

Papua New Guinea

27 June – 14 July 2019

- Top five birds of the tour:**
1. Flame Bowerbird
 2. King Bird-of-paradise
 3. Blue Bird-of-paradise
 4. Lesser Bird-of-paradise
 5. Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise



Yellow-billed Kingfisher



Raggiana Bird-of-paradise



Azure Kingfisher

Day 1 (27.06.19): Our first day in this fascinating country, and what better place to start birding than the outskirts of the capital, Port Moresby, where just a short distance away lie both the Pacific Adventist University and Varirata National Park (Varirata NP), both well-known birding hotspots. A few group members had arrived earlier this morning, while the remainder of us followed around midday. After lunch we decided to begin with a look around the grounds of our hotel, Dixies Bungalows, before driving to the Pacific Adventist University (PAU), where we would spend the rest of the evening. Our first bird at the lodge was a New Guinea Friarbird, but as there was not much activity around the lodge we moved on quickly to the PAU, a 20-minute drive away. The ponds in the grounds of the PAU held a variety of species dominated by Pacific Black Duck, together with Wandering Whistling Duck, Australasian Swampheh, Dusky Moorhen, Little Pied and Little Black Cormorants, Nankeen (Rufous) Night Heron, a few Masked Lapwings and Comb-crested Jacana. Walking the grounds we scanned the private gardens and trees giving us an excellent introduction to the birds of Papua New Guinea, which included species such as Fawn-breasted Bowerbird, Bar-shouldered and Peaceful Doves, Orange-fronted Fruit Dove, Torresian Imperial Pigeon, Red-cheeked Parrot, Coconut Lorikeet, White-breasted Woodswallow, Black-backed Butcherbird, Australasian Figbird, Yellow-faced Myna, Fawn-breasted Bowerbird and Rufous-banded Honeyeater. The previous night's thunderstorm had disturbed the Papuan Frogmouths we were hoping to see at roost here, but nevertheless this was a productive first few hours birding in paradise.

Day 2 (28.06.19): After an early breakfast at the lodge, we drove up to Varirata NP at dawn to try to get to a known Raggiana Bird-of-paradise lek at first light. We arrived to find the park gates shut, so we birded outside the gate till our driver came back with the ranger. As we drove closer to the lek of the Raggiana Bird-of-paradise we could hear the incredible cacophony of the male birds calling, so we walked up the track and were delighted to be rewarded with exceptional views of the males as they displayed, fluffing up their plumes every time a female came around to investigate. We spent the rest of the morning around the car park and walking various trails through the mixed broadleaved and evergreen woodlands, scanning tree hollows for owl-nightjars with no luck. An Orange-footed Scrubfowl made a quick escape as we flushed it from the trail, just giving brief glimpses to some as it flew. We had better luck with Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher and Yellow-billed Kingfisher, as well as Rufous-bellied and Blue-winged Kookaburras, of which everyone had great views. After a delicious picnic lunch we enjoyed a relaxed early afternoon, keeping out of the midday sun and watching as birds came to feed in a fruiting tree, also catching great views of a few fly-overs which included Gurney's Eagle, Long-tailed Honey Buzzard, and Brahminy Kite, as well as Wompoo, Pink-spotted, Orange-bellied and Orange-fronted Fruit-Doves. Later in the day a walk along the park's access road proved very productive, with stunning views of some key species which included a Brown Quail which flew from the side of the road, Pygmy Eagle, Eclectus and Red-cheeked Parrots overhead, Black-capped Lory in a nest hole, Coconut Lorikeets flashing through the trees, Elf (Mountain) Myzomela feeding in roadside trees, and a few Plain, Streak-headed and White-throated

Honeyeaters. Our final bird of the evening was a Barking Owl in the trees along the roadside not far from our hotel. Other species highlights for today were Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove, Purple-tailed Imperial-Pigeon, Glossy and Uniform Swiftlets, Azure Kingfisher, Rainbow Bee-eater, Mimic Honeyeater, Barred, Boyer's & Black-faced Cuckooshrikes, Varied Triller, Grey Whistler, Hooded Pitohui, Hooded Butcherbird, Drongo Fantail, Chestnut-bellied Fantail, Frilled Monarch, Laden Flycatcher, Torresian Crow, Black Berrypecker, Lemon-bellied Flycatcher, Red-capped Flowerpecker and Olive-backed Sunbird.

Day 3 (29.06.19): We left our hotel for an early flight to Wapenamanda in Enga Province, from where we would travel into a new area for the tour, the village of Sirunki in the highlands. Surprisingly for Papua New Guinea, where flights are unpredictable and frequently delayed due to weather conditions, our flight departed on time. As we were preparing to land in Wapenamanda the pilot suddenly announced that due to low cloud and poor visibility for landing we would be returning to Port Moresby; not a great situation. To our great fortune and unbeknown to us, the governor of Enga province was also travelling with us to oversee a gala welcome evening which had been planned to greet us as the first foreign group to visit Yaskom Resort at Sirunki. Back in Port Moresby, the governor took charge of our onward travel, chartering a private plane for our flight into the highlands for which we were incredibly grateful. This did mean a detour to Mount Hagen, a larger airport, from where we had a long and at times uncomfortable drive to Sirunki, accompanied by the governor and full police escort! When we finally arrived at the lodge at dusk we were greeted with a warm welcome, traditional dance performances from two local tribes, and an incredible fine dining experience from renowned chef Julz Henao using local produce from the province. And finally a comfortable bed after a long day, hoping for a good night's sleep before an early start tomorrow.

Day 4 (30.06.19): After a somewhat delayed breakfast we drove out to Puman Daka a new site in Sirunki. The trek involved a few steep climbs and a walk through some beautiful broadleaved rainforest at elevations of up to 2500m, stopping for lunch at a viewpoint overlooking cultivated fields in sweeping valleys, and Lake Sirunki in the distance. This couldn't have been a better spot to stop, and the lunch which was brought all the way up to us was excellent and welcome. Birding in the open area gave us some great views of Lawes's Parotia, Superb Bird-of-paradise (Greater Lophorina), Princess Stephanie's Astrapia, Yellow-browed and Belford's Melidectes, and both Common Smoky and Mountain Honeyeaters. Within the forests we occasionally encountered mixed flocks, comprising species like Canary Flyrobin, Brown Sicklebill, Sooty and Black Thicket Fantails, Black and Dimorphic Fantails, Blue-capped Ifrit, Brown-backed Whistler, Papuan Sittella, Brown-breasted Gerygone, Papuan, Yellow-billed and Orange-billed Lorikeet, and Papuan Treecreeper, while a good selection of other more common species included Pied Bush Chat, Pacific Swallow, Long-tailed Shrike, Willie Wagtail, Great Woodswallow, Brown Falcon and Brush Cuckoo. The remainder of the day we spent birding various sites and private gardens, enjoying both the birds and the spectacular scenery of this little-visited area.

Day 5 (01.07.19): Our second day in these surrounding took us to another new site, the Mount Komonge ridge, a motor able track with a great expanse of forest on both sides and short treks off road. The morning was quite productive, with bird activity good in pleasant temperatures. Once off the main road we set out walking the track with our vehicles following us. Before long we had a few Princess Stephanie's Astrapias, Brown Sicklebills and a male Black Sicklebill among a good selection of birds we'd seen the previous day, giving everyone the chance of better views. As the day got warmer, we headed back to the lodge with a short detour through the forest where we had our first views of a female King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise. We returned to the same area during the afternoon, though overall this was far quieter than the morning. Additional highlights during the day included Pygmy Eagle, Papuan Mountain Pigeon, Plum-faced Lorikeet, Large Scrubwren, Streaked Berrypecker, Black-bellied Cicadabird, Regent Whistler, Black-Thicket & Dimorphic Fantail, Black-fronted White-eye, Blue-capped Ifrit and Hooded Munia.

Day 6 (02.07.19): This was our last morning at Sirunki and as the birding had been so good we were reluctant to move on, so decided to spend a few hours of the morning birding along Mt Komonge ridge before we drove on to our next much awaited destination in the highlands, Kumul Lodge. Birding along Mt Komonge ridge gave us good repeat views of some previously-seen species as well as a few new to our list including Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Painted Tiger Parrot, Garnet Robin, and White-shouldered Fairywren, with better views of King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise and a Nankeen Kestrel along the drive to Kumul lodge. The drive to Kumul Lodge, close to Mount Hagen, was pleasant and we arrived in time for lunch and giving us enough time to enjoy birds around the feeding station before we headed out for a short walk around the grounds of the lodge. The walk was a bit rough with a few trees having fallen and the ground wet and slippery following a thunderstorm the previous evening. Some of the highlights on the feeders and around the grounds of the lodge this afternoon included Brehm's Tiger Parrot, Belford's and Sooty Melidectes, Ribbon-tailed Astrapia, Brown Sicklebill, White-winged Robin, Island Thrush, Papuan Scrubwren, Crested Satinbird, Crested Berrypecker, Black-breasted Boatbill, Rufous-naped Whistler and Blue-capped Ifrit.



Crested Satinbird



Brown Sicklebill



Belford's Melidectes

Day 7 (03.07.19): After an early breakfast we headed for a known Lesser Bird-of-paradise lek in a casuarina grove at Kama village, though the poor road conditions meant we would have to change into different vehicles as we got closer to the site. The sky was overcast, and a thick fog had settled but through it we could hear the Bird-of-paradise calling. As the fog lifted, we had great views of Yellow-breasted Bowerbird, Meyer's Friarbird, Superb Bird-of-paradise, and Magnificent Bird-of-paradise. While we were distracted by other species a Lesser Bird-of-paradise flew into a close fruiting tree which gave us all exceptional views. Satisfied with our sightings we set out to try a site for Blue Bird-of-paradise at Tonga, approximately a 30min drive away. On reaching the site we could hear both Blue Bird-of-paradise and Superb Bird-of-paradise calling from the forested slopes. Making our way up we scanned the slope and eventually found two male and a female Superb Birds-of-paradise feeding in a fruiting tree, however the Blue Bird-of-paradise was nowhere to be seen. Just as we were preparing to leave our local guide located a very distant Blue Bird-of-paradise, but only a few of the group managed decent 'scope views before it dropped out of sight. Back at Kumul Lodge for lunch the bird feeding station was as busy as usual, and new birds to our list here and elsewhere in lodge grounds included Mountain Firetail and Grey Whistler. After lunch we decided to have a second try for Blue Bird-of-paradise, but with the sun shining and humidity high it was hard work and there was very little bird activity with the exception of a Buff-banded Rail that walked across the path. It wasn't until late afternoon when the sky became overcast that the Blue Bird-of-paradise began to show itself, finally giving us some excellent views. Other species seen during the evening included a Lawes's Parotia making its way feeding through the trees, and an Island Leaf Warbler. Driving back to the hotel we birded along the road achieving better views of some of the species seen earlier. Back at the lodge our plans for an evening walk were abandoned as it rained heavily for the rest of the night. Instead, we had an early night after a good dinner and checklist around the fire.

Day 8 (04.07.19): Another early morning start and this time we decided to try a different area and also try for some torrent species. As we drove out of the lodge it wasn't long before we stopped to check a few rivers in search for the torrent species but with no luck we drove on, instead encountering three Torrent Flyrobins by chance on a school roof. We continued our drive to the Mumbisanda Hospital, and around the gardens found a selection of birds that included a flock of Singing Starlings on the power cables. Further on, we stopped for various raptors in flight which included Brown Goshawk and a Brown Falcon. A quick stop along the Lai River did not prove productive for any torrent birds but in surrounding bushes we had good views of Black-headed Whistler, Mottle-breasted Honeyeater and Brown-breasted Gerygone. Stopping again along the roadside we birded a small patch of grassland and after a long wait were rewarded with a great sighting of the elusive Papuan Grassbird. Lunch time was spent back at the lodge watching Crested and Tit Berrypeckers around the garden, and Ribbon-tailed Astrapia, Mountain Mouse-warbler, Loria's Satinbird, Fan-tailed Berrypecker, and other species around the busy birdtable. After lunch we headed to a site for King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise, a private garden where we were made welcome by the owners. In a clearing we had a great few hours' birding from a single spot, where birds came through feeding in waves. Some of the highlights of the evening included Fan tailed and Brush Cuckoos, Princess Stephanie's Astrapia, King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise, Superb Bird-of-paradise, Canary Flyrobin, Red-capped Flowerpecker, Rufous-throated Bronze Cuckoo, Modest Tiger Parrot and Black Cicadabird among a selection of other more common species. Back at Kumul Lodge we did manage a night walk around the grounds, but it was relatively quiet although we did hear New Guinea Woodcock, Papuan Boobook and Mountain Owlet-nightjar.

Day 9 (05.07.19): After a few productive days in the highlands of Enga Province it was time to move on to bird the Western Province, our last area where we could expect to pick up a selection of birds new to our list. An early start took us back to Mount Hagen airport for our flight to Tabubil in the Star Mountains, where we would be spending our first few nights in the area. Birding around the airfields in Papua New Guinea is always productive, and at Mount Hagen we added Australian Pipit while waiting in the lounge and Australian Pratincole just as we were taking off. Taking off on time again meant that we should

have been on course for a good evening birding session around Tabubil, but we were again disrupted by fog and instead of landing in Tabubil we touched down in the lowlands at Kiunga, not much of a problem but necessitating another long drive. As we descended, we could see that much of this low-lying area was flooded having had heavy rain over the past few weeks. It rained throughout our drive to Tabubil but held off enough for us to bird along the way and add Blyth's Hornbill, Pasquet's Parrot, Mountain Peltops and Crinkle-collared Manucode to our list. With time to spare we decided to take a short detour to Ok Menga and were fortunate to quickly locate a Salvadori's Teal along the water's edge. At our lodge in Tabubil we were welcomed by a resident Sacred Kingfisher.

Day 10 (06.07.19): We spent this morning at Dablin Creek, birding the main track and scanning the dense forest along its length on either side. Usually this is a very fruitful site, but with thick fog hanging over the valley we saw very little. Hoping for it to lift we persevered throughout the morning, finding White-shouldered Fairywren, Long-billed Honeyeater, Carola's Parotia, Rusty Mouse-warbler and New Guinea White-eye, but eventually cut our losses to return to our lodge for lunch and to try another area in the afternoon. After an early lunch we set out to bird the area around the Ok Menga hydroelectric power facility, and various sites higher up along the river in search of various torrent species. The surrounding forests were alive with bird activity despite the high humidity and intense sun; even though a lot of the birds we encountered were species we had seen previously it was reassuring to have a good birding session after the slow morning. Species seen along the first part of the track included Long-tailed Honey-buzzard, White-eared Bronze-Cuckoo, Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrot, Streak-headed Honeyeater, Golden Cuckooshrike, Southern Variable Pitohui, Spangled Drongo and Obscure Berrypecker. Further on, we covered various tracks and at one point had great views of a few Greater Birds-of-paradise displaying in a tree along the roadside. We spent time at a viewpoint overlooking a densely forested valley, finding species including Yellow-faced Myna, Magnificent Bird-of-paradise, Boyer's Cuckooshrike, Mountain Peltops, Helmeted Friarbird, Tawny-breasted Honeyeater, Pesquet's and Eclectus Parrots, Papuan Mountain-Pigeon and Beautiful Fruit-Dove, with a striking Goshawk that swept past into a nearby treetop giving us great views. At dusk, before returning to Tabubil for the night we tried for the Shovel-billed Kookaburra, which settled briefly giving us close though not prolonged views, after which we decided to head back to the hotel for the night.

Day 11 (07.07.19): Another early start took us back to Dablin Creek hoping for a better morning than on the previous day. On reaching there it was immediately clear that the weather was a lot better, with only sporadic light showers, and with good bird activity that soon found us rushing from point to point and scanning further trees for good scope views of a number of species. By afternoon we had managed a respectable list of species with a lot of specialities which included Amboyna Cuckoo-Dove, a flock of Blue-collared Parrots in flight, Orange-breasted Fig-Parrot, Sclater's Whistler, Black Butcherbird, Black Fantail, Crinkle-collared Manucode, Carola's Parotia, Magnificent Bird-of-Paradise and Green-backed Honeyeater for some. Back at our hotel for lunch we added great views of Papuan Hanging Parrot in the hotel grounds. Early afternoon we headed back to the Ok Menga area hoping for another nice evening session of birding, however the weather didn't hold out for us and we birded through showers, though we did add a couple of new birds including Wallace's Fairywren, Papuan Black Myzomela and Black-shouldered Cicadabird.

Day 12 (08.07.19): Having planned another return to the Ok Menga area we left early from the hotel to bird the track before we got to the river, where we had better views of Brown Oriole and Rufous-backed Fantail, both of which we'd seen briefly earlier. As we were out early we were hopeful of a few of the more elusive torrent species along the river, so we got out of our vehicle well before the bridge and approached the river quietly on foot, a good tactic that was rewarded with great views of 2 Torrent Larks, a lone Torrent Flycatcher and 2 Salvadori's Teals, a great start to the morning. Continuing on, we walked the track, scanning the treetops. The weather was pleasant this morning, and we came across a good variety of species including a few new to our list. Species seen this morning included Moustached Treeswift, Long-tailed Honey Buzzard, Doria's Goshawk, Rufous-bellied Kookaburra, Eclectus Parrot, Orange-breasted Fig-Parrot, Black-capped Lory, Wallace's Fairywren, Green-backed Gerygone, Varied Triller, Yellow-bellied and Pygmy Longbills, and Mottled Beryhunter, while a Pheasant Pigeon calling not far off the track was unfortunately disturbed by a passing local family. Having enjoyed such a productive morning here, we headed back to the same area after lunch. Starting our walk at a different point we found ourselves overlooking a valley and scanning a few fruiting trees where the highlights were a flock of Papuan Mountain-Pigeons, Crinkle-collared Manucode, Magnificent Riflebird and Greater Bird-of-Paradise. Moving on, we stopped at various viewpoints finding Superb Fruit-Dove, Eclectus Parrot and with flyovers of Pesquet's Parrot; we even had White-crowned Koel fly into a tree in front of us along the track. At the end of the track we were pleased to find Boyer's and Golden Cuckooshrikes, and Stout-billed Cuckooshrike. At dusk we headed to a spot to try for Shovel-billed Kookaburra which flew in briefly on cue, while a Marbled Frogmouth was

heard but not seen. A productive final day in Tabubil, which had provided us with a great start to birding in PNG's Western Province.

Day 13 (09.07.19): Having planned an early start we were all packed and ready to leave only to realise that our vehicle had not arrived, delaying our start. Once on the road we stopped occasionally before reaching Km-17 for our short trek into the forest. With the weather hot and humid the forest was quiet, but we were here to look for King Bird-of-Paradise, which we could hear in a distance. As we got closer, we could hear it call, and although locating it at the top of its tree took some time it eventually showed well. All pleased with such good views of this superb bird we headed to our hotel in the town of Kiunga for lunch. The rest of the evening we spent on a visit to Boyestown Road, scanning the area from Bower hill. The weather was overcast with light showers, and although this made birding somewhat slower we did find Black-billed and Amboyna Cuckoo-Doves, Pink-spotted and Orange-bellied Fruit-Doves, Pinon's Imperial-Pigeon, Red-cheeked Parrot, Red-flanked Lorikeet, Black-caped Lory, Mimic Honeyeater, Papuan Babbler, Boyer's and Golden Cuckooshrikes, Lowland Peltops, Glossy-mantled Manucode and Greater Bird-of-paradise.



Superb Bird-of-paradise



Crested Berrypecker



Mountain Firetail

Day 14 (10.07.19): Today we were taking a boat up the Fly River and its tributary the Elevala River to get to Kwatu Lodge for an overnight stay. Another early start from our hotel got to the boat at dawn. As we slowly made our way along the first few miles along the Fly river it was fascinating to watch locals fishing from their small dugouts, and to see how much the river is used as a mode of transport for travelling into the city for daily chores. The bird activity started to pick up as it got brighter and soon we were stopping to look at Collared Imperial-Pigeon, Zoe's Imperial-Pigeon, Papuan Spine-tailed Swift, Intermediate Egret, Brahminy Kite, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Dollarbird, Palm Cockatoo, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Black-caped Lory, Trumpet and Glossy-mantled Manucode, Shining Flycatcher, Metallic Starling and Golden Myna. As we reached the Elevala River the river became a lot narrower, with less human activity, and we made a stop at a small fishing village to pick up our cook for the night. He had located a Flame Bowerbird's bower, so we were soon out of the boat for a trek into the forest to sit in a newly built hide overlooking the bower, but sadly there was no activity and we continued on to Kwatu for lunch. Some highlights along the river before lunch included Orange-bellied Fruit-Dove, Lesser Black Coucal, Pacific Koel, Grey-headed Goshawk, Blyth's Hornbill, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Yellow-streaked Lory and Black Sunbird. After lunch we were back in the boat to travel to a patch of swamp forest, where we would try for some of the area's specialities on foot. With heavy rainfall over the past few weeks the swamp had been flooded, and although water levels had dropped it was still muddy and slippery, making walking hard going in places. We managed a short walk, finding Purple-tailed Imperial-Pigeon, White-bellied Pitohui, Spot-winged Monarch and Frilled Monarch among others. Spending the evening on the river till dusk we enjoyed the peace and tranquillity of the surroundings, together with great views of the incongruous Scheepmaker's Crowned-Pigeon as well as Papuan Nightjar, Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise and Grey Crow. Back to the lodge for dinner and checklist by candlelight.

Day 15 (11.07.19): Woken early by the dawn chorus, we were back into the boat after a quick breakfast in search of our first target for the day, Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise. Sitting in the stationary boat we watched the bare branches that broke the skyline waiting for the male we could hear calling to return to its perch. Before too long it did, and began its fascinating display twirling around, up and down the top of its chosen pole. Later that morning we walked a different area of the Swamp forest, but the density here made birding difficult and we failed to find the Papuan Pitta that was calling. Frustrated, we walked on to a hide overlooking a feeding site of Flightless Rail, but with water levels still high the bird was calling nearby but avoiding the feeding site, though it did make a very brief appearance and was seen by a few in the group. After a long wait at the hide we made our way back to the boat, finding both Little and Common Paradise-Kingfishers within a short span before heading back to the lodge for lunch. After lunch we spent some time at another Flame Bowerbird hide very close to the lodge, again located

by the resident cook! With no luck we reluctantly packed up and loaded the boat to make our way back to the comfort of our hotel in Kiunga. The boat ride back was pleasant, stopping occasionally to pick up on birds flying past or in riverside trees. Some of the highlights of our journey back included Dwarf fruit-Dove, Pinon's Imperial-Pigeon, Pacific Baza, Azure Kingfisher, Papuan King-Parrot, Large Fig-Parrot, Helmeted Friarbird, Glossy-mantled Manucode, Grey Crow, Metallic Starling, and a male Flame Bowerbird that flew across the boat.

Day 16 (12.07.19): Back in Kiunga and after an early breakfast we returned to Boyestown Road. We encountered many species we'd seen earlier, with better views well appreciated, and were lucky with a stunning male Flame Bowerbird that flew back and forth across the road. We did come across a group of local boys carrying a Southern Cassowary chick and were told that its fate was to be raised in captivity and later sadly killed on a special occasion. Further on, we tried calling out a Hooded Pitta from the undergrowth to no avail but had more luck in the grassland around the airstrip where we happened upon a Bar-banded Rail with chick. After lunch a trail through a good patch of forest at a new site took us to a clearing where we had good views of Greater Bird-of-paradise. Birding however was generally quiet, though we did come across some incredible butterflies and heard an elusive Hook-billed Kingfisher at dusk before heading back to our hotel for the night.

Day 17 (13.07.19): With only a little time before our flight to Port Moresby this morning, we headed to Km-17 for a final few hours' birding. After some delays and an eventual change of driver we finally arrived. Before too long we heard a Blue Jewel-babbler calling along the path; luring it in, it showed to some of the group for a brief few minutes before disappearing back into the undergrowth. Making our way through the forest we reached a known display site for King Bird-of-paradise, and enjoyed some time here watching the stunning male calling and displaying. Back to the hotel for a quick pack up, we were soon at the airport. Our flight was on time with an early arrival into Port Moresby, giving us time for a quick visit to Varirata before dusk. By now we were targeting species not yet seen, including Barred Owlet-nightjar that quickly responded to a little scratch on its roosting tree by popping its head out of its hole to investigate.

Day 18 (14.07.19): With this our final day in PNG we had a few hours to spare before most of us were due to report to the airport around noon for our international flights home. We decided to spend this at the PAU after breakfast at our lodge, in search of the Papuan Frogmouths that had eluded us on day 1. We were not having any luck until our driver called over to say he'd found some owls in a tree, which turned out to be our target birds! The sky was overcast and hoping for an improvement in the light to return for photographs we took a walk around the grounds. The ponds and trees held plenty of birds seen previously, but we did add a few final species including White bellied Cuckooshrike, Pied Heron and Plumed Whistling-duck before heading back to the airport for departure.



Palm Cockatoo



Scheepmaker's Crowned Pigeon



Papuan Frogmouth

Trip report compiled by Leio De Souza for Partnership for International Birding, July 2019
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Annotated Checklist of Birds Recorded on Tour of Papua New Guinea
27 June – 14 July 2019



Ribbon-tailed Astrapia © Leio De Souza

Nomenclature and taxonomy follow Gill, F & Donsker, D (Eds). 2018. IOC World Bird List (v 8.1)
*heard only

Anseriformes: Anatidae

Plumed Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*
5 birds seen at Pacific Adventist University on 14.07

Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*
Around 12 birds seen at Pacific Adventist University 27.06

Raja Shelduck *Tadorna radjah*
3 birds seen in flight at Pacific Adventist University 27.06, and another 3 birds seen on 14.07

Salvadori's Teal *Salvadorina waigiensis*
A single individual seen at Ok Menga Hydro-electric Powerplant 05.07 & another 2 seen at a new site above Ok Menga Power Intake

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

Quite a few birds seen at Pacific Adventist University 27.06 and a few seen again on 14.07

Galliformes: Megapodiidae

Black-billed (Yellow-legged) Brushturkey *Talegalla fuscirostris*

*Heard a couple of times along Boyestown Rd and along the Elevala River

Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt*

A single bird seen in flight at Varirata 28.06

Galliformes: Phasianidae

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora*

A single bird seen along the access road to Varirata 28.06

Asian Blue (King) Quail *Coturnix chinensis*

Seen at Tonga on 04.07

Pelecaniformes: Threskiornithidae

Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*

A few birds seen at Pacific Adventist University 27.06 & 13.07

Pelecaniformes: Ardeidae

Nankeen (Rufous) Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

A few birds seen at Pacific Adventist University 27.06

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

Seen on various occasions in the lowlands

Great Egret *Ardea modesta*

Seen along the road in Port Moresby

Intermediate (Yellow-billed) Egret *Egretta intermedia*

A few seen at Pacific Adventist University and a few along the Fly river

Pied Heron *Egretta picata*

A single bird seen at Pacific Adventist University

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

A few birds seen around Port Moresby and along the Fly river

Suliformes: Phalacrocoracidae

Little Pied Cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleucos*

Seen a couple around the ponds at Pacific Adventist University

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

A few seen around the ponds at Pacific Adventist University and a single bird in flight along the Lai river

Accipitriformes: Accipitridae

Pacific Baza (Crested Hawk) *Aviceda subcristata*

A pair seen along the Elavala river on 11.07

Long-tailed Honey Buzzard *Henicopernis longicauda*

Seen occasionally at various sites

Pygmy Eagle *Hieraetus weiskei*

Exceptional views of our first individual along the road at Varirata on 28.06 and again at Yaskom/Sirunki on 01.07, 03.07 & 04.07

Gurney's Eagle *Aquila gurneyi*

A single bird seen in flight from the car park at Varirata on 28.06

Doria's Goshawk *Megatriorchis doriae*

Good views of one individual perched above Ok Menga on 06.07 and another from the lodge at Kwatu on 11.07

Variable Goshawk *Accipiter hiogaster*

One seen above Ok Menga on 11.07

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*

Two birds seen on 04.07 one perched and a second in flight around the hospital at Mumbisanda

Grey-headed Goshawk *Accipiter poliocephalus*

A few seen around Boyestown Rd and along the Elevala river

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

A few birds seen around Mt Hagen, the Kumul area and Sirunki

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

A few birds seen around Port Moresby

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

A common and widespread bird

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

A few individuals seen along the Fly River 10.07

Gruiformes: Rallidae

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*

A quick glimpse of an individual at Tonga, followed by great views at the Kiunga airstrip

New Guinea Flightless Rail *Megacrex inepta*

Brief views by one group member at the regular site in Kwatu

Australasian (Purple) Swamphen *Porphyrio melanotus*

A few seen in the grounds of Pacific Adventist University

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*

A few seen in the grounds of Pacific Adventist University

Charadriiformes: Charadriidae

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*

A few in the grounds of Pacific Adventist University

Charadriiformes: Jacanidae

Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*

Small numbers seen in ponds at Pacific Adventist University

Charadriiformes: Scolopacidae

New Guinea Woodcock *Scolopax rosenbergii*

*A single bird heard calling in flight around Kumul lodge

Charadriiformes: Glareolidae

Australian Pratincole *Stiltia Isabella*

A single bird seen along the runway at Mt Hagen

Charadriiformes: Columbidae

Rock Dove (Pigeon) *Columba livia*

A common dove around Port Moresby

Amboyna (Brown) Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis*

Quite a few seen on various occasions in the highlands

Bar-tailed (Black-billed) Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia nigrirostris*

A couple of birds seen at various sites

Pacific Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps longirostris*

A single bird seen in flight at Km-17 on 09.07

Stephan's Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps stephani*

A single bird seen in flight above Ok Menga on 08.07

New Guinea Bronzewing *Henicophaps albifrons*

A bird seen in flight and perched for a short while after it was called in on 08.07

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia placida*

A few seen around Pacific Adventist University

Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*

Excellent views at Pacific Adventist University

Pheasant Pigeon *Otidiphaps nobilis*

*Heard a couple and waited patiently for them to show above Ok Menga, but with no luck

Scheepmaker's (Southern) Crowned Pigeon *Goura scheepmakeri*

Great views along the Elevala River 09.08

Wompoo Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*

One seen well at Varirata 28.06 and a few at Kwatu on 10&11.07

Pink-spotted Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus perlatus*

Several seen well at Varirata and a few around Tabubil, Boyestown Rd, Km-17 & Kwatu.

Orange-fronted Fruit-dove *Ptilinopus aurantiifrons*

A single bird 'scoped at Varirata 28.06, a pair at Boyestown Rd & Km-17.

Superb Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*

Several sightings, the best being prolonged 'scope views at Km-17 on 10.08

Beautiful Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus pulchellus*

Small numbers seen regularly at sites around Tabubil, some on walks around Kwatu, and a few at Km-17

White-bibbed (Mountain) Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus rivoli*

A single individual at Tonga village while watching the Blue Bird-of-paradise on 03.07

Orange-bellied Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus iozonus*

A couple seen around Varirata 28.06, Kwatu on 10.07 and Km-17 on 13.07

Dwarf Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus nanus*

Three birds seen at Boyestown Rd on 09.07 and a couple at Kwatu on 12.07

Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula rufigaster*

Seen in flight at Varirata on 28.06, with a few at Kwatu and Km-17

Pinon's Imperial Pigeon *Ducula pinon*

A few seen at Boyestown Rd and along the Elevela River

Collared Imperial Pigeon *Ducula mullerii*

A few seen along the Elevela River

Zoe's Imperial Pigeon *Ducula zoeae*

Seen along the Elevela River and Boyestown Rd

Torresian Imperial Pigeon *Ducula spilorrhoe*

Great views of a few birds at the Pacific Adventist University

Papuan Mountain Pigeon *Gymnophaps albertisii*

A few seen at various sites

Cuculiformes: Cuculidae

Ivory-billed (Greater Black) Coucal *Centropus menbeki*

A single individual showed briefly along the Elevela River 10.07

Black-billed Coucal *Centropus bernsteini*

A single bird seen along the Elevela River

Dwarf Koel *Microdynamis parva*

A single bird seen on 09.07 on the drive from Tabubil to Kiunga

Pacific (Australian) Koel *Eudynamis orientalis*

Two birds seen on the 09.07

Long-billed Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx megarhynchus*

A single individual seen on the 12.07 along Boyestown Rd.

Rufous-throated Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx ruficollis*

A pair seen along the Mt Kononge ridge in Sirunki on 02.07 and another single individual seen on 04.07 at a site around Kumul Lodge

White-eared Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx meyerii*

Seen along the road above Ok Menga on 07.07 & 08.07

White-crowned Cuckoo *Cacomantis leucolophus*

A single bird seen above Ok Menga on 08.07

Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis castaneiventris*
A single individual seen on 07.07 at Dablin Creek

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*
Two birds seen at Sirunki on 02.04 & another single bird at the Pigites site near Kumul lodge

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*
Several seen at various sites in the highlands

Strigiformes: Strigidae

Barking Owl *Ninox connivens*
A single bird at roost along the main road above the lodge at Port Moresby on 28.06

Papuan Boobook *Ninox theomacha*
*Heard a bird calling during our night walk at Kumul Lodge on 04.07

Caprimulgiformes: Podargidae

Marbled Frogmouth *Podargus ocellatus*
*Heard calling while out late evening at Ok Menga and around Kwatu Lodge

Papuan Frogmouth *Podargus papuensis*
Great views of three individuals at the Pacific Adventist University

Caprimulgiformes: Caprimulgidae

Papuan Nightjar *Eurostopodus papuensis*
Caught in the flashlight feeding over the Elevala River on 10.07

Apodiformes: Aegothelidae

Mountain Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles albertisi*
*Heard calling during an evening walk at Kumul lodge

Barred Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles bennettii*
Seen well at the regular roost site at Varirata

Apodiformes: Hemiprocnidae

Moustached Treeswift *Hemiprocne mystacea*
Seen at Ok Menga on 08.07 and again at Boyestown and Km-17

Apodiformes: Apodidae

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*
Commonly seen species

Mountain Swiftlet *Aerodramus hirundinaceus*
Seen throughout the highlands

Uniform Swiftlet *Aerodramus vanikorensis*
Seen at various lowland sites

Papuan Spine-tailed Swift *Mearnsia novaeguineae*
Seen a few around Boyestown Rd and along the Elevala River

Coraciiformes: Coraciidae

Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*
Seen at various sites on the tour

Coraciiformes: Alcedinidae

Hook-billed Kingfisher *Melidora macrorrhina*
*A very shy bird, heard along the Elevala River

Common Paradise Kingfisher *Tanysiptera galatea*
Heard several times in the swamp marsh along the Elevala river; eventually three birds showed well on 11.07

Little Paradise Kingfisher *Tanysiptera hydrocharis*
Nice views in the swamp forest along the Elevala river

Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher *Tanysiptera danae*
Excellent views of a single individual in the forest at Varirata

Blue-winged Kookaburra *Dacelo leachii*
Observed at Varirata

Rufous-bellied Kookaburra *Dacelo gaudichaud*
Seen in small numbers on various occasions at Varirata NP and Ok Menga and Kwatu

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*
A few birds seen throughout the tour at Varirata, outside the lodge at Cloudsland, and various other sites

Yellow-billed Kingfisher *Syma torotoro*
Seen two individuals and heard a few more around Varirata, also heard in the forest around Kwatu Lodge

Mountain Kingfisher *Syma megarhyncha*
*Heard calling at various sites around Yaskom

Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azureus*
One bird seen in flight on the road to Varirata, and another two seen along the Elevala River

Coraciiformes: Meropidae

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*
Seen in good numbers around Varirata and Kama village

Bucerotiformes: Bucerotidae

Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus*
A pair first seen in flight along the drive from Kiunga to Tabubil, followed by a few around Ok Menga; relatively common along the Elevala river and in the swamp forest around Kwatu

Falconiformes: Falconidae

Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*
Seen in flight on 02.07

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*
Seen on 06.07

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*
Seen on 30.06 at Sirunki and on 04.07 in the Kumul lodge area

Psittaciformes: Cacatuidae

Palm Cockatoo *Probosciger aterrimus*

Seen well along the Elevala river and Boyestown Road

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*

A few birds seen around Km-17, along the Fly and Elevala Rivers and at Varirata

Psittaciformes: Psittacidae

Pesquet's Parrot *Psittarchas fulgidus*

Quite a few seen in flight near Ok Menga

Red-breasted Pygmy Parrot *Micropsitta bruijnii*

Small numbers around Dablin Creek and Ok Menga

Papuan King Parrot *Alisterus chloropterus*

Three in flight along the Elevala river on 11.03

Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus*

Seen on various occasions at Varirata, Km-17, Boyestown Rd and along the Elevala River

Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi*

Seen in good numbers at Varirata, the Tabubil area, Km-17, Boyestown Rd and along the Elevala River

Blue-collared Parrot *Geoffroyus simplex*

A few flocks heard and seen in flight around Dablin Creek

Brehm's Tiger Parrot *Psittacella brehmii*

Great views at the feeding table at Kumul Lodge daily during the stay

Painted Tiger Parrot *Psittacella picta*

A single bird seen on 02.07

Modest Tiger Parrot *Psittacella modesta*

A single bird seen on 04.07

Red-flanked Lorikeet *Charmosyna placentis*

Seen a few good flocks during the second half of the tour in the Western Province

Josephine's Lorikeet *Charmosyna josefinae*

Two birds seen in flight on 08.07

Papuan Lorikeet *Charmosyna papou*

A few individuals seen

Yellow-billed Lorikeet *Neopsittacus musschenbroekii*

A few flocks during our stay in the Highlands

Orange-billed Lorikeet *Neopsittacus pullicauda*

Seen a few in the Highlands

Black-capped Lory *Lorius lory*

Good views of a pair at Varirata and later at various locations

Yellowish-streaked Lory *Chalcopsitta scintillata*
A few birds seen along the Elevela River & Boyestown Rd.

Dusky Lory *Pseudeos fuscata*
Seen 5 birds in flight at Ok Menga on 08.07

Coconut (Rainbow) Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*
A few seen at Varirata and again around Kumul Lodge

Large Fig Parrot *Psittaculirostris desmarestii*
A flyover by a single bird while on the Elevela river on 11.07

Orange-breasted Fig Parrot *Cyclopsitta gulielmitertii*
Excellent views at Dablin Creek and around Kwatu lodge

Double-eyed Fig Parrot *Cyclopsitta diophthalma*
A few birds seen at Yaskom, with great views at Dablin Creek and at Kwatu lodge

Orange-fronted Hanging Parrot *Loriculus aurantiifrons*
Seen two birds in trees at Cloudlands Hotel, Tabubil

Passeriformes: Pittidae

Papuan (Red-bellied) Pitta *Erythropitta macklotii*
*Heard during walks in the swamp marshes flanking the Elevela River

Hooded Pitta *Erythropitta macklotii*
Seen by some group members in the swamp forest around Kwatu on 10.07; heard at Kwatu and Boyestown Rd.

Passeriformes: Ptilonorhynchidae

Black-eared Catbird *Ailuroedus melanotis*
Seen along the Elevela river on 10.07

Flame Bowerbird *Sericulus ardens*
First seen (male) in a brief flight view along the Elevela River on 11.07, with better views on 12.07 along the Boyestown Rd.

Yellow-breasted Bowerbird *Chlamydera lauterbachii*
Good views on 03.07 & 04.07

Fawn-breasted Bowerbird *Chlamydera cerviniventris*
A few seen around the grounds of Pacific Adventist University

Passeriformes: Climacteridae

Papuan Treecreeper *Cormobates placens*
Seen on 30.06 at Sirunki

Passeriformes: Maluridae

Wallace's Fairywren *Sipodotus wallacii*
Seen on 07.07 & 08.07 around Ok Menga

Emperor Fairywren *Malurus cyanocephalus*
Brief views on 09.07 along Boyestown Rd.

White-shouldered Fairywren *Malurus alboscapulatus*
Seen at various sites in Sirunki, around Kumul and in Kiunga

Passeriformes: Meliphagidae

Papuan Black Myzomela *Myzomela nigrita*
Seen on 07.07 at Ok Menga

Mountain Myzomela *Myzomela adolphinae*
Excellent views of a nice male at Varirata on 28.06 and again in the highlands on 03.07 & 04.07

Red-collared Myzomela *Myzomela rosenbergii*
Seen in the Sirunki area and again around Kumul lodge on most days

Green-backed Honeyeater *Glycichaera fallax fallax*
Had brief glimpses by some on 07.07 at Dablin Creek

Rufous-backed Honeyeater *Ptiloprora guisei*
Seen in small numbers around Sirunki, with one on 04.07 in the Kumul area

Grey-streaked Honeyeater *Ptiloprora perstriata*
Seen around Sirunki and at Kumul Lodge

Plain Honeyeater *Pycnopygius ixoides*
Seen at Varirata on 28.06

Streak-headed Honeyeater *Pycnopygius stictocephalus*
Seen at Varirata and in the OK Menga area

Tawny-breasted Honeyeater *Xanthotis flaviventer*
Seen on several occasions at Dablin Creek, Ok Menga & Boyestown Rd.

Meyer's Friarbird *Philemon novaeguineae*
A single bird seen at Kama village

New Guinea (Helmeted) Friarbird *Philemon novaeguineae*
Quite commonly seen at lowland elevations

White-throated Honeyeater *Melithreptus albogularis*
Great views of a single bird at Varirata on 28.06

Long-billed Honeyeater *Melilestes megarhynchus*
Seen during our visits to Dablin Creek

Common Smoky Honeyeater *Melipotes fumigatus*
A common species in the highlands, and seen well around the lodge at Kumul

Rufous-banded Honeyeater *Conopophila albogularis*
Seen on 27.06 at Pacific Adventist University

Brown-backed Honeyeater *Ramsayornis modestus*
Seen on 27.06 at Varirata

Sooty Melidectes *Melidectes fuscus*

Seen on 02.07 around Sirunki

Yellow-browed Melidectes *Melidectes rufocrissalis*
A few around Sirunki

Belford's Melidectes *Melidectes belfordi*
Common at Sirunki and at the bird feeder station at Kumul lodge

Ornate Melidectes *Melidectes torquatus*
A couple seen in the Kumul area

Mottle-breasted Honeyeater *Meliphaga mimikaae*
Seen a single bird on 04.07 along the Lai River

Mountain Honeyeater (*Meliphaga*) *Meliphaga orientalis*
A single bird seen on 28.06 at Varirata and again at Sirunki on 30.06

Scrub Honeyeater *Meliphaga albonotata*
Seen regularly around Cloudlands Hotel, Tabubil

Mimic Honeyeater (*Meliphaga*) *Meliphaga analoga*
Seen at various sites throughout the tour

Passeriformes: Acanthizidae

Rusty Mouse-warbler *Crateroscelis murina*
Heard and seen at Dablin Creek

Mountain Mouse-warbler *Crateroscelis robusta*
Seen in the gardens of Kumul Lodge 04.07

Papuan Scrubwren *Aethomyias papuensis*
A small flock seen around Kumul lodge

Large Scrubwren *Sericornis nouhuysi*
A small flock seen on our walk through the moist broadleaved forest at Mt. Komonge in Sirunki

Brown-breasted Gerygone *Gerygone ruficollis*
Seen on 30.06 in Sirunki and again along the Lai River on 04.07

Green-backed Gerygone *Gerygone chloronotus*
Seen in the Tabubil area on 07.07 & 08.07 and again on our final day at Pacific Adventist University

Passeriformes: Pomatostomidae

Papuan (New Guinea) Babbler *Garritornis isidorei*
3 individuals seen along Boyestown Rd.

Passeriformes: Cnemophilidae

Loria's Satinbird *Cnemophilus loriae*
Three birds seen at Pigites

Crested Satinbird *Cnemophilus macgregorii*
A male and female seen around Kumul lodge on 02.07 and a juvenile on 03.07

Passeriformes: Melanocharitidae

Obscure Berrypecker *Melanocharis arfakiana*
Seen at Dablin Creek on 06.07

Black Berrypecker *Melanocharis nigra*
A couple of sightings, first at Varirata on 28.06 and on a nest at Km-10 in Kiunga on 12.07

Fan-tailed Berrypecker *Melanocharis versteri*
Seen on 04.07 at Pigites, Kumul

Streaked Berrypecker *Melanocharis striativentris*
Single bird seen on 01.07 around Sirunki

Dwarf Longbill *Oedistoma pygmaeum*
Good views around Ok Menga on 08.07

Pygmy Longbill *Oedistoma pygmaeum*
Seen on 06.07 & 08.07 at Ok Menga

Yellow-bellied Longbill *Toxorhamphus poliopterus*
Nice view of a single bird on 08.07 at Ok Menga

Passeriformes: Paramythiidae

Tit Berrypecker *Oreocharis arfaki*
Two birds seen around Kumul lodge

Crested Berrypecker *Paramythia montium*
Seen during our stay in the gardens of Kumul lodge

Passeriformes: Psophodidae

Blue Jewel-babbler *Ptilorrhoa caerulescens*
A brief glimpse for some as it crossed the track at Km-17, Kiunga

Chestnut-backed Jewel-babbler *Ptilorrhoa caerulescens*
*Heard at Ok Menga and along the walk at Kwatu

Passeriformes: Machaerirhynchidae

Black-breasted Boatbill *Machaerirhynchus nigripectus*
Seen along the walk at Mt Komonge and again at Kumul lodge

Passeriformes: Artamidae

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*
A few seen at Pacific Adventist University and along the road from Port Moresby to Varirata

Great Woodswallow *Artamus maximus*
Seen at various sites in the Highlands

Lowland Peltops *Peltops blainvillii*
A pair seen along Boyestown Rd. on 09.07

Mountain Peltops *Peltops montanus*
Seen at various sites in the Highlands

Black Butcherbird *Cracticus quoyi*
Seen at Dablin Creek and around the Ok Menga area

Black-backed Butcherbird *Cracticus mentalis*
Got some great views in the grounds of Pacific Adventist University

Hooded Butcherbird *Cracticus cassicus*
Seen at Varirata, along Fly river and at Km-17 near Kiunga

Passeriformes: Campephagidae

Stout-billed Cuckooshrike *Coracina caeruleo-grisea*
A pair seen at Ok Menga on 08.07

Barred (Yellow-eyed) Cuckooshrike *Coracina lineata*
A pair seen at Varirata

Black-faced Cuckooshrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*
A pair seen at Varirata

Boyer's Cuckooshrike *Coracina boyeri*
Seen at Varirata, Ok Menga and Boyestown Rd.

White-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina papuensis*
Seen at Pacific Adventist University

Golden Cuckooshrike *Campochaera sloetii*
Seen at Dablin Creek, Ok Menga, and Boyestown Rd.

Black-bellied Cuckooshrike (Cicadabird) *Coracina montana*
Exceptional views at Sirunki

Grey-headed Cuckooshrike *Coracina schisticeps*
Seen on 12.07 at Boyestown Rd.

Black-shouldered Cicadabird *Coracina incerta*
Seen on 07.07 at Ok Menga

Grey-capped Cicadabird *Edolisoma remotum*
Seen at Km-10 near Kiunga on 12.07

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*
Great views at Varirata and Ok Menga

Passeriformes: Neosittidae

Papuan Sitella *Daphoenositta papuensis*
A small flock seen in the forest at Puman Daka and Mt Komonge in Sirunki

Passeriformes: Oreoicidae

Rufous-naped Whistler (Bellbird) *Alaedryas rufinucha*
Great views at Kumul Lodge

Passeriformes: Pachycephalidae

Brown-backed Whistler *Pachycephala modesta*

Seen around Sirunki and along the Lai river

Grey Whistler *Pachycephala simplex*
Seen at Varirata and in the Kumul area

Sclater's Whistler *Pachycephala soror*
Seen on 07.07 at Dablin Creek

Regent Whistler *Pachycephala schlegelii*
A beautiful bird seen quite regularly in the Sirunki area

Black-headed Whistler *Pachycephala monacha*
Seen in the Kumul area

White-bellied Pitohui *Pseudorectes incertus*
A single bird seen on 10.07 during walks into the swamp forest at Kwatu

Little Shrikethrush *Colluricincla megarhyncha*
*Heard around Ok Menga

Grey Shrikethrush *Colluricincla harmonica*
Seen on the drive up to Varirata

Passeriformes: Laniidae

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*
Seen over the few days spent in Sirunki and Kumul

Passeriformes: Oriolidae

Australasian Figbird *Sphecotheres vieilloti*
Seen in good numbers at Pacific Adventist University

Southern Variable Pitohui *Pitohui uropygialis*
Seen on 06.07 & 07.07 at Ok Menga and Dablin Creek

Hooded Pitohui *Pitohui dichrous*
A couple of birds seen at Varirata

Brown Oriole *Oriolus szalayi*
A common bird seen at most sites

Passeriformes: Dicruridae

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*
Seen at Varirata, Ok Menga, Kwetu and Boyestown Rd.

Passeriformes: Rhipiduridae

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*
Seen almost every day of the tour

Sooty Thicket Fantail *Rhipidura threnothorax*
A single bird seen on 30.06 in the Sirunki area

Black Thicket Fantail *Rhipidura maculipectus*
Seen in the Sirunki area

Black Fantail *Rhipidura atra*
Seen in the highlands

Chestnut-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura hyperythra*
Great views at Varirata

Friendly Fantail *Rhipidura albolimbata*
Most commonly seen bird at Kumul lodge in the highlands

Dimorphic Fantail *Rhipidura brachyrhyncha*
Seen at Sirunki and in the Kumul area

Rufous-backed Fantail *Rhipidura rufidorsa*
Seen on 08.07 at Ok Menga

Passeriformes: Monarchidae

Spot-winged Monarch *Symposiachrus guttula*
Seen in the swamp forests around Kwatu

Golden Monarch *Carterornis chrysomela*
A brief glimpse at Ok Menga on 07.07

Frilled Monarch *Arses telescopthalmus*
Seen on walks at Varirata and again at Kwatu

Torrent-lark *Grallina bruijnii*
Seen above OK Menga on 08.07

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*
A single bird seen outside Varirata

Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*
Seen in good numbers along the Elevala River

Passeriformes: Corvidae

Grey Crow *Corvus tristis*
A few birds seen overhead while on the boat along the Fly River

Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*
Commonly seen around Pt Moresby and Varirata

Passeriformes: Ifridae

Blue-capped Ifrit *Ifrita kowaldi*
A very special and sought-after bird, seen on various occasions in Sirunki and exceptionally around Kumul lodge

Passeriformes: Paradisaeidae

Glossy-mantled Manucode *Manucodia ater*
Seen at Boyestown Rd. and along the Fly River

Crinkle-collared Manucode *Manucodia halybatus*
A few birds seen along the access road to Varirata, and again around Kiunga

Trumpet Manucode *Phonygammus keraudrenii*

A single bird seen along the Fly River

Ribbon-tailed Astrapia *Astrapia mayeri*

Seen at Sirunki, Kumul lodge various other sites in the highlands

Princess Stephanie's Astrapia *Astrapia stephaniae*

Quite a few seen with good views around Sirunki

Queen Carola's Parotia *Parotia carolae*

Seen on both days at Dablin Creek

Lawes's Parotia *Parotia lawesii*

One seen at Sirunki and another at Tonga village

King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise *Pteridophora alberti*

A few of these extraordinary males and a few females were seen at Sirunki and a pair seen at Pigites, Kumul

Superb Bird-of-paradise *Lophorina superba*

Seen a few males and females around Tonga village

Magnificent Riflebird *Ptiloris magnificentus*

A single female seen at the new site above Ok Menga

Growling Riflebird *Ptiloris intercedens*

A female seen in the forest at Varirata on 28.06

Black Sicklebill *Epimachus fastosus*

A nice male seen at Mt. Komonge ridge in Sirunki

Brown Sicklebill *Epimachus meyeri*

A few seen at Sirunki and at the feeder station at Kumul

Magnificent Bird-of-paradise *Diphyllodes magnificentus hunsteini*

All birds seen were females; one at Kama village, and others at Dablin Creek

King Bird-of-paradise *Cicinnurus regius regius*

Great views of both males and females on the walk at Km-17, Kiunga

Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise *Seleucidis melanoleucus*

Male and female birds showed well along the Elevala River

Greater Bird-of-paradise *Paradisaea apoda*

Males and females seen around the Ok Menga area on all visits there, a couple at Km-17 and flyovers at Boyestown Rd.

Raggiana Bird-of-paradise *Paradisaea raggiana*

One of the great highlights of the trip were the group of males displaying at Varirata on 28.06

Lesser Bird-of-paradise *Paradisaea minor*

Excellent views of two males at Kama village

Blue Bird-of-paradise *Paradisaea rudolphi*

Great views of a male at Tonga village after a few hours' wait

Petroicidae: Australasian Robins

White-winged Robin *Peneothello sigillata*

Regular sightings around Kumul Lodge

White-rumped Robin *Peneothello bimaculata*

*Heard on 08.07 at Ok Menga

Black-capped Robin *Heteromyias armiti*

Seen near Kumul on 04.07

Torrent Flyrobin (Flycatcher) *Monachella muelleriana*

The first few seen at Unada primary school near Kumul lodge and later along the river at Ok Menga

Canary Flyrobin (Flycatcher) *Microeca papuana*

Nice views at Sirunki and at various sites around Kumul lodge

Lemon-bellied Flyrobin (Flycatcher) *Microeca flavigaster*

Seen at Varirata

Garnet Robin *Eugerygone rubra*

Seen on 02.07 at Sirunki

Hirundinidae: Swallows, Martins

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*

A common swallow seen on most days

Phylloscopidae: Leaf Warblers & Allies

Island Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus poliocephalus*

Seen at around Kumul Lodge

Megaluridae: Grassbirds and allies

Papuan (Tawny) Grassbird *Megalurus macrurus*

A few birds seen at various sites while at Kumul Lodge

Zosteropidae: White-eyes

Black-fronted White-eye *Zosterops Chrysolaeus*

A few seen at Varirata, Dablin Creek and Ok Menga

Green-fronted White-eye *Zosterops minor*

Small numbers at Mt Komonge, Sirunki

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

A flock seen around Kumul lodge

Sturnidae: Starlings

Pygmy Drongo (Drongo Fantail) *Chaetorhynchus papuensis*

Great views at Varirata on 28.06

Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica*

A few around Boyestown Rd., and along the Elevala River

Singing Starling *Aplonis cantoroides*

A few in the hospital grounds at Mumbisanda

Yellow-faced Myna *Mino dumontii*

A few seen at Pacific Adventist University and Port Moresby on 27.06, Varirata on 28.06, and later at Km-17 and Boyestown Rd.

Golden Myna *Mino Anais*

A few seen along the Elevala River

Turdidae: Thrushes

Island Thrush *Turdus poliocephalus*

Regularly seen at the feeder station at Kumul lodge

Muscicapidae: Chats, Old World Flycatchers

Pied Bush Chat *Saxicola caprata*

Seen regularly in the highlands

Dicaeidae: Flowerpeckers

Red-capped Flowerpecker *Dicaeum geelvinkianum*

Widespread and commonly seen

Nectariniidae: Sunbirds

Black Sunbird *Leptocoma sericea*

Seen at the car park at Varirata on 28.06

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis*

Quite commonly seen throughout

Passeridae: Old World Sparrows

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Seen in the hospital grounds at Mumbisanda

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Common at various sites

Estrildidae: Waxbills, Munias & Allies

Mountain Firetail *Oreostruthus fuliginosus*

Some great views of a few birds in the grounds of Kumul lodge

Hooded Mannikin (Munia) *Lonchura spectabilis*

Flocks seen around Sirunki and at various sites during our stay at Kumul lodge

Motacillidae: Pipits

Australian Pipit *Anthus australis*

A few birds on the Mt Hagen airstrip