

Papua New Guinea 2007

July 23, 2007 to August 13, 2007

Guided by
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After another great trip and now entering the third decade of Field Guides PNG trips, it is amazing to contemplate the changes since those early trips. We have seen a huge growth in information and much greater availability of many formerly almost mythical species, such as the Shovel-billed Kingfisher we saw so well this year. Our group sampled a very good range of species and enjoyed various cultural diversions such as the visit to Manjimai village, a trip to the wigmen at Tari, and a sing-sing at Piakonda, all of which combined nicely with the birding programs and were hugely enjoyable. We also had good interactions with the landowners at various sites- without their agreement we can go nowhere, and failure to obtain same ensures problems later on! This was an election year and we were exceptionally lucky not to have flights changed during the trip or hotels booked out by politicians, as happened to several other companies this year. Our itinerary got reversed due to flights problems, but I actually quite like starting early on at Karawari, it is a pleasant introduction to lowland forest birding.

Our initial visit to the Pacific Adventist grounds near Port Moresby is always a very nice and deceptively easy way to start, with great views of many species including Pied Heron, Spotted Whistling-Duck, Papuan Frogmouth and Fawn-breasted Bowerbird.

Varirata next day is always rewarding, and we opened the BoP (Bird of Paradise) account with very good Raggiana's at lek and a gorgeous Brown-headed Paradise-Kingfisher nearby. Yellow-billed Kingfisher was also obliging and our local guide found us a wonderful Barred Owllet-Nightjar.

Karawari is a nice experience, with such a great scenic site, and we kept ourselves amused with an elusive Ochre-collared Monarch, great Edward's Fig-Parrots, Black-browed Triller and lots of Eclectus Parrots, with fly-by Brown Lory a welcome addition. Our night foray rewarded us with good views of a Papuan Hawk Owl, a very poorly known species for which this is a key site. Hooded Monarch, Lesser Black Coucal and Twelve-wired BoP were other nice birds, also with great looks at Buff-faced Pygmy-Parrot and several views of Great-billed Heron.

We made the flight over to Ambua in 3 flights, amazingly with all our luggage too, though we had planned to sacrifice the 30 kg of wellies should need arise, and settled in for a lengthy stay in what proved to be somewhat wet conditions. Ambua is BoP central, and we soon had a female Blue BoP, female Superb, fabulous Princess Stephanie's Astrapia, Short-tailed Paradigalla, Lawes' Parotia, King-of-Saxony, both Brown and Black Sicklebills and Ribbon-tailed Astrapia, a great haul. Other highlights included Meyer's Goshawk, Sooty Owl at roost, Papuan Boobook, Brehm's Tiger-Parrot, Phil's second Ambua Olive Straightbill, Crested BoP, a skulking very close Spotted Jewel-babbler, Hooded and Black-bellied Cuckoo-shrikes, lots of Blue-faced Parrotfinch (with Papuan for some), and good looks at the normally skulking New Guinea Logrunner and Lesser Ground Robin.

Kiunga also proved wet at times, but that first afternoon at Km 17 was as good as ever and netted us Greater BoP, Trumpet Manucode and Golden Cuckoo-shrike. An incredible last morning finale added Hook-billed Kingfisher after wonderful views of Greater, Raggiana and hybrid Bop's at their lek, a real Attenborough moment. The river trip is always a highlight and this year Rich took Samuel's place as Mr. Crowned Pigeon, spotting three birds from the boat for ace views. The King BoP was not too shabby

either, as was the Twelve-wired atop his song post early morning. I must not forget Palm Cockatoo, the superb Vulturine (Pesquet's) Parrots, Collared Imperial-Pigeon, Blue Jewel-babbler showing well, and Common, Buff-breasted and (for Christian!) Little Paradise-Kingfisher either, plus lots of Glossy-mantled manucodes, a fabulous Magnificent Riflebird coming in to check us out, Flame Bowerbird, the rare Yellow-eyed Starling and the gorgeous Golden Myna.

Tabubil was really good, with outstanding looks at Obscure Berrypecker, and an amazingly co-operative male Carola's Parotia. Mag BoP also showed, as did Slaty-chinned Longbill plus White-eared Bronze-Cuckoo and fantastic diminutive Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrots gleaning along branches at close range, great to see the world's smallest parrots so nicely.

All too soon it was time for the finale at Varirata, where Brown-backed Honeyeater, White-bellied Whistler, Hooded Pitohui, Chestnut-backed Jewel-babbler, Dwarf Whistler, White-faced Robin and various mixed flocks proved diverting. There was a bonus last minute Grand Munia at Sogeri, and then Silver-eared Honeyeater for some whilst shopping in Port Moresby.

Many thanks to the many people who helped us so much, especially Samuel at Kiunga, Chris at Karawari, Benson at Ambua and Augustus at Varirata. The staff at the various lodges were wonderful too, and bore our various demands with great patience. Thanks also to Peggy at FG HQ for excellent logistics, and to Jay for getting lots of lifers and not getting overwhelmed.

Join us for a memorable experience in 2008, our 21st Anniversary of New Guinea tours it is sure to be a special occasion.

Phil Gregory
Kuranda Aug 07

List total: 340 bird taxa and 4 mammal taxa

*If marked to left of list, * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic,
N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant*

PNG07

Podicipedidae

AUSTRALASIAN GREBE (*Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*)

Two at the PAU were it for the trip.

Phalacrocoracidae

LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*)

PAU and Karawari/Ymas Lakes.

LITTLE PIED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*)

PAU, Fly R and Karawari.

Anhingidae

"AUSTRALIAN" DARTER (*Anhinga melanogaster novaehollandiae*)

3 at Ymas Lakes and singles at PAU and Sogeri. Often split these days, with the darters as 4 species.

Ardeidae

GREAT-BILLED HERON (*Ardea sumatrana*)

Four individuals at Karawari this year, the first an adult on the way back from Ymas Lakes, then a couple coming back from Manjimai. It is a rather rare and very shy bird, intolerant of disturbance.

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*)

A few around, but lots at Ymas Lakes which were very low this year.

PIED HERON (*Ardea picata*)

Great views of 4 at the PAU, and just one at Ymas lakes.

INTERMEDIATE EGRET (*Mesophoyx intermedia*)

Small numbers at Port Moresby and Karawari.

LITTLE EGRET (*Egretta garzetta*)

Two at the PAU.

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis coromanda*)

A few near Port Moresby, this is the eastern race coromanda.

STRIATED HERON (*Butorides striata*)

Three along the Elevala R.

RUFOUS (NANKEEN) NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax caledonicus*)

A few saw one at the PAU and there was one at Ymas Lakes.

Threskiornithidae

AUSTRALIAN (WHITE) IBIS (*Threskiornis molucca*)

One at the PAU.

Anatidae

SPOTTED WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna guttata*)

A great little flock of at least 16 birds was in the trees by the sewage ponds at the PAU. Later 4 were on the oxbow above Kiunga.

WANDERING WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna arcuata*)

A flock of 22 were at the PAU.

GREEN PYGMY-GOOSE (*Nettapus pulchellus*)

One pair at the PAU, where they used to be common but disappeared for a couple of years, now back again.

SALVADORI'S TEAL (*Salvadorina waigiensis*)

A fantastic bird on the river at Dauli, which gave marvellous scope views. Christian later saw 2 on the hydro stream at Ambua. One of the great New Guinea prizes, a scarce endemic species that behaves like a Torrent Duck.

PACIFIC BLACK DUCK (*Anas superciliosa*)

About 40 at the PAU and a couple at Ymas Lakes.

Accipitridae

PACIFIC BAZA (*Aviceda subcristata*)

Surprisingly few this trip, just a few at Kiunga, then 2 at Ok Ma, Tabubil,

- E** LONG-TAILED HONEY-BUZZARD (*Henicopernis longicauda*)
Singles seen in the Tabubil area.
- BLACK KITE (*Milvus migrans*)
Seen in Port Moresby, then at Hagen airport and Karawari.
- WHISTLING KITE (*Haliastur sphenurus*)
First with a nest at the PAU, then common at Karawari and a few at Kiunga.
- BRAHMINY KITE (*Haliastur indus*)
This striking bird was quite common, occurring as high as Ambua Lodge.
- WHITE-BELLIED SEA-EAGLE (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)
Good views at Kiunga and Karawari.
- EASTERN (PAPUAN) MARSH-HARRIER (*Circus spilonotus spilothorax*)
Surprisingly just one bird all trip, a single male at Mt. Hagen airport as we were leaving. Often split these days as Papuan Harrier.
- E** VARIABLE GOSHAWK (*Accipiter hiogaster*)
Small numbers in the lowlands, the first at Tari. This is a split from the Gray Goshawk of Australia.
- E** BLACK-MANTLED GOSHAWK (*Accipiter melanochlamys*)
One fine adult above Ambua for the first group to arrive, then singles on 3 subsequent days.
- E** GRAY-HEADED GOSHAWK (*Accipiter poliocephalus*)
A fine adult up at Ok Ma, this is a scarce species.
- E** MEYER'S GOSHAWK (*Accipiter meyerianus*)
One fine hooded adult sat perched high up by the road-remember to not get off the bus next time Benson! This is quite a rare species.
- LITTLE EAGLE (*Aquila morphnoides*)
One en route to Kiunga was a useful pick up, as this taxon weiskei is apparently very distinct genetically and is a split in waiting.

Falconidae

- BROWN FALCON (*Falco berigora*)
One bird was seen by some near POM.

Megapodiidae

- E*** BLACK-BILLED BRUSH-TURKEY (*Talegalla fuscirostris*)
Heard at Varirata and the huge nest mound was seen.
- E*** BROWN-COLLARED BRUSH-TURKEY (*Talegalla jobiensis*)
Heard at Karawari, but overall quiet there this year, normally they are noisy.
- E*** NEW GUINEA SCRUBFOWL (*Megapodius affinis*)
Heard at Karawari and one nest mound seen.

Phasianidae

- BROWN QUAIL (*Coturnix ypsilophora*)
Brief looks up at the Tari Gap, and then flushed again by our intrepid beaters.

Rallidae

- E*** FORBES' RAIL (*Rallina forbesi*)
Heard along Joseph's Trail, but regrettably taped out now I fear.
- *** RED-NECKED CRAKE (*Rallina tricolor*)
One was heard at Km 17.
- BUFF-BANDED RAIL (*Gallirallus philippensis*)
Great looks at Ambua Lodge for most.
- *** RUFIOUS-TAILED BUSH-HEN (*Amaurornis moluccanus*)
Heard at Kiunga and near Varirata, but as ever stayed out of sight.
- *** WHITE-BROWED CRAKE (*Porzana cinerea*)
Heard up at Ymas lakes, and again along the Fly River.

PURPLE SWAMPHEN (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)

Great looks at the PAU, often split as Black-backed Swamphen these days, and one up at Ymas lakes.

DUSKY MOORHEN (*Gallinula tenebrosa*)

Just a few at the PAU.

Jacaniidae

COMB-CRESTED JACANA (*Irediparra gallinacea*)

Great looks at the PAU.

Glareolidae

AUSTRALIAN PRATINCOLE (*Stiltia isabella*)

One on the tarmac at Daru airstrip was a good bonus bird.

Charadriidae

MASKED LAPWING (*Vanellus miles*)

A few at the PAU and also Ymas lakes.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius dubius*)

Two birds at km 120 near Tabubil, the endemic resident taxon dubius which is quite a good candidate for a split, having a very different call and bright pink on the bill, plus a vivid yellow eye-ring.

Scolopacidae

WOOD SANDPIPER (*Tringa glareola*)

Amazingly, Jay and Christian had one fly-by up at Ambua, a very early migrant and perhaps the first record for the lodge! Phil was suitably gripped off.....

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

A couple of early return migrants along the Karawari and Fly R.

Columbidae

ROCK (FERAL) PIGEON (*Columba livia*)

Four birds at Mt Hagen might belong here, it is very scarce in PNG and most are racing pigeons not feral birds.

SLENDER-BILLED CUCKOO-DOVE (*Macropygia amboinensis*)

A few in the hills, first at Varirata.

E BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO-DOVE (*Macropygia nigrirostris*)

This small rusty dove with the barred tail was seen at Varirata, Kiunga, Tabubil and Karawari.

E GREAT CUCKOO-DOVE (*Reinwardtoena reinwardtii*)

A good trip for this spectacular species, with fly-bys at Varirata and Karawari, then one feeding on Schefflera up at the Gap, a really spectacular bird.

STEPHAN'S DOVE (*Chalcophaps stephani*)

A couple of fly-bys along the Elevala and Fly R.

* CINNAMON GROUND-DOVE (*Gallicolumba rufigula*)

One was flushed from the forest floor at Ekame. Always a very hard species to get.

* THICK-BILLED GROUND-PIGEON (*Trugon terrestris*)

Heard at Kiunga, I still have only a single sight record of this elusive bird, though I get to hear it most trips.

* PHEASANT PIGEON (*Otidiphaps nobilis*)

Jay's group got to hear it at Varirata, where they are tough to find.

E SOUTHERN CROWNED-PIGEON (*Goura scheepmakeri*)

Samuel loses his title of Mr. Crowned Pigeon by Rich first spotting 3 fantastic birds from the boat up the Elevala, just as we were beginning to despair. We saw another 3 later too. It is one of the world's great species and is easily in my Top 10 ever, that Cleopatra eye alone is enough, then add the ridiculous crest and huge size.....

WOMPOO FRUIT-DOVE (*Ptilinopus magnificus*)

Some good views in Varirata, a very striking fruit-dove.

E PINK-SPOTTED FRUIT-DOVE (*Ptilinopus perlatus*)

Quite scarce this trip in the hills at Varirata, and at Kiunga, the wing spots are a singular toothpaste pink.

E ORNATE FRUIT-DOVE (*Ptilinopus ornatus*)

We had 6 birds out along the Boystown Road, it is more of a hill bird than the previous.

- E** ORANGE-FRONTED FRUIT-DOVE (*Ptilinopus aurantiifrons*)
Good views of one of this uncommon mainly riverine species at the PAU.
- SUPERB FRUIT-DOVE (*Ptilinopus superbus*)
A few sightings from Varirata and Dablin Creek.
- E** CORONATED FRUIT-DOVE (*Ptilinopus coronulatus*)
Brief looks up at Karawari this trip, it is commoner on the north slope.
- E** BEAUTIFUL FRUIT-DOVE (*Ptilinopus pulchellus*)
Nice scope looks at Kiunga, and at Dablin.
- E** DWARF FRUIT-DOVE (*Ptilinopus nanus*)
Great views of a male of this tiny and very elusive bird in a fruiting tree at Km 17.
- E** PURPLE-TAILED IMPERIAL-PIGEON (*Ducula rufigaster*)
One flew over the boat up river along the Elevala.
- E*** RUFESCENT IMPERIAL-PIGEON (*Ducula chalconota*)
We heard this scarce species calling deep in the forest along the Waterfall trail on one day.
- E** PINON IMPERIAL-PIGEON (*Ducula pinon*)
*This big lowland pigeon showed well at Kiunga and Karawari, the northern race *jobiensis* having fine white scaling on the mantle.*
- E** COLLARED IMPERIAL-PIGEON (*Ducula mullerii*)
This is a specialist of riverine forest and was quite common along the Fly and Elevala, though probably eaten out along the Karawari where we saw just a few.
- E** ZOE IMPERIAL-PIGEON (*Ducula zoeae*)
The common lowland imp pig, with short tail and deep chest. Fine looks at Kiunga and Karawari.
- TORRESIAN IMPERIAL-PIGEON (*Ducula spilorrhoa*)
One at the PAU was the only one of the trip.
- E** PAPUAN MOUNTAIN-PIGEON (*Gymnophaps albertisii*)
Common pretty much throughout and with good scope views at Ambua, where we saw them give the diving stoop display.

Cacatuidae

PALM COCKATOO (*Probosciger aterrimus*)

A flock of 8 at Kiunga this trip, and seen well both there and at Karawari. The loud piercing whistle is a great call, and as for the haircut.....

SULPHUR-CRESTED COCKATOO (*Cacatua galerita*)

A few in the hills.

Psittacidae

BROWN LORY (*Chalcopsitta duivenbodei*)

Two then a single next day at Karawari, where we have suspected it before but never confirmed. The call is like that of Greater Streaked Lory, much shriller than Dusky Lory, and they look dark with a yellow wing flash.

E YELLOW-STREAKED LORY (*Chalcopsitta sintillata*)

Good views at Kiunga, a big-headed dark looking bird in flight but very nice in the scope. Also and unusually, it was seen up at Sogeri.

E DUSKY LORY (*Pseudeos fuscata*)

Quite good flight looks at Karawari and Kiunga.

RAINBOW LORIKEET (*Trichoglossus haematodus*)

Fairly common in the hills, this race has black bars on the chest.

E GOLDIE'S LORIKEET (*Psitteuteles goldiei*)

A few fly-bys at Varirata, once close enough to get colour! They seem to turn up here when the gums are flowering and we had about 90 in total.

E BLACK-CAPPED LORY (*Lorius lory*)

*A noisy and spectacular bird that we saw in the hills, the first at Varirata and the distinctive race *somu* over in the west.*

- E** RED-FLANKED LORIKEET (*Charmosyna placentis*)
A few at Kiunga.
- E** PAPUAN LORIKEET (*Charmosyna papou*)
Great bird, and great looks up at the gap where about 10% of them are the amazingly lovely dark morph, one of the world's most exquisite parrots.
- E** PLUM-FACED LORIKEET (*Oreopsittacus arfaki*)
Another gem, this one looks the colour of crushed emeralds and showed briefly up at the Gap on several occasions.
- E** YELLOW-BILLED LORIKEET (*Neopsittacus musschenbroekii*)
Good views at Ambua and the Tari valley.
- E** ORANGE-BILLED LORIKEET (*Neopsittacus pullicauda*)
The higher altitude member of the species pair, we saw a couple up at the Gap and by the Astrapia lek.
- E** PESQUET'S PARROT (*Psittarchas fulgidus*)
We had a great perched bird at Km 90, and then a flock of 5 up the Elevala, a really good species to see. It is a rather rare and declining bird which is still hunted for its plumage. The short-feathered vulture-like head gives it the common name of Vulturine Parrot here, but it is a fruit eater. The stuff about eating seeds from cassowary droppings sounds unlikely and has probably only been seen once, not a regular occurrence.
- E** YELLOW-CAPPED PYGMY-PARROT (*Micropsitta keiensis*)
Microdots flying over and calling at Kiunga, if you have macular degeneration then you have seen this.
- E** BUFF-FACED PYGMY-PARROT (*Micropsitta pusio*)
Great looks up at Karawari, foraging along branches.
- E** RED-BREASTED PYGMY-PARROT (*Micropsitta bruijnii*)
This and the other members of the genus are the world's smallest parrots, literally thumb-sized. We were lucky to find a male and some females and immatures foraging in saplings at Dablin Creek, which gave lovely views. This is an undescribed taxon with a rich yellow crown. We had 7 of the more ochraceous ones up at Piakonda, near Tari too.
- E** ORANGE-BREASTED FIG-PARROT (*Cyclopsitta gulelmitertii*)
Good looks at Dablin and Kiunga, often in flocks of 5 which must be family parties.
- DOUBLE-EYED FIG-PARROT (*Cyclopsitta diophthalma*)
One showed well at Kiunga, the red face very obvious. We more often get them as fly-bys.
- E** LARGE FIG-PARROT (*Psittaculirostris desmarestii*)
This big and rather uncommon species showed briefly up the Elevala River, the orange head pretty obvious even in flight.
- E** EDWARDS' FIG-PARROT (*Psittaculirostris edwardsii*)
This is a Karawari special, and we got nice looks of this big and quite striking fig parrot, which seemed scarce this year.
- E** BREHM'S TIGER-PARROT (*Psittacella brehmii*)
The slightly less high altitude tiger parrot, lumbering about in the bushes at the Gap and near Joseph's Trail as usual, and easily overlooked.
- E** MADARASZ'S TIGER-PARROT (*Psittacella madaraszii*)
Jay's group had one along the Waterfall Trail. It is a much smaller species than the two higher altitude siblings.
- RED-CHEEKED PARROT (*Geoffroyus geoffroyi*)
Common and noisy in the hills and lowlands, beginning at Varirata.
- E** BLUE-COLLARED PARROT (*Geoffroyus simplex*)
Quite good flight views of this green Geoffroyus at Ambua and Ok Ma, also at Dablin, with the wonderful chiming sleighbell call heard nicely. It is a very difficult species to see perched for some reason and I have very few such records.
- ECLECTUS PARROT (*Eclectus roratus*)
Common in the lowlands, with great looks at both sexes at Karawari where there is a late pm fly over.
- E** PAPUAN KING-PARROT (*Alisterus chloropterus*)
Several nice sightings at Ambua this trip, another big showy parrot.

Cuculidae

BRUSH CUCKOO (*Cacomantis variolosus*)

We saw a couple at Kiunga and heard them in the lowlands and hills.

CHESTNUT-BREASTED CUCKOO (*Cacomantis castaneiventris*)

One seen at Ok Ma in the rain.

* FAN-TAILED CUCKOO (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*)

One heard up at Ambua, a high altitude form in NG and pretty different to the taxa in Australia, Fiji and New Caledonia. Splits ahoy....

SHINING BRONZE-CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx lucidus plagosus*)

One along the Varirata approach road was a surprise as they are quite uncommon migrants here.

E RUFOUS-THROATED BRONZE-CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx ruficollis*)

Nice looks in the scope of one at Ambua, where it was uncharacteristically quiet and scarce this trip.

E WHITE-EARED BRONZE-CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx meyeri*)

A single at Dablin Creek was a nice find of an attractive bird of the hill forests. The host species of this bird is still not definitely known, likely to be a gerygone.

LITTLE BRONZE-CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx minutillus*)

We had a few sightings this trip, at Kiunga and Karawari. Clements calls it Malay Bronze-Cuckoo and lumps the various taxa, probably correctly as they sound very similar.

E LONG-BILLED CUCKOO (*Rhamphomantis megarhynchus*)

Three in one day! We had an immature out near the Flame Bowerbird lek, then a couple at km 17. It is a rare bird of lowlands and hills, with the host species still unknown.

E* WHITE-CROWNED KOEL (*Caliechthrus leucolophus*)

Heard at Varirata, Dablin and Ambua but not co-operative.

E* DWARF KOEL (*Microdynamis parva*)

A great view of a male at Karawari on two days, quite a hard bird to see.

AUSTRALIAN KOEL (*Eudynamis cyanocephala*)

Several at Kiunga included a couple of the distinctive black capped females.

CHANNEL-BILLED CUCKOO (*Scythrops novaehollandiae*)

Two sightings at Karawari of this large and spectacular cuckoo, which parasitizes corvids and is a winter visitor to the mainland of NG.

E GREATER BLACK COUCAL (*Centropus menbeki*)

We got an amazing view of one of this huge bird one lunchtime at Karawari for a few, then again in a thicket at Km 17 at Kiunga. Normally they skulk in dense cover so we were lucky.

PHEASANT COUCAL (*Centropus phasianinus*)

A couple up at Varirata and one at Km 17.

E LESSER BLACK COUCAL (*Centropus bernsteini*)

Seen well at both Kiunga and Karawari, they like to come and dry out after rain.

Tytonidae

GREATER SOOTY-OWL (*Tyto tenebricosa*)

Fantastic daylight perched views after it emerged from its roost hole at Piakonda. The landowners make K10 a head so there is now some protection for them here, they were often seen for sale by the road before.

Strigidae

BARKING OWL (*Ninox connivens*)

One in daylight at Varirata was a nice bonus

E JUNGLE HAWK-OWL (PAPUAN BOOBOOK) (*Ninox theomacha*)

Great views of one at Ambua Lodge after a short walk, it sat for ages and we had no need for tape, which was nice as they get plenty of harassment here.

E PAPUAN HAWK-OWL (*Uroglaux dimorpha*)

This was a great sight at Karawari again, allowing scope views. It is a rare and almost unknown bird, with our site at Karawari one of the only known places to try it.

Aegothelidae

BARRED OWLET-NIGHTJAR (*Aegotheles bennettii*)

We got lucky at the fourth site, this is now a regular for us at Varirata and it flushed out and sat for fantastic views.

Podargidae

* MARBLED FROGMOUTH (*Podargus ocellatus ocellatus*)

Heard at Karawari but would not come into view.

PAPUAN FROGMOUTH (*Podargus papuensis*)

Great looks at the PAU, where two birds were still at the same roost as in April.

Caprimulgidae

PAPUAN NIGHTJAR (*Eurostopodus papuensis*)

A single across the Fly River at dusk, it is a very uncommon and poorly known species.

Apodidae

GLOSSY SWIFTLET (*Collocalia esculenta*)

Common in the lowlands and hills, but not at Kiunga where the Papuan Needletail replaces it. The taxon here has no white rump.

E MOUNTAIN SWIFTLET (*Aerodramus hirundinaceus*)

Great looks at Ambua, they are very sparse some trips but were all over this time.

UNIFORM SWIFTLET (*Aerodramus vanikorensis*)

Common in the lowlands.

E PAPUAN NEEDLETAIL (*Mearnsia novaeguineae*)

Common at Kiunga and a few at Karawari. The name Spinetail is again preoccupied by some South American job.

Hemiprocnidae

MOUSTACHED TREESWIFT (*Hemiprocne mystacea*)

One of the birds of the trip, with great looks at Varirata, Karawari, and Kiunga. Easily the most striking of the family.

Alcedinidae

AZURE KINGFISHER (*Alcedo azurea*)

Very nice looks at Karawari and the Elevala.

LITTLE KINGFISHER (*Alcedo pusilla*)

Jay and one client saw one along the river en route to Ymas lakes.

* VARIABLE (DWARF) KINGFISHER (*Ceyx lepidus*)

A great look at Varirata after some very close fly-bys heard, they are often hard to see well.

BLUE-WINGED KOOKABURRA (*Dacelo leachii*)

Large, noisy and spectacular at Varirata, the local race has a much darker cap than in Australia.

E RUFIOUS-BELLIED KOOKABURRA (*Dacelo gaudichaud*)

Great looks at Kiunga, another very striking and large noisy kingfisher.

E* SHOVEL-BILLED KOOKABURRA (*Clytoceyx rex*)

There was nest along the Ok Ma road in a huge dead tree, and by standing on the road and waiting patiently, without playing tapes, we were able to see the bird peek out and eventually sit on the lip of the hole for great views. This is one of the legendary PNG birds, let's hope it's as good next year!

SACRED KINGFISHER (*Todirhamphus sanctus*)

A common migrant from Australia, even up at Ambua Lodge.

E HOOK-BILLED KINGFISHER (*Melidora macrorrhina*)

Fine views at Kiunga after several massive efforts, finally nailing it on the last morning when we got good scope views. Vocal at Karawari too, but too far away. It is very hard bird to see being crepuscular and skulking, and another of the great New Guinea prizes.

YELLOW-BILLED KINGFISHER (*Syma torotoro*)

A beauty at Varirata which gave super looks, those black head eye-spots are amazing.

E* MOUNTAIN KINGFISHER (*Syma megarhyncha*)

Heard at Ambua and again at Dablin, but not able to be lured in.

- E** LITTLE PARADISE-KINGFISHER (*Tanysiptera hydrocharis*)
This was hard again, but Christian got one through a tiny window as it was calling back to us in dense forest along the Elevala. It is a rare and very little known bird, endemic to the Trans-Fly.
- E** COMMON PARADISE-KINGFISHER (*Tanysiptera galatea*)
Difficult again this trip, but a very vocal bird showed well up-river near Kiunga one morning.
- E** BROWN-HEADED PARADISE-KINGFISHER (*Tanysiptera danae*)
Great looks up at Varirata, one sat for ages for scope views and we had another later, the bright red underparts much brighter than in the FG. Endemic to SE PNG, this is the only place I have ever seen it.
- BUFF-BREASTED PARADISE-KINGFISHER (*Tanysiptera sylvia*)
We got onto a fine adult at km 17 in the forest behind, a lucky find and quite obliging. It may be a migrant from Australia here, but there is also a resident race.

Meropidae

BLUE-TAILED BEE-EATER (*Merops philippinus*)
A brief view of one near Manjimai.

RAINBOW BEE-EATER (*Merops ornatus*)
Common and widespread, a winter migrant from Australia.

Coraciidae

DOLLARBIRD (*Eurystomus orientalis*)
Also common and gave great views, some being migrants and some the resident race.

Bucerotidae

BLYTH'S HORNBILL (*Aceros plicatus*)
This great bird showed very nicely at Kiunga and Karawari, one boat flushing a flock of 40 up the Elevala.

Pittidae

- * HOODED PITTA (*Pitta sordida*)
Heard at several sites.

Hirundinidae

PACIFIC SWALLOW (*Hirundo tahitica*)
Common in the lowlands.

Campephagidae

BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina novaehollandiae*)
A fairly common aussie migrant with flocks of 10 and 20 up at Varirata.

- E** STOUT-BILLED CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina caeruleogrisea*)
Great looks at Ok Ma and Dablin, a bit like a giant Boyer's.

YELLOW-EYED CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina lineata*)
This one showed well at Varirata, and calls quite distinct to the aussie birds.

- E** BOYER'S CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina boyeri*)
Common at Dablin and Kiunga, also Karawari, the cinnamon underwing is a nice feature.

WHITE-BELLIED CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina papuensis*)
Quite common in the lowlands.

- E** HOODED CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina longicauda*)
Good views up at Ambua, it is a neat looking large bird and it was good to see it so well.

CICADABIRD (*Coracina tenuirostris*)
A male was seen at Karawari, an unusual area for it, and one was singing the harsh buzzy song at Varirata. Taxonomy is unsettled and several unrecognized species are probably involved, it would be good to know if migrants do get to PNG.

- E** PAPUAN (BLACK-SHOULDERED) CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina incerta*)
This was seen at Ok Ma, one of the cicadabird group complex.

- E** GRAY-HEADED CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina schisticeps*)
Good looks in the lowlands at Kiunga, and at Ok Ma, the chestnut females are very distinctive.

- E** NEW GUINEA (BLACK) CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina melas*)
A male was seen by most at Karawari, and we had 4 at Varirata on the last day which included a blotchy imm. male.
- E** BLACK-BELLIED CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina montana*)
Great looks at Ambua.
- E** GOLDEN CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Campochaera sloetii*)
This striking species was seen very well at Km 17, with 2 birds that responded well to tape. A very aberrant cuckoo-shrike that is more like a minivet.
- VARIED TRILLER (*Lalage leucomela*)
Common in the lowlands.
- E** BLACK-BROWED TRILLER (*Lalage atrovirens*)
Very good looks at Karawari, this is a north slope special.

Turdidae

- ISLAND THRUSH (*Turdus poliocephalus*)
The grey race with the yellow bill, presumably papuensis, was seen nicely up at the Gap.

Sylviidae

- ISLAND LEAF-WARBLER (*Phylloscopus poliocephalus*)
Our only Phylloscopus showed very well in the Tari valley.
- TAWNY GRASSBIRD (*Megalurus timoriensis*)
The montane form papuensis is often split these days as Papuan Grassbird, the song is quite distinct. It was common at Ambua above the lodge.

Muscicapidae

- PIED BUSHCHAT (*Saxicola caprata*)
Common at Ambua and seen very well.

Rhipiduridae

- NORTHERN FANTAIL (*Rhipidura rufiventris*)
Only seen at Dablin Creek this trip.
- WILLIE-WAGTAIL (*Rhipidura leucophrys*)
Seen almost every day from lowlands to mountains, a great little bird.
- E** FRIENDLY FANTAIL (*Rhipidura albolimbata*)
Common and very friendly at Ambua.
- E** CHESTNUT-BELLIED FANTAIL (*Rhipidura hyperythra*)
Great looks in the mixed bird flocks at Varirata.
- E*** SOOTY THICKET-FANTAIL (*Rhipidura threnothorax*)
One flew across the road at Ok Ma and was calling well.
- E** WHITE-BELLIED THICKET-FANTAIL (*Rhipidura leucothorax leucothorax*)
We taped one in at Km 17, a major skulker that eventually gave quite decent views.
- E** BLACK FANTAIL (*Rhipidura atra*)
Seen well at Ambua, it has a mimic in Black Monarch, a curious parallel evolution in the male plumage.
- E** DIMORPHIC FANTAIL (*Rhipidura brachyrhyncha*)
Great looks at the rusty tailed morphs above Ambua.
- E** RUFOUS-BACKED FANTAIL (*Rhipidura rufidorsa*)
A shy bird of the sub-canopy, we saw one very well at Karawari and heard it at Kiunga.

Monarchidae

- E** BLACK MONARCH (*Monarcha axillaris*)
This odd Black Fantail mimic was seen well at Ambua, the whitish shoulder patch is a useful identity pointer, as is the raspy call.
- BLACK-WINGED MONARCH (*Monarcha frater frater*)
There was one at Dablin Creek, and Jays's group saw one in Varirata.

- E** SPOT-WINGED MONARCH (*Monarcha guttulus*)
Brief views at Varirata in the mixed flocks, and at Ok Ma.
- E** HOODED MONARCH (*Monarcha manadensis*)
Fine views at Karawari, it is a rather uncommon species of the north slope mainly and this is a good site for it.
- E** GOLDEN MONARCH (*Monarcha chrysomela*)
A neat little bird, seen well at Karawari, Varirata and Kiunga.
- FRILLED MONARCH (*Arses telescopthalmus*)
Great looks at Varirata and Kiunga.
- E** RUFIOUS-COLLARED MONARCH (*Arses insularis*)
Typically quite unobliging at Karawari this trip with a male eventually showing fairly well by the helipad, it is normally very wary. The head is bright yellow ochre, not rufous, so we call it Ochre-collared Monarch.
- LEADEN FLYCATCHER (*Myiagra rubecula*)
Good views along the Varirata approach road.
- SHINING FLYCATCHER (*Myiagra alecto*)
Good views of both sexes along the rivers at Kiunga and Karawari.
- E** BLACK-BREASTED BOATBILL (*Machaerirhynchus nigripectus*)
The boatbill-of-paradise gave brilliant looks at Ambua, a gorgeous bird.
- YELLOW-BREASTED BOATBILL (*Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*)
Much less confiding than its highland cousin, we had an imm. at Varirata then another bird at Kiunga. Boatbills may well be a new family too.
- Petroicidae***
- E** LESSER GROUND-ROBIN (*Amalocichla incerta*)
One came in very well along Joseph's trail, a mega-skulker that co-operated for once.
- E** TORRENT FLYCATCHER (*Monachella muelleriana*)
Great looks at Ok Menga and the bridge over the Ok Ma.
- LEMON-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Microeca flavigaster*)
Nice looks at Varirata.
- E** CANARY FLYCATCHER (*Microeca papuana*)
Quite obliging above Ambua, the bright orange bill and legs are very striking.
- E** GARNET ROBIN (*Eugerygone rubra*)
A real oddity, almost like a gerygone and continually wing-flicking. We several above the lodge at Ambua, but they were very active and hard to see well.
- WHITE-FACED ROBIN (*Tregellasia leucops*)
This clown-faced hill forest robin gave a great look at Varirata, otherwise mainly a Cape York bird.
- E** BLACK-SIDED ROBIN (*Poecilodryas hypoleuca*)
A flighty one at Karawari gave fair views, but then we got a responsive one at Ekame Lodge and had great looks.
- E** BLACK-THROATED ROBIN (*Poecilodryas albonotata*)
A big robin of the highland moss forest, with an odd electronic-sounding single rising note call. We got some great looks above the Lodge.
- E** WHITE-WINGED ROBIN (*Peneothello sigillatus*)
This high altitude robin showed very nicely in the deep forest below the Gap for most, with some juveniles around.
- E** WHITE-RUMPED ROBIN (*Peneothello bimaculatus*)
Heard in the rain at Dablin and the Ok Ma, and a few of us got to see one there.
- E** BLUE-GRAY ROBIN (*Peneothello cyanus*)
Uncommon this trip at Ambua.
- ASHY ROBIN (*Heteromyias albispecularis*)
Heard above Ambua; Clements now lumps it with Gray-headed Robin of Far North Queensland, but calls, song, plumage and habits are quite different.

- * NORTHERN SCRUB-ROBIN (*Drymodes superciliaris*)
Heard at Varirata but not able to be attracted in, one of the tough skulkers here.

Pachycephalidae

- E* MOTTLED WHISTLER (*Rhagologus leucostigma*)
We heard the sweet musical song at Dablin Creek.
- E* DWARF WHISTLER (*Pachycare flavogrisea*)
Phil's group saw a fine male in a mixed flock at Varirata, a bird of uncertain affinities and sure not like any of the other whistlers, it may well be a new family. Goldenface is a good name for it.
- E RUFIOUS-NAPED WHISTLER (*Aleadryas rufinucha*)
Great looks up at Ambua, the dry tearing scold of a call is a typical sound.
- E BROWN-BACKED WHISTLER (*Pachycephala modesta*)
A PNG endemic that gave very nice looks up at Ambua. A sub-adult with orangey head and wings was an amazing looking bird and potential identification headache, as this plumage is unillustrated.
- GRAY-HEADED WHISTLER (*Pachycephala griseiceps*)
Nice views of one of this small flycatcher-like whistler at Ok Ma and Varirata.
- E SCLATER'S WHISTLER (*Pachycephala soror*)
We saw several at Ambua this trip, where they were more obvious than usual.
- E REGENT WHISTLER (*Pachycephala schlegelii*)
Great looks up at the Gap, the male of this montane bird is a brilliant looking thing with a burnt orange belly and huge black chest band.
- E BLACK-HEADED WHISTLER (*Pachycephala monacha*)
Seen well at Tari.
- E WHITE-BELLIED WHISTLER (*Pachycephala leucogastra*)
This is an odd species, supposedly only here and then in the SE Moluccas, a nonsensical distribution. It was lumped as Rufous Whistler for years despite obvious plumage and call differences and a completely distinct female. We saw a very obliging one at Varirata, it is a poorly known bird and very local. Wallacean Whistler has now been split out so this becomes a NG endemic.
- RUFIOUS SHRIKE-THRUSH (*Colluricincla megarhyncha*)
Seen in the Tari valley and at Varirata.
- GRAY SHRIKE-THRUSH (*Colluricincla harmonica*)
One at the PAU and one at Varirata, another of the savanna birds also found in Oz.
- E HOODED PITOHUI (*Pitohui dichrous*)
The famous poison bird, a showy and vocal black and chestnut job that was very obliging at Varirata.
- E* WHITE-BELLIED PITOHUI (*Pitohui incertus*)
A rare bird of the Trans-Fly only, we heard the lovely song across a creek near Kiunga and they came over to check us out, which was great. Also seen up near Ekame Lodge.
- E RUSTY PITOHUI (*Pitohui ferrugineus*)
Heard at Karawari and seen by a few and one seen at Varirata on the last day by my group. Also heard up at Dablin, which was unusual.
- E CRESTED PITOHUI (*Pitohui cristatus*)
Heard as usual at Varirata, the long monotonous pulsing song can go on for 20 minutes, but it is a very devil to see. Happily this year it came in to check out my playback and landed very close by for a brief moment-I had not seen one for some years I have to confess.
- E VARIABLE PITOHUI (*Pitohui kirhocephalus*)
Great looks at brown headed birds at Kiunga and buffy headed ones at Karawari, it is a rather shy skulker of the thickets.

Pomatostomidae

- NEW GUINEA (RUFIOUS) BABBLER (*Pomatostomus isidorei*)
Seen very well at Karawari and again at Kiunga, with great scolding vocals.

Orthonychidae

- E** NORTHERN (PAPUAN OR N.G.) LOGRUNNER (*Orthonyx novaeguineae*)
We had an epic duel and eventually got a fine female to co-operate, running up a log and sitting for ages. This is now a split from the Australian Logrunner with completely distinct songs. Note that Northern Logrunner is actually the old name for Chowchilla, so the alternative names need to be used to avoid confusion.

Eupetidae

- E*** PAINTED QUAIL-THRUSH (*Cinclosoma ajax*)
Heard in Varirata where they were calling quite nicely, but always very hard to see.
- E** SPOTTED JEWEL-BABBLER (*Ptilorrhoa leucosticta*)
One at Ambua was calling amazingly close by and some folks eventually got views of it, a mega-bird and very tough to see at all.
- E** BLUE JEWEL-BABBLER (*Ptilorrhoa caerulescens*)
A fine male at Kiunga, which showed very well for most of us, they are always elusive.
- E** CHESTNUT-BACKED JEWEL-BABBLER (*Ptilorrhoa castanonota*)
Seen by most folks at Varirata this trip, the jewel-babblers are a major prize.
- E** BLUE-CAPPED IFRITA (*Ifrita kowaldi*)
Great up at Ambua this trip, the iridescent blue cap is quite something and the way they creep along branches is very odd. Heaven knows where their affinities lie, potentially a new family and also another poisonous bird it seems.

Maluridae

- E** WALLACE'S FAIRYWREN (*Sipodotus wallacii*)
A rather rare and elusive hill forest species which we saw amazingly well at Dablin Creek. It is a strange long billed arboreal member of the family, a real anomaly.
- E** WHITE-SHOULDERED FAIRYWREN (*Malurus alboscapulatus*)
Seen nicely at Varirata and at Ambua. This one is notable because the females can either look like males or be brown and white, depending on the taxon!
- E** EMPEROR FAIRYWREN (*Malurus cyanocephalus*)
Two males and a female showed well at Kiunga, a striking member of a striking family.

Acanthizidae

- E** RUSTY MOUSE-WARBLER (*Crateroscelis murina*)
This one is often very skulking, and most folks only got to hear it this trip. The variations on the 3 note whistle are a typical hill forest sound, and it is also a gifted mimic.
- E** MOUNTAIN MOUSE-WARBLER (*Crateroscelis robusta*)
Good looks above Ambua, it is a remarkable mimic at times.
- E** LARGE SCRUBWREN (*Sericornis nouhuysi*)
This quite large bird with the rusty face ranges from the Lodge at Ambua to quite high levels.
- E** BUFF-FACED SCRUBWREN (*Sericornis perspicillatus*)
A few of this small species were around Ambua Lodge.
- E** PAPUAN SCRUBWREN (*Sericornis papuensis*)
Common at high elevations above Ambua.
- E** PALE-BILLED SCRUBWREN (*Sericornis spilodera*)
We had a couple of sightings of this uncommon bird at Varirata. The "nee-naw" call sounds like a distant police siren!
- *** GREEN-BACKED GERYGONE (*Gerygone chloronotus*)
We heard this vocal bird at Varirata and Dablin Creek.
- FAIRY GERYGONE (*Gerygone palpebrosa*)
This was seen by some of the group at Varirata.
- E** YELLOW-BELLIED GERYGONE (*Gerygone chrysogaster*)
Quite common in lowland and hill forest, first at Varirata in a mixed flock.
- LARGE-BILLED GERYGONE (*Gerygone magnirostris*)
Good looks along the river at Karawari.

- E BROWN-BREASTED GERYGONE (*Gerygone ruficollis*)
Nice looks in the Tari valley, and a great smoky song.

Neosittidae

BLACK SITTELLA (*Daphoenositta miranda*)
Alice saw this above the Bailey Bridge.

- E VARIED SITTELLA (*Daphoenositta chrysoptera*)
Eight birds luckily appeared by Ambua airstrip just as we were leaving. Often now split as Papuan Sittella as it is a montane isolate. A new family for many.

Climacteridae

- * PAPUAN TREECREEPER (*Cormobates placens*)
It was calling close by along the Waterfall Trail, but sadly we didn't find it in time. Always difficult.

Nectarinidae

BLACK SUNBIRD (*Leptocoma sericea*)
Common in the lowlands, the male a very striking bird.

OLIVE-BACKED (YELLOW-BELLIED) SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris jugularis*)
One at Sogeri on the last day.

Melanocharitidae

- E OBSCURE BERRYPECKER (*Melanocharis arfakiana*)
This is a major mystery bird, known from just 3 specimens and unseen since 1933 till we found them in the early 1990's. The arboreal habits, swizzling song, greyish head and yellow pectoral tufts separate them out, plus the pale yellowy bill. We had super looks at two birds at Dablin.
- E* BLACK BERRYPECKER (*Melanocharis nigra*)
Heard in Varirata and seen by a few. A new family for most folks.
- LEMON-BREASTED (MID-MT.) BERRYPECKER (*Melanocharis longicauda*)
A couple along the Waterfall Rail, the yellowy pectoral tufts are a good feature. One bird looked distinctly streaked beneath but lacked a buffy eye-ring, eliminating the chance of Streaked Berrypecker.
- E FAN-TAILED BERRYPECKER (*Melanocharis versteri*)
Very scarce this trip, just a handful of sightings at Ambua.
- E YELLOW-BELLIED LONGBILL (*Toxorhamphus novaeguineae*)
A couple showed nicely at Karawari and along the Elevala, but always very active and hard to see well.
- SLATY-CHINNED LONGBILL (*Toxorhamphus poliopterus*)
One up at Dablin Creek was a nice find and was seen by quite a few folks.
- E DWARF HONEYEATER (LONGBILL) (*Toxorhamphus iliolophus*)
A good view of one at Dablin, formerly placed in honeyeaters.
- E* PYGMY HONEYEATER (LONGBILL) (*Toxorhamphus pygmaeum*)
Seen well at Varirata and again along the Ok Ma, this is NG's smallest bird. Formerly regarded as a honeyeater.

Paramythiidae

- E TIT BERRYPECKER (*Oreocharis arfaki*)
We had nice looks at Ambua. It is one of an endemic family along with the next species.
- E CRESTED BERRYPECKER (*Paramythia montium*)
This highly-prized high altitude endemic gave nice looks up at the Gap on two afternoons. It is the other one of the endemic family Paramythiidae, along with Tit-berrypecker.

Dicaeidae

- E RED-CAPPED FLOWERPECKER (*Dicaeum geelvinkianum*)
A few nice looks in the hills, starting at Varirata.

Zosteropidae

- E BLACK-FRONTED WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops minor*)
Great looks in Varirata and at Dablin.
- E CAPPED WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops fuscicapillus*)
It doesn't have a cap so we call it Western Mountain White-eye! We saw some at Dablin, and in the Tari valley.

Meliphagidae

- E** OLIVE STRAIGHTBILL (*Timeliopsis fulvigula*)
One was foraging in the understorey near the Lodge gate, the second year running we have seen it and still only my second record here.
- E** LONG-BILLED HONEYEATER (*Melilestes megarhynchus*)
This big long billed bird was first seen at Karawari and then at Dablin.
- E** SILVER-EARED HONEYEATER (*Lichmera alboauricularis*)
Jay and a couple of folks got to see one at PNG Art during the final shopping spree, it is newly discovered at this site and may be regular here.
- RED-THROATED MYZOMELA (*Myzomela eques*)
Some folks saw one at Karawari, and there was luckily another along the Boystown Road, it is always a sparse species.
- E** BLACK MYZOMELA (*Myzomela nigrita*)
Nice looks in the flowering gums at Varirata.
- E** MOUNTAIN (RED-HEADED) MYZOMELA (*Myzomela adolphinae*)
Great views of males of this tiny bird at Varirata.
- E** RED-COLLARED MYZOMELA (*Myzomela rosenbergii*)
Scarce this trip, we got brief looks at this striking bird at Ambua.
- E** MOUNTAIN MELIPHAGA (*Meliphaga orientalis*)
One up at Dablin, a fairly easy call due to small size, small yellow ear spot and height considerations. This genus is amongst the hardest of all birds to identify, and both calls and taxonomy are as yet not resolved.
- E** SCRUB HONEYEATER (*Meliphaga albonotata*)
Good looks at Kiunga and Tabubil, a meliphaga that is easy to identify for once.
- PUFF-BACKED HONEYEATER (*Meliphaga aruensis*)
Good views of one at Dablin, convincingly large with a fairly heavy bill.
- E** MIMIC HONEYEATER (*Meliphaga analoga*)
What looks to be this species was seen at Kiunga, though meliphaga are among the most difficult i.d. challenges anywhere.
- GRACEFUL HONEYEATER (*Meliphaga gracilis*)
A few of the form cinereifrons at Varirata, with large pale ear coverts and now split (although yet to make it into Clements). Also seen and heard calling "chip" at Karawari, which should be actual Graceful Honeyeater.
- * YELLOW-GAPED HONEYEATER (*Meliphaga flavirictus*)
A distinctive rather dry trilled meliphaga call at Ekame was I think made by this seldom identified species
- E*** BLACK-THROATED HONEYEATER (*Lichenostomus subfrenatus*)
Only heard at Ambua this trip, it can be scarce.
- E*** OBSCURE HONEYEATER (*Lichenostomus obscurus*)
Good views at Kiunga of a very uncommon species.
- YELLOW-TINTED HONEYEATER (*Lichenostomus flavescens*)
Nice looks at the PAU, an Australian savanna species that just has a toe-hold in PNG. They call here very like Fuscous Honeyeater, and some DNA work would be interesting.
- TAWNY-BREASTED HONEYEATER (*Xanthotis flaviventer*)
Common in the hills, the Karawari birds are much duller than the Tabubil ones.
- E** SPOTTED HONEYEATER (*Xanthotis polygramma*)
Two at Dablin, it is an uncommon and quite striking species.
- WHITE-THROATED HONEYEATER (*Melithreptus albogularis*)
Nice looks up at Varirata in the gums.
- PLAIN HONEYEATER (*Pycnopygius ixoides*)
Two along the Boystown Road at Kiunga, a scarce and easily missed species with few field characters
- E** MARBLED HONEYEATER (*Pycnopygius cinereus*)
An uncommon mid-elevation bird, we saw a couple in the Tari valley.

- E** STREAK-HEADED HONEYEATER (*Pycnopygius stictocephalus*)
This friarbird mimic was quite widespread, with good views at Karawari and Kiunga.
- E** MEYER'S FRIARBIRD (*Philemon meyeri*)
Good looks at this small species at Karawari and heard at Kiunga.
- HELMETED FRIARBIRD (*Philemon buceroides*)
Common in the lowlands, northern birds lacking much of a bill knob. The lumping of NG Friarbird is probably too hasty as they seem pretty distinct.
- E** RUFIOUS-BACKED HONEYEATER (*Ptiloprora guisei*)
We saw quite a few at Ambua at the lower elevations, it is a PNG endemic.
- E** BLACK-BACKED (GRAY-STREAKED) HONEYEATER (*Ptiloprora perstriata*)
Common at Ambua at the higher elevations.
- E** BELFORD'S MELIDECTES (*Melidectes belfordi*)
Common and noisy at Ambua at the higher altitudes. A striking species but a nuisance as it is just big enough to look interesting.....
- E** YELLOW-BROWED MELIDECTES (*Melidectes rufocrissalis*)
Common and noisy at Ambua, at the lower altitudes.
- E** ORNATE MELIDECTES (*Melidectes torquatus*)
Christian saw one at Tari, and we all got onto one at Dablin Creek where it is an occasional visitor.
- E** SMOKY HONEYEATER (*Melipotes fumigatus*)
Common at Ambua, and with the endearing habit of the facial skin blushing from yellow to red. Also seen at Dablin.
- BROWN-BACKED HONEYEATER (*Ramsayornis modestus*)
One at Varirata was unexpected as it is unusual here, no doubt lured by the flowering gums.
- RUFIOUS-BANDED HONEYEATER (*Conopophila albogularis*)
A few at the PAU.

Oriolidae

- E** BROWN ORIOLE (*Oriolus szalayi*)
One of our first endemics, seen at Karawari and Varirata; it is a mimic of the pugnacious Helmeted Friarbird and is superficially very similar.
- GREEN (AUSTRALASIAN) FIGBIRD (*Sphecotheres viridis*)
*A few at the PAU, it is another of these savanna birds that just creeps in to PNG. This race *salvadorii* (omitted in Clements!) has a distinctive greyish wash to the upper chest.*

Laniidae

- LONG-TAILED SHRIKE (*Lanius schach*)
*Great looks of this isolated black capped montane form *stresemanni* at Ambua, yet another potential split.*

Dicruridae

- SPANGLED DRONGO (*Dicrurus bracteatus*)
*The local race *carbonarius* has distinct calls and head feathering and is a potential split. We saw them at Varirata.*

Grallinidae

- E** TORRENT-LARK (*Grallina bruijni*)
We were lucky to get a pair on a torrent at Ok Menga, herded down towards us by Kweewon and the driver, an unusual but effective technique! Christian also saw one at Ambua. It is a shy bird that is often missed.

Artamidae

- E** GREAT WOODSWALLOW (*Artamus maximus*)
This giant of the family was first seen at Tabubil, then nicely at Ambua where they have the delightful habit of huddling together and can be hand fed on moths.
- WHITE-BREASTED WOODSWALLOW (*Artamus leucorhynchus*)
Good looks around Port Moresby.

Cracticidae

- E** MOUNTAIN PELTOPS (*Peltops montanus*)
Nice views at Dablin where one was on a nest, and also at Ambua.
- E** LOWLAND PELTOPS (*Peltops blainvillii*)
Great looks at Kiunga and Karawari, a very striking and odd bird.
- BLACK-BACKED BUTCHERBIRD (*Cracticus mentalis*)
This is a savanna special from the Port Moresby-Trans-Fly area and Cape York only, which we saw well at the PAU.
- E** HOODED BUTCHERBIRD (*Cracticus cassicus*)
Good looks at Varirata and in the lowlands, a pleasing songster too.
- BLACK BUTCHERBIRD (*Cracticus quoyi*)
One up at Piakonda was about as high up as they venture, also seen at Dablin where western birds have some very distinct vocalizations.
- Paradisaeidae**
- E** LORIA'S BIRD-OF-PARADISE (SATINBIRD) (*Cnemophilus loriae*)
This former bird of paradise, usually now placed in the new family Cnemophilines or Satinbirds (as yet omitted by Clements!), was very co-operative at the lodge in the fruiting tree, with males and females seen well.
- E** CRESTED BIRD-OF-PARADISE (SATINBIRD) (*Cnemophilus macgregorii*)
A striking orange and black male was hard to see in a huge tree up at the wrecked container. Now usually placed in the new family Cnemophilines or Satinbirds, although Clements has yet to catch-up with this change.
- E** GLOSSY-MANTLED MANUCODE (*Manucodia atra*)
Great views at Kiunga and Karawari, hearing the rising struck tuning fork tone call. I doubt manucodes belong in BoP's at all, a new family is my bet.
- E** CRINKLE-COLLARED MANUCODE (*Manucodia chalybata*)
Seen a couple of times along the Ok Ma road and also at Varirata for some.
- TRUMPET MANUCODE (*Manucodia keraudrenii*)
Nice looks at Kiunga, the head plumes a good character and the retching call very distinctive, of the taxon jamesii. I finally got to see the taxon purpureoviolaceus with my group at Varirata, where i had never seen them before. The call here is quite different to western birds and the taxonomy of the species badly in need of overhaul.
- E** SHORT-TAILED PARADIGALLA (*Paradigalla brevicauda*)
Wonderful views of this odd almost tailless bird with the yellow butterfly shape above the bill at Ambua lodge, with a single above the lodge one day for everyone and a couple during a walk along the Waterfall Trail for my group.
- E** RIBBON-TAILED ASTRAPIA (*Astrapia mayeri*)
Lots of females and young males around, and one very fine adult male feeding on Schefflera up at the gap one afternoon. It is a PNG endemic and the males seem to be less visible here these days.
- E** PRINCESS STEPHANIE'S ASTRAPIA (*Astrapia stephaniae*)
This was a stunner, the males like giant Paradise-whydahs, and unusually with one coming in to feed at the lodge where it is normally just female plumaged jobs. This is another PNG endemic too.
- E** CAROLA'S PAROTIA (*Parotia carolae*)
Quite good looks at female plumaged birds at Dablin and an amazingly co-operative male which was the first I'd seen here for some years. It gave long scope looks and was one of the birds of the trip.
- E** LAWES' PAROTIA (*Parotia lawesii*)
Fair views of a male down in the Tari valley at the Black Sicklebill site, and female types up at the Lodge. The violet eye is really something.
- E** KING-OF-SAXONY BIRD-OF-PARADISE (*Pteridophora alberti*)
Bird of the trip, wonderful looks at singing males with their waving semaphore head plumes, and a few female plumaged birds as well.
- MAGNIFICENT RIFLEBIRD (*Ptiloris magnificus*)
Fantastic fly-by views of a male along the Boystown Road, and the amazing powerful wolf whistle call was heard a few times from two males adjacent to each other here. It can be a tough bird to actually see so we were lucky.

- E** MAGNIFICENT (EASTERN) RIFLEBIRD (*Ptiloris magnificus intercedens*)
Some folks got views of a male in Varirata, where the distinctive growling call was heard. It is likely to be a good split as it is vocally so different.
- E** SUPERB BIRD-OF-PARADISE (*Lophorina superba*)
Great views down in the Tari valley, and female plumaged birds at the Lodge. The breast shield is often used as an ornament by the Huli.
- E** BLACK SICKLEBILL (*Epimachus fastuosus*)
We had great good luck with this, the largest of the BoP's, with a calling male at one site that gave scope views, then another male by the airstrip as we were leaving. Much better than the usual distant ridge top views.
- E** BROWN SICKLEBILL (*Epimachus meyeri*)
Elusive this trip, but eventually we got good looks above the lodge, seeing the rusty cap and pale blue eye. The machine gun chatter call is a really bizarre sound.
- E** MAGNIFICENT BIRD-OF-PARADISE (*Cicinnurus magnificus*)
They seem to get harder each year, this time most of us saw female plumaged birds at Dablin Creek, and heard distant males.
- E** KING BIRD-OF-PARADISE (*Cicinnurus regius*)
The first calling male bird at Karawari was hard to see, but the new site up the Elevala delivered very nicely and we had excellent scope views of this gem. The nest is still almost unknown and the only example was found in a hole in a tree!
- E** TWELVE-WIRED BIRD-OF-PARADISE (*Seleucidis melanoleuca*)
A great experience at Karawari on the river, with a calling and displaying male atop a snag. Also seen along the river at Kiunga with both a male and 3 females as well as an imm. male along the Oxbow. The yellow plumes turn white after death, hence the Latin name.
- E** GREATER BIRD-OF-PARADISE (*Paradisaea apoda*)
Great looks at Km 17, flying by like meteors with the orange flank plumes streaming out, then performing beautifully at the lek one morning.
- E** RAGGIANA BIRD-OF-PARADISE (*Paradisaea raggiana*)
It is always a great moment when the first BoP comes into view, as did the Raggiana's at Varirata, complete with a displaying males at the lek. It was also seen nicely at Kiunga in a mixed lek there, complete with hybrids.
- E** BLUE BIRD-OF-PARADISE (*Paradisaea rudolphi*)
Great looks several females up at the Lodge, and a fine male down the Tari valley. This is a Threatened species, a PNG endemic that occupies a heavily settled altitudinal band.
- E** LESSER MELAMPITTA (*Melampitta lugubris*)
Calling the alarm note, but not singing again this trip. Jay's group got one up near the Gap. Placement in the birds of paradise is unlikely to be correct and a new family may be order.
- E*** GREATER MELAMPITTA (*Melampitta gigantea*)
A close calling bird in dense forest at Dablin Creek, which a brave few tried for, braving the mud and slippery rocks. Again unlikely to be correctly placed in BoP's and conceivably a new family.

Ptilonorhynchidae

- E*** WHITE-EARED CATBIRD (*Ailuroedus buccoides*)
One was calling quite close by at Karawari, but as ever was impossible to see.
- E** ARCHBOLD'S BOWERBIRD (*Archboldia papuensis*)
We luckily saw two birds including a male fly across up at the Gap. It is a rare and restricted range species.
- FLAME BOWERBIRD (*Sericulus aureus*)
We had two fly-bys of female plumaged birds along the Boystown Road, and saw a nice bower here. This species is now split into two, with north slope birds being different.
- FAWN-BREASTED BOWERBIRD (*Chlamydera cerviniventris*)
Nice views at the PAU and Varirata, this species is otherwise only on Cape York.

Corvidae

- E** GRAY CROW (*Corvus tristis*)
This strange frugivorous pink-faced crow with the yelping call was seen along the Fly and Elevala Rivers.

TORRESIAN CROW (*Corvus orru orru*)
Common around Port Moresby.

Sturnidae

METALLIC STARLING (*Aplonis metallica*)
Nice looks at Kiunga and also seen at Dablin, quite a high altitude for them here.

- E** YELLOW-EYED STARLING (*Aplonis mystacea*)
This rare bird showed well with two in a feeding flock with Metallic Starlings, in a fruiting tree along the Elevela. The yellow eye and naral tuft were seen nicely.

SINGING STARLING (*Aplonis cantoroides*)
Great looks at the PAU.

- E** YELLOW-FACED MYNA (*Mino dumontii*)
This odd frog-voiced endemic was first seen at the PAU and was common in the lowlands.
- E** GOLDEN MYNA (*Mino anais*)
Nice looks at this beautiful bird along the Fly River and at Karawari.

Passeridae

- I** HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*)
Seen in Port Moresby which it first colonized as recently as 1992, one of PNG's two introduced species.

Estrildidae

- E** MOUNTAIN FIRETAIL (*Oreostruthus fuliginosus*)
Lovely views up at the Gap.

BLUE-FACED PARROTFINCH (*Erythrura trichroa*)
They were again quite widespread around Ambua this trip and we got some good looks by the Lodge. One flock of 50+ was by the gate one day.

PAPUAN PARROTFINCH (*Erythrura papuana*)
Phil's group saw 3 birds feeding along the Waterfall Trail including what looked like an imm. They resemble the common species on steroids, with big heavy chests. Seemingly rare and poorly known, but easily overlooked.

- E** GRAND MUNIA (*Lonchura grandis*)
A lucky find up at Sogeri, it is a scarce species commoner on the north slope of the island.
- E** HOODED MUNIA (*Lonchura spectabilis*)
Great looks at Ambua and Tari.
- E** GRAY-HEADED MUNIA (*Lonchura caniceps*)
An endemic to the SE of PNG, we saw them well at the PAU and also up at Sogeri.
- CHESTNUT-BREASTED MUNIA (MANNIKIN) (*Lonchura castaneothorax*)
A few folks got to see one up at Sogeri on the last afternoon.

MAMMALS

SPECKLED DASYURE (*Neophascogale lorentzii*)
Some folks got to see one of these carnivorous diurnal marsupials at the Gap.

- E** DUSKY PADEMELON (*Thylogale brunii*)
One of these small dark wallabies jumped across the track above the Bailey Bridge. It may be a new species for Phil.

- E** NEW GUINEAN FOREST WALLABY SP. (*Dorcopsis vanheurni*)
Two showed briefly along the Varirata Lookout Trail on the first day.

GREATER FLYING FOX (*Pteropus neohibernicus*)
This large flying-fox was common over the Fly River at dawn, but may have been eaten out at Karawari.

Additional Comments

Bird of the trip was once again the amazing King-of-Saxony BoP, followed by Southern Crowned Pigeon and Moustached Tree-swift.

Notable non-birdy things were a sack full of smooth-shelled tortoises caught by some boys in the mud at Ymas Lakes and about to be eaten, poor things.

A spectacular forest dragon showed brilliantly at Karawari.

PNG07