

Papua New Guinea

Naturetrek Tour Report

13 - 29 August 2006



Brehm's Tiger-parrot



Chestnut Forest-rail



Brown Sicklebill



Red-cheeked Parrot

Images and report compiled by Jon Hornbuckle



Naturetrek Cheriton Mill Cheriton Alresford Hampshire SO24 0NG England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour leaders: Jon Hornbuckle
Tony Clark

Tour participants: Phil Barden
Mark & Helen Clark
Janet & Roger Hammond
Richard Latter
John McGeehin
Ray Piper
Gerry Price
Brue Ryland
Graham Thurlow

The deep cough was answered by another, higher pitched, from the opposite side of the road above Ambua Lodge. A pair of New Guinea Harpy Eagles duetting nearby! Benson moved swiftly up the road and soon shouted "I've got it in the scope!" In the mad scramble to see this most tantalizing of New Guinea birds, Brue slipped on the gravel and fell heavily to the ground, but everyone was eventually able to see the magnificent eagle perched in a tree on the ridge. This, the climax of an unforgettable tour, was the first time a Naturetrek group had seen a perched eagle. We amassed a record number of species, including some of New Guinea's real specialities such as all three species of Jewel-babbler, Logrunner, the scarce Doria's Hawk, and both Barred and Mountain Owlet-nightjars. Other memorable views were of the huge Southern Crowned Pigeons and Papuan Frogmouths, and an amazing noisy performance by a Chestnut Forest-rail, along with 11 species of kingfisher and cuckoo, and a good selection of parrots including the impressive Palm Cockatoo. Inevitably there were disappointments, due to the scarcity of fruiting trees this time and the shyness of many of the birds, but the tour was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

After arriving on time at Port Moresby in the early morning, we checked in at the Granville Motel, and were joined by Mark and Helen who had come via Australia. After a light breakfast, we took off for Varirata National Park, accompanied by an armed policeman and Daniel Wakra who was recruited by Jon and proved to be an excellent guide. First stop was at a roadside paddyfield where there were good numbers of Pied Herons and our only Greenshank of the trip. On the approach road to the Park, we found Papuan Frogmouth, Blue-winged Kookaburra, White-bellied Whistler and Lemon-bellied Flycatcher. At the picnic area, Daniel tapped on a dead tree until a bird popped out to give great views, a cute Barred Owlet-nightjar. This was followed by two other superb birds Yellow-billed and Brown-headed Paradise-Kingfishers. The Raggiana Bird of Paradise lek was quiet but we did see two males, and lower down the hill, a party of Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-shrikes were feeding in a fruiting tree.

After a good picnic lunch, Daniel took us to an "eagle" nest, which was guarded by a Doria's Hawk, soon flying off, unfortunately. This is the first recorded nesting at Varirata of this rarely seen species. We then left the Park and investigated the Kokoda Monument, an interesting memorial to Second World War activities but largely birdless apart from Grey-headed Munias. Returning to Moresby, we enjoyed a fish and chip dinner before turning in for a welcome nights sleep.

After an early breakfast, we looked for our armed escort, without success, and returned to Varirata where we hiked up to Gare's Lookout. The first bird was a Greater Black Coucal, much more often heard than seen. The trail was rather quiet but some saw a spectacular Pheasant Pigeon, called out by Daniel, while Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Dwarf Whistler and a pair of White-faced Robins feeding a youngster were seen by most. An almost invisible Large-tailed Nightjar was spotted in the leaf-litter, almost certainly on its nest, and another flushed off two eggs close to the trail. Birding along the road near the entrance gave "Eastern" Riflebird and Spot-winged Monarch for some. After lunching with Hooded Pitohui and Boyer's Cuckoo-shrike, we left the Park, stopped at the waterfall lookout and then spent a very pleasant afternoon at the Pacific Adventist University. Here we had excellent views of a good range of marshland and savanna species including Spotted, Wandering and the rare Plumed Whistling-Ducks, Purple Swamphen, Comb-crested Jacana, Green Pygmy-Goose, Black-backed Butcherbird, Fawn-breasted Bowerbird, Singing Starling and numerous Figbirds. In the evening a local civil engineer plied us with beer, which Tony for one found hard to resist.

The next morning we visited the Raggiana BoP lek where although we saw a couple of males, there was not much activity, probably due to the presence of a photographer with a big flashgun. We then drove to Varirata Look-out and after admiring the fine view down to the sea, walked the trail along the edge until Daniel stopped to show us another Barred Owllet-nightjar roosting in a hollow tree. An elusive White-crowned Koel was called in and eventually seen well but the only other bird of note was a Rusty Mouse-warbler. We drove down to the car park and birded the lower part of the Circuit Trail in two groups. Little was seen at first but a small flock held Rufous-bellied Fantail, Fairy and Yellow-bellied Gerygones, Dwarf and Rusty Whistlers and Black Berrypecker. Best of all we called out Painted Quail-thrush and Red-bellied Pitta for a few.

After lunch we drove back to Moresby and out along the coast, through the dry eucalypt savanna, not so dry today, to Lea Lea. Here we saw species such as Brown Goshawk, Australian Hobby, Mangrove Robin, Dusky Myzomela and Yellow-tinted Honeyeater, while a trio of Papuan Frogmouths roosting together in a lone tree was an awesome sight. A good selection of waders including Far Eastern Curlew, Terek Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler and Great Knot was also here.

After a welcome lie-in, for some, a city tour was organised by the Granville, on request. Then we proceeded to the airport for the flight to Kiunga. The mysterious loss of a flight ticket was an unwanted diversion, but we all made the flight in the end and disembarked at Daru while the plane refuelled. Here we had the pleasure of watching 8 Gull-billed Terns catching grasshoppers on the runway. The final leg to Kiunga passed over unbroken lowland forest, the extent of which is rarely seen anywhere else in the world today. At Kiunga we were met by Samuel, our chief guide for the next few days. After lunch we drove to Km17, and stayed there till 06.00 pm. Excellent views of displaying Greater Birds of Paradise were had, with a supporting cast of Palm Cockatoo, Double-eyed and Orange-breasted Fig-Parrots, Australian Koel, Lowland Peltops and a good selection of doves, pigeons and parrots. We dined at the comfortable Kiunga Guesthouse.

Much of the next two days was spent on one of the most popular parts of the tour, cruising on the Fly and Elevala Rivers, with a night at Ekame lodge, deep in the jungle. Departure was delayed by heavy rain, so we were too late to see Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise displaying. We turned up the Elevala River and slowly made our way to Ekame Lodge, seeing new birds such as, Great-billed Heron, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Collared, Zoe and Purple-tailed Imperial-Pigeons, Blyth's Hornbill and Shining Flycatcher. Several weird-looking Channel-billed Cuckoos were still present, while its smaller relative the Oriental Cuckoo was unusually numerous, probably on

passage to Australia. We eventually reached the Lodge, beautifully situated above the banks of the river, and dropped off our bags. We ate our sandwich lunch back in the boat, and then disembarked on the muddy bank for a long walk to look for Little Paradise-Kingfisher and King Bird of Paradise. The latter was not at his usual display tree but a feeding pair was tracked down and good views of this jewel of a bird were had. Hooded and Golden Monarchs, Black-sided Robin and Common Paradise-Kingfisher were also seen, and finally an immature Little Paradise-Kingfisher was scoped. Next we searched for the elusive Hook-billed Kingfisher, but although calling, it proved impossible to see at any of the sites tried. Later, Samuel succeeded in spotting another prize bird: a pair of Southern Crowned-Pigeon roosting in a large tree, as we returned to the lodge. A fullsome dinner of corned beef, tuna, vegetables, rice and noodles was consumed with the assistance of a large quantity of beer.

A rather slow breakfast delayed our departure upstream to the 12-wired BoP site. The male did not appear but a long search ashore eventually succeeded in locating a feeding pair, along with Black-sided Robin, Sooty Thicket-Fantail and the scarce Yellow-eyed Starling. Another impressive Southern Crowned-Pigeon showed off its amazing crest, while Rufous Babbler, the very local White-bellied Pitohui and the oriole-like Golden Cuckoo-Shrike were added to the list. Returning to the King Bird of Paradise area, we took the ridge trail and saw the skulking Blue Jewel-Babbler and a roosting Marbled Frogmouth but could not spot the closely calling Painted Quail-thrush. After lunch, we packed up and left for Kiunga. The journey back on the Elevala gave two tricky Fruit-doves – Orange-fronted and Dwarf – and some unwelcome heavy rain. At dusk, many large fruit-bats were flying to roost as we motored down the Fly, a magical sight against a red sunset. The river had risen since our original departure, so there was no problem walking ashore, unlike on a previous tour when we had had to wade through knee-deep mud. The showers and food were very welcome at the Guest House but the dining room staff were a tad surly.

The next day we drove to “Manucode Mound” on a rather muddy Boystown Road, to look for birds in the partly-logged forest. From the mound we saw a good selection including Red-flanked Lorikeet, Long-billed Cuckoo, a superb pair of Emperor Fairy-Wrens, Varied Triller, Meyer’s Friarbird, Trumpet Manucode and distant Flame Bowerbird in flight. We returned to the hotel for lunch, and then set off on the 3 hour dusty drive to Tabubil. After a stop for the endemic race of Little Ringed Plover, we turned off to the Ok Menga hydro station. We soon located Torrent Flycatcher but were unable to find Salvadori’s Teal or Torrent-Lark on the river and streams, but a pair of Teal finally appeared just before 6pm and gave reasonable views. We reached Cloudlands Hotel at Tabubil after dusk and had a good a la carte dinner.

An early start the following morning saw us, now in the capable hands of Kwiwan, Samuel’s cousin, on the Ok Ma Road. We soon heard Shovel-billed Kingfishers calling but although close, their positions could not be located. The birding was slow but a fair list was eventually logged, including White-eared Bronze-Cuckoo, Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo, Yellow-legged Flycatcher, Stout-billed, Golden and Grey-headed Cuckoo-shrikes, and a male Magnificent Riflebird. After lunch, we visited Dablin Creek for three hours and saw a good selection of the western foothill specialities: Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrot, Orange-breasted Fig-Parrot, Little Red Lorikeet, Mountain Peltops, Sclater’s Whistler but only Tony saw Carola’s Parotia. The day was capped by a fine meal of roast lamb at the Golf Club, by special arrangement.

Next day we returned to Ok Ma Road before dawn. The Shovel-bills still refused to show but a Papuan Boobook was more obliging. With the rain becoming more persistent, we returned to Cloudlands for breakfast, and then to Dablin Creek. It was quiet but pleasant here, with the best sightings going to only a few - White-

rumped Robin for Janet and Roger, Chestnut-backed Jewel-babbler, Black Monarch, Obscure Berrypecker and Spotted Honeyeater. After lunch, we went to the airport but our flight to Mt Hagen was delayed, due to late arrival and then inability of the ground staff to shut the hold! At Hagen we were escorted by Paul and Kim to the impressive Kumul Lodge, where we had a few beers and a good dinner. We were staying here two nights, as Jon had swapped a night at Tabubil for an extra night here since the Tabubil-Hagen flight schedule had changed.

After an early breakfast, we drove down-hill for some distance to a newly-found site for Lesser Bird of Paradise. We saw a resplendent male and a female but could only hear Blue and Superb BoPs; a gaudy Ornate Melidectes was some consolation. Opportunity was taken to meet and talk to the local villagers here, and learn something of their way of life. We made several stops on the way back to the Lodge, seeing Brown Falcon, Fan-tailed Berrypecker, New Guinea White-eye, Hooded Munia and a pair of Brown-backed Gerygone nest-building. The rest of the day was spent around the Lodge, especially watching the birds at the feeding station. There was a good selection of montane birds for all to see. Island Thrush, White-winged Robin and Mountain Firetail hopped among the flower beds, the gaudy Papuan Lorikeet and Crested Berrypecker fed in the trees, while Brehm's Tiger-Parrots, Ribbon-tailed Astrapias and Brown Sicklebills fed on fruit remains on the large feeding table, with Grey-streaked and Smoky Honeyeaters and Belford's Melidectes amongst the supporting cast. At dusk Mountain Nightjar failed to appear but after dinner a Mountain Owlet-Nightjar responded to play-back and gave stellar views.

During the first hour of daylight at the Lodge, there were more splendid sightings, most notably 3 Crested BoPs including an incredibly bright orange and black male! Goldie's, Plum-faced and Orange-billed Lorikeets were prominent around the lower car park, while Large Scrub-Wrens, Black-breasted Boatbill and Rufous-naped Whistler fed in the bushes at the Lodge. All too soon we had to leave for the airport, with a short stop at Tapuka quarry which was unusually quiet. Three Spotted Harriers were hunting over the airport's grassland as we waited for our short flight to Tari. Here we were met by Peter of Ambua Lodge and a welcoming committee of several 100 brightly dressed locals. We drove on the road towards Ambua Lodge and stopped for a picnic lunch at the small settlement of Pigonda. Here we were able to enjoy good views of a Greater Sooty Owl and then experience a sing-sing performed by the Huli wigmen, resplendent with their painted faces and head-dresses of BoP and parrot feathers. We arrived at the Lodge late afternoon and settled in, with a few birds seen such as Blue-grey Robin. At dusk some of us drove up the hill with bird-guide Benson to look for Feline Owlet-Nightjar. There was no obvious response to play-back but a bird did call several times, sounding just like the Mountain Owlet-Nightjar we had heard the previous night at Kumul. Unfortunately, we were unable to see it, so we moved higher up the road to look for Mountain Nightjar. One was located and seen well in the upper quarry. We returned to the Lodge for dinner at 8.10.

After an early breakfast we drove up to Tari Gap and saw Regent Whistler, Black-throated Honeyeater, Black Fantail, Red-collared Myzomela and Garnet Robin, with Archbold's Bowerbird for some. Then down to Benson's Trail where a male King of Saxony Bird of Paradise was scoped and McGregor's Bowerbird and Black-bellied Cuckoo-shrike seen, but little else. When we returned to the bus, we found a local with a captive King of Saxony BoP, a sad sight, and had to pay him to release it. Most of us went back to Ambua for lunch but a few stayed and saw Lesser Ground-Robin. We joined forces again after lunch and went back to Tari Gap. A walk along a small trail in the forest was rewarded by the amazing performance of a male Chestnut Forest-Rail, only 3 or 4 m away, responding to play-back. He was seen again clambering about in a small palm tree, probably a nest site. Returning to the Lodge, we added Stephanie's Astrapia to the BoP list.

The next morning was spent initially looking for more BoPs in Benson's gardens below the lodge. We saw a male and a female Lawes' Parotia but no Blue BoP or Black Sicklebill. Then we drove back above the lodge, and it was here that we heard and then saw the Harpy Eagle, perched for about 10 mins. With Lesser Melampittas calling both sides of the road, a wait was rewarded by the sight of one crossing the road. We spent the rest of the morning on Benson's Trail, tapping out a pair of Logrunners and seeing a Spotted Jewel-babbler and Ribbon-tailed Astrapia. Phil and Jon stayed on while everyone else went back to the Lodge for lunch, and saw Dimorphic Fantail, Lesser Ground-Robin and Mountain Mouse-Warbler. In the afternoon most of us visited Benson's aunt's gardens to look for Blue BoP and Black Sicklebill but only heard them, and Mountain Kingfisher. We did have good views of Great Cuckoo-dove, Papuan King-Parrot and a flock of Hooded Munia, plus a distant Superb BoP. John had walked the waterfall trail and bagged Hooded Cuckoo-shrike. Our last supper was a trifle muted as at least 4 of the group had gastric sickness.

The final day started well - an hour with Joseph at the lodge watching trees holding some fruit behind the chalets. Here we saw Loria's and Superb Birds of Paradise, Sanford's/Archbold's Bowerbird, Black Monarch and Papuan Parrotfinch, the only new bird for Jon this trip. Then it was time to leave Ambua, and we set off down the hill to Tari, stopping to scan a couple of times but Black Butcherbird was the only notable sighting. The flight to Port Moresby was seriously delayed due to aircraft failure, so we had time to check-out the airport grassland: 6 Little Curlew and a lone Oriental Plover there were doubtless on migration to Australia. The delay meant that 9 group members missed their flight to Singapore and had to over-night at the Gateway Hotel in Moresby; they took an early flight to Brisbane, where they were able to see several birds (list appended), before flying to Singapore and on to UK a day late.

A visit to the fascinating country of Papua New Guinea is always an adventure, and this, Naturetrek's fifth tour, was no exception. A total of 311 species was seen by the group, including New Guinea Harpy-Eagle and 20 birds of paradise, with an additional 17 species heard only.

Species lists

Birds

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*: 3 on the pond at Varirata NP and 2 at the Pacific Adventist's University (PAU).

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*: numerous at the PAU and 2 on the Elevala River.

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*: c.10 at the PAU and several on the Elevala River.

Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*: 3 at the PAU and 1 on the Elevala River.

Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*: one on the Elevala River.

Great Egret *Egretta alba*: a few singles noted around Port Moresby and Kiunga.

Pied Heron *Egretta picata*: 40-50 of this restricted range species at the PAU or nearby paddies.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*: a few in the Port Moresby area and on the Fly and Elevala Rivers.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*: only 2 noted, near Port Moresby.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*: common around Port Moresby but not noted elsewhere.

Striated Heron *Ardeola striata*: 5 along the Elevala River.

Rufous Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*: singles at the PAU and Elevala River.

Australian Ibis *Threskiornis molucca* 5 at the PAU.

Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*: common at the PAU.

Spotted Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna guttata*: c20 were roosting in a tree at the PAU.

Plumed Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni* 9 of this rare visitor from Australia at the PAU.

Salvadori's Teal *Salvadorina waigiensis* it was almost 6pm before a pair eventually showed at Ok Menga, Tabubil.

Green Pygmy-goose *Nettapus pulchellus*: 3 at the PAU.

Grey Teal *Anas gracilis* 2 at the PAU.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*: over 100 at the PAU.

Pacific Baza (Crested Hawk) *Aviceda subcristata*: up to 6 daily in the Kiunga area and 1 at Varirata.

Long-tailed Honey-Buzzard *Henicopernis longicauda*: one at Ok Ma road, Tabubil and up to 3 around Kiunga; endemic to New Guinea and feeds mainly on insects, including wasps.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*: 2 or 3 in the Port Moresby area; at least 6 in the Mt Hagen – Kumul Lodge area.

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*: 2 at the PAU and 1 at Mt Hagen.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*: a few observations near Moresby, Tari and Tabubil; fairly common along the Fly and Elevala Rivers.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*: 1 on the Elevala River.

Eastern/Spotted Marsh-Harrier *Circus spilonotus*: a male and 2 females at Mt Hagen airport.

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*: 3 near Lea Lea and 1 near Mount Hagen.

Black-mantled Goshawk, *Accipiter melanochlamys*: 1 at Tari Gap.

Variable Goshawk *Accipiter hiogaster*: 1 perched on wires below Varirata.

Grey-headed Goshawk *Accipiter poliocephalus*: 2 along the Elevala River.

Accipiter species: singles at Kumul Lodge and along the Elevala River.

Doria's Hawk *Megatriorchis doriae*: 1 at a nest at Varirata NP – probably the first known nest here - and another in flight in a different area; a rarely observed species.

New Guinea Eagle *Harpyopsis novaeguineae*: a pair duetting above Ambua Lodge – 1 found by Benson, perched in a large tree.

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*: 1 near Kumul Lodge.

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*: one at Lea Lea, near Port Moresby.

Black-billed Brush-turkey *Talegalla fuscirostris*: heard calling throughout the Kiunga area.

Brown Quail *Coturnix australis*: 4 on the Varirata approach road and 2 near Tari Gap.

Chestnut Forest-Rail *Rallina rubra*: a male gave an amazing display in response to play-back on the trail near Tari Gap, before perching in the bole of a pandanus – a probable nest site.

Red-necked Crake *Rallina tricolor*: crake-like calling, probably from this sp., was heard near Ekame Lodge.

White-browed Crake *Porzana cinerea*: one at the PAU.

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*: c.10 at the PAU.

Purple Swamphen (Purple Gallinule) *Porphyrio porphyrio*: lovely views of the common black-backed race (or species) *melanotus* at the PAU.

Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*: 3 at the PAU.

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*: several at the PAU and in nearby paddies.

Pacific Golden-Plover *Pluvialis fulva*: 1 in a paddy near the PAU, 2 at Tabubil airport and c.20 at Moresby airport.

Black-bellied (Grey) Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*: 1 at Lea Lea.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*: a single pair at Km120 near Tabubil; this resident race *dubius* differs somewhat from Palearctic birds and is a candidate for splitting.

Lesser Sandplover *Charadrius mongolus*: 6 at Lea Lea.

Greater Sandplover *Charadrius leschenaultia*: 1 at Lea Lea.

Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus*: 1 at Tari airport, a scarce migrant en route to northern Australia.

Swinhoe's/Latham's Snipe *Gallinago megala/hardwickii*: 10 at Tabubil airport, 2 at Hagen airport and 1 at Moresby airport.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*: 1 at Lea Lea.

Little Curlew *Numenius minutus*: 6 at Tari airport.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*: 3 at Lea Lea.

Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*: 1 at Lea Lea.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*: 1 in paddy near Moresby.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*: 2 at Lea Lea.

Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos*: 1 at Lea Lea; at least 2 on the Ekame river and at Tabubil.

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heterosceles brevipes*: 2 at Lea Lea.

Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*: 7 at Lea Lea.

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica*: 8 hawking for insects at Daru airport.

Great Crested Tern *Sterna bergii* 2 at Lea Lea.

Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis*: up to 12 daily at Varirata, and 2 or 3 daily in Kiunga-Tabubil area and Kumul Lodge. This split from the Australian Brown Cuckoo-Dove *M. phasianella* is named after the island of Ambon (previously Amboina Island) in the Moluccas.

Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia nigrirostris*: 2 near Ambua and Kiunga.

Great Cuckoo-Dove *Reinwardtoena reinwardtii*: 2 at Varirata, Ambua and Kiunga.

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia placida*: 2 at Varirata and the PAU.

Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*: 1 near Moresby.

Pheasant Pigeon *Otidiphaps nobilis*: one called up by Daniel along Gare's Lookout trail, Varirata, and 1 heard calling at Boystown Road, Kiunga.

Southern Crowned-Pigeon, *Goura scheepmakeri*: 3 of these huge pigeons by the Elevala River on the first day and 1 on the following day, one of the highlights of the tour.

Wompoo Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*: one or 2 at Varirata and heard along the Elevala River. The name is onomatopoeic.

Pink-spotted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus perlatus*: 1 or 2 daily at Varirata and fairly common near Kiunga.

Orange-fronted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus aurantiifrons*: one perched along the Elevala River was the only record.

Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*: 1 at Dablin Creek and 2 along the Elevala River.

Beautiful Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus pulchellus*: 1 at Varirata and 5 at Dablin Creek.

Orange-bellied Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus iozonus*: 1 or 2 around Kiunga - the race is *pseudohumeralis* with a maroon shoulder bar.

Dwarf Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus nanus*: 1 along the Elevala River.

Purple-tailed Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula rufigaster*: up to 5 along the Elevala River.

Pinon Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula pinon*: at least 2 along the Elevala River.

Collared Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula muellerii*: only 6 noted along the Fly and Elevala Rivers, a specialist of riverine forest.

Zoe Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula zoeae*: 1 or 2 daily around Kiunga.

Torresian Imperial-Pigeon *Duculaspilorrhoa*: 3 flying over the PAU and at Lea Lea.

Papuan Mountain Pigeon *Gymnophaps albertisii*: widespread and fairly common, in both lowlands and mountains.

Palm Cockatoo *Probosciger aterrimus*: 2 at Km17 and 5 of this spectacular bird both days along the Elevala River.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*: common along the Elevala River.

Yellow-(Greater) Streaked Lory *Chalcopsitta sintillata*: 2 along the Fly River.

Dusky Lory *Pseudeos fuscata*: common in flight near Kiunga and Tabubil.

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*: common in the lowlands and hills throughout.

Goldie's Lorikeet *Psitteuteles goldiei*: common at Kumul Lodge and a few at Tari Gap.

Black-capped Lory *Lorius lory*: 2 or 3 at Varirata, up to 6 daily in the Kiunga-Tabubil area.

Red-flanked Lorikeet *Charmosyna placensis*: 2 at Km17 and 20 at Boystown Road, Kiunga.

Fairy (Little Red) Lorikeet *Charmosyna pulchella*: a few small parties at Dablin Creek.

Papuan Lorikeet *Chamosyna papou*: good views of this stunning endemic near Ambua and at Kumul, with up to 6 daily. Both black and red colour morphs were seen.

Plum-faced Lorikeet *Oreopsittacus arfaki*: several at Kumul and 2 at Tari Gap on 2 days.

Yellow-billed Lorikeet *Neopsittacus musschenbroekii*: common around Ambua and a few at Kumul.

Orange-billed Lorikeet *Neopsittacus pullicauda*: a few at Kumul.

Yellow-capped Pygmy-Parrot *Micropsitta keiensis*: 6 at Boystown Road and heard at Varirata.

Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrot *Micropsitta bruijnii*: 10 at Dablin Creek. The world's smallest parrot.

Orange-breasted Fig-Parrot *Cyclopsitta gulelmiterii*: 6 at Km17 and 5 at Dablin Creek.

Double-eyed Fig-Parrot *Cyclopsitta diophthalma*: up to 10 daily in the Kiunga area.

Large Fig-Parrot *Psittaculirostris desmarestii*: 4 along the Elevala River.

Brehm's Tiger-Parrot *Psittacella brehmi*: up to 4 on the bird-table at Kumul.

Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi*: fairly common at Varirata and in the Kiunga area.

Blue-collared Parrot *Geoffroyus simplex*: heard at Dablin Creek.

Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus*: 1 at Varirata, fairly common and noisy in the Kiunga and Tabubil areas. Eclectus means the chosen one, in Latin.

Papuan King-Parrot *Alisterus chloropterus*: 2 at Varirata and 3 near Ambua.

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus horsfieldi*: surprisingly common around Kiunga with at least 15 on 30th, probably migrating south to Australia.

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*: commonly heard, but only seen along the Elevala River.

Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis castaneiventris*: singles seen at Ok Menga, Ok Ma Road and below Kumul; heard at Varirata and Tari.

Rufous-throated Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx ruficollis*: heard above Ambua Lodge.

White-eared Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx meyeri*: singles at Ok Ma Road and Dablin Creek; a rather uncommon endemic.

Long-billed Cuckoo *Rhamphomantis megarhynchus*: one seen at Km17 and Boystown Road.

White-crowned Koel *Caliechthrus leucolophus*: 1 seen at Varirata and heard at Boystown Road.

Dwarf Koel *Microdynamis parva*: heard near Ekame Lodge.

Australian Koel *Eudynamis cyanocephala*: 2 daily in the Kiunga area.

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*: 7 along the Elevala River the first day and 1 on the second day; an Australian migrant.

Greater Black Coucal *Centropus menbeki*: 1 seen well at Varirata and commonly heard near Ekame Lodge.

Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*: up to 5 daily in the Moresby area, especially below Varirata.

Lesser Black Coucal *Centropus bernsteini*: one at K17, Kiunga and heard at Boystown Road.

Greater Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa*: one flushed from its roost in a hollow tree in the Tari Valley.

Papuan Boobook *Ninox theomacha*: one seen at Ok Ma Road; heard at Ambua Lodge and Elevala Lodge. The scientific epithet 'theomacha' is a Mediaeval Latin word for witch.

Mountain Owlet-Nightjar *Aegotheles albertisi*: one seen well at Kumul Lodge. An owlet-nightjar called while we tried to call out Feline Owlet-Nightjar above Ambua but sounded like Mountain.

Barred Owlet-Nightjar *Aegotheles bennettii*: 2 singles disturbed from roosts in hollow trees at Varirata.

Papuan Frogmouth *Podargus papuensis*: singles found roosting below Varirata and Ambua, and 3 of this extraordinary-looking species were roosting together at Lea Lea.

Marbled Frogmouth *Podargus ocellatus*: 2 frogmouths were seen near Ekame Lodge, one of which was this sp. and the other probably Papuan.

Archbold's Nightjar *Eurostopodus archboldi*: one perched and in flight at the quarry above Ambua lodge.

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*: 3 of this well-camouflaged species were found on the ground at Varirata, at least 2 of them incubating 2 eggs.

Uniform Swiftlet *Collocalia vanikorensis*: regularly encountered in the lowlands and Tabubil area.

Mountain Swiftlet *Collocalia hirundinacea*: a few at Kumul, Tari and the Gap.

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*: widespread and common.

Papuan Needletail *Mearnsia novaeguineae*: up to 10 daily in the Kiunga area.

Moustached Tree-Swift *Hemiprocne mystacea*: up to 6 daily along the Elevala River.

Azure Kingfisher *Alcedo azurea*: singles at Varirata and on the Elevala River.

Little Kingfisher *Alcedo pusilla*: 1 on the Elevala River.

Rufous-bellied Kookaburra *Dacelo gaudichaud*: several splendid views of this spectacular and noisy bird at Varirata and the Kiunga area.

Blue-winged Kookaburra *Dacelo leachii*: 1 or 2 daily at Varirata and 2 at the PAU.

Shovel-billed Kookaburra *Clytoceyx rex*: 2 heard calling at dawn at Ok Ma Road.

Forest Kingfisher *Todirhamphus macleayii*: only 1 sighting, below Varirata; an Australian migrant.

Sacred Kingfisher *Todirhamphus sancta*: a common Australian winter migrant along the Elevala River, but only a few seen this time.

Collared Kingfisher *Todirhamphus chloris*: 1 at Lea Lea.

Hook-billed Kingfisher *Melidora macrorrhina*: heard along the Elevala River but we were unable to detect 1 perched.

Yellow-billed Kingfisher *Syma torotoro*: 2 gorgeous birds at Varirata and singles around Kiunga.

Mountain Kingfisher *Syma megarhyncha*: heard below Ambua but would not come in.

Common Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera galatea*: 2 singles seen and others heard along the Elevala River.

Little Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera hydrocharis*: an immature near Ekame Lodge looked very similar to imm. Common Paradise-Kingfisher but it responded to the much different call of Little P-K.

Brown-headed Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera dana*: 2 seen well at Varirata.

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*: only 4 of this multicoloured Australian migrant at the PAU; most of the "wintering" population must have left.

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*: common along the Fly and Elevala Rivers and 2-4 at Varirata.

Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus*: fairly common along the Elevala River, with at least 15 seen 1 day.

Red-bellied Pitta *Pitta erythrogaster*: 1 called in by play-back at Varirata and flew across the river; heard calling at Ok Ma Road.

Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida*: several calling around Kiunga.

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*: common and widespread.

Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*: only 2 identified, on the way to Varirata, the majority having returned to Australia.

Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*: a female at Varirata.

Stout-billed Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina caeruleogrisea*: 1 at Varirata and 2 at Ok Ma Road and Dablin Creek.

Boyer's Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina boyeri*: singles at Varirata and Kiunga, and 3 at Boystown Road; named after Captain J. Boyer (b.1815), French navigator in the Pacific with Dumont d'Urville.

Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina lineata*: 6 at Varirata.

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*: 1 at Varirata.

Hooded Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina longicauda*: 6 near Ambua.

Black-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina morio*: 1 at Varirata.

Grey-headed Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina schisticeps*: 1 at Kiunga, 4 at Ok Ma Road and 3 at Dablin Creek.

Black (New Guinea) Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina melaena (melas)*: singles at Varirata, Boystown Road and Ok Ma Road.

Black-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina montana*: 1 above Ambua.

Golden Cuckoo-shrike *Campochaera sloetii*: 2 at Ekame Lodge, and 5 or 6 at Ok Ma Road and Dablin Creek.

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*: one Boystown Road.

Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*: 2 or 3 daily in the foothills.

Island Thrush *Turdus poliocephalus*: 5 at Kumul and 7 at Tari Gap.

Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis*: 2 near Kumul and brief sightings around Ambua.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*: 1 at Daru airport and heard on the way to Varirata.

Island Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus poliocephala*: 2 near Kumul and singles around Ambua.

Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris*: 2 Ok Ma Road.

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*: widespread and common.

Chestnut-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura hyperythra*: 1 or 2 daily at Varirata in mixed feeding flocks.

Friendly Fantail *Rhipidura albolimbata*: common and friendly around Ambua and Kumul.

Rufous-backed Fantail *Rhipidura rufidorsa*: heard at Boystown Road.

Sooty Thicket-Fantail *Rhipidura threnothorax*: one near Ekame Lodge and heard at Ok Ma Road.

White-bellied Thicket-Fantail *Rhipidura leucothorax*: 1 seen by some near Ekame Lodge.

Black Fantail *Rhipidura atra*: 1 or 2 at Ambua.

Dimorphic Fantail *Rhipidura brachyrhyncha*: only 1, on Benson's Trail above Ambua.

Black Monarch *Monarcha axillaris*: singles at Ambua and Dablin Creek.

Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis*: one near Ekame Lodge.

Spot-winged Monarch *Monarcha guttula*: 1 at Varirata.

Hooded Monarch *Monarcha manadensis*: one near Ekame Lodge.

Golden Monarch *Monarcha chrysomela*: 2 both days along the Elevala River.

Frilled Monarch *Arses telescopthalmus*: up to 4 of this striking bird at Varirata and 1 at Boystown Road.

- Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*: one in savanna woodland below Varirata.
- Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*: 3 both days along the Elevala River.
- Black-breasted Boatbill *Machaerirhynchus nigripectus*: up to 3 daily at Ambua and Kumul.
- Yellow-breasted Boatbill *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*: heard at Varirata.
- Lesser Ground-Robin *Amalocichla incerta*: 2 singles seen above Ambua with more heard.
- Torrent Flycatcher *Monachella muelleriana*: 5 at Ok Menga, Tabubil and 2 below Kumul.
- Lemon-bellied Flycatcher *Microeca flavigaster*: 2 of this Australian species in savanna woodland below Varirata.
- Yellow-legged Flycatcher *Microeca griseiceps*: singles at Varirata Ok Ma Road.
- Canary Flycatcher *Microeca papuana*: one at Kumul and up to 5 at Ambua.
- Garnet Robin *Eugerygone rubra*: 2 at Tari Gap.
- White-faced Robin *Tregellasia leucops*: a pair feeding a juv at Varirata.
- Mangrove Robin *Eopsaltria pulverulenta*: 2 at Lea Lea.
- Black-sided Robin *Poecilodryas hypoleuca*: 2 singles of this skulking species seen near Ekame Lodge.
- Black-throated Robin *Poecilodryas albonotata*: 1 at Kumul Lodge (Leader Only).
- White-winged Robin *Peneothello sigillatus*: 2 at Kumul and 1 at Tari Gap.
- White-rumped Robin *Peneothello bimaculatus*: another elusive robin, with 1 at Dablin Creek and heard at Ok Ma Road.
- Blue-grey Robin *Peneothello cyanus*: 2 or 3 at Ambua Lodge.
- Ashy Robin *Poecilodryas albispecularis*: this mega-skulker was only heard above Ambua.
- Northern Scrub-Robin *Drymodes superciliaris*: heard at Varirata.
- Dwarf Whistler (Goldenface) *Pachycare flavogrisea*: heard several times at Varirata but only seen by some; another tricky bird and species of uncertain affinity.
- Rufous-naped Whistler *Pachycephala rufinucha*: 2 daily at Ambua and Kumul.
- Rusty Whistler *Pachycephala hyperythra*: one at Varirata.
- Grey-headed Whistler *Pachycephala griseiceps*: singles at Varirata; a split from the Australian species Grey Whistler *P. simplex*.
- Sclater's Whistler *Pachycephala soror*: 1 at Kumul.
- Regent Whistler *Pachycephala schlegelii*: 2 below Tari Gap and 3 at Kumul.
- Black-headed Whistler *Pachycephala monacha*: 1 at Tari.
- White-bellied Whistler *Pachycephala leucogaster*: 2 in the Eucalypts below Varirata; a recent split from the Rufous Whistler *P. rufiventris* of Australia.
- Rufous (Little) Shrike-Thrush *Colluricincla megarhyncha*: singles at Ekame Lodge and Ok Ma Road, heard at Tari.
- Hooded Pitohui *Pitohui dichrous*: 4 or 5 daily at Varirata and 2 at Dablin Creek; the first bird to be declared poisonous.
- White-bellied Pitohui *Pitohui incertus*: 3 of this rare species were seen along the Elevala River and others heard further along the river.
- Rusty Pitohui *Pitohui ferrugineus*: one at Varirata.
- Crested Pitohui *Pitohui cristatus*: the amazing repetitive song of this skulker was heard several times at Varirata.

Variable Pitohui *Pitohui kirhocephalus*: only 1, at Km 17, Kiunga.

New Guinea (Rufous) Babbler *Pomatostomus isidorei*: 4 - 6 along the Elevala River.

New Guinean Logrunner *Orthonyx novaeguineae*: a pair was seen at Tari Gap.

Painted Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma ajax*: one observed by a few at Varirata and another near Ekame Lodge came close but could not be seen.

Spotted Jewel-Babbler *Ptilorrhoa leucosticta*: one was eventually seen on Benson's Trail above Ambua.

Blue Jewel-Babbler *Ptilorrhoa caerulescens*: 1 showed near Ekame Lodge.

Chestnut-backed Jewel-Babbler *Ptilorrhoa castanonota*: 2 were enticed to fly across the track at Dablin Creek.

Blue-capped Ifrita *Ifrita kowaldi*: surprisingly scarce this year with only a single sighting for a few above Ambua. Its uncertain taxonomic position is indicated in its scientific name: ifrit is an Arabic word meaning spirit, djinn.

Wallace's Fairywren *Sipodotus wallacii*: a pair was glimpsed near Ekame Lodge; a rather rare species, named after Alfred Russell Wallace (1823-1913).

Emperor Fairywren *Malurus cyanocephalus*: 4 of these gorgeous birds were seen well at Boystown Road and 2 were by the Elevala River.

White-shouldered Fairywren *Malurus alboscapulatus*: several sightings near Varirata, Kumul and below Ambua Lodge.

Rusty Mouse-Warbler *Crateroscelis murina*: although frequently heard, only one or 2 were seen, at Varirata and Ok Ma Road.

Mountain Mouse-Warbler *Crateroscelis robusta*: 2 singles seen above Ambua.

Large Scrubwren *Sericornis nouhuysi*: up to 10 at Kumul.

Buff-faced Scrubwren *Sericornis perspicillatus*: quite common near the Lodge at Ambua.

Papuan Scrubwren *Sericornis papuensis*: common below Tari Gap.

Grey Gerygone, *Gerygone cinerea*: 1 above Ambua.

Green-backed Gerygone *Gerygone chloronotus*: commonly heard but only seen at Varirata.

Fairy Gerygone *Gerygone palpebrosa*: 2 at Varirata and Boystown Road.

Yellow-bellied Gerygone *Gerygone chrysogaster*: 2 at Varirata, 1 at Ok Ma Road and heard at Boystown Road.

Large-billed Gerygone *Gerygone magnirostris*: 2 singles along the Elevala River.

Brown-breasted Gerygone *Gerygone ruficollis*: a few around Ambua and a pair nesting below Kumul.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis*: singles at Varirata and Dablin Creek.

Black Sunbird *Nectarinia aspasia*: 1 at Varirata, 2 Ok Ma Road and 1 or 2 daily in the Kiunga area.

Black Berrypecker *Melanocharis nigra*: one at Varirata and 2 at Km 17.

Fan-tailed Berrypecker *Melanocharis versteri*: 2 below Kumul and above Ambua.

Yellow-bellied Longbill *Toxorhamphus novaeguineae*: 1 near Ekame Lodge.

Slaty-chinned Longbill *Toxorhamphus poliopterus*: singles at Varirata and Dablin Creek.

Dwarf Honeyeater *Oedistoma iliolophus*: 2 singles at Varirata; a difficult bird to see well.

Pygmy Honeyeater *Toxorhamphus pygmaeum*: one at Ok Ma Road.

Tit Berrypecker *Oreocharis arfaki*: only 1 seen at Ambua this time, cf numerous 6 weeks earlier.

Crested Berrypecker *Paramythia montium*: good views of 3 of this striking bird at Kumul and Tari Gap.

Olive-crowned (Papuan) Flowerpecker *Dicaeum pectorale*: one or 2 singles seen on 6 days.

Black-fronted White-eye *Zosterops atrifrons*: small parties at Varirata and below Kumul, and 30 at Dablin Creek.

Capped (Western Mountain) White-eye *Zosterops fuscicapillus*: common in the Tari valley.

New Guinea White-eye *Zosterops novaeguineae*: 20 below Kumul.

Green-backed Honeyeater *Glycichaera fallax*: singles at Ok Ma Road and below Kumul.

Dusky Myzomela, *Myzomela obscura*: one at Lea Lea.

Papuan Black Myzomela *Myzomela nigrita*: 1 or 2 at Varirata.

Red-collared Myzomela *Myzomela rosenbergii*: common above Ambua and 5 at Kumul.

Scrub Honeyeater (Scrub White-eared Meliphaga) *Meliphaga albonotata*: 2 at Dablin Creek.

Puff-backed Meliphaga *Meliphaga aruensis*: a few at Boystown Road.

Mimic Meliphaga *Meliphaga analoga*: 2 at Dablin Creek.

Graceful Honeyeater *Meliphaga gracilis*: fairly common at Varirata.

Black-throated Honeyeater *Lichenostomus subfrenatus*: 2 above Ambua; distinctive song but a difficult bird to see well.

Yellow-tinted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus flavescens*: in the trees around the Granville Motel, Port Moresby and 2 at Lea Lea.

Spotted Honeyeater *Xanthotis polygramma*: singles at Varirata and Ok Ma Road.

Tawny-breasted Honeyeater *Xanthotis flaviventer*: 2 at Boystown Road and Ok Ma Road.

White-throated Honeyeater *Melithreptus albogularis*: at least 2 in the savannah woodland below Varirata.

Streak-headed Honeyeater *Pycnopygius stictocephalus*: 3 at Varirata and 1 or 2 daily in the Kiunga – Tabubil area.

Plain Honeyeater *Pycnopygius ixoides*: one at Boystown Road.

Meyer's Friarbird *Philemon meyeri* 2 at Boystown Road

Helmeted (New Guinea) Friarbird *Philemon buceroides(novaeguineae)*: common throughout the lowlands and hills.

Rufous-backed Honeyeater *Ptiloprora guisei*: a few seen most days in the vicinity of the lodge at Ambua.

Grey-streaked Honeyeater *Ptiloprora perstriata*: common above Ambua and at Kumul.

Belford's Melidectes *Melidectes belfordi*: very common and noisy above Ambua and at Kumul.

Yellow-browed Melidectes *Melidectes rufocrissalis*: fairly common at and below Ambua Lodge, a few below Kumul and 1 at Dablin Creek.

Ornate Melidectes *Melidectes torquatus*: 4 at the quarry near Kumul and the Lesser BoP site.

Common Smoky Honeyeater *Melipotres fumigatus*: common from Ambua Lodge to Tari Gap, at Kumul and singles at Dablin Creek and Ok Menga.

Rufous-banded Honeyeater *Conopophila albogularis*: common from Port Moresby to the PAU and savannah below Varirata.

Brown Oriole *Oriolus szalayi*: common in the lowlands and hills, though more often heard than seen.

Green Figbird *Sphecotheres viridis*: at least 20 at the PAU.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*: 2 below Kumul.

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*: fairly common throughout lowland and hill forest.

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*: small numbers around Port Moresby, Kiunga and Tabubil.

Great Woodswallow *Artamus maximus*: up to 8 at Ambua, and a few at Kumul and Dablin Creek.

Mountain Peltops *Peltops montanus*: up to 6 at Tabubil, only 1 at Ambua Lodge.

Lowland Peltops *Peltops blainvillii*: 3 at Km17.

Hooded Butcherbird *Cracticus cassicus*: fairly common in the lowlands and foothills, but more often heard than seen.

Black-backed Butcherbird *Cracticus mentalis*: singles in the savannah below Varirata and at the PAU.

Black Butcherbird *Cracticus quoyi*: one or 2 at Tari and heard at Km17 and Ok Ma Road.

Crested Bird of Paradise *Cnemophilus macgregorii*: a gorgeous male and 2 females at Kumul Lodge, and a single female-type below Tari Gap.

Loria's Bird of Paradise *Cnemophilus loriae*: a pair feeding in fruiting trees at Ambua Lodge.

Glossy-mantled Manucode *Manucodia atra*: 2 at Boystown Road, common along the Elevala River and 1 at Km17.

Crinkle-collared Manucode *Manucodia chalybeata*: 2 at Boystown Road, singles at Ok Ma Road, and heard at Varirata.

Trumpet Manucode *Manucodia keraudrenii*: singles at Boystown Road and Ekame Lodge, and heard at Km17.

Ribbon-tailed Astrapia *Astrapia mayeri*: wonderful views at Kumul, with up to 6 a day and at least 3 at Ambua.

Princess Stephanie's Astrapia *Astrapia stephaniae*: up to 4 seen daily at Ambua.

Carola's Parotia *Parotia carolae*: only 1 female-type seen by a few at Dablin Creek. The species is named after Queen Carola of Saxony (1835-1907), wife of King Albert of Saxony.

Lawes' Parotia *Parotia lawesii*: a male and a female feeding in fruiting trees Benson's gardens below Ambua. The four species of Parotia are sometimes called the Six-wired Birds of Paradise because of the spectacular six head wires that adult males show.

King of Saxony Bird of Paradise *Pteridophora alberti*: up to 4 below Tari Gap, with some display.

Magnificent Riflebird *Ptiloris magnificus*: a male and 2 female-types at Ok Ma Road; heard sporadically around Kiunga.

Eastern (Magnificent) Riflebird *Ptiloris (magnificus) intercedens*: 2 males were seen at Varirata, with others heard. Considered a separate species, based on its call: a deep throaty growl as opposed to the clear, loud whistle of the more westerly birds.

Superb Bird of Paradise *Lophorina superba*: single female-types at Ambua Lodge and below Kumul.

Brown Sickbill *Epimachus meyeri*: good views of up to 3 together feeding on the bird table at Kumul, with an estimated total of 6 birds involved; only 1 was seen above Ambua. The males make a highly distinctive and far-carrying machine-gun rattle call.

Magnificent Bird of Paradise *Cicinnurus magnificus*: only heard calling, at Varirata, Ok Ma Road and Dablin Creek.

King Bird of Paradise *Cicinnurus regius*: a male was seen in the high canopy near Ekame Lodge on the first day and a male and female were observed elsewhere along the Elevala River on the second day.

Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise *Seleucidis melanoleuca*: 2 singles along the Elevala River on both days.

Greater Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea apoda*: around 6 were seen, with several displaying males, at K 17, Kiunga, and 2 at Boystown Road, along the Elevala River and at Ok Ma Road. The scientific epithet *apoda* (lack of feet) refers to the first Birds of Paradise that were transported from New Guinea to Europe and which lacked feet, giving rise to theories of an exclusively aerial way of life (in paradise) - hence the commonly used name of the birds.

Lesser Bird-of-paradise *Paradisaea minor*: a male and a female were observed below Kumul Lodge.

Raggiana Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea raggiana*: around 4 were displaying with attendant females at Varirata, and a few seen around Kiunga. It is named after Marchese Francesco Raggi, an Italian naturalist and collector in New Guinea in the second half of the 19th century.

Blue Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea rudolphi*: only heard below Kumul and Ambua Lodge, a considerable disappointment.

Lesser Melampitta *Melampitta lugubris*: one was seen on trails below Tari Gap and another flew across the main road; its strange clicking noise was heard a few times. A species of uncertain affinity, possibly a terrestrial bird of paradise.

Greater Melampitta *Melampitta gigantea*: only 1 was heard calling at Dablin Creek. This mysterious bird is reported to spend much of its time underground in limestone sink-holes.

Sanford's (Archbold's) Bowerbird *Archboldia sanfordi (papuensis)*: 2 flew across the road below Tari Gap and 2 fed on fruiting trees at Ambua Lodge. A very shy species with a scattered range in New Guinea's highest mountains; split by some authorities from Archbold's *A. papuensis*.

Macgregor's Bowerbird, *Amblyornis macgregoriae*: 2 seen on Benson's Trail above Ambua.

Flame Bowerbird *Sericulus aureus*: 2 males were seen briefly in flight at Boystown Road.

Fawn-breasted Bowerbird *Chlamydera cerviniventris*: fairly common around Port Moresby, especially at the PAU.

Yellow-breasted Bowerbird *Chlamydera lauterbachii*: only 1 below Kumul.

Grey Crow *Corvus tristis*: 2 of this strange corvid daily at Varirata and in the Kiunga area.

Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*: common around Port Moresby, especially at a dump, with a few at Varirata and Daru.

Singing Starling *Aplonis cantoroides*: 2 at the PAU.

Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica*: a few around Moresby, numerous along the Fly and Elevala Rivers, with several breeding colonies.

Yellow-eyed Starling *Aplonis mystacea*: 12 were observed feeding in a fruiting tree near Ekame Lodge but none were seen at a nesting site that was active 2 weeks earlier.

Yellow-faced Myna *Mino dumontii*: fairly common in the lowlands and foothills.

Golden Myna *Mino anais*: only sightings were along the Elevala River, with a max of 6.

Mountain Firetail *Oreostruthus fuliginosus*: only 1 or 2 noted at Kumul Lodge.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*: quite common in Port Moresby, where it only began colonizing in 1992.

Blue-faced Parrotfinch *Erythrura trichroa*: singles at Ambua Lodge and Dablin Creek.

Papuan Parrotfinch *Erythrura papuana*: 2 at Ambua Lodge.

Streak-headed/White-spotted Munia *Lonchura tristissima*: a flock of at least 20 at Boystown Road for John.

Hooded Munia *Lonchura spectabilis*: 2 or 3 below Kumul and a flock of about 50 below Ambua.

Grey-headed Munia *Lonchura caniceps*: at least 20 at the Kukoda Monument.

Birds recorded at Brisbane on the way back to UK

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillata*

White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*

Australian Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*

Straw-necked Ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Whistling Kite *Haliastur spenurus*

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*

Australian Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*

Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*
Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae*
Spotted Turtle Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*
Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes*
Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*
Magpie-Lark *Grallina cyanoleuca*
Willie-wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*
Pied Butcherbird *Cracticus nigrogularis*
Australian Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen*
Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*
Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*
Tree Martin *Hirundo nigricans*
Fairy Martin *Hirundo ariel*
Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

Mammals

Agile Wallaby *Macropus agilis*: 3 at Varirata.

2 mammals on the feeding station at Kumul at night remain unidentified but were probably a marsupial species.

Moss Forest Rat , *Rattus niobe*: a rat above Ambua is likely to have been this.

Freshwater Crocodile *Crocodylus novaeguineae*: only 1 noted, on the Elevala River.

Greater Flying-Fox *Pteropus neohibernicus*: numerous at dawn and dusk over the Fly and Elevala Rivers.