous-banded Honeyeater** *Conopophila albogularis* - Several seen well at the PAU ponds and Bensbach area.
372. **#Blue-faced Honeyeater** *Entomyzon cyanotis* - Several in the Bensbach area.
373. **#Brown Oriole** *Oriolus szalayi* - Widespread and moderately common; heard or seen almost daily throughout the lowlands and foothills.
374. **#Yellow Oriole** *Oriolus flavocinctus* - Common in the Bensbach area.
375. **#Green Figbird** *Sphecotheses viridis* - Several at the PAU ponds.
376. **#Long-tailed Shrike** *Lanius schach* - One at the Tari Gap and one between Kumul Lodge and Mount Hagen.
377. **#Spangled Drongo** *Dicrurus hottentotus* - Widespread; one or two individuals seen almost daily throughout the lowlands and hills

378. **#Torrentlark** *Grallina bruijni* - One seen briefly on two days along the Dablin Creek Track and then good looks for half the group above Ambua Lodge.
379. **#Australian Magpie-lark** *Grallina cyanoleuca* - Several in the Bensbach area.
380. **#Great Woodswallow** *Artamus maximus* - Common in low numbers (2-20) throughout Ambua and Tabubil areas including taking a gigantic Atlas Moth.
381. **#White-breasted Wood-Swallow** *Artamus leucorhynchus* - Common near the PAU ponds; throughout the Bensbach area and the Tari Valley.
382. **#Mountain Peltops** *Peltops montanus* - Several above Ambua Lodge and 4-5 seen along the Dablin Creek track including a nesting pair.
383. **#Lowland Peltops** *Peltops blainvillii* - Great 'scope studies of this striking endemic along the Boy's Town Road in the Kiunga lowlands.
384. **#Australian Magpie** *Gymnorhina tibicen* - Several in the Bensbach area.
385. **#Black-backed Butcherbird** *Cracticus mentalis* - Great looks at several at the PAU ponds and in the Bensbach area.
386. **#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 Kiunga lowlands and Varinata Nat. Pk.
387. **#Black Butcherbird** *Cracticus quoyi* - Two seen well along the Dablin Creek Track.
388. **#Loria's (Bird of Paradise) Satinbird** *Cnemophilus loriae* - Single males calling from an exposed perch gave great views in the 'scope within montane forest above Ambua Lodge; a female was also seen on one day and two males the next.
NOTE: This species plus Crested and Yellow-breasted birds of paradise have recently been removed from the birds of paradise and placed in a separate family known as the Satinbirds Cnemopphilidae
389. **#Crested (Bird of Paradise) Satinbird** *Cnemophilus macgregorii* - Absolutely wonderful views of the simply sensational male for most of the group at Kumul Lodge. WOW!!!!!!
390. **#Glossy-mantled Manucode** *Manucodia atra* - Good 'scope studies studies of several individuals in the Bensbach area and the Kiunga lowlands.

391. **Crinkle-collared Manucode** *Manucodia chalybata* - Just one seen along the Boy's Town Road.
392. **#Trumpet Manucode** *Manucodia keraudreni* - Multiple good views of individuals and pairs displaying and showing off their 'horns', daily in the Kiunga lowlands.
393. **#Short-tailed Paradigalla** *Paradigalla carunculata* - One or two seen superbly feeding on a nestling and in the Ambua Lodge grounds.
394. **#Ribbon-tailed Astrapia** *Astrapia mayeri* - Surely one of the most alluring birds on our planet. Our sightings of this species began slowly and culminated with simply breathtaking views of fully plumaged and near-fully plumaged males at very close range; Ambua and Kumul lodge areas.
395. **#Princess Stephanie's Astrapia** *Astrapia stephaniae* - Fabulous views of two adult males display chasing above Ambua Lodge.
396. **Carola's Parotia** *Parotia carolae* - An even poorer year this year than usual with males being heard on just two occasions along the Dablin Creek Track.
397. **#Lawes' Parotia** *Parotia lawesii* - One female and two males seen well in the Tari Valley.
398. **#King of Saxony Bird of Paradise** *Pteridophora albertisii* - Heard fairly commonly in the montane forest near Kumul Lodge and near the bailey Bridge above Ambua Lodge; females and males were seen on several occasions but none compared to the real beauty that sat out in the afternoon sun and sung his heart out for us all to dwell on through the 'scope. Surely this is one of the most astonishing birds to be found anywhere on our planet.
399. **Eastern Riflebird** *Ptiloris intercedens* - Goodish flight views of the attractive immature male as he responded to our sound-recording within Varirata Nat. Pk.
400. **Western Magnificent Riflebird** *Ptiloris magnificus* - Heard commonly in the lowland forests around Kiunga and Tabubil seen briefly by some in a black-and-brown flock.
NOTE: Some authors have split the eastern Papua New Guinea population of riflebirds from the nominate form to the west on the basis of their distinctive vocalizations and, to a lesser degree, plumage characters and behavior. A further revision may also see the Cape York population being treated as a separate species.
401. **#Superb Bird of Paradise** *Lophorina superba* - Despite this species' small size we were all treated to good views of a male in the Tari Valley.

402. **Black Sicklebill** *Epimachus fastosus* - Albeit very distant we were very lucky to see this very elusive species during our morning in the Tari Valley.
403. **#Buff-tailed Sicklebill** *Epimachus albertisi* - Fabulous and repeated views of a calling male in tall forest along the Ambua Lodge trail. Almost certainly THE bird of the trip.
404. **#Brown Sicklebill** *Epimachus meyeri* - An exceptional year for this spectacular species with as many ten birds including a fully plumaged adult male attending the feeder at Kumul Lodge permitting us to watch at leisure as many as five birds at very close quarters. Also seen in the Ambua Lodge area.
405. **#Magnificent Bird of Paradise** *Cicinnurus magnificus* - Several females seen well along the Dablin Creek Track and the Laiap Valley.
406. **#King Bird of Paradise** *Cicinnurus regius* - One THE many highlights of the entire tour; Sam took us to a sensational display site where a male put on an unforgettable show.
407. **#Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise** *Seleucidis melanoleuca* - Superb study of the male displaying to the female at dawn, at his new site on the bank of the Fly River.
408. **#Greater Bird of Paradise** *Paradisaea apoda* - One of THE highlights of the tour with several fully plumaged males seen in flight throughout the Kiunga area and at least three males displaying at Km 17; several females and immatures seen along the Dablin Creek Track, Tabubil. The views this year of the displaying males left us all in wonderment.
409. **#Raggiana Bird of Paradise** *Paradisaea raggiana* - Seeing these birds cavorting in the forest canopy always leaves an indelible memory.
410. **#Lesser Bird of Paradise** *Paradisaea minor* - Superb study of two or three males displaying to several females at Kama Village, Laiap Valley. A great addition to a great tour!
411. **#Blue Bird of Paradise** *Paradisaea rudolphi* - Unimaginably wonderful, repeated, prolonged views of two fully plumed adult males and a female in the Tari Valley.
412. **Lesser Melampitta** *Melampitta lugubris* - Several heard and one seen all too briefly along the new Benson's Track, above Ambua Lodge.
NOTE: Placed with the birds-of-paradise by Sibley and Alquist (1990), however,

further study of this interesting taxonomic decision is required.

413. ***White-eared Catbird** *Ailuroedus buccoides* - Heard in Varirata Nat. Pk.
414. ***Spotted Catbird** *Ailuroedus melanotis* - Heard near Bensbach Lodge.
415. **#Archbold's Bowerbird** *Archboldia papuensis* - A female was seen superbly at the Kumul Lodge feeder.
416. **McGregor's Bowerbird** *Amblyornis macgregoriae* - One female seen near Ambua Lodge.
417. **#Yellow-breasted Bowerbird** *Chlamydera lauterbachii* - One male below Rondon Ridge and in the Laiap Valley.
418. **#Fawn-breasted Bowerbird** *Chlamydera cerviniventris* - Several at the PAU ponds and in the Bensbach area.
419. **#Grey Crow** *Gymnocorvus tristis* - Heard and seen moderately commonly throughout the lowlands. Also known as Bare-eyed Crow.
420. **#Torresian Crow** *Corvus orru* - Widespread and common in the Port Moresby area; the Bensbach area and *en route* to Varirata Nat. Pk.
421. **#Bismarck Crow** *Corvus insularis* - Common in WNB.
NOTE: Split from Torresian Crow is on the basis of its smaller size; blue eye colour and very different voice.
422. **#Metallic Starling** *Aplonis metallica* - Common throughout the Kiunga lowlands including hundreds nesting along the Fly River and in WNB.
423. **Yellow-eyed Starling** *Aplonis mystacea* - One or two small groups seen in flight low over the Elevala River.
424. **#Singing Starling** *Aplonis cantoroides* - Common at the PAU ponds; Mt Hagen and WNB.
425. **#Yellow-faced Myna** *Mino dumontii* - Widespread and common, seen daily throughout the lowlands and foothills.
426. **#Long-tailed Myna** *Mino kreffti* - Common in WNB

427. **#Golden Myna *Mino anais*** - Good views of this handsome endemic on several occasions in the Kiunga lowland forests.
428. **#House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* - Introduced**. Port Moresby - notably common around the deserted old airport; also Mt Hagen and West New Britain.
429. **#Mountain Firetail *Oreostruthus fuliginosus*** - Fabulous studies of this attractive species at Kumul Lodge; seen by Todd and Noreen above Ambua Lodge.
430. Blue-faced Parrotfinch *Erythrura trichroa* - Heard and seen briefly above Ambua Lodge.
431. **#White-spotted Munia *Lonchura leucosticte*** - Fairly common in small flocks along the Bensbach River; two or more along the Boy's Town Road, Kiunga area.
432. **#Chestnut-breasted Munia *Lonchura castaneothorax*** - One gorgeous adult with a large flock of Gry-headed Munias near the PAU ponds.
433. **#Grey-headed Munia *Lonchura caniceps*** - Notably common this year with as many as 50 in the area surrounding the PAU ponds.

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.

434. **#Hooded Munia *Lonchura spectabilis*** - Large numbers of birds seen in rank grassland within the Tari Valley and along the Highlands Highway.
435. **#Buff-bellied Munia *Lonchura melaena*** - Wonderful views of several birds in WNB.

MAMMALS & OTHER VERTEBRATES

1. **Long-nosed or Speckled Dasyure *Neophascogale lorentzi*** - One watched at length as it foraged persistently on and around the bird-feeder at Kumul Lodge. Undoubtedly one of the highlights of our tour!
2. **Great Flying-fox *Pteropus neohibernicus*** - Many at dawn over the Fly River and in Garu, WNB

3. *Pteropus capistratus* - Several in WNB.
4. Bare-backed Fruit-bat *Dobsonia paedatrix* - Several in WNB.
5. Dusky Black-eared Giant Rat *Mallomys rothschildi* - At least one individual attending the feeder at Kumul Lodge during the early evening.
6. Agile Wallaby *Macropus agilis* - Common in the Bensbach area.
7. Spotted Cuscus *Phalanger maculatus* - One spotted by Daphne in Varirata Nat. Pk.
8. Black-tailed Antechinus *Antechinus melanurus* - One seen twice by Daphne at Kumul Lodge.
9. Black-tailed Melomys *Melomys rufescens* - WNB.
10. Rusa Deer *Cervus timoriensis* - Worryingly common in the Bensbach area.

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

1. New Guinea Water Dragon - Eivala River.
2. House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus*
Widespread.
3. Mangrove Monitor Lizard *Varanus indicus* - Bensbach River.
4. New Guinea Snapping Turtle - Eivala River.
5. Brown Tree-Snake - Daru
6. *Litoria* sp Green Frog sp with golden iris - Walindi, WNB.

BUTTERFLIES

(some of the more spectacular species we encountered)

1. *Cethosia cydippe*
2. *Taenaris schoenbergi*
3. *Taenaris sp*
4. *Taenaris chionides*
5. *Theclinesthes miskini*
6. *Atropheneura polydorus*
7. *Troides oblongomaculatus*
8. *Ornithoptera primaus* - Common Birdwing
9. *Papilio aegeus*
10. *Papilio ulysses* - Ulysses Swallowtail
11. *Papilio albinus*
12. *Papilio euchenor*
13. *Graphium artiseus*
14. *Graphium sarpedon*
15. Atlas Moth