

12 October 2006

**The Birds, Mammals and other  
wildlife recorded on the VENT**

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
Tour 2006**

Compiled by

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© K. David Bishop Brown Sicklebill *Epimachus meyeri*

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It is always a privilege to return to New Guinea, which during the thirty years I have lived and visited there has in many ways become my second home. To return to this spectacular island with such a wonderful group was sheer joy. Thank you one and all: Richard and Nita, Gus and Halina, Pat, Nathaniel, Carol, Flip and Soo, Daniel and Carlos, and last but not least Ethel.

Thanks too to all the people in PNG who help make this trip so much fun and so successful: Andrew and Mathew in Port Moresby; Sam plus all the girls at the Kiunga Guest House; Benson and our Huhli hosts at Ambua; Max, Kim and everyone at Kumul Lodge and Patrick and everyone at Walindi.

This remarkable country never fails to astonish me. New Guineans are undoubtedly some of the finest and most interesting people on our planet and they together with the continuing vastness of this island-continent's forests, its birds and other wildlife combine to not only produce an outstanding tour but one that literally rejuvenates the soul. Despite the major curtailment of our time at Ambua imposed on us we missed very little and in fact I think it would be safe to say that the addition of our visit to Kumul Lodge was one of the highlights of the entire tour - that first morning watching and photographing at the 'feeder' was quite something! Who will ever forget those New Guinea forests, graces with tendrils of mist, that extended, seemingly unbroken to the horizon; the ever-changing spectacle of the view from Ambua Lodge; the displaying birds of paradise; our last morning at Varirata including a Barred Owlet-Nightjar at its roost; a very rarely seen Gurney's Eagle and perhaps best of all those truly incredible Raggiana Birds of Paradise!

The following is a summary of our daily activities and some of the trips' highlights as well as a list of what we heard and saw. Some

of you may be surprised at just how many species we saw well AND were able to study through the 'scope! Whilst a report such as this tells something of what we saw and heard it only tells part of the story and can never really convey the wonderful overall sights and sounds of New Guinea, its forests and its people.

Thank you

David Bishop

## DIARY

**3 August 2006 - Fly to PNG; PAU ponds:** And so to Papua New Guinea. An afternoon at the freshwater pools within the Pacific Adventist University (PAU) grounds, set amidst tropical savanna woodland, just 20 minutes drive outside Port Moresby, provided a good introduction to the many delights of birding in PNG: friendly people; great birds such as the local endemic Grey-headed Munia and our first bowerbird.

**4 August 2006 - Fly to Tari; Drive to Ambua Lodge:** Despite a delayed flight and very uncomfortable ride into the lodge we quickly got in to the birding and concluded the day with an exceptional view of Papuan Boobook Owl.

**5 August 2006 - Tari Valley:** A very special day with a visit to Benson's land which in addition to providing a fascinating, cultural interlude produced mystical views of a male Blue Bird of Paradise, exceptional 'scope views of Lawes Parotia (BOP) and Superb BOP plus cosmic views of Greater Sooty Owl at its roost. And all this in the midst of stone-age Huhli-land; after all these years I continue to be awed by it all. An afternoon near the Bailey Bridge continued in the same vein with breath-taking views of male King of Saxony Bird of Paradise and unusually good looks at Plume-faced Lorikeets.

**6 August 2006 - AM Benson's trail; PM charter flight to Mt Hagen; drive to Kumul Lodge:** A great morning of montane forest birding along Benson's trail before lunch and then off to the airport with a quick stop along the way for a nesting Papuan Frogmouth. Our charter flight eventually turned up and then took us on a magnificent flight over the mountains to Mt Hagen in the Waghi Valley. Met by the irrepressible Kim we drove out over the joyous paved road to attractive Kumul Lodge and our new and very friendly hosts.

**7 August 2006 - Kumul Lodge:** A memorable day birding and photographing in and around Kumul Lodge with exceptional close views of several species of birds of paradise including Brown Sicklebill, Ribbon-tailed Astrapia and Crested BOP not to mention a giant rat!

**8 August 2006 - Kumul Lodge:** Morning was spent birding in the grounds of Kumul Lodge whilst the afternoon was spent in a deep valley enjoying Yellow-breasted Bowerbirds.

**9 August 2006 - Drive to Mt Hagen and fly to Kiunga; afternoon at Km 17:** A mid-morning flight took us from Mt Hagen airport over a truly awe inspiring vastness of untouched montane and lowland forest to Kiunga. Despite some initial misgivings upon arrival outside our accommodations everyone soon realized the façade hid a very comfortable and well run 'outback' motel. Considering the remote location quite a surprise and so conveniently located for birders exploring New Guinea's vast southern lowland forests.

The afternoon was spent at Km 17, on the Ok Tedi Mine Road. Here we entered the forest and much to everyone's astonishment found a very active, fascinating and spectacular display lek of mixed Raggiana and Greater Birds of Paradise as well as several hybrids. Other highlights included: an amazingly cooperative pair of Trumpet Manucodes and several exquisite Pink-spotted Fruit-Doves.

**10 August 2006 - AM Boy's Town Road; PM Dringas Road:** Morning's are always so much better than any other time of day in the tropical lowlands and our first morning in New Guinea's lowland forests, along the Boys' Town Road, was no exception. A well formed dirt road begins at the Boys' vocational boarding school near the airstrip and extends westwards across gently rolling lowland forest, eventually reaching the Ok (= river) Tedi. Despite that there is

a smattering of indigenous logging and a scatter of hamlets and their associated gardens springing up along this road it was as bird-rich and exciting as ever. Highlights of the morning included: Collared Sparrowhawk at its nest; displaying Crested Bazas; a pair of thunderous Blyth's Hornbills and a male Flame Bowerbird in languid flight. The afternoon was spent slight further north along the Drimgas Road where several perch Moustached Tree-Swifts and the extraordinary sight of a perched Papuan Spine-tailed Swift (presumably nesting) provided great entertainment.

**11 August 2006 - Elevela River:** By far this writer's favorite day of the entire tour. A very early departure up the Fly and Elevela rivers took us on a grand adventure into a vast tract of wild undisturbed lowland forest where New Guinea's entire lowland fauna remains intact and unmolested. Evidence for this was presented in the form of arguably THE bird of the tour. Three stunningly, cosmic Southern Crowned Pigeons that just sat and sat and sat .... The huge numbers of Collared and Pinon imperial pigeons constantly lining the tops of the trees along the river were impressive as were numerous and spectacular Blyth's Hornbills. Palm Cockatoos seemed to be everywhere as were Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and Eclectus Parrots. In the forest we were treated to wonderful views of a gorgeous male King Bird of Paradise at his lek whilst a very territorial Common Paradise-Kingfisher flew in and swore at us, permitting exceptional views of this super bird. A very special day's birding.

**12 August 2006 - AM Km 12; PM Drimgas Road:** A morning in and around Km 12 including a walk along Sam's wonderful, newly constructed trail which produced a fine selection of forest birds including our first Yellow-billed Kingfisher. Afternoon along Drimgas Road albeit a little slow still enabled us to enjoy an exciting range of lowland New Guinea birds in tranquil forest surrounds.

**13 August 2006: AM on the Fly River; afternoon drive Kiunga to Tabubil:** A pre-dawn departure up the Fly River to view a spectacular displaying male 12-wired Bird of Paradise which we were able to study at length before making our journey (137 km) north to the mining township of Tabubil. Stops along the way for some fine views over PNG's seeming never ending forest produced great looks at several Long-tailed Buzzards.

**14 August 2006 - AM Dablin Creek Track; AM Ok Ma Road, Tabubil area:** Our morning along the Dablin Creek Track produced some of the best birding of the trip including two Doria's Hawks and a fruiting tree full of birds including several birds of a paradise. A rather wet afternoon along the Ok Ma Road looked to be a damp squib until we found a group of magnificent Vulturine Parrots!

**15 August 2006 - AM Ok Ma Road; PM Dablin Creek Track:** Despite a rather rainy morning along the Ok Ma Road we still managed to dig out some neat birds including the loud Dwarf Whistler now referred to as Goldenface. Our afternoon along the Dablin Creek Track was largely spent at the fruiting fig and produced great views for everyone of Dwarf Koel and Crinkle-collared Manucode among many others.

**16 August 2006 - Fly to Port Moresby:** After a well earned sleep-in we flew east and south back to Port Moresby and our attractive accommodations at the Airways Hotel.

**17 August 2006 - AM Fly to Hoskins, West New Britain (WNB) and drive to Walindi Plantation and Dive Resort:** Despite being largely a travel day we concluded with the fine spectacle of large numbers of pigeons, parrots, cockatoos and hornbills flying back and forth as they went to roost.

**18 August 2006 - AM Gary Wildlife Management Area (WMA); PM Tili area:** Our first morning in the lowland forests of West New Britain inevitably produced a rich crop of new birds not least of which were some very attractive pigeons, doves and a very confiding Black-backed Paradise-Kingfisher. An afternoon exploring the nether regions of the areas being cleared for Oil Palm estate continued the morning's theme.

**19 August 2006 - AM Restoffen Island:** A delightful morning on board a boat that enabled us to enjoy great views of infrequently seen Nicobar Pigeons, lovely Beach Kingfishers as well as several other species we did not see elsewhere on tour. And the snorkeling .... well that was world-class. Two species of dolphins accompanied us on the home journey and before the rain put paid to the rest of the afternoon.

**20 August 2006 - Pokili WMA:** An all day visit to the extraordinary Scrubfowl breeding grounds of Pokili, replete with boiling mud-pools, geysers and fumaroles produced more great birding including several species new to the tour not least of which was good looks at the Melanesian Scrubfowl. During the afternoon we took a last opportunity to visit the Kulu River picking up a fine pair of Oriental Hobbies en route.

**21 August 2006 - Fly Hoskins to Port Moresby:** After returning to Port Moresby we took the opportunity to do a little sight-seeing and shopping in a very well stocked artifact store.

**22 August 2006 - Varirata National Park:** After a very early breakfast kindly put on by the Airways Hotel staff we departed for Varirata National Park. Located at c. 900m on a volcanic bluff overlooking Port Moresby this reserve encompasses an area of c. 1300 ha. Habitats include eucalypt woodland and somewhat dry hill forest. Good trails provide access to many areas and the opportunity to seek out a relatively large number of skulking forest inhabitants including some spectacular terrestrial species. This park also provides a superb introduction to the forest birds of New Guinea and we were not to be disappointed this year. Highlights that come to mind include outstanding views of a tree full of displaying Raggiana Birds of Paradise - surely one of the greatest avian spectacles on our planet. Mis-named Brown-headed Paradise-kingfishers were exceptionally co-operative as were striking Yellow-billed Kingfishers and exceptional close views of an immature and adult Gurney's Eagle. But pride of place surely goes to the amazing view we all enjoyed of the Barred Owlet-Nightjar that perched so patiently at its roost. Wow what a way to conclude a great tour.

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

# ANNOTATED BIRD LIST

## KEY

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

Species accounts in bold indicate a tour highlight.

## NON-PASSERINES

1. [**Southern Cassowary** *Casuarius casuarius*  
Fresh footprints and pits in Sam's forest along the Elevala River. ]
2. Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*  
PAU ponds.
3. Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*  
An evocative flock of 12 off a headland near Hoskins in stormy weather, WNB.
4. Australian Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*  
PAU ponds.

The Old World populations of Darter represent one of a handful of species whose taxonomic status has flipped back-and-forth at the vagary of taxonomic opinion. Some authorities treat the three forms of the Darter which inhabit Africa, Asia and Australia as a single species *Anhinga melanogaster*. Other authorities treat the taxa of each continent as separate species. Clearly the three taxa form a superspecies, whether or not these taxa have yet evolved into fully-fledged species is open to conjecture. The taxon found in the America's, *Anhinga anhinga* is widely regarded as specifically distinct from Old World form(s).

5. Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*  
PAU ponds.
6. Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*  
PAU ponds; Elevala River.
7. Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*  
PAU ponds.
8. Great Egret *Casmerodius alba*  
PAU ponds; Elevala River.

Placed by some authorities in *Egretta* or *Ardea*.

9. Pied Heron *Egretta picata*  
A very handsome heron; PAU ponds.

Placed by some authorities in *Ardea*.

10. Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia*  
PAU ponds.

Also known as Plumed or Short-billed Egret.

**NOTE:** Placed by some authorities in *Egretta*.

11. Eastern Cattle Egret *Bulbulcus coromandus*  
PAU ponds; Port Moresby airstrip.

**NOTE:** Previously treated as single species *Bulbulcus ibis*.

12. Little Heron *Butorides striatus*  
Elevala River.

Also known as Striated, Mangrove or Green-backed heron.

**NOTE:** The A.O.U. has recently separated North American populations of this widespread species from all other populations. Thus, birds in North America become *B. virescens* Green or Green-backed Heron. Observers would be advised to note wherever they see this species in their travels worldwide as this species is likely to be further divided into a number of allospecies.

13. Eastern Reef-Heron *Demigretta sacra*  
WNB.

14. Rufous Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*  
PAU ponds.

Also known as Nankeen Night-Heron.

15. Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis*  
A most unexpected sighting; a female mobbed by a Brahminy Kite as it hunted along the beach of Schuman Island.

16. Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*  
A total of seven feeding with many other wading birds at the new rice-scheme near PAU is an unusual record.

17. Spotted Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna guttata*  
Superb views of this species at the PAU ponds and a total of 14 on the Kulu River, WNB.

18. Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*  
PAU ponds

19. Green Pygmy-Goose *Nettapus pulchella*  
PAU ponds

20. Australian Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*  
PAU ponds.

21. Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*  
PAU ponds; WNB.

22. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*  
WNB including one nesting pair.
23. Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*  
A pair displaying and carrying nesting material along the Boys' Town Rd.; two along the Fly River; two between Kiunga and Tabubil;  
A very striking raptor that gave us all numerous fine studies. **S**

Also known as Crested Hawk

24. **Long-tailed Buzzard** *Henicopernis longicauda*  
Notably common in the lowland forests with two seen daily and a total of four between Kiunga and Tabubil.
25. Black Kite *Milvus migrans*  
PAU ponds; common in the Mt Hagen/Kumul Lodge area.
26. Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*  
PAU ponds.
27. Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*  
Widespread and moderately common; 1-10 seen daily except at the highest elevations.
28. White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*  
Three at Walindi and nesting on Restoffen Island, WNB.
29. **Papuan Harrier** *Circus spilothorax*  
Several individuals seen nicely in the Tari Valley and at Mt Hagen airport.

The New Guinea field guide makes a real hash of this taxon calling it 'Spotted Marsh Harrier'. Whilst Papuan Harrier still awaits formal recognition as a separate species from Asian and European marsh harriers, it is clearly so very distinct and isolated that most recent authors have referred to it as a full separate endemic

species.

30. Swamp Harrier *Circus approximans*  
One female seen well at close range, hunting over rice-fields near PAU.
31. Variable Goshawk *Accipiter hiogaster*  
1-4 seen daily throughout the Kiunga lowlands; the Tabubil area and WNB.  
  
**NOTE:** Grey Goshawk *A. novaehollandiae* is now confined to Australia and the highly variable populations that inhabit the islands of Wallacea, New Guinea and the Solomon Is. are now treated as a separate species *A. hiogaster*. White morphs are extremely rare within *hiogaster* whereas they are moderately common in *novaehollandiae*.
32. Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*  
One adult in the Tari Valley.
33. **Grey-headed Goshawk** *A. poliocephalus*  
One adult seen by Daniel in the Tari Valley; one heard between Kiunga and Tabubil and one at Varirata Nat. Pk.
34. Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*  
A pair nesting along the Boy's Town Road near Kiunga and one near Kumul Lodge.
35. **Doria's Hawk** *Megatriorchis doriae*  
**Undoubtedly one of the real surprises and highlights of the entire tour. One immature and one adult screamed and yelled at us and then perched out in a 'scopeable tree for everyone to drink their fill of this incredibly, rarely encountered species. Dablin Creek trail.**
36. **New Guinea Harpy Eagle** *Harpyopsis noveaguineae*  
One adult carrying a large bat in the gorge opposite the heli pad, Ambua Lodge - Dion and Daniel were the only lucky ones to enjoy

this spectacle.

**37. Gurney's Eagle *Aquila gurneyi***

Without doubt one of THE highlights of the tour. We were all treated to superb views of an adult and immature soaring overhead and at eye-level within Varirata National Park. An exceedingly rarely encountered species.

**38. New Guinea Little Eagle *Hiraaetus weskei***

One over Ambua Lodge.

**NOTE:** Split from Little Eagle *H. morphnoides*

**39. Brown Falcon *Falco berigora***

Two in the Tari Valley; one along the Ok Ma Road.

**40. Oriental Hobby *Falco severus***

Superb study of a pair, WNB.

**41. Melanesian Scrubfowl *Megapodius eremita***

Many within Pokili Wildlife Management Area, WNB.

**NOTE:** Until recently most scrubfowl taxa were lumped under one species: Common Scrubfowl *Megapodius freycinet*, however, Jones *et al* (1995) present clear and compelling evidence that this is in fact a complex of several species. The species we encountered in West New Britain is *M. eremita*.

**42. Black-billed Brush-Turkey *Talegalla fuscirostris***

Oh that New Guinea megapodes were as confiding as those in Australia; heard in lowland forest along the Elevala River and at Varirata Nat. Pk.

**43. Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora***

On the roadside in the Tari Valley; heard near Kumul Lodge.

**44. Red-backed Buttonquail *Turnix maculosa***

Thanks to some brilliant spotting by Daniel we were treated to a

rare view of this almost never seen species - PAU ponds.

45. Chestnut Forest-Rail *Rallina rubra*  
Totals of two and four seen superbly on two days at Kumul Lodge. So wonderful that everyone could share in the joy of this fabulous little moss-forest skulker!!!!
46. Forbes' Forest Rail *Rallina forbesi*  
Seen briefly by a couple of people along Benson's Trail, Ambua.
47. Red-necked Crake *Rallina tricolor*  
Heard at several locations.
48. Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*  
Heard in the Tari Valley.
49. Pale-vented Bush-Hen *Amaurornis moluccanus*  
A pair seen scuttling across Dablin Creek trail; and heard there and in WNB.
- NOTE:** Split from Plain Bush-hen *Amaurornis olivaceus*.
50. White-browed Crake *Porzana cinerea*  
Two seen well, WNB.
51. Purple Swampphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*  
PAU ponds.
52. Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*  
PAU ponds.
53. Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*  
PAU ponds.
54. Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles*  
Widespread and common in open areas PAU ponds.

55. Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*  
WNB.
56. Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*  
Several of the resident race in the Tabubil valley.
57. Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*  
WNB.
- 58. New Guinea Woodcock *Scolopax saturate***  
One flushed by Dion at Kumul Lodge.
59. Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*  
WNB.
60. Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes*  
WNB.
61. Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*  
Widespread.
62. Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*  
WNB.
63. Great Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*  
WNB.
64. Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana*  
WNB.
65. Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*  
Several of the distinctive race *longirostris*, WNB.
66. Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus*  
WNB.
67. Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*  
Port Moresby; Mt Hagen.

68. Amboina Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis*  
Seen most days in low numbers throughout the lowlands.
69. Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia nigrirostris*  
A good year for this species with low numbers recorded most days.
70. Mackinlay's Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia mackinlayi*  
One spotted by Carlos on Restoffen Island, WNB.
71. Great Cuckoo-Dove *Reinwardtoena reinwardtii*  
Nice looks at this handsome species in flight, daily in the Kiunga area.
72. Stephan's Ground-Dove *Chalcophaps stephani*  
One or two daily seen in flight throughout the Kiunga area.
73. New Guinea Bronze-wing *Henicophaps albifrons*  
Heard along the Fly River whilst we watched the Twelve-wired BOP display!
74. Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata*  
PAU ponds.
- NOTE:** Peaceful Dove is lumped by some authorities with Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata* of SE Asia.
75. Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*  
Several at the PAU ponds.
76. Nicobar Pigeon *Caloenas nicobarica*  
A total of 21 counted in and around Restoffen Island, WNB including wonderful views of perched birds.
77. Cinnamon Ground-Dove *Gallicolumba rufigula*  
One flushed by Dion at Dablin Creek.
78. Bronze Ground-Dove *Gallicolumba beccarii*  
One seen briefly, WNB.

- 79. Southern Crowned Pigeon** *Goura scheepmakeri*  
One of THE major highlights of the entire tour. Thanks to some amazing work by Samuel we enjoyed superb views of three of these gorgeous birds as they perched in the upper mid-storey of tall lowland forest bordering the Elevala River. Wow what a bird.
- 80. Wompoo Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus magnificus*  
Heard and seen several times in the Kiunga lowlands and a pair sat amazingly confidently on our last morning at Varirata Nat. Pk. permitting everyone to take photographs and drink in the beauty of this lovely dove.
- 81. Pink-spotted Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus perlatus*  
Notably common throughout the Kiunga lowland forests including some stunning close studies in the late afternoon sun; also Dablin Creek and Varirata Nat. Pk.
- 82. Orange-fronted Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus aurantifrons*  
An especially good year for this handsome species with a maxima of ten seen in the Kiunga lowland forests.
- 83. Superb Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus superbus*  
Several seen nicely in the Kiunga lowland forests and along Dablin Creek track.
- 84. Beautiful Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus pulchellus*  
Several seen and heard throughout the Kiunga lowland forests; fabulous views of several birds attending a fruiting tree along Dablin Creek track.
- 85. White-breasted Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus rivoli*  
We were fortunate to have superb views of at least one individual along Benson's Trail.
- 86. Orange-bellied Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus iozonus*  
Widespread and common in the lowland forests.

87. **Harnessed Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus insolitus*  
Common, WNB.
88. **Dwarf Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus nanus*  
Several seen and heard throughout the Kiunga lowland forests.
89. **Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula rufigaster*  
1-3 heard or seen daily in the Kiunga lowland forests.
90. **Pinon Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula pinon*  
Good to see this favourite for the hunter's pot still so common in the Kiunga lowland forests.
91. **Collared Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula muellerii*  
Notably common along the Elevala and Fly rivers with as many as 300+ estimated on two mornings
92. **Zoe Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula zoeae*  
Heard in Varirata Nat. Pk.; heard and seen daily in modest numbers at all sites visited in the Kiunga lowland forests and around Tabubil.
93. **Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula rubricera*  
Common, WNB.
94. **Finsch's Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula finschii*  
Several heard and seen, WNB.
95. **Bismarck Pied Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula subflavescens*  
Common, WNB.

**NOTE:** See below

96. **Torresian Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula spilorrhoa*  
Nice looks at four at the PAU ponds.

**NOTE:** The taxonomy of this group requires revision. Some

authors treat Bismarck, New Guinea and Australian birds as a separate species from Pied Imperial Pigeon *D. bicolor*.

97. Island Imperial Pigeon *Ducula pistrinaria*

Notably common in and around Restoffen Island, WNB.

98. Papuan Mountain Pigeon *Gymnophaps albertisii*

Notably common this year with flocks seen in flight almost daily throughout the lowlands including *ca.* 100 in one morning along the Dringas Rd.

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

99. Palm Cockatoo *Probosciger aterrimus*

**Absolutely cosmic views of one of THE great birds of the trip; a total of 12 seen along the Elevela River and one or two elsewhere in the Kiunga lowlands. Is it possible that populations are increasing in some areas as a result of reduced hunting? Now wouldn't that be something.**

100. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*

Widespread and common; seen and heard in modest numbers on most days at all localities except at high elevations.

101. Blue-eyed Cockatoo *Cacatua ophthalmica*

Wonderfully noisy and common, WNB.

102. Greater Streaked Lory *Chalcopsitta scintillata*

Common throughout the Kiunga lowland forests including a gathering of *ca.* 20 at a flowering tree.

103. Dusky Lory *Pseudeos fuscata*

Several seen daily in the area around Kumul Lodge; Kiunga lowlands and Tabubil.

104. Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*  
Widespread and locally common.
105. Goldie's Lorikeet *Trichoglossus goldei*  
A flock of six seen in flight and one at a flowering tree, Tari valley.
106. Western Black-capped Lory *Lorius lori*  
Heard and seen daily in good numbers (2-20 per day) at all sites visited in the lowlands. Truly a spectacular bird.
107. Eastern Black-capped Lory *Lorius hypoinochrous*  
Wonderfully common and a pair seen at a nest hole, WNB.
108. Pygmy Lorikeet *Charmosyna wilhelminae*  
Frustratingly only seen in flight over Dablin Creek.
109. Red-flanked Lorikeet *Charmosyna placentis*  
Notably common this year throughout the Kiunga lowland forests and WNB.
110. Little Red Lorikeet *Charmosyna pulchella*  
Notably common along the Dablin Creek track.
111. Papuan Lorikeet *Charmosyna papou*  
Fabulous views of both colour morphs as they foraged within upper montane forest, near Kumul Lodge including a some amazing close, lingering views.
112. Plum-faced Lorikeet *Oreopsittacus arfaki*  
Heard regularly in flight and total of ten of these truly lovely birds were seen unbelievably well as they fed quietly at the edge of the upper montane forest above Ambua; also Kumul Lodge.
113. Yellow-billed Lorikeet *Neopsittacus musschenbroekii*  
Common throughout the Ambua area and Tari valley.

114. **Orange-billed Lorikeet** *Neopsittacus pullicauda*  
Notably less common than the rather similar previous species, eventually seen well in the Tari valley.
115. **Vulturine Parrot** *Psittrichas fulgidus*  
One can never get enough of this special bird, however, the flight views we had of a group of birds in the Tabubil valley were outstanding.
116. **Yellow-capped Pygmy-Parrot** *Micropsitta keiensis*  
Heard and seen daily at all sites visited in the Kiunga lowlands.
117. **Buff-faced Pygmy-Parrot** *Micropsitta pusio*  
Common, WNB.
118. **Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrot** *Micropsitta bruijnii*  
Great 'scope views for a lucky few along the Dablin Creek track.
119. **Orange-breasted Fig-Parrot** *Cyclopsitta gulelmiterti*  
Notably common in the Kiunga lowland forests but wonderful 'scope looks at *ca.* 12 feeding in an *Albizzia* sp at the start of the Dablin Creek trail took the cake!
120. **Double-eyed Fig-Parrot** *Cyclopsitta diophthalma*  
Fairly common in the Kiunga lowlands.
121. **Large Fig-Parrot** *Psittaculirostris desmarestii*  
A total of 2 seen from our boats along the Elevala River.
122. **Brehm's Tiger-Parrot** *Psittacella brehmi*  
Fabulous views of this unusual and handsome species at Kumul Lodge.
123. **Red-cheeked Parrot** *Geoffroyus geoffroyi*  
Notably common and widespread with good to modest numbers (10 - 30) seen most days in the lowlands.

124. Blue-collared Parrot *Geoffroyus simplex*  
Common in the Tabubil area; heard once in the Tari valley.
125. Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus*  
Wonderfully common throughout the lowland forests of the Kiunga area; Tabubil and WNB; with 2 - 10 seen daily.
- 126. Papuan King-Parrot *Alisterus chloropterus***  
Two seen in the Tari valley.
127. Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*  
Heard and occasionally seen, daily throughout the Kiunga and WNB lowland forests and Tabubil area.
128. Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis castaneiventris*  
Super looks at an eventually very obliging individual along the Boy's Town Road - thanks to some great work by Sam; also seen along Dablin Creek track.
129. Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*  
Singles seen both days in the forest in and around Ambua Lodge.
130. Little Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*  
Great 'scope views of a single adult male along the Drimgas Rd.
- NOTE:** The taxonomy of the closely related *Chrysococcyx* taxa requires considerable more work before the group's species limits are fully understood. Until this group's taxonomy is resolved we prefer to identify the various taxa we encounter in the field as separate species.
131. Shining Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus*  
One seen all too briefly, WNB.
- 132. White-eared Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx meyeri***  
One or two seen daily in the Tabubil area.
- 133. Rufous-throated Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx ruficollis***  
Heard only in montane forest above Ambua.

134. Long-billed Cuckoo *Rhamphomantis megarhynchus*  
Amazing views of a very responsive adult male in the Kiunga lowlands. This is a very rare New Guinea endemic.
135. White-crowned Koel *Caliechthrus leucolophus*  
Heard daily near Ambua Lodge and a male seen in flight across the Elevala River.
136. Dwarf Koel *Microdynamis parva*  
Great looks at a male attending the fruiting tree along Dablin Creek track.
137. Australian Koel *Eudynamis cyanocephala*  
Notably quiet this year although everyone had good looks at both males and females in the Kiunga lowlands.
- NOTE:** Australian Koel is lumped by some authorities with populations from southern Asia east and southwards to Wallacea. Again this species complex requires a great deal more field and museum work to resolve.
138. Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*  
A flock of 13 seen and heard in flight over the Fly River.
139. Great Black Coucal *Centropus menbeki*  
Heard almost daily throughout the Kiunga area and one seen by a lucky few along Boy's Town Road.
140. Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianus*  
PAU ponds.
141. Lesser Black Coucal *Centropus bernsteini*  
Singles seen on two days in the Kiunga lowland forests.
142. Violaceous Coucal *Centropus violaceus*  
WNB.

- 143. Pied Coucal** *Centropus ateralbus*  
Good looks a several individuals, WNB.
- 144. Greater Sooty Owl** *Tyto tenebricosa*  
Great looks at this rarely encountered species at its roost in the Tari valley.
- 145. Papuan Boobook** *Ninox theomacha*  
Seen superbly well on our first evening at Ambua Lodge.
- 146. Feline Owlet-Nightjar** *Aegotheles insignis*  
Heard by Dion at Kumul Lodge.
- 147. Barred Owlet-Nightjar** *Aegotheles bennettii*  
Undoubtedly one of the highlights of this fabulous tour; thanks to a park ranger we were all able to dwell on this fabulous and rarely seen species as it peered from its roost hole in Varirata National Park.
- 148. Papuan Frogmouth** *Podargus papuensis*  
Great 'scope studies of a female on her nest in the Tari valley - what a truly special but weird bird this really is.
- 149. White-throated Nightjar** *Eurostopodus mystacalis*  
One in the vehicle headlights along the Boys' Town Rd.
- 150. Papuan Nightjar** *Eurostopodus papuensis*  
At least one individual seen very nicely along the Fly River.
- 151. Mountain Nightjar** *Eurostopodus archboldi*  
One seen amazingly well by everyone of a perched bird shortly after dark, above Kumul Lodge.
- 152. Large-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus macrurus*  
One along the Fly River and one along Drimgas Road.

153. Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*  
Widespread.
154. White-rumped Swiftlet *Collocalia spodiopygia*  
WNB.
155. Uniform Swiftlet *Collocalia vanikorensis*  
Seen commonly daily at all sites visited in the Kiunga lowlands.
- 156. Mountain Swiftlet *Collocalia hirundinacea***  
Several daily throughout the Ambua and Tabubil areas.
- 157. Papuan Spine-tailed Swift *Mearnsia novaeguineae***  
Superb views, daily, of this wonderful forest swift, at all sites visited in the Kiunga lowlands including one individual repeatedly perching on a slender upright branch of a dead tree along the Dringas Road.
158. Moustached Tree-Swift *Hemiprocne mystacea*  
Several superb 'scope views of this handsome species in the Kiunga lowlands and WNB.
159. Common Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera galatea*  
An incredibly responsive individual flew straight in and perched right in front of us permitting everyone 'scope views of this spectacular species; Elevela River. Several others heard and seen in the same general area of swampy lowland forest.
- 160. Little Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera hydrocharis***  
Several heard along the Elevela River.
161. Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera Sylvia*  
Thanks to some truly astounding spotting by Sam. We were all treated to superb views of a migrant immature bird.
- 162. Black-backed Paradise -Kingfisher *Tanysiptera nigriceps***  
Fabulous, long 'scope views of this exciting endemic; WNB.

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

- 163. Brown-headed Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera danae***  
Quite unbelievable looks at a very confiding adult; Varirata Nat. Pk.
- 164. Hook-billed Kingfisher *Melidora macrorrhina***  
A noisy but frustratingly ultra shy, skulker, heard daily pre-dawn and dusk throughout the lowland forests of the Kiunga area.
- 165. Shovel-billed Kingfisher *Clytoceyx rex***  
A pair heard very close-by just prior to dawn along the OK Ma Road.
- 166. Rufous-bellied Kookaburra *Dacelo gaudichaud***  
Seemingly rather quiet and uncommon this year although several heard and/or seen daily in the Kiunga lowlands and Tabubil area.
- 167. Blue-winged Kookaburra *Dacelo leachii***  
Heard in woodland, Varirata Nat. Pk.
- 168. Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris***  
Common, WNB.
- 169. Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus***  
Widespread and common; recorded virtually daily in the lowlands.
- 170. Beach Kingfisher *Todiramphus saurophaga***  
**Marvellous views of this handsome species on Restoffen Island, WNB.**
- 171. Yellow-billed Kingfisher *Syma torotoro***  
Sensational views of several in the Kiunga lowlands and Varirata Nat. Pk.
- 172. Mountain Kingfisher *Syma megarhyncha***  
Heard above Ambua Lodge and at Dablin Creek.

173. Variable Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx lepidus*  
Several heard throughout the lowland forests of the Kiunga area and WNB.
174. Little Kingfisher *Ceyx pusilla*  
One seen by Soo, WNB.
175. Azure Kingfisher *Alcedo azurea*  
One seen beautifully at Varirata National Park.
176. Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*  
WNB.
177. Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*  
Widespread migrant from Australia.
178. Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*  
Commonly at all sites visited in the Kiunga lowlands; also WNB and Varirata Nat. Pk.
179. Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus*  
**Superb views of both males and females both perched and in flight throughout the Kiunga lowlands but especially common along the Fly and Elevala rivers; a flock of 30+ on our first evening in WNB was impressive.**
180. Blue-breasted Pitta *Pitta erythrogaster*  
Notably quiet this year. Heard only within ephemerally flooded lowland forest along the Elevala River.
181. Hooded Pitta *Pitta erythrogaster*  
One seen very nicely within the ephemerally flooded lowland forest along the Elevala River.

182. Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*  
Widespread and moderately common; recorded almost daily except in montane forest areas.

183. Australasian Pipit *Anthus australis / novaeseelandiae*  
One at Mt Hagen airport.

**NOTE:** The taxonomy of this taxon and its relatives is complex and in urgent need of revision. A recent, very detailed review of the Pipits and Wagtails of Europe, Asia and North America (Alstrom and Mild 2003) touches upon the subject but avoids becoming embroiled in what is clearly a major log-jam. The above English name and two specific latinised names are the best I can do under the circumstances.....

184. Hooded Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina longicauda*  
Ambua Lodge.

185. Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*  
Several observed from the dining area at the Airways Hotel; PAU ponds.

186. White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*  
PAU ponds; WNB.

187. Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina lineat*  
A pair, Varirata Nat. Pk.

188. Boyer's Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina boyeri*  
Several seen or heard daily throughout the Kiunga lowlands and Tabubil area.

189. Stout-billed Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina caeruleogrisea*  
Three on the Dablin Creek track.

190. Black-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina Montana*  
One female near Ambua Lodge.

- 191. Black-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina incerta*  
One seen well along Drimgas Road and several heard in the Kiunga lowlands.
- NOTE:** This taxon is now widely regarded as a separate species from that in Sulawesi. As a consequence New Guinea birds acquire the species name *incerta*.
- 192. Common Cicadabird** *Coracina tenuirostris*  
One along OK Ma Road; several WNB.
- 193. Grey-headed Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina schisticeps*  
Widespread and moderately common, seen and heard at all sites visited in the Kiunga lowlands and Tabubil areas.
- 194. Black Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina melas*  
One male, Kiunga lowlands.
- NOTE:** The specific name of Black Cuckoo-Shrike has changed from *melaena* to *melas*.
- 195. Golden Cuckoo-shrike** *Campochaera sloetii*  
Super views of several birds attending the fruiting tree along Dablin Creek track; heard commonly throughout the Kiunga lowlands.
- 196. Varied Triller** *Lalage leucomela*  
Heard and seen most days, in low numbers in the lowlands.
- 197. Long-tailed Shrike** *Lanius schach*  
Tari valley and Kumul Lodge area.
- 198. Pied Bush-Chat** *Saxicola caprata*  
Widespread and common in Ambua, Tabubil and Mt Hagen areas.
- 199. Island Thrush** *Turdus poliocephalus*  
Superb views of this upper montane species at Kumul Lodge.
- 200. Papuan Logrunner** *Orthonyx papuana*  
Hearing the lovely call of this endemic was a delightful experience

too bad we didn't have time to really track it down and actually see this gem.

**NOTE:** A recent paper presents convincing evidence that the New Guinea population should be treated as a separate species from that in Australia.

**201. Blue Jewel-Babbler** *Ptilorrhoa caerulescens*

Heard throughout the Kiunga lowlands.

**202. Chestnut-backed Jewel-Babbler** *Ptilorrhoa castanonotus*

Heard at very close quarters along the Ok Ma Rd. and Dablin Creek trail.

**203. Painted Quail-thrush** *Cinclosoma ajax*

One seen briefly at Km 17 in the Kiunga lowlands.

**204. Blue-capped Ifrita** *Ifrita kowaldi*

Three on Benson's trail. There is now good evidence that this too is a 'poison bird'.

**205. Rufous Babbler** *Pomatostomus isidorei*

Good looks at flock of these noisy birds along the Elevala River.

**206. Island Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus 'trivirgatus*

Common above Ambua Lodge and around Kumul Lodge.

**NOTE:** The taxonomy of the *Phylloscopus* warblers east of Wallace's Line requires a major revision.

**207. Tawny Grassbird** *Megalurus timoriensis*

Widespread and locally common in montane grassland.

**208. Golden-headed Cisticola** *Cisticola exilis*

WNB.

- 209. Wallace's Fairy-Wren** *Sipodotus wallacii*  
Heard along the Km 17 trail, Kiunga lowlands.
- 210. Emperor Fairy-Wren** *Malurus cyanocephala*  
Eventually both males and females were seen well by everyone; several pairs seen and heard along the Boys' Town Rd.; and the Dringgas Rd. One the most spectacular of New Guinea's small 'bush-birds'.
- 211. White-shouldered Fairy-Wren** *alboscapulatus*  
Fine looks at several pairs, Tari valley and Kumul Lodge area.
- 212. Rusty Mouse-Warbler** *Crateroscelis murina*  
Heard commonly and individuals glimpsed by a lucky few, Kiunga lowlands and Tabubil area.
- 213. Mountain Mouse-Warbler** *Crateroscelis robusta*  
Two seen well above Ambua Lodge and at Kumul Lodge.
- 214. Large Scrub-Wren** *Sericornis nouhuysi*  
Widespread and common in montane forest above Ambua Lodge.
- 215. Buff-faced Scrub-Wren** *Sericornis perspicillatus*  
Eventually seen well near Ambua Lodge.
- 216. Papuan Scrub-Wren** *Sericornis papuensis*  
Several seen in the Ambua and Kumul lodge area.
- 217. Grey Gerygone** *Gerygone cinerea*  
Three of this infrequently encountered species seen in upper montane forest, above Ambua and one at Kumul Lodge.
- 218. Yellow-bellied Gerygone** *Gerygone chrysogaster*  
Several seen and heard in the Kiunga lowlands; Tabubil area and Varirata National Park.
- 219. Green-backed Gerygone** *Gerygone chloronotus*  
Several seen and heard in the Kiunga lowlands; Tabubil area and Varirata National Park.

220. Large-billed Gerygone *Gerygone magnirostris*  
 Heard along the Elevela River.
221. Brown-breasted Gerygone *Gerygone ruficollis*  
 Very common throughout the Kumul Lodge area; also heard above  
 Ambua Lodge.
- Also known as De Vis' Tree-Fern Warbler
222. **Sooty Thicket-Fantail** *Rhipidura threnothorax*  
 One seen by Daniel along the OK Ma Road.
223. **White-bellied Thicket-Fantail** *Rhipidura leucothorax*  
 Several heard and seen along Drimgas Road and Dablin Creek track.
224. **Rufous-backed Fantail** *Rhipidura rufidorsa*  
 Km 17, Kiunga lowlands and OK Ma Road.
225. **Dimorphic Fantail** *Rhipidura brachyrhyncha*  
 Notably frequently seen and heard, upper montane forest above  
 Ambua Lodge also Kumul Lodge.
226. **Black Fantail** *Rhipidura atra*  
 Several seen well near Ambua Lodge.
227. **Chestnut-bellied Fantail** *Rhipidura hyperythra*  
 Great looks at two birds with a mixed species flock, Varirata  
 National Park.
228. **Friendly Fantail** *Rhipidura albolimbata*  
 Common and widespread throughout montane forest.
229. Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris*  
 Several along the Ok Ma Rd. and Dablin Creek track; also WNB.
230. Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*  
 Widespread and common; seen daily throughout the entire tour..

231. Black Monarch *Monarcha axillaris*  
 Heard near Ambua Lodge.
232. Black-winged Monarch *Monarcha frater*  
 Three seen very nicely along Dablin Creek track.
- 233. Spot-winged Monarch *Monarcha guttula***  
 One with a small mixed species flock, OK Ma Road; two with a flock, Varirata National Park.
- 234. Golden Monarch *Monarcha chrysomela***  
 Fabulous 'scope views of several males and females along the Drimgas Road and OK Ma Road.
235. Frilled Monarch *Arses telescopthalmus*  
 Several fine looks at this striking species especially at Varirata Nat. Pk.
236. Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*  
 Heard along the Elevala River; several seen well in WNB.
237. Yellow-breasted Boatbill *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*  
 Heard and glimpsed in the Kiunga lowlands and around Tabubil, finally seen well in Varirata Nat. Pk.
238. Black-breasted Boatbill *Machaerirhynchus nigripectus*  
 Several seen and heard daily throughout the Ambua and Kumul lodge areas. A truly gorgeous little bird.
- 239. Torrentlark *Grallina bruijni***  
 One seen by Soo near Ambua Lodge.
- 240. Torrent Flycatcher *Monachella muelleriana***  
 A group of five below Kumul Lodge put on a great show.
- 241. Canary Flycatcher *Microeca papuana***  
 Several most days, Ambua and Kumul lodges.

- 242. Northern Scrub-Robin** *Drymodes superciliaris*  
Heard Tabubil area and Varirata Nat. Pk.
- 243. Lesser Ground-Robin** *Amalocichla incerta*  
Sensational views of this ethereal songster in montane forest above Ambua.
- 244. Ashy Robin** *Heteromyias albispecularis*  
One seen by a lucky few in montane forest, along Benson's trail, but as always very shy.
- 245. Black-sided Robin** *Poecilodryas hypoleuca*  
Heard commonly throughout the Kiunga lowlands.
- 246. Black-throated Robin** *Poecilodryas albonotata*  
Great 'scope looks at three individuals near Kumul Lodge.
- 247. White-winged Robin** *Peneothello sigillatus*  
A total of ten seen daily around Kumul Lodge.
- 248. White-rumped Robin** *Peneothello bimaculatus*  
Heard very close-by along the Ok Ma Rd and the Dablin Creek track.
- 249. Blue-grey Robin** *Poecilodryas cyanus*  
One or two seen and heard daily the Ambua area.
- 250. Wattled Ploughbill** *Eulacestoma nigropectus*  
One female along Benson's trail.
- 251. Goldenface** *Pachycare flavogrisea*  
Two with a mixed species flock along the Ok Ma Road.  
  
Also known as Dwarf Whistler
- 252. Mottled Whistler** *Rhagologus leucostigma*  
A pair showed themselves pretty well near Ambua Lodge. This is a rarely encountered endemic.

253. **Regent Whistler** *Pachycephala schlegelii*  
Great looks at a several of these very striking birds above Ambua Lodge and around Kumul Lodge.
254. **Mangrove Golden Whistler** *Pachycephala melanura*  
Wonderful views of a pair on Restoffen Island, WNB.
255. **Sclater's Whistler** *Pachycephala soror*  
Several above Ambua Lodge.
256. **Grey Whistler** *Pachycephala simplex*  
OK Ma Road and Varirata Nat. Pk.
257. **Rusty Whistler** *Pachycephala hyperythra*  
Heard, Dablin Creek track.
258. **Brown-backed Whistler** *Pachycephala modesta*  
Common throughout the Ambua and Kumul Lodge areas.
259. **Black-headed Whistler** *Pachycephala monacha*  
Several seen and heard in the Tari valley and near Kumul Lodge.
260. **Rufous-naped Whistler** *Aleadryas rufinucha*  
Heard and seen daily in low numbers, Ambua and Kumul lodge areas.
261. **Little Shrike-thrush** *Colluricincla megarhyncha*  
Ambua Lodge; Kiunga lowlands; Tabubil area; Varirata Nat. Pk.
262. **Variable Pitohui** *Pitohui kirhocephalus*  
Kiunga lowlands.
263. **Hooded Pitohui** *Pitohui dichrous*  
The 'poison bird' was seen along Dablin Creek track and at Varirata Nat. Pk.
264. **Rusty Pitohui** *Pitohui ferrugineus*  
Several seen fleetingly in the Kiunga lowlands also heard in Varirata Nat. Pk.

265. **Crested Pitohui** *Pitohui cristatus*  
 Heard Kiunga lowlands.
266. **White-bellied Pitohui** *Pitohui incertus*  
 Heard along the Elevala River.
267. **Varied Sittella** *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*  
 Four in the Tari valley.
268. **Yellow-bellied Longbill** *Toxorhamphus novaeguineae*  
 One or two heard and at least one seen in the Kiunga lowlands.
269. **Slaty-chinned Longbill** *Toxorhamphus poliopterus*  
 One on Benson's trail.
270. **Grey-bellied Longbill** *Oedistoma iliolophus*  
 One along the Drimgas Road.
271. **Pygmy Longbill** *Oedistoma pygmaeum*  
 Two feeding young in the forest at Km 17, Kiunga lowlands.
272. **Obscure Berrypecker** *Melanocharis arfakianus*  
 Thanks to some quite brilliant field-work by Daniel everyone got to see this one of the least known birds in New Guinea, in the 'scope! Dablin Creek track.
273. **Black Berrypecker** *Melanocharis nigra*  
 One male, Varirata Nat. Pk
274. **Mid-mountain Berrypecker** *Melanocharis longicauda*  
 Benson's trail.
275. **Fan-tailed Berrypecker** *Melanocharis versteri*  
 Good looks at a male along Benson's trail and several males and females around Kumul Lodge.

- 276. Crested Berrypecker** *Paramythium montium*  
Great looks at several of these handsome birds, Kumul Lodge.
- 277. Tit Berrypecker** *Oreocharis arfaki*  
A flock of ca. 50 along Benson's trail were a real treat. The male is a real 'humdinger'.
- 278. Papuan Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum pectorale*  
Widespread and common.
- 279. Beautiful Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum eximium*  
Widespread and common in the lowlands of WNB.
- 280. Black Sunbird** *Nectarinia aspasia*  
Widespread and common, seen almost daily throughout the Papua New Guinea and WNB lowlands
- 281. Yellow-bellied Sunbird** *Nectarinia jugularis*  
PAU ponds.
- 282. Black-fronted White-eye** *Zosterops atrifrons*  
Fabulous views of a pair and a flock along Dablin Creek trail and OK Ma Road.
- 283. Black-headed White-eye** *Zosterops hypoxantha*  
One with a small flock, WNB. This Bismarck endemic is infrequently seen in the lowlands.
- 284. Western Mountain Guinea White-eye** *Zosterops fuscicapillus*  
Common in the Tari valley and seen by Dion along Dablin Creek track.
- 285. New Guinea White-eye** *Zosterops novaeguinae*  
Several along Dablin Creek track and in Varirata Nat. PK.

- 286. Long-billed Honeyeater** *Melilestes megarhynchus*  
 Seen and heard in low numbers daily throughout the Kiunga lowlands and one Tabubil area.
- 287. Silver-eared Honeyeater** *Lichmera alboauricularis*  
 One seen by Daniel and David in the car-park of the artefacts store in Port Moresby.
- 288. Ruby-throated Myzomela** *Myzomela eques*  
 One male attending the flowering tree along the Boy's Twon Road, Kiunga.
- 289. Ashy Myzomela** *Myzomela cinearacea*  
 WNB.
- 290. Mountain Red-headed Myzomela** *Myzomela adolphinae*  
 Amazing views of two as we waited from our aircraft at Tari airport.
- 291. Black-and-carmine Myzomela** *Myzomela erythromelas*  
 Superb looks at a tree full of these lovely birds, WNB.
- 292. Sclater's Myzomela** *Myzomela sclateri*  
 Notably common this year on Restoffen Island, WNB.
- 293. Red-collared Myzomela** *Myzomela rosenbergii*  
 Lovely views of a couple of birds at Kumul Lodge.
- 294. Mountain Yellow-eared Meliphaga** *Meliphaga orientalis*  
 One or two in the Tari valley and along Dablin Creek Track.
- 295. Scrub White-eared Meliphaga** *Meliphaga albonotata*  
 Kiunga lowlands and Tabubil area.
- 296. Puff-backed Meliphaga** *Meliphaga aruensis*  
 Several seen and heard, Varirata Nat. Pk.
- 297. Mimic Meliphaga** *Meliphaga analoga*  
 Ones and twos seen in the Kiunga lowlands.

298. Southern Graceful Meliphaga *Meliphaga gracilis*  
One Varirata Nat. Pk.
299. Yellow-gaped Meliphaga *Meliphaga flavivirictus*  
One seen and photographed by Dion and Daniel along Dablin  
Creek Track.
300. Yellow-tinted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus flavescens*  
Varirata Nat. Pk.
301. Black-throated Honeyeater *Lichenostomus subfrenatus*  
Heard in montane forest above Ambua Lodge.
302. Obscure Honeyeater *Lichenostomus obscurus*  
One seen by Daniel at Ekame Lodge along the Elevala River and  
heard at Km 17 in the Kiunga lowlands.
303. Spotted Honeyeater *Xanthotis polygramma*  
Two of these attractive and infrequently seen birds observed along  
the Dablin Creek Track
304. Tawny-breasted Honeyeater *Xanthotis flaviventer*  
Widespread and common in the foothills and lowlands.
305. Streak-headed Honeyeater *Pygnopygius stictocephalus*  
One or two seen or heard on most days in the Kiunga lowlands.
306. Plain Honeyeater *Pycnopygius ixoides*  
One along Boys' Town Road, Kiunga lowlands.
307. Marbled Honeyeater *Pyconopygius cinereus*  
One seen a few times near Kumul Lodge..
308. Meyer's Friarbird *Philemon meyeri*  
Low numbers recorded daily in the Kiunga lowlands.

309. **Helmeted Friarbird** *Philemon buceroides*  
Widespread and common; seen and heard daily throughout the lowlands and foothills.
310. **New Britain Friarbird** *Philemon cockerelli*  
Common, WNB.
311. **Rufous-backed Honeyeater** *Ptiloprora guisei*  
Low numbers seen and heard in the Ambua area.
312. **Grey-streaked Honeyeater** *Ptiloprora perstriata*  
Common throughout the Ambua and Kumul lodge areas.
313. **Belford's Melidectes** *Melidectes belfordi*  
Common, seen and heard daily throughout the Ambua and Kumul lodge areas.
314. **Yellow-browed Melidectes** *Melidectes rufocrissalis*  
Common in the Tari Valley. An exceptional record of one on Dablin Creek Track.
315. **Ornate Honeyeater** *Melidectes ornatus*  
Two of these very handsome honeyeaters seen well on Dablin Creek Track.
316. **Common Smoky Honeyeater** *Melipotes fumigatus*  
Common; seen and heard daily throughout the Ambua and Kumul and Tabubil areas.
317. **Rufous-banded Honeyeater** *Conopophila albogularis*  
Several seen well PAU ponds.
318. **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*  
**Introduced.** Port Moresby - notably common around the deserted old airport.
319. **Blue-faced Parrotfinch** *Erythrura trichroa*  
One seen very nicely in the 'scope near Ambua Lodge otherwise seen and heard frequently in flight at many locations.

320. **White-spotted Munia** *Lonchura leucosticte*  
 Heard and seen briefly in flight along the Fly River.
321. **Grey-headed Munia** *Lonchura caniceps*  
 A flock of ten including several immatures, PAU ponds.
322. **Hooded Munia** *Lonchura spectabilis*  
 Large numbers of birds seen in rank grassland within the Tari valley and Kumul lodge area.
323. **Buff-bellied Munia** *Lonchura melaena*  
 Wonderful views of several birds, WNB.
324. **Mountain Firetail** *Oreostruthus fuliginosus*  
 Fabulous studies of this attractive species at Kumul Lodge.
325. **Singing Starling** *Aplonis cantoroides*  
 PAU ponds; Mt Hagen; WNB.
326. **Metallic Starling** *Aplonis metallica*  
 Common throughout the Kiunga lowlands including hundreds nesting along the Fly River.
327. **Yellow-eyed Starling** *Aplonis mystacea*  
 Several seen most days in the Kiunga lowlands.
328. **Golden Myna** *Mino anais*  
 Fabulous views of this handsome endemic on several occasions in the Kiunga lowlands.
329. **Yellow-faced Myna** *Mino dumontii*  
 Widespread and common, seen daily throughout the lowlands and foothills.
330. **Long-tailed Myna** *Mino kreffti*  
 WNB

- 331. Brown Oriole** *Oriolus szalayi*  
Widespread and moderately common; heard or seen almost daily throughout the Kiunga lowlands and Tabubil foothills.
332. Green Figbird *Sphecotheres viridis*  
Locally common PAU ponds.
- 333. Pygmy Drongo** *Chaetorhynchus papuensis*  
One heard and briefly seen, Varirata Nat. Pk.
334. Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*  
Widespread and moderately common, seen daily at all sites visited in the lowlands.
335. White-breasted Wood-Swallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*  
Kiunga lowlands; Port Moresby.
- 336. Great Woodswallow** *Artamus maximus*  
Common in low numbers (2-5) throughout Ambua and Tabubil areas.
- 337. Hooded Butcherbird** *Cracticus cassicus*  
Truly one of the world's great vocalists. Widespread and common; seen and/or heard daily at all sites visited in the Kiunga lowlands and Varirata Nat. Pk.
338. Black-backed Butcherbird *Cracticus mentalis*  
Great looks at several, PAU.
339. Black Butcherbird *Cracticus quoyi*  
Kiunga lowlands.
- 340. Lowland Peltops** *Peltops blainvillii*  
Great 'scope studies of this striking endemic, throughout the Kiunga lowlands.
- 341. Mountain Peltops** *Peltops montanus*  
Two at Ambua Lodge and two or three seen along Dablin Creek Track.

342. Spotted Catbird *Ailuroedus melanotis*  
Heard along Boy's Town Road, Kiunga.

343. Flame Bowerbird *Sericulus ardens*  
One male and one male seen in flight along Boy's Town Road,  
Kiunga.

Frith & Frith (2004) in their outstanding new book 'The Bowerbirds' published by OUP, split the northern and southern populations of Flame Bowerbird into: North - Masked Bowerbird *Sericulus aureus* and South - Flame Bowerbird *Sericulus ardens*.

344. Fawn-breasted Bowerbird *Chlamydera cerviniventris*  
PAU ponds.

345. Yellow-breasted Bowerbird *Chlamydera lauterbachii*  
A total of six seen below Kumul Lodge.

346. Lesser Melampitta *Melampitta lugubris*  
Heard above Amnbua Lodge.

**NOTE:** Placed with the birds-of-paradise by Sibley and Alquist (1990), however, further study of this interesting taxonomic decision is required.

347. Crested Bird of Paradise *Cnemophilus macgregorii*  
Absolutely breath-taking views of the simply sensational male and females at Kumul Lodge. WOW!!!!!!

348. Loria's Bird of Paradise *Cnemophilus loriae*  
Single females feeding at the fruiting tree at Ambua Lodge.

349. Glossy-mantled Manucode *Manucodia atra*  
Good 'scope studies studies of several individuals in the Kiunga lowlands.

- 350. Crinkle-collared Manucode *Manucodia chalybata***  
Exceptional 'scope views of single birds attending the fruiting fig on Dablin Creek Track.
- 351. Trumpet Manucode *Manucodia keraudrenii***  
Multiple good views of individuals and pairs displaying and showing off their 'horns', daily in the Kiunga lowlands and Tabubil foothills.
- 352. Short-tailed Paradigalla *Paradigalla carunculata***  
One seen briefly by a couple of people in the lodge grounds and then on the last morning, just as we thought we had missed this special everyone got a crunching look at this very localized and elusive bird of paradise as it fed at the fruiting tree below Ambua Lodge.
- 353. Ribbon-tailed Astrapia *Astrapia mayeri***  
Surely one of the most alluring birds on our planet. Our sightings of this species began slowly and culminated with simply breathtaking views of fully plumaged and near-fully plumaged males at very close range; Ambua and Kumul lodge areas.
- 354. Stephanie's Astrapia *Astrapia stephaniae***  
During my 28 years in New Guinea I have seen this species many times BUT never, never as well or as close and confidently as that sumptuous male who fed the fruiting tree below Ambua Lodge. AND who will ever forget that adult male that flew across the lodge grounds resplendent in the late afternoon sun.
- 355. Lawes' Parotia *Parotia lawesii***  
Several single females seen at fruiting trees at Ambua Lodge and various localities in the Tari Valley and one male 'scoped brilliantly in the Tari valley.
- 356. Carola's Parotia *Parotia carolae***  
A good year for this usually very tough to see species; two females and a male put on a good show at the fruiting fig on the Dablin Creek Track.

**357. King of Saxony Bird of Paradise *Pteridophora albertisii***  
Heard fairly commonly in the montane forest above the bailey bridge; several females and males seen on several occasions including briefly at its display vine but none compared to the real beauty that sat out in afternoon sun and sung his heart out for us all to dwell on through the 'scope. Surely this is one of the most astonishing birds to be found anywhere on our planet.

**358. Magnificent Riflebird *Ptiloris magnificus***  
Heard commonly and a female seen in the lowland forests around Kiunga on the west bank of the Fly River.

**NOTE:** Some authors have split the eastern Papua New Guinea population of riflebirds from the nominate form to the west on the basis of their distinctive vocalizations and, to a lesser degree, plumage characters and behavior. A further revision may also see the Cape York population being treated as a separate species.

**359. Eastern Riflebird *Ptiloris intercedens***  
For most of us this species was heard frequently and frustratingly close-by and a male was glimpsed at Varirata National Park. Not surprisingly though Daniel wandered into the woods at lunch time and discovered a displaying male!!!!

**360. Superb Bird of Paradise *Lophorina superba***  
Despite this species small size we were all treated to wonderful views of several males and females in the Tari Valley.

**361. Black Sicklebill *Epimachus fastosus***  
Single adult males seen incredibly briefly below Ambua Lodge.

**362. Brown Sicklebill *Epimachus meyeri***  
Good looks at several females and/or immature males as they quietly fed at fruiting trees in the Ambua area. AND then there was Kumul Lodge with its amazing feeder permitting us watch at leisure as many as six birds at very close quarters. As

if that wasn't enough we were then treated to the glory of a stunningly spectacular fully-plumaged adult male!!!!

363. Magnificent Bird of Paradise *Ciccinurus magnificus*  
Heard commonly along OK Ma Road and an immature male and two females were seen at the fruiting fig on Dablin Creek Track.
364. King Bird of Paradise *Cicinnurus regius*  
Fantastic looks at this fabulous bird at its display site plus his potential mate along the Elevala River. Undoubtedly the very best view I have ever had of this remarkable bird.
365. Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise *Seleucidis melanoleuca*  
Superb study of the male displaying to the female at dawn, at his new site on the bank of the Fly River.
366. Greater Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea apoda*  
One of THE highlights of the tour with many fully plumaged males seen in flight throughout the Kiunga area and at least six males displaying together with Raggiana hybrids at Km 17; several females and immatures seen along the OK Ma Road and Dablin Creek Track, Tabubil. The views this year of the displaying males left us all in wonderment.
367. Raggiana Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea raggiana*  
Seeing the group of eight adult and immature males cavorting in the forest canopy always leaves an indelible memory. What an amazing bird and what a perfect way to conclude a wonderful tour! Generally common and widespread in the lowlands.
368. Blue Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea rudolphi*  
Unimaginably wonderful, repeated, prolonged views of a fully plumed adult male as it attended a fruiting tree on Benson's land.
369. Greater Melampitta *Melampitta gigantea*  
Heard at Dablin Creek.

**NOTE:** The taxonomic placement of this peculiar species that lives underground is unresolved.

**370. Bare-eyed Crow** *Gymnocorvus tristis*

Heard and seen moderately commonly throughout the lowlands..

**371. Torresian Crow** *Corvus orru*

Widespread and common in the Port Moresby area and *en route* to Varirata Nat. Pk.

**372. Bismarck Crow** *Corvus insularis*

WNB.

**NOTE:** Split from Torresian Crow on the basis of its smaller size; blue eye colour and very different voice.

## MAMMALS & OTHER VERTEBRATES

1. Agile Wallaby *Macropus agilis*  
Varirata Nat. Pk.
2. Dusky Pademelon *Thylogale brunii*  
Ok Ma Road.
3. Great Flying-fox *Pteropus neohibernicus*  
Fly River.
4. Variable Flying Fox *Pteropus hypomelanus*  
WNB.
5. Bare-backed Fruit-Bat *Dobsonia moluccensis*  
Tari valley. It was also probably this species being carried off by the New Guinea Harpy Eagle.
6. Diadem Horseshoe Bat *Hipposideros diadema* (Provisional ID)  
Several entering a tree roost, Boy's Town Road, Kiunga.

7. Large-footed Myotis (Bat) *Myotis adversus* (Provisional ID)  
Fly River.
8. Island Tube-nosed Bat *Nyctimene major*  
WNB.
9. Long-nosed Dasyure *Neophascogale lorentzi*  
One in upper montane forest, Benson's Trail, Ambua.
10. White-eared Giant Rat *Hyomys dammermani*  
Undoubtedly one of THE highlights of the entire tour. This gigantic rat put on a great show two evenings in a row at Kumul Lodge.
11. Cape York Rat *Rattus leucopis*  
A fresh skull found on Dablin Creek track found by Halina.
12. Raffrey's Bandicoot *Peroryctes raffrayana*  
Kumul Lodge.
13. New Guinea Wild Dog *Canis lupis dingo*  
Kumul Lodge.
14. Common Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*  
WNB.
15. Spinner Dolphin *Stenella longirostris*  
WNB.

## REPTILES

1. New Guinea Blue-tongued Lizard *Tilaqua gigas*  
Varirata Nat. Pk.
2. House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus*  
Widespread.
3. Mangrove Monitor Lizard *Varanus indicus*  
Eleva River.

4. Dragon Lizard *Lophognathus temporalis*  
Port Moresby airport.

Various species of unidentified skinks seen and frogs heard.

## **BUTTERFLIES**

(some of the larger and more spectacular species we  
encountered)

1. *Atropheneura polydorus*
2. *Troides oblongomaculatus*
3. *Ornithoptera primaus*
4. *Papilio aegeus*
5. *Papilio Ulysses*
6. *Papilio euchenor*