

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: BIRDING ATTENBOROUGH'S PARADISE TRIP REPORT

19 AUGUST - 04 SEPTEMBER 2023

By Andrew Walker



The exquisite **King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise** gave excellent views and was an extremely popular species during our Papua New Guinea birding tour.

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Overview

This Papua New Guinea birding tour started and ended in Port Moresby and ran from the 19th of August 2023 to the 4th of September 2023. During our Papua New Guinea birding tour, we birded and stayed at some of the best birding sites in Papua New Guinea. Birding sites visited during this Papua New Guinea bird tour included Varirata National Park and the Pacific Adventist University campus near Port Moresby, Kiunga on the Fly River, Star Mountains, Kwatu Lodge, Mount Hagen (including Rondon Ridge Lodge and Kumul Lodge), Tari Gap, and Ambua Lodge. Each of the above destinations offered something different in terms of the habitats to explore and the birds present.

We recorded 300 species on the tour (14 of these heard only) which followed on from our short New Britain birding tour. Usually, our New Britain birdwatching tour follows the Papua New Guinea bird tour, but this year it ran ahead of it, due to logistical reasons (see the New Britain trip report <u>here</u>). Trip lists for this Papua New Guinea tour follow the report. Birds-of-paradise were a big focus on the tour given they are some of the most incredible birds on the planet. We recorded 21 species of astonishing birds-of-paradise: **Splendid Astrapia**, **Princess Stephanie's Astrapia**, **Ribbon-tailed Astrapia**, **King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise**, **Queen Carola's Parotia**, **Shorttailed Paradigalla**, **Black Sicklebill**, **Brown Sicklebill**, **Black-billed Sicklebill**, **Glossy-mantled Manucode**, **Trumpet Manucode**, **Crinkle-collared Manucode**, **Magnificent Riflebird**, **Growling Riflebird**, **Greater Lophorina**, **King Bird-of-paradise**, **Magnificent Bird-ofparadise**, **Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise**. All of the above birds-of-paradise were seen, some foraging, and others displaying (including making some incredible sounds). Many species were photographed, and these photos appear throughout the report.



The striking **Princess Stephanie's Astrapia** gave some great views during our PNG bird tour.





A displaying male **Raggiana Bird-of-paradise** (the national bird of Papua New Guinea) put on a spectacular show for us, what a sight!

However, this Papua New Guinea bird tour wasn't only about the spectacular birds-of-paradise, as the country hosts so many other exceptional birds and endemic bird families that we wanted to also look for. During this Papua New Guinea birding tour we enjoyed sightings of **Salvadori's Teal**, **Barred Owlet-nightjar**, **Sclater's Crowned Pigeon**, nine species of gorgeous fruit doves, including **Beautiful Fruit Dove**, **Dwarf Fruit Dove**, and **Pink-spotted Fruit Dove**, **Gurney's Eagle**, **Papuan Harrier**, **Papuan Boobook**, **Blyth's Hornbill**, a dozen species of kingfishers, including **Hook-billed Kingfisher**, **Common Paradise Kingfisher**, **Little Paradise Kingfisher**, **Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher**, and **Papuan Dwarf Kingfisher**, along with **Rufous-bellied Kookaburra**. Cockatoos and parrots featured heavily with almost 30 species logged, from the giant **Palm Cockatoo** to the miniscule, **Red-breasted Pygmy Parrot**, with numerous stunning and colorful birds in between, such as **Papuan Eclectus**, **Stella's Lorikeet**, and **Brehm's Tiger Parrot**.

Further highlights included Flame Bowerbird, Emperor Fairywren, 25 species of honeyeaters including the boisterous duo of Belford's Melidectes and Yellow-browed Melidectes, as well as Papuan Babbler, Loria's Satinbird, Obscure Berrypecker, Tit Berrypecker, Eastern Crested Berrypecker, Mottled Berryhunter, Papuan Sittella, Regent Whistler, White-bellied Pitohui, Southern Variable Pitohui, Hooded Pitohui, Golden Monarch, Torrent-lark, Grey Crow, Lesser Melampitta, and Blue-capped Ifrit. However, the highlights didn't stop there, with further special birds including numerous Australian robins, such as White-winged Robin, White-rumped Robin, and Black-sided Robin, along with Papuan Grassbird, Yellow-faced Myna, Golden Myna, Island (Papuan) Thrush, Red-capped Flowerpecker, and Alpine Pipit.



Detailed Report

Day 1, 19th August 2023. Arrival in Port Moresby

Today was an arrival day in Port Moresby. We enjoyed our welcome dinner together and discussed what we were hoping to see on this Papua New Guinea bird tour.

Day 2, 20th August 2023. Flight between Port Moresby and Kiunga, travel to Tabubil

We took a morning flight out of Port Moresby to Kiunga. The flight made a brief touchdown on the island of Daru, where we noted several **Australian Pratincoles**. We then spent most of the afternoon driving north to the town of Tabubil, passing through some beautiful scenery. A couple of stops near our destination gave us sightings of **Grey Crow**, **Long-tailed Honey Buzzard**, **Variable Goshawk**, **Dusky Lory**, **White-shouldered Fairywren**, **Black Butcherbird**, **Hooded Butcherbird**, **New Guinea Friarbird**, **Yellow-faced Myna**, and **Torrent Flyrobin**.

Day 3, 21st August 2023. Birding the Star Mountains near Tabubil

We awoke for an early breakfast with a **Papuan Boobook** showing in the garden. We then spent the day exploring the Star Mountains and had an awesome day of mid- and high-elevation birding, recording eight species of birds-of-paradise including: **Splendid Astrapia** (our main target), **King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise**, **Queen Carola's Parotia**, **Short-tailed Paradigalla**, **Black Sicklebill**, **Brown Sicklebill**, and **Greater Bird-of-paradise** which were all seen, with **Greater Lophorina** heard only. A mega collection of birds and several certain tour highlights seen.



The gorgeous Queen Carola's Parotia was one of the highlight birds-of-paradise of the tour.



Loads of other birds were seen across the day as we birded at a range of elevations. Some of the highlights included **Red-breasted Pygmy Parrot**, **Fairy Lorikeet**, **Orange-billed Lorikeet**, **Dusky Lory**, **Grey-streaked Honeyeater**, **Common Smoky Honeyeater**, **Mountain Myzomela**, **Red-collared Myzomela**, **Mountain Honeyeater**, **Black-throated Honeyeater**, **Belford's Melidectes**, **Black-breasted Boatbill**, **Mountain Peltops**, **Hooded Cuckooshrike**, **Grey-headed Cuckooshrike**, **Regent Whistler**, **Black Fantail**, **Friendly Fantail**, **Torrent-lark**, **Slaty Robin**, **Torrent Flyrobin**, **Island Leaf Warbler**, and **Island** (Papuan) **Thrush**.

Day 4, 22nd August 2023. Birding near Tabubil and travel to Kiunga

We spent the morning birding near Tabubil and found some great birds. First up was a small group of roosting **Great Woodswallows**, quickly followed up with a pair of **Salvadori's Teals** on a river, along with **Torrent Flyrobins** too. Nearby we found **Tawny-breasted Honeyeater** and over the course of the morning also found **Scrub Honeyeater**, **Mimic Honeyeater**, **Long-billed Honeyeater**, **Plain Honeyeater**, and **Meyer's Friarbird**. Moving along a forest track we picked up **Grey-headed Goshawk**, **Southern Variable Pitohui**, **White-rumped Robin**, **Golden Cuckooshrike**, **Boyer's Cuckooshrike**, **Grey-headed Cuckooshrike**, **Grey Crow**, **Yellowbreasted Boatbill**, **Moustached Treeswift**, **White-crowned Cuckoo**, **Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo**, **Brush Cuckoo**, **Dusky Lory**, **Dusky-cheeked Fig Parrot**, and **Pale-vented Bush-hen**. We also had brief sightings of **Glossy-mantled Manucode**, **Magnificent Bird-of-paradise**, and **Magnificent Riflebird**.

In the afternoon we drove back down to Kiunga, where a stop just outside of town allowed us to watch the incredible display of the stunning **Greater Bird-of-paradise**. A great end to another fantastic day's birding in Papua New Guinea.



The simply spectacular Greater Bird-of-paradise gave a glorious display for us.



Day 5, 23rd August 2023. Birding the Kiunga area

We had a great day birding near Kiunga and racked up a long list of wonderful birds during our morning and afternoon birding sessions, including lots of gorgeous fruit doves, parrots, and some more birds-of-paradise too. Trumpet Manucode, Glossy-mantled Manucode, Greater Bird-of-paradise, King Bird-of-paradise, and Magnificent Riflebird were all seen (though some of these only briefly). Further color was provided by several stunning pigeons, including Wompoo Fruit Dove, Pink-spotted Fruit Dove, Superb Fruit Dove, Beautiful Fruit Dove, Orange-bellied Fruit Dove, and Dwarf Fruit Dove. Parrots ranged from the humongous Palm Cockatoo to the miniscule Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot and many in between, such as Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Papuan Eclectus, Red-cheeked Parrot, Red-flanked Lorikeet, Black-capped Lory, Dusky-cheeked Fig Parrot, and Double-eyed Fig Parrot. Several honeyeaters were seen, including Meyer's Friarbird, and a wide range of other species, including multiple cuckooshrikes, Yellow-billed Kingfisher, cuckoos including Ivory-billed Coucal, Dwarf Koel, and Brush Cuckoo, Golden Monarch, Papuan Babbler, Papuan Spine-tailed Swift, Lowland Peltops, and possibly one of the flashiest of them all – Flame Bowerbird!



The gorgeous **Dusky-cheeked Fig Parrot** (formerly called Orange-breasted Fig Parrot) showed well during the tour.

Day 6, 24th August 2023. Birding the Kwatu Lodge area

We left Kiunga after breakfast and took a boat trip along three different rivers to reach the remote and basic Kwatu Lodge. It was a fascinating journey giving us a glimpse of remote life in the region, especially when we explored Gusiore village. As we made our boat ride along Fly River, Elavala River, and Ketu River we found **Collared Imperial Pigeon**, **Pinon's Imperial Pigeon**, **Pink-spotted Fruit Dove**, **Orange-bellied Fruit Dove**, **Pacific Koel**, **Channel-billed Cuckoo**,



White-bellied Sea Eagle, Palm Cockatoo, Yellow-streaked Lory, Papuan Hanging Parrot, Rufous-bellied Kookaburra, Hooded Pitta, Glossy-mantled Manucode, Trumpet Manucode, Grey Crow, Emperor Fairywren, and Shining Flycatcher.

Some fruiting trees around Kwatu Lodge, our remote base for the night, held **Pink-spotted Fruit Dove**, **Orange-bellied Fruit Dove**, **Red-cheeked Parrot**, **Dusky-cheeked Fig Parrot**, **Double-eyed Fig Parrot**, **Large Fig Parrot**, and **Metallic Starling**. We enjoyed some time just sitting and watching the birds come to us, for a change!

In the afternoon our boat ride yielded excellent views of **Oriental Dollarbird**, **Papuan Spinetailed Swift**, **Azure Kingfisher**, **Sacred Kingfisher**, and **Rufous-bellied Kookaburra**. We then visited a quiet and unexplored patch of forest, where we got great views of **Little Paradise Kingfisher**, **Common Paradise Kingfisher**, **Hook-billed Kingfisher**, **White-bellied Pitohui**, **Golden Cuckooshrike**, and **Frilled Monarch**. As we took the boat back to the lodge in the late afternoon, we saw a distant **Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise** briefly, along with **Rufous-bellied Kookaburra**, **Sacred Kingfisher**, and **Black-capped Lory**. Then the rain started, and it poured down for most of the night.



We got some great views of Little Paradise Kingfisher while birding near Kwatu Lodge and a short while later also saw Common Paradise Kingfisher, which allowed for a good comparison.

Day 7, 25th August 2023. Birding the Kwatu Lodge area

We awoke to find the Ketu River water level had increased massively overnight. We enjoyed a memorable early morning birding session right off Kwatu Lodge, where we found a flock of at least five roosting **Sclater's Crowned Pigeons**, these huge, attractive, and uncommon giant pigeons were a highly sought-after target and a real joy to see, even in the half light of dawn. We then moved a bit further along the river where we found the simply spectacular **Twelve-wired**



Bird-of-paradise and a short while later we were watching him go about a rather impressive bout of displaying. Two top birds right from the get-go!



A flock of **Sclater's Crowned Pigeons** that had been roosting together. What an incredible sight, even in the near darkness!



The remarkable sight of a displaying *Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise*.



After enjoying our two big targets we tried for a few other birds, but the rain soon started up again and remained heavy for a while longer. Despite the rain, we managed to see a **Black-sided Robin** and improve our views of **Emperor Fairywren** before the rain got even heavier and we retreated to Kwatu Lodge for some shelter and a hot drink. While waiting for an early lunch and during intermittent short dry spells, we focused our attention on the fruiting trees around the lodge, and in doing so found **Pink-spotted Fruit Dove**, **Orange-bellied Fruit Dove**, **Amboyna Cuckoo-Dove**, **Pacific Koel**, **Large Fig Parrot**, **Dusky-cheeked Fig Parrot**, **Red-flanked Lorikeet**, **Palm Cockatoo**, **Red-cheeked Parrot**, **Boyer's Cuckooshrike**, **Grey-headed Cuckooshrike**, **Golden Cuckooshrike**, **Black Cicadabird**, **Varied Triller**, **New Guinea Friarbird**, **Metallic Starling**, and a young **Raggiana Bird-of-paradise**. It was a great way to spend an enforced weather break.

After lunch it was time to get the boat back to Kiunga, however before that, since the rain had paused for a brief spell, we decided to try for one more bird that we had to abort looking for earlier due to the weather. After a sterling effort by our local team, we were able to get into position to see a gorgeous male **King Bird-of-paradise** at close range and low down. Satisfied with our haul from the river, we continued back to town (spotting another **Raggiana Bird-of-paradise** along the way). We arrived back at our accommodation in Kiunga and all enjoyed hot showers after our night in the jungle, but what a wonderful experience we'd had, packed full of great memories.



King Bird-of-paradise flew in and showed low down and well for us, although briefly.

Day 8, 26th August 2023. Transfer between Kiunga and Port Moresby

We enjoyed a relaxed breakfast and took our late morning flight from Kiunga (where the **Australian Pratincoles** were still in attendance) back to Port Moresby, where we spent the rest of the day at leisure and preparing for our next Papua New Guinea wilderness birding adventure.

Birding

Day 9, 27th August 2023. Transfer between Port Moresby and Mt Hagen

We had a morning flight from Port Moresby to Mt Hagen and then took the short drive to the picturesque Rondon Ridge Lodge, our base for the night. After lunch we explored the lodge, our first birding in the Papuan New Guinea Central Highlands, and found plenty of great birds, including three new birds-of-paradise, firstly **Princess Stephanie's Astrapia**, secondly **Greater Lophorina**, and finally, the incomparable **Blue Bird-of-paradise** (it was "just" a female, but was still spectacular).



This gorgeous female **Blue Bird-of-paradise** gave great prolonged views while feeding.

While watching the birds-of-paradise we also saw Stella's Lorikeet, Yellow-browed Melidectes, Common Smoky Honeyeater, Red-collared Myzomela, Brown-breasted Gerygone, White-shouldered Fairywren, Red-capped Flowerpecker, Pied Bush Chat, Long-tailed Shrike, and Hooded Mannikin.

Day 10, 28th August 2023. Birding Rondon Ridge and Kumul Lodge

We had a wonderful day birding in the highlands with so many highlight birds to choose from. During the morning we took a walk up from Rondon Ridge Lodge to Rondon Ridge itself. It was a moderately tough hike (especially given all the rainfall overnight), uphill all the way, but the birds at the top sure made the effort worthwhile. The pick of the birds included adult males of five simply spectacular birds-of-paradise: **King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise** (see the trip report cover image), **Princess Stephanie's Astrapia** (see photo in the trip report introduction), **Brown Sicklebill**, **Black Sicklebill**, and a bit lower down the mountain, a male **Greater Lophorina**, finally.



While our focus was on the above birds-of-paradise and the hike itself (the trail was rather slippery), we noted a few other good species along the way, including **Brown-backed Whistler**, **Sclater's Whistler**, **Mid-mountain Berrypecker**, **Fan-tailed Berrypecker**, **Papuan Sittella**, **Island Leaf Warbler**, **Black-fronted White-eye**, **Papuan White-eye**, **Yellow-browed Melidectes**, **Ornate Melidectes**, **Common Smoky Honeyeater**, **Rufous-throated Bronze Cuckoo**, **Papuan Mountain Pigeon**, **Buff-faced Scrubwren**, **Papuan Scrubwren**, **Dimorphic Fantail**, and **Friendly Fantail**.



Brown Sicklebill is another huge bird-of-paradise that gave excellent views during the tour. It was great to be able to compare this species with its close relative, the Black Sicklebill while both species fed in the same fruiting tree, along with Princess Stephanie's Astrapia (all with King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise displaying in the tree above them)!

After lunch we took an informative drive across to the famous Kumul Lodge with our local team filling us in about all things Papua New Guinea. We noted **Long-tailed Shrike**, **Pied Bush Chat**, and **Black Kite** along the way.

We arrived at Kumul Lodge in the middle of the afternoon and spent a few hours at the exceptional bird feeders. It was rather wet and cool, but plenty of birds were in attendance at the feeders, with several new trip birds seen, including another new bird-of-paradise – the gorgeous **Ribbon-tailed Astrapia**. Unfortunately, the two adult males had dropped (molted) their long tail feathers, but they still looked rather resplendent, and the females were impressive too, as they busily fed their fledged young. **Brown Sicklebills** were numerous and gave very close views, while also feeding young. Other species noted at the Kumul Lodge bird feeders included **Brehm's Tiger Parrot**, **Stella's Lorikeet**, **Orange-billed Lorikeet**, **Island** (Papuan) **Thrush**, **White-winged Robin**, **Belford's Melidectes**, **Common Smoky Honeyeater**, and **Friendly Fantai**l.



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Even without its long tail, **Ribbon-tailed Astrapia** is still an incredibly beautiful bird-ofparadise.



The rather colorful **Stella's Lorikeet** gave us some great views at the Kumul Lodge bird feeders, and we also saw some of the dark-morph birds while birding in the nearby forest.





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Day 11, 29th August 2023. Birding the Kumul Lodge area

We spent the morning birding near Kumul Lodge and after a short drive we took a steep hike up a gravel track to a specific spot to overlook a male **Blue Bird-of-paradise** display site. Unfortunately, we didn't get to see any display activity, but we did get to watch the incredible male coming to a tree to feed a couple of times, giving prolonged views. Other birds distracting us while we waited for our target bird-of-paradise, included **Mountain Kingfisher**, **Fan-tailed Cuckoo**, **Stout-billed Cuckooshrike**, **Bar-tailed Cuckoo-Dove**, **Rufous-backed Honeyeater**, **Yellow-browed Melidectes**, and **Common Smoky Honeyeater**.



An adult male Blue Bird-of-paradise busy feeding.

The drive back to the lodge gave us a sighting of **Brown Falcon** and then during the latter part of the morning we birded around Kumul Lodge, finding a pair of the famous **Blue-capped Ifrit** (a monotypic family and a poisonous bird too!). Strolling around the grounds we also found **Eastern Crested Berrypecker**, **Tit Berrypecker**, **Mountain Mouse-warbler**, **Canary Flyrobin**, **White-winged Robin**, **Painted Tiger Parrot**, and dark-morph **Stella's Lorikeet**. The usual birds were present at the feeders and included **Brown Sicklebill**, **Ribbon-tailed Astrapia**, **Rufous-naped Bellbird**, **Belford's Melidectes**, and **Brehm's Tiger Parrot** among others.

In the afternoon we visited a different patch of forest and enjoyed loads of great birds, such as Loria's Satinbird, Mottled Berryhunter, Lesser Melampitta, Blue-capped Ifrit, Tit Berrypecker, Eastern Crested Berrypecker, Streaked Berrypecker, Rufous-backed Honeyeater, Brehm's Tiger Parrot, Plum-faced Lorikeet, and Orange-billed Lorikeet. We also enjoyed further sightings of King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise, Princess Stephanie's Astrapia, and Brown Sicklebill. Wattled Ploughbill was unfortunately only heard calling in the distance, but we couldn't be too disappointed with all the fantastic birds we had just seen.





The Blue-capped Ifrit, showing its blue cap!



Brehm's Tiger Parrot giving close views at the famous Kumul Lodge bird feeders.

Day 12, 30th August 2023. Kumul Lodge to Port Moresby

We had a brief morning walk around Kumul Lodge before it was time to drive back to Mt. Hagen and catch our flight back to Port Moresby. The morning walk was rather quiet, with the birds



seemingly taking a while to warm up. We did however note a few good birds, such as **Lesser Melampitta**, **Black-mantled Goshawk**, **Ribbon-tailed Astrapia**, and **Brown Sicklebill**. We then took our afternoon flight back to Port Moresby and spent the remainder of the afternoon relaxing at our comfortable hotel.

Day 13, 31st August 2023. Birding Varirata National Park

We had a great day birding at Varirata National Park, a fantastic birding site near Port Moresby. The first bird we saw was one of our main targets, the national bird of Papua New Guinea, **Raggiana Bird-of-paradise**. We enjoyed watching six males displaying (see photo in trip report summary section), even though no females came in – yet another beautiful bird-of-paradise. After the bird-of-paradise-watching we relocated to a different part of the site, and in no time at all were watching two **Brown-headed Paradise Kingfishers**, an adult and a juvenile bird. After seeing these two target species, we walked along a road finding lots of other birds, such as **Hooded Pitohui, Common Cicadabird, Barred Cuckooshrike, Black Cicadabird, Brown Oriole, Frilled Monarch, Grey Whistler**, and **Elegant Honeyeater**.



Getting close views of the simply stunning Raggiana Bird-of-paradise was another highlight.

We changed areas within the park again and found ourselves watching a couple of fruiting trees, where we noted **Beautiful Fruit Dove**, **Pink-spotted Fruit Dove**, **Orange-bellied Fruit Dove**, **Superb Fruit Dove**, **Papuan King Parrot**, **Red-cheeked Parrot**, **Buff-faced Pygmy Parrot**, and several other species. In the undergrowth we found **Rusty Pitohui** and in the trees in open woodland found **Hooded Pitohui**, **Spangled Drongo**, **Rufous-bellied Kookaburra**, **Bluewinged Kookaburra**, **Yellow-faced Myna**, **Boyer's Cuckooshrike**, and more. Not too far from the fruiting trees we found roosting **Barking Owl** and **Barred Owlet-nightjar**, as well as nesting



Papuan Frogmouth. Overhead we had Pacific Baza, Brahminy Kite, Gurney's Eagle, Brown Goshawk, Torresian Crow, and Grey Crow.



We saw this adult **Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher** while birding at Varirata National Park.



Papuan Dwarf Kingfisher showed well during our afternoon river walk.



We then took a walk along a river and continued finding quality birds, including **Crinkle-collared Manucode**, **Growling Riflebird**, **Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon**, **Papuan Dwarf Kingfisher**, **Spectacled Longbill**, **White-faced Robin**, **Yellow-legged Flyrobin**, **Olive Flyrobin**, **Fairy Gerygone**, **Green-backed Gerygone**, and **Yellow-belied Gerygone**.

Day 14, 1st September 2023. Transfer between Port Moresby and Tari, and travel to Ambua Lodge

We took a morning flight from Port Moresby to Tari in the Papua New Guinea Western Highlands. On arrival in Tari, we took the short journey to Ambua Lodge, our base for the next two nights. After lunch we commenced our birding in the area, finding **King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise**, **Brown Sicklebill, Ribbon-tailed Astrapia, Black-bellied Cuckooshrike, Grey Thornbill, Rufous-backed Honeyeater**, and a few other species, though in general it was rather quiet.

Day 15, 2nd September 2023. Birding Ambua Lodge and the Tari Gap area

We spent the morning birding the Tari Gap area above Ambua Lodge and connected with some great birds. Some of the highlights included **Ribbon-tailed Astrapia**, **King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise**, **Brown Sicklebill**, **Black-billed Sicklebill**, **Lesser Melampitta**, **Loria's Satinbird**, **MacGregor's Bowerbird**, **Stella's Lorikeet**, **Josephine's Lorikeet**, **Goldie's Lorikeet**, **Alpine Pipit**, **Eastern Crested Berrypecker**, **Fan-tailed Berrypecker**, **Mid-mountain Berrypecker**, **Dimorphic Fantail**, **Friendly Fantail**, **Fan-tailed Cuckoo**, **Island** (Papuan) **Thrush**, **Papuan Grassbird**, **Rufous-backed Honeyeater**, **Grey-streaked Honeyeater**, **Black-throated Honeyeater**, **Belford's Melidectes**, **Yellow-browed Melidectes**, and **Regent Whistler**.



Yellow-browed Melidectes is a large honeyeater and it is rather brash and noisy!



In the afternoon the clouds descended but the rain held off allowing us some birding time. We found a nice mixed flock and some more birds-of-paradise, including **Ribbon-tailed Astrapia**, **Short-tailed Paradigalla**, **Brown Sicklebill**, and **King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise**. Other birds noted during the course of the afternoon included **Capped White-eye**, **Large Scrubwren**, **Buff-faced Scrubwren**, **Grey Thornbill**, **Brown-breasted Gerygone**, **Black-breasted Boatbill**, **Mid-mountain Berrypecker**, **Black-bellied Cuckooshrike**, **Great Woodswallow**, and **Loria's Satinbird**.

Day 16, 3rd September 2023. Transfer from Tari to Port Moresby

The original plan was for another day's birding in the Ambua area, however just before the tour commenced, Air Niugini changed their flight schedules between Tari and Port Moresby, meaning we had to make some last-minute changes to our tour route. After a late breakfast, we made our way from the picturesque Ambua Lodge back to Tari. From Tari we took our flight back to Port Moresby, for the final group evening meal together.

Day 17, 4th September 2023. Port Moresby birding and departure

We had a final morning birding in the excellent Pacific Adventist University grounds, not far outside of Port Moresby city. We added plenty of new trip birds here, including **Orange-fronted Fruit Dove, Bar-shouldered Dove, Australian Hobby, Fawn-breasted Bowerbird, Rufous-banded Honeyeater, White-bellied Cuckooshrike, Black-backed Butcherbird, Australasian Figbird, Golden-headed Cisticola, Singing Starling, and Grey-headed Mannikin.**



We enjoyed excellent views of multiple **Fawn-breasted Bowerbirds** on our final day of birding in Papua New Guinea.



During our morning birding session, we also found several new waterfowl species, including Wandering Whistling Duck, Radjah Shelduck, Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal, Pied Heron, Australasian Darter, Little Pied Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Australasian Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, and Comb-crested Jacana. On finishing our birding and returning to Port Moresby, this Papua New Guinea birding tour ended.

Bird List - Following IOC (13.2)

Birds 'heard only' are marked with (H) after the common name, all other species were seen. The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following <u>BirdLife</u> International: VU = Vulnerable.

Common Name	Scientific Name	
Ducks, Geese, Swans (Anatidae)		
Wandering Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna arcuata	
Radjah Shelduck	Radjah radjah	
Salvadori's Teal	Salvadorina waigiuensis	
Pacific Black Duck	Anas superciliosa	
Grey Teal	Anas gracilis	
Megapodes (Megapodiidae)		
Black-billed Brushturkey (H)	Talegalla fuscirostris	
Orange-footed Scrubfowl	Megapodius reinwardt	
Pheasants & Allies (Phasianidae)		
Brown Quail	Synoicus ypsilophorus	
Frogmouths (Podargidae)		
Marbled Frogmouth (H)	Podargus ocellatus	
Papuan Frogmouth	Podargus papuensis	
Owlet-nightjars (Aegothelidae)		
Barred Owlet-nightjar	Aegotheles bennettii	
Treeswifts (Hemiprocnidae)		
Moustached Treeswift	Hemiprocne mystacea	
Swifts (Apodidae)		
Glossy Swiftlet	Collocalia esculenta	



Common Name	Scientific Name
Mountain Swiftlet	Aerodramus hirundinaceus
Uniform Swiftlet	Aerodramus vanikorensis
Papuan Spine-tailed Swift	Mearnsia novaeguineae
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)	
Ivory-billed Coucal	Centropus menbeki
Pheasant Coucal	Centropus phasianinus
Dwarf Koel	Microdynamis parva
Pacific Koel	Eudynamys orientalis
Channel-billed Cuckoo	Scythrops novaehollandiae
Rufous-throated Bronze Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx ruficollis
Shining Bronze Cuckoo (H)	Chrysococcyx lucidus
White-crowned Cuckoo	Cacomantis leucolophus
Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo	Cacomantis castaneiventris
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Cacomantis flabelliformis
Brush Cuckoo	Cacomantis variolosus
Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)	
Rock Dove	Columba livia
Amboyna Cuckoo-Dove	Macropygia amboinensis
Bar-tailed Cuckoo-Dove	Macropygia nigrirostris
Great Cuckoo-Dove	Reinwardtoena reinwardti
Pacific Emerald Dove	Chalcophaps longirostris
Stephan's Emerald Dove	Chalcophaps stephani
Peaceful Dove	Geopelia placida
Bar-shouldered Dove	Geopelia humeralis
Cinnamon Ground Dove (H)	Gallicolumba rufigula
Sclater's Crowned Pigeon	Goura sclaterii
Wompoo Fruit Dove	Ptilinopus magnificus
Pink-spotted Fruit Dove	Ptilinopus perlatus
Ornate Fruit Dove	Ptilinopus ornatus
Orange-fronted Fruit Dove	Ptilinopus aurantiifrons
Superb Fruit Dove	Ptilinopus superbus
Beautiful Fruit Dove	Ptilinopus pulchellus
White-bibbed Fruit Dove	Ptilinopus rivoli
Orange-bellied Fruit Dove	Ptilinopus iozonus
Dwarf Fruit Dove	Ptilinopus nainus
Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon	Ducula rufigaster
Pinon's Imperial Pigeon	Ducula pinon



Common Name	Scientific Name
Collared Imperial Pigeon	Ducula mullerii
Zoe's Imperial Pigeon	Ducula zoeae
Torresian Imperial Pigeon	Ducula spilorrhoa
Papuan Mountain Pigeon	Gymnophaps albertisii
Rails, Crakes & Coots (Rallidae)	
Buff-banded Rail	Hypotaenidia philippensis
Dusky Moorhen	Gallinula tenebrosa
Australasian Swamphen	Porphyrio melanotus
Pale-vented Bush-hen	Amaurornis moluccana
Plovers (Charadriidae)	
Masked Lapwing	Vanellus miles
Jacanas (Jacanidae)	
Comb-crested Jacana	Irediparra gallinacea
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)	
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos
Coursers, Pratincoles (Glareolidae)	
Australian Pratincole	Stiltia isabella
Anhingas, Darters (Anhingidae)	
Australasian Darter	Anhinga novaehollandiae
Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)	
Little Pied Cormorant	Microcarbo melanoleucos
Little Black Cormorant	Phalacrocorax sulcirostris
Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)	
Australian White Ibis	Threskiornis molucca
Herons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)	
Nankeen Night Heron	Nycticorax caledonicus
Striated Heron	Butorides striata
Eastern Cattle Egret	Bubulcus coromandus
Great Egret	Ardea alba
Intermediate Egret	Ardea intermedia



Common Name	Scientific Name
Pied Heron	Egretta picata
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta
Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae)	
Pacific Baza	Aviceda subcristata
Long-tailed Honey Buzzard	Henicopernis longicauda
Gurney's Eagle	Aquila gurneyi
Variable Goshawk	Accipiter hiogaster
Brown Goshawk	Accipiter fasciatus
Black-mantled Goshawk	Accipiter melanochlamys
Grey-headed Goshawk	Accipiter poliocephalus
Papuan Harrier	Circus spilothorax
Black Kite	Milvus migrans
Whistling Kite	Haliastur sphenurus
Brahminy Kite	Haliastur indus
White-bellied Sea Eagle	Haliaeetus leucogaster
Owls (Strigidae)	
Barking Owl	Ninox connivens
Papuan Boobook	Ninox theomacha
Hornbills (Bucerotidae)	
Blyth's Hornbill	Rhyticeros plicatus
Rollers (Coraciidae)	
Oriental Dollarbird	Eurystomus orientalis
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	1
Hook-billed Kingfisher	Melidora macrorrhina
Common Paradise Kingfisher	Tanysiptera galatea
Little Paradise Kingfisher	Tanysiptera hydrocharis
Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher	Tanysiptera danae
Shovel-billed Kookaburra (H)	Dacelo rex
Rufous-bellied Kookaburra	Dacelo gaudichaud
Blue-winged Kookaburra	Dacelo leachii
Sacred Kingfisher	Todiramphus sanctus
Yellow-billed Kingfisher	Syma torotoro
Mountain Kingfisher	Syma megarhyncha
Common Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis



Common Name	Scientific Name
Papuan Dwarf Kingfisher	Ceyx solitarius
Azure Kingfisher	Ceyx azureus
Bee-eaters (Meropidae)	
Rainbow Bee-eater	Merops ornatus
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	
Australian Hobby	Falco longipennis
Brown Falcon	Falco berigora
Cockatoos (Cacatuidae)	
Palm Cockatoo	Probosciger aterrimus
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Cacatua galerita
Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)	
Pesquet's Parrot (H) - VU	Psittrichas fulgidus
Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot	Micropsitta keiensis
Buff-faced Pygmy Parrot	Micropsitta pusio
Red-breasted Pygmy Parrot	Micropsitta bruijnii
Papuan King Parrot	Alisterus chloropterus
Papuan Eclectus	Eclectus polychloros
Red-cheeked Parrot	Geoffroyus geoffroyi
Blue-collared Parrot	Geoffroyus simplex
Brehm's Tiger Parrot	Psittacella brehmii
Painted Tiger Parrot	Psittacella picta
Plum-faced Lorikeet	Oreopsittacus arfaki
Pygmy Lorikeet	Charminetta wilhelminae
Red-flanked Lorikeet	Hypocharmosyna placentis
Fairy Lorikeet	Charmosynopsis pulchella
Josephine's Lorikeet	Charmosyna josefinae
Stella's Lorikeet	Charmosyna stellae
Orange-billed Lorikeet	Neopsittacus pullicauda
Black-capped Lory	Lorius lory
Dusky Lory	Pseudeos fuscata
Yellow-streaked Lory	Chalcopsitta scintillata
Goldie's Lorikeet	Glossoptilus goldiei
Coconut Lorikeet	Trichoglossus haematodus
Large Fig Parrot	Psittaculirostris desmarestii
Dusky-cheeked Fig Parrot	Cyclopsitta melanogenia



Common Name	Scientific Name
Double-eyed Fig Parrot	Cyclopsitta diophthalma
Orange-fronted Hanging Parrot	Loriculus aurantiifrons
Pittas (Pittidae)	
Papuan Pitta (H)	Erythropitta macklotii
Hooded Pitta	Pitta sordida
Bowerbirds (Ptilonorhynchidae)	
Ochre-breasted Catbird (H)	Ailuroedus stonii
MacGregor's Bowerbird	Amblyornis macgregoriae
Flame Bowerbird	Sericulus ardens
Fawn-breasted Bowerbird	Chlamydera cerviniventris
Australasian Wrens (Maluridae)	
Emperor Fairywren	Malurus cyanocephalus
White-shouldered Fairywren	Malurus alboscapulatus
Orange-crowned Fairywren	Clytomyias insignis
Honeyeaters (Meliphagidae)	
Sooty Honeyeater	Melionyx fuscus
Rufous-backed Honeyeater	Ptiloprora guisei
Grey-streaked Honeyeater	Ptiloprora perstriata
Rufous-banded Honeyeater	Conopophila albogularis
Long-billed Honeyeater	Melilestes megarhynchus
Common Smoky Honeyeater	Melipotes fumigatus
Plain Honeyeater	Pycnopygius ixoides
Ruby-throated Myzomela	Myzomela eques
Papuan Black Myzomela	Myzomela nigrita
Mountain Myzomela	Myzomela adolphinae
Red-collared Myzomela	Myzomela rosenbergii
Meyer's Friarbird	Philemon meyeri
New Guinea Friarbird	Philemon novaeguineae
Tawny-breasted Honeyeater	Xanthotis flaviventer
Puff-backed Honeyeater	Meliphaga aruensis
Mountain Honeyeater	Microptilotis orientalis
Scrub Honeyeater	Microptilotis albonotatus
Mimic Honeyeater	Microptilotis analogus
Graceful Honeyeater	Microptilotis gracilis
Elegant Honeyeater	Microptilotis cinereifrons

Common Name	Scientific Name
Black-throated Honeyeater	Caligavis subfrenata
Obscure Honeyeater	Caligavis obscura
Yellow-browed Melidectes	Melidectes rufocrissalis
Belford's Melidectes	Melidectes belfordi
Ornate Melidectes	Melidectes torquatus
Australasian Warblers (Acanthizidae)	
Rusty Mouse-warbler (H)	Origma murina
Mountain Mouse-warbler	Origma robusta
Pale-billed Scrubwren	Aethomyias spilodera
Buff-faced Scrubwren	Aethomyias perspicillatus
Papuan Scrubwren	Aethomyias papuensis
Large Scrubwren	Sericornis nouhuysi
Brown-breasted Gerygone	Gerygone ruficollis
Large-billed Gerygone	Gerygone magnirostris
Yellow-bellied Gerygone	Gerygone chrysogaster
Green-backed Gerygone	Gerygone chloronota
Fairy Gerygone	Gerygone palpebrosa
Grey Thornbill	Acanthiza cinerea
Australasian Babblers (Pomatostomida	e)
Papuan Babbler	Garritornis isidorei
Satinbirds (Cnemophilidae)	
Loria's Satinbird	Cnemophilus loriae
Berrypeckers, Longbills (Melanochariti	
Obscure Berrypecker	Melanocharis arfakiana
Mid-mountain Berrypecker	Melanocharis longicauda
Fan-tailed Berrypecker	Melanocharis versteri
Streaked Berrypecker	Melanocharis striativentris
Spotted Berrypecker	Rhamphocharis piperata
Spectacled Longbill	Oedistoma iliolophus
Yellow-bellied Longbill	Toxorhamphus novaeguineae
Painted Berrypeckers (Paramythiidae)	
Tit Berrypecker	Oreocharis arfaki
Eastern Crested Berrypecker	Paramythia montium



Common Name	Scientific Name
Jewel-babblers, Quail-thrushes (Cinc	•
Blue Jewel-babbler (H)	Ptilorrhoa caerulescens
Chestnut-backed Jewel-babbler (H)	Ptilorrhoa castanonota
Boatbills (Machaerirhynchidae)	
Yellow-breasted Boatbill	Machaerirhynchus flaviventer
Black-breasted Boatbill	Machaerirhynchus nigripectus
Woodswallows, Butcherbirds & Allies	s (Artamidae)
White-breasted Woodswallow	Artamus leucorynchus
Great Woodswallow	Artamus maximus
Lowland Peltops	Peltops blainvillii
Mountain Peltops	Peltops montanus
Black Butcherbird	Melloria quoyi
Black-backed Butcherbird	Cracticus mentalis
Hooded Butcherbird	Cracticus cassicus
Mottled Berryhunter (Rhagologidae)	
Mottled Berryhunter	Rhagologus leucostigma
Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)	
Stout-billed Cuckooshrike	Coracina caeruleogrisea
Hooded Cuckooshrike	Coracina longicauda
Barred Cuckooshrike	Coracina lineata
Black-faced Cuckooshrike	Coracina novaehollandiae
Boyer's Cuckooshrike	Coracina boyeri
White-bellied Cuckooshrike	Coracina papuensis
Golden Cuckooshrike	Campochaera sloetii
Black-bellied Cuckooshrike	Edolisoma montanum
Grey-headed Cuckooshrike	Edolisoma schisticeps
Common Cicadabird	Edolisoma tenuirostre
Black Cicadabird	Edolisoma melas
Varied Triller	Lalage leucomela
Sittellas (Neosittidae)	
Papuan Sittella	Daphoenositta papuensis
Ploughbill (Eulacestomatidae)	



Common Name	Scientific Name
Australo-Papuan Bellbirds (Oreo	icidaa)
Rufous-naped Bellbird	Aleadryas rufinucha
Kulous-haped Benond	
Whistlers & Allies (Pachycephalic	dae)
Brown-backed Whistler	Pachycephala modesta
Grey Whistler	Pachycephala simplex
Sclater's Whistler	Pachycephala soror
Regent Whistler	Pachycephala schlegelii
Black-headed Whistler (H)	Pachycephala monacha
White-bellied Pitohui	Pseudorectes incertus
Rusty Pitohui	Pseudorectes ferrugineus
Arafura Shrikethrush	Colluricincla megarhyncha
Rufous Shrikethrush	Colluricincla rufogaster
Shrikes (Laniidae)	
	Lanius schach
Long-tailed Shrike	
Figbirds, Old World Orioles, Piop	pios (Oriolidae)
Australasian Figbird	Sphecotheres vieilloti
Southern Variable Pitohui	Pitohui uropygialis
Hooded Pitohui	Pitohui dichrous
Brown Oriole	Oriolus szalayi
Drongos (Dicruridae)	
Spangled Drongo	Dicrurus bracteatus
Fantails (Rhipiduridae)	
Willie Wagtail	Phinidura lauconhrus
Black Fantail	Rhipidura leucophrys Rhipidura atra
Chestnut-bellied Fantail	Rhipidura hyperythra
Friendly Fantail	Rhipidura albolimbata
Dimorphic Fantail	Rhipidura brachyrhyncha
Rufous-backed Fantail	Rhipidura rufidorsa
Nulvus-vackeu Fallall	
Monarchs (Monarchidae)	
Spot-winged Monarch	Symposiachrus guttula
Golden Monarch	Carterornis chrysomela
Frilled Monarch	Arses telescopthalmus



Common Name	Scientific Name
Torrent-lark	Grallina bruijnii
Shining Flycatcher	Myiagra alecto
Crows, Jays (Corvidae)	
Grey Crow	Corvus tristis
Torresian Crow	Corvus orru
Melampittas (Melampittidae)	
Lesser Melampitta	Melampitta lugubris
Ifrit (Ifritidae)	
Blue-capped Ifrit	Ifrita kowaldi
Birds-of-paradise (Paradisaeidae)	
Glossy-mantled Manucode	Manucodia ater
Crinkle-collared Manucode	Manucodia chalybatus
Trumpet Manucode	Phonygammus keraudrenii
Short-tailed Paradigalla	Paradigalla brevicauda
Splendid Astrapia	Astrapia splendidissima
Ribbon-tailed Astrapia	Astrapia mayeri
Princess Stephanie's Astrapia	Astrapia stephaniae
Queen Carola's Parotia	Parotia carolae
King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise	Pteridophora alberti
Greater Lophorina	Lophorina superba
Magnificent Riflebird	Ptiloris magnificus
Growling Riflebird	Ptiloris intercedens
Black Sicklebill	Epimachus fastosus
Brown Sicklebill	Epimachus meyeri
Black-billed Sicklebill	Drepanornis albertisi
Magnificent Bird-of-paradise	Diphyllodes magnificus
King Bird-of-paradise	Cicinnurus regius
Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise	Seleucidis melanoleucus
Greater Bird-of-paradise	Paradisaea apoda
Raggiana Bird-of-paradise	Paradisaea raggiana
Blue Bird-of-paradise	Paradisornis rudolphi
Australasian Robins (Petroicidae)	
White-faced Robin	Tregellasia leucops
White-winged Robin	Peneothello sigillata



Common Name	Scientific Name
Slaty Robin	Peneothello cyanus
White-rumped Robin	Peneothello bimaculata
Black-sided Robin	Poecilodryas hypoleuca
Black-capped Robin (H)	Heteromyias armiti
Torrent Flyrobin	Monachella muelleriana
Yellow-legged Flyrobin	Kempiella griseoceps
Olive Flyrobin	Kempiella flavovirescens
Canary Flyrobin	Devioeca papuana
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)	
Pacific Swallow	Hirundo tahitica
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica
Leaf Warblers (Phylloscopidae)	
Island Leaf Warbler	Phylloscopus poliocephalus
Dead Worklang & Alling (Assessment)	: da a)
Reed Warblers & Allies (Acrocephal	
Australian Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus australis
Grassbirds & Allies (Locustellidae)	
Papuan Grassbird	Cincloramphus macrurus
Cisticolas & Allies (Cisticolidae)	
Golden-headed Cisticola	Cisticola exilis
White-eyes (Zosteropidae)	
Black-fronted White-eye	Zosterops chrysolaemus
Capped White-eye	Zosterops fuscicapilla
Papuan White-eye	Zosterops novaeguineae
Starlings, Rhabdornises (Sturnidae)	
Metallic Starling	Aplonis metallica
Singing Starling	Aplonis cantoroides
Yellow-faced Myna	Mino dumontii
Golden Myna	Mino aumoniti Mino anais
Thrushes (Turdidae)	
Island Thrush	Turdus poliocephalus



Common Name	Scientific Name	
Chats, Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)		
Pied Bush Chat	Saxicola caprata	
Flowerpeckers (Dicaeidae)		
Red-capped Flowerpecker	Dicaeum geelvinkianum	
Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)		
Black Sunbird	Leptocoma aspasia	
Olive-backed Sunbird	Cinnyris jugularis	
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Pas	seridae)	
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus	
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	
Waxbills, Munias & Allies (Estrildidae)		
Grey-headed Mannikin	Lonchura caniceps	
Hooded Mannikin	Lonchura spectabilis	
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)		
Australian Pipit	Anthus australis	
Alpine Pipit	Anthus gutturalis	

Total seen	286
Total heard only	14
Total recorded	300

Reptile List

Common Name	Scientific Name	
Austro-American Side-necked Turtles (Chelidae)		
Jardine River Turtle	Emydura subglobosa	
Total	1	

	Total	1
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<u>Mammal List</u>

Common Name	Scientific Name	
Old World Fruit Bats (Pteropodidae)		
Great Flying Fox	Pteropus neohibernicus	
Dasyures (Dasyuridae)		
Speckled Dasyure	Neophascogale lorentzii	
Deer (Cervidae)		
Javan Deer	Rusa timorensis	
Total	3	

Butterfly and Moth List

Common Name	Scientific Name	
Emperor and Giant Silk Moths (Saturniidae)		
Hercules Moth	Coscinocera hercules	
Swallowtails and Parnassians (Papilioninae)		
Common Green Birdwing	Ornithoptera priamus	
Ulysses Butterfly	Papilio ulysses	
Purple Spotted Swallowtail	Graphium weiskei	
Brush-footed Butterflies (Nymphalidae)		
Great Eggfly	Hypolimnas bolina	
Taenaris sp.	Taenaris cyclops	
Total	6	

