



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Papua New Guinea

Highlights I

3rd to 12th September 2019 (10 days)

Trip Report



Ribbon-tailed Astrapia by Stephan Lorenz

Trip report compiled by Tour Leader: Stephan Lorenz

Tour Summary

The Papua New Guinea Highlights tour offered some of the best birding on the second largest island in the world. Papua New Guinea's birding allure stems from its diversity of birds-of-paradise and several fascinating, ancient bird families, of which seven are restricted to the island. In addition to the unique families and stunning birds-of-paradise, New Guinea also harbors an enormous variety of kingfishers and doves. New Guinea has the reputation of being a difficult place to visit and while the birding can be challenging at times, the improved logistics, access, and comfortable accommodations make this tour much easier every year. Everyone we met along the trail was extremely friendly and welcoming. Our tour was filled to the brim with many memorable species, outstanding birding moments, and the unique cultures and landscapes of Papua New Guinea. Our



Blue-capped Ibrit by Stephan Lorenz

adventure took us from the lowlands around Port Moresby to the foothills in the Varirata National Park and then the central highlands around Mount Hagen. We enjoyed the antics and displays of a dozen species of birds-of-paradise, had excellent views of members of each of the seven endemic bird families (with cooperative Wattled Ploughbill, Blue-capped Ibrit, and Mottled Berryhunter being group favorites), and we tallied an incredible 20 species of doves and pigeons. With so many special birds seen during the tour, it was difficult to choose the top three and, in fact, six species in total tied for first, second, and third place respectively. Top honors went to the Blue Bird-of-paradise of which we observed a female



Wattled Ploughbill by Stephan Lorenz

and later a calling male that revealed itself from all angles. Tied for the first spot was the Wattled Ploughbill and not surprisingly so, given that we immediately bumped into a male during our first venture into the forest at Rondon Ridge. The bird was very cooperative, emerging from the bamboo several times to show off its distinctive wattles and odd bill. The strikingly colorful Crested Satinbird got second place with a male showing repeatedly at Kumul Lodge and it tied with Blue-capped Ibrit. The latter, a poisonous and monotypic family, showed well

in several locations. Third places went to the stunning Ribbon-tailed Australia and the monotypic Mottled Berryhunter which we studied at length in the scope a Murrumbidgee Pass. Other group favorites included Raggiana and King of Saxony Birds-of-paradise, Brown Sicklebill, Greater Lophorina, Papuan Eagle, Slaty Robin, Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher, Ochre-breasted Catbird, and Lesser Melampitta. Except for a delayed start the first day, everything went flawlessly and we also enjoyed excellent weather nearly throughout. We did make up for the delay with a birding blitz of the Port Moresby area that netted us many new species and catapulted us to the final total of 221 species. Overall, the tour visited the best birding sites in the country in a relatively short and leisurely way.

Tour in Detail

Due to some flight delays, our first day began a bit later than planned and the entire group assembled for a welcome dinner at the Raintree Lodge in Port Moresby. Here, we had the opportunity to get acquainted and talk about the adventure ahead. We retired in preparation for an early start the following day with our first full birding excursion in Papua New Guinea awaiting, the excitement was palpable.

The first full day of the tour started with an early departure towards Varirata National Park, one of the prime birding spots in the country, lying only one hour away from the capital. Our exploration and birding in the park did not disappoint with many highlights seen. We went directly to a display area of Raggiana Birds-of-paradise and it only took a few moments before we had a scope trained on a breathtaking male, all fluffed up and ready to display. This was a fantastic start, the first bird-of-paradise, and New Guinea's national bird. Additional birds-of-paradise for the day included Crinkle-collared Manucode and Growling Riflebird. The next target also came relatively quickly when a pair of Brown-headed Paradise Kingfishers answered and a bird flew in for scope views. We carried on to the picnic clearing where the early morning activity was nearly overwhelming and we found Zoe's Imperial Pigeon, scoped a Dwarf Koel, saw Plain, Streak-headed, Mimic, and Tawny-breasted Honeyeaters, New Guinea Friarbird, Stout-



Raggiana Bird-of-paradise by Stephan Lorenz

billed, Barred and Boyer's Cuckooshrikes, Black Cicadabird, Hooded Pitohui, and Brown Oriole. A single fruiting tree held Wompoo, Pink-spotted, Ornate, Superb, Beautiful, Orange-bellied, and Dwarf Fruit Doves, simply incredible! Afterward, we walked the river trail and while birding in the forest interior was more challenging, we still came away with many good sightings. Best of all was an Ochre-breasted Catbird that offered repeated close views, unusual for this retiring species. Other additions included Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon and Hooded Butcherbird. We bumped into several busy feeding flocks that held Pale-billed Scrubwren, Green-backed, Fairy and Yellow-bellied Gerygones, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Chestnut-bellied Fantail, Spangled Drongo, plus excellent showings of Black-faced, Spot-winged and Frilled Monarchs, and Black



Brown Sicklebill by Stephan Lorenz

Berrypecker. Towards the far end of the trail, we located a roosting Barred Owlet-Nightjar that showed particularly well as it perched on a thin twig in front of its cavity. We had a picnic lunch at the lookout

point and with the clear weather, raptor watching was productive with Long-tailed Honey Buzzard, Gurney's Eagle, Whistling and Brahminy Kites all noted. Before leaving the wetter forest, we made sure to track down the incredible Rufous-bellied Kookaburra. During the late afternoon, we checked the eucalyptus forest along the entrance road and added several species restricted to this drier habitat. Foremost, we found no less than three individuals of the endemic White-bellied Whistler plus Pheasant Coucal, Blue-winged Kookaburra, Oriental Dollarbird, Lemon-bellied Flyrobin, and Yellow-faced Myna. During the late afternoon, parrots were on the move and we saw Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Eclectus and Red-cheeked Parrots, Black-capped Lory, and Coconut Lorikeets in flight. After such a successful day, we started the return drive towards Port Moresby and stopped briefly at some flooded rice fields. Within five minutes, we added several species of water birds to our tally, including Radjah Shelduck, Pacific Black Duck, Australasian Swamphen, Little Black Cormorant, and neat Pied Herons. After a delicious dinner at the Raintree Lodge, we completed our first daily bird list with nearly 100 species recorded.



**Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher by
Stephan Lorenz**

We ate a very early breakfast and then transferred to the Port Moresby airport for our flight to Mount Hagen. The check-in process went quickly and our flight departed with only a minor delay. Soon we landed in Mount Hagen where the weather was clear. We loaded the vehicle and headed out of town



Barred Owlet-Nightjar by Stephan Lorenz

towards the forested slopes and mountains of Rondon Ridge. During the drive, we saw distant Yellow-breasted Bowerbirds and a perched Brown Goshawk. Upon arrival, we checked into our comfortable rooms and marvelled at the wonderful setting of the Rondon Ridge lodge. We first birded the lodge grounds before lunch and found White-shouldered Fairywrens, Mountain and Red-collared Myzomelas, and Brown-breasted Gerygone. After a delicious meal and some rest, we walked a short forest trail where one of the first birds we bumped into was an extremely cooperative Wattled Ploughbill that emerged repeatedly from the bamboo, wow what a sighting! Other species were a bit more difficult to get onto in the dense forest, but we glimpsed Large and Buff-faced Scrubwrens, Black Pitohui, Regent and Brown-backed Whistlers, and a brief Slaty Robin. A Black-breasted Boatbill descended from the tall canopy to offer great views and a Black-throated Robin sat still for

lengthy scope studies. Among fruiting trees, we found Yellow-browed Melidectes and Common Smoky Honeyeater. We also added to our birds-of-paradise tally great views of Greater Lophorina and Blue Bird-of-Paradise, the latter a threatened species and one of the most beautiful birds in the world. We gathered for dinner in the spacious main building and celebrated another exciting birding day in Papua New Guinea.

We had a predawn breakfast and then headed out as the sun was rising above Mount Hagen, clearly visible across the valley. We spent the early morning birding among planted fruiting trees and then hiked up the ridge to a clearing in the primary montane forest. Some of us even squeezed in a bit of night birding after dinner and of course, we came away with an impressive tally of species. In the early morning, the fruiting trees held Greater Lophorina, Blue Bird-of-Paradise, and the impressive Princess Stephanie's Astrapia. Other visitors to the fruiting trees included Fan-tailed Berrypecker, Slaty-headed Longbill, Island Leaf Warbler, and Red-capped Flowerpecker. The start of the hike



Black-breasted Broadbill by Stephan Lorenz

held a surprise pair of Stout-billed Cuckooshrikes. We took our time as we tackled steep and sometimes muddy sections along the trail towards the clearing. During the hike, we found Mountain Kingfisher, Black and Friendly Fantails, the monotypic Blue-capped Ifrit, and Canary Flyrobin. A Papuan Eagle that appeared briefly just above the canopy caused some excitement and almost everyone caught at least a glimpse of this massive raptor. We staked out the forest edge along the clearing for several hours,



Blue Bird-of-paradise by Stephan Lorenz

enjoying a field lunch in between, and had excellent views of Black-throated Honeyeater and a fast flock of Papuan Sittellas. One of the best finds here was a small family party of Orange-crowned Fariwrens that eventually showed well in small openings in the dense bamboo. We clearly heard a Mottled Berryhunter and while we saw the bird briefly in flight, it refused to give itself up. The undoubted highlight here was a male King of Saxony Bird-of-Paradise that came into a tree very close to us, offering views for minutes on end. A Black Sicklebill called tantalizing close but unfortunately did not come into view. At least an adult male Princess Stephanie's Astrapia that sat up for a long time was some consolation. The hike back down was not as difficult as anticipated and we all arrived in high spirits at the lodge in

the late afternoon, taking a well-earned rest before dinner. For those that ventured forth at night, we found a perched Papuan Boobook that showed very well, tracked down calling Papuan Frogmouths that fluttered overhead, and even heard the rare Feline Owlet-Nightjar call once.

Everyone agreed that one hike to the clearing atop the ridge was enough so, we concentrated our efforts the following morning on some of the trails lower down after another session among the fruiting trees. Here, we again found Greater Lophorina and the reliable Blue Bird-of-paradise. Along the trails, birding was challenging and activity was subdued in the cool temperatures. We still managed to locate some quality species with Rufescent Imperial Pigeon scoped at length, a Rufous-throated Bronze Cuckoo seen briefly, and a distant MacGregor's Bowerbird. After getting a vocal response, we managed to lure a pair of Forbes's Forest Rails across the trail and everyone managed excellent views of these shy birds. During the afternoon, we returned to the trail and, although it was very warm and windy, we did get better views of MacGregor's Bowerbird, added Yellowish-streaked Honeyeater, Sclater's Whistler, and spotted a Grey Thornbill high in the canopy. Near the end of our walk, another Forbes's Forest Rail crossed the trail and we were able to lure not just one, but three back



Princess Stephanie's Astrapia by Stephan Lorenz

into view, an amazing result for such a skulking bird. We celebrated our perseverance and quality sightings with a delicious dinner.

We started with a slightly later breakfast and birded around the Rondon Lodge one last time, seeing many of the by now familiar species. By midmorning, we were loaded up and ready to head to Kumul Lodge, our destination for the following three nights. While driving, we spotted the only Papuan Harrier of the trip. We arrived at the Kumul Lodge in time for lunch and then spent about an hour watching the nonstop activity at the feeding table. The cool weather kept birds coming constantly and we enjoyed close

views of several of the feeder "regulars" plus some outstanding photo opportunities. Visitors to the feeding table included Belford's Melidectes, Common Smoky Honeyeater, Brown Sickbill, the incredible Ribbon-tailed Astrapia, and Island Thrush. A vocal Great Cuckoo-Dove flew in and landed close and Grey-streaked Honeyeater, Rufous-naped Bellbird, Regent, and Brown-backed Whistlers, White-winged Robin, and Mountain Firetail all foraged on the edge of the clearing. We then spent some time on a short trail before staking out the lodge clearing. The fruiting trees hosted some truly special



Papuan Boobook by Stephan Lorenz

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birds and we had close encounters with a Crested Berrypecker and a male Crested Satinbird! Some of us took to the trail after dark and found a Mountain Owlet-Nightjar that perched right overhead.

The first full day in the Kumul area started with an early breakfast and then an hour's drive to the Kama Valley. Our main quarry here was the Lesser Bird-of-paradise. We hiked down a short path to an overlook and the male was already calling when we arrived. After some waiting, it flew into view for incredible scope studies and good photo opportunities. Eventually, the bird settled into a large tree where it remained on the same perch for the rest of the morning. Other species in the vicinity included Amboyna Cuckoo-Dove, a calling Brush Cuckoo, finally a perched Ornate Melidectes, a surprise Grey Shrikethrush, and vocal Papuan Grassbird. After our success with the bird-of-paradise, we hiked back uphill and left the area, but not until a few Bilum bags had been purchased from the local community. We stopped at the Lai River Bridge where a



Papuan Frogmouth by Stephan Lorenz

small fruiting tree held Marbled and Mountain Honeyeaters. The rocks in the river supported a pair of Torrent Flyrobins with their sharp black and white plumage. We stopped at another casuarina grove and soon located a single Yellow-breasted Bowerbird, but the best addition here were three female plumaged Magnificent Birds-of-paradise that stayed long enough for scope views. Another stop in a forested section along the main road held many calling Tit Berrypeckers, although seeing these mobile birds took some



Belford's Melidectes by Stephan Lorenz

effort, but eventually everyone secured views of a male or female or both. A Black Monarch showed very well and the scarce Streaked Berrypecker showed for some. Not giving up on the Black-headed Whistler that had proved reluctant at best by this point, we stopped for some late morning refreshments and promptly called in two birds for great views. After lunch and a short break, we continued to the Murrumbidgee Pass area where we experienced one of the most action-packed birding afternoons I have had in New Guinea. For the next three hours, bird activity was near-constant and we added many most-wanted species. We started down the gentle trail towards the viewpoint and managed excellent views of a Lesser Melampitta that hopped out onto the trail. At the viewpoint, we swung the scope back and forth from one new species to the next. The incredible tally of species included Bronze Ground Dove, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Orange-billed Lorikeet, Rufous-backed Honeyeater, Black-bellied Cuckooshrike, Tit Berrypecker, Great Woodswallow, scoped Mottled Berryhunter, Dimorphic Fantail, King of Saxony Bird-of-Paradise, an impressive male Brown Sicklebill, and cooperative Ashy Robin. A short excursion at dusk got us flight views of two calling Archbold's Nightjars.

For the final full day in the Kumul area, we headed to a forested hillside about thirty minutes from the lodge. We started the short, but steep walk before sunrise, arriving in the forest in excellent time. Within minutes, we heard and then spotted the male Blue Bird-of-paradise in a fruiting tree. Over the course of the morning, the bird offered better and better views, including close scope studies of it perched. The remainder of the morning was quiet, although, we did see another Great Cuckoo-Dove in flight and added Goldie's Lorikeets. A male Greater Lophorina that perched up close was also appreciated. We stopped along our highway birding location on the way back, but windy and sunny conditions meant that things were fairly quiet. We did add a pair of massive Hooded Cuckooshrikes that remained still just long enough for scope views. Upon returning to the lodge, we took a short break before lunch or enjoyed the excellent birding around the feeders. For the afternoon, we returned to Murmur Pass and unfortunately the weather didn't cooperate with dense fog and wind making birding difficult. The activity was fairly slow, in stark contrast to the previous day, but with patience and perseverance we teased some excellent additions from the misty forest. The highlights included a male Loria's Satinbird that visited a fruiting tree several times right above our heads, two Mid-mountain Berrypeckers seen by all, White-bibbed Fruit Dove glimpsed, and a minute Garnet Robin seen well in the nearby canopy. With the weather deteriorating, we returned to the lodge for an early dinner.



Crested Satinbird by Stephan Lorenz

We enjoyed one final morning birding around the Kumul Lodge, seeing many by now familiar species, but also catching up with good views of some birds for everyone. Most notably, cooperative Mountain



King of Saxony Bird-of-paradise by Stephan Lorenz

Mouse-warbler and Rufous-naped Bellbird showed well along the edge of the entrance road. A troop of Papuan Scrubwrens emerged on the edge of the lodge clearing and another Mountain Firetail popped up. We walked a short section along the main road and located a flowering tree that attracted Papuan, Orange-billed, and Plum-faced Lorikeets that offered perched scope studies, while Goldie's Lorikeets flew above. We then transferred to the Mount Hagen airport, arriving with plenty of time and we dug into our to-go lunches after quickly ticking off Australian Pipit. The flight back to Port Moresby left on time and we arrived a few minutes early. We quickly loaded the vehicle and were off towards the Pacific Adventist University campus to enjoy a final two hours of birding in Papua New

Guinea. It was one of the most memorable final outings of any tour and we added more than two dozen species to the trip list, including several import targets. The ponds and small wetlands held Plumed and

Wandering Whistling Ducks, Radjah Shelduck, Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal, Dusky Moorhen, Australasian Swamphen, Comb-crested Jacana, Little Black and single Little Pied Cormorants, Great, Intermediate, and Eastern Cattle Egrets, Pied and Nankeen Night Herons, and Australian White Ibis. A pair of Pacific Golden Plovers flew in and landed on lilies in the middle of the pond, but even more surprising was a pair of Pied Stilts that settled in for scope studies, a very rare species here. The surrounding trees and open woodland offered excellent studies of the hoped-for Fawn-breasted Bowerbirds, Rufous-banded Honeyeaters, Australasian Figbirds, the fierce Black-backed Butcherbird, Metallic and Singing Starlings, and Yellow-faced Myna. We scoured an area of tall grasses and came up with a small flock of the range-restricted Grey-headed Mannikin. Before leaving the campus, we made one final strategic stop and quickly found Yellow-tinted Honeyeaters and cooperative Forest Kingfisher. In order to add one more species we paused at the rice paddies and within minutes flushed a White-browed Crake before returning triumphantly to the Raintree Lodge. Here, we enjoyed a celebratory dinner and relived some of the adventures and great birds of the past ten days. Before the final transfers to the airport the following morning, some of us completed one last twitch, adding the endemic Silver-eared Honeyeater to the final tally, finishing a PNG tour truly full of highlights!



Crested Berrypecker by Stephan Lorenz



Silver-eared Honeyeater by Stephan Lorenz

Annotated List of species recorded

Note: Number in brackets () indicate number of days on the tour the species was recorded.

List powered through the report generator of our partner iGoTerra.

Birds (221 in total: 211 seen, 10 heard)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2019. IOC World Bird List (v 9.1).

Status codes: **E** = Endemic, **NE** = Near-endemic, **I** = Introduced

IUCN codes: **CR** = Critically endangered, **EN** = Endangered, **VU** = Vulnerable, **EW** = Extinct in the Wild, **NT** = Near Threatened, **DD** = Data Deficient

Ducks, Geese & Swans *Anatidae*

Plumed Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna eytoni*

(1) 8 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

A small flock was present on the PAU campus.

Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata australis*

(1) 12 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

Numerous at the ponds on the PAU campus.

Raja Shelduck *Radjah radjah radjah*

(2) 10 en route 4.9 and 2 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

Seen well one evening in the rice paddies and seen again on the PAU campus.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa pelewensis*

(2) 8 en route 4.9 and 25 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

Common in the wetlands of the Port Moresby area.

Grey Teal *Anas gracilis gracilis*

(1) 5 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

A small group seen well PAU campus.

Megapodes *Megapodiidae*

Black-billed Brushturkey *Talegalla fuscirostris*

(1) 1 heard Varirata NP 4.9.

Only heard distantly in Varirata NP.

Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies *Phasianidae*

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora mafulu*

(1) 1 heard Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5.9.

Heard one afternoon in grasslands in front of the Rondon Ridge lodge.

Ibises, Spoonbills *Threskiornithidae*

Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca molucca*

(1) 5 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

A few at the PAU campus.

Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns *Ardeidae***Nankeen Night Heron***Nycticorax caledonicus
australasiae*

(1) 2 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.
A roosting juvenile scoped well PAU campus.

Eastern Cattle Egret*Bubulcus coromandus*

(3) 30 en route 4.9, 10 en route 5.9 and 50 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.
Common in pastures and fields and the Port Moresby airport.

Great Egret*Ardea alba modesta*

(1) 2 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.
Only two noted on the PAU campus.

Intermediate Egret*Ardea intermedia plumifera*

(1) 3 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.
A bit more common than previous species on PAU campus.

Pied Heron*Egretta picata*

(2) 15 en route 4.9 and 5 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.
This gorgeous heron was common in the rice fields and PAU campus.

Little Egret*Egretta garzetta nigripes*

(1) 1 en route 4.9.
One noted the evening we checked the rice fields.

Cormorants and Shags *Phalacrocoracidae***Little Pied Cormorant***Microcarbo melanoleucos
melanoleucos*

(1) 1 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.
A single roosting among the following species on the PAU campus.

Little Black Cormorant*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

(2) 3 en route 4.9 and 15 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.
Numerous on the PAU campus.

Anhingas *Anhingidae***Australasian Darter***Anhinga novaehollandiae papua*

(1) 4 Varirata NP 4.9.
Seen high in flight from the lookout at Varirata NP, a bit surprising.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles *Accipitridae***Long-tailed Honey Buzzard***Henicopernis longicauda*

(2) 3 Varirata NP 4.9 and 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 7.9.
Great views of soaring birds from the lookout Varirata NP.

Papuan Eagle (VU)*Harpyopsis novaeguineae*

(1) 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9.
A brief view of a bird circling low over the canopy at Rondon Ridge.

Gurney's Eagle (NT)*Aquila gurneyi*

(1) 1 Varirata NP 4.9.
Brief but good views at Varirata NP.

Brown Goshawk*Accipiter fasciatus polycryptus*

(1) 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5.9.
Perched adult as we drove towards the Rondon Ridge lodge.

Papuan Harrier*Circus spilothorax*

(1) 1 en route 8.9.

Seen quartering over a field as we were driving towards Kumul Lodge.

Black Kite*Milvus migrans affinis*

(7) 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9 and 2 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 7.9.

Common and widespread.

Whistling Kite*Haliastur sphenurus*

(1) 1 Varirata NP 4.9.

Seen well at Varirata NP.

Brahminy Kite*Haliastur indus girrenera*

(5) 6 Varirata NP 4.9, 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5.9, 1 en route 8.9, 1 Mount Hagen 9.9 and 1 Mount Hagen 10.9.

Widespread, but not as numerous.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae**Forbes's Forest Rail***Rallicula forbesi forbesi*

(1) 5 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 7.9.

Fantastic views of these shy birds with a total of five seen along the trails at Rondon Ridge.

White-browed Crake*Porzana cinerea*

(1) 1 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

Flushed views on the edge of the rice fields during our final birding moments.

Australasian Swamphen*Porphyrio melanotus melanopterus*

(2) 5 en route 4.9 and 10 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

Common in Port Moresby wetlands.

Dusky Moorhen*Gallinula tenebrosa frontata*

(1) 4 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

Seen well nest building at PAU campus.

Stilts and Avocets Recurvirostridae**Pied Stilt***Himantopus leucocephalus*

(1) 2 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

A surprise addition on the PAU campus, apparently a very rare bird in the area.

Plovers and Lapwings Charadriidae**Masked Lapwing***Vanellus miles miles*

(2) 4 en route 4.9 and 4 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

Common around Port Moresby.

Pacific Golden Plover*Pluvialis fulva*

(1) 2 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

Another shorebird bonus as two flew in on the PAU campus to land on lily pads!

Jacanas Jacanidae**Comb-crested Jacana***Irediparra gallinacea*

(1) 4 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

Vocal and obvious on the PAU campus.

Sandpipers and Allies Scolopacidae**Wood Sandpiper***Tringa glareola*

(1) 1 en route 4.9.

Heard in the rice fields.

Pigeons and Doves Columbidae**Amboyna Cuckoo-Dove***Macropygia amboinensis*
cinereiceps

(5) 3 Varirata NP 4.9, 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5.9, 2 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 8.9, 2 Mount Hagen 9.9 and 2 Mount Hagen 10.9.

The most common cuckoo-dove.

Bar-tailed Cuckoo-Dove*Macropygia nigrirostris*

(4) 2 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 7.9, 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 8.9, 5 en route 9.9 and 2 Mount Hagen 10.9.

Fairly common in the highlands.

Great Cuckoo-Dove*Reinwardtoena reinwardti*
griseotincta

(3) 1 en route 4.9, 1 Mount Hagen 8.9 and 1 Mount Hagen 10.9.

Several sightings, but the one that perched close to the porch at Kumul Lodge will not be forgotten, what a massive dove.

Peaceful Dove*Geopelia placida placida*

(1) 3 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

Seen on the PAU campus.

Bar-shouldered Dove*Geopelia humeralis gregalis*

(1) 2 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

Only seen in flight on the PAU campus.

Bronze Ground Dove*Alopecoenas beccarii beccarii*

(3) Up to 4 Mount Hagen 8-10.9.

Up to five birds out in the open in the clearing at Murrum Pass.

Wompoo Fruit Dove*Ptilinopus magnificus poliurus*

(1) 2 Varirata NP 4.9.

Seen well in the fruiting tree Varirata NP.

Pink-spotted Fruit Dove*Ptilinopus perlatus zonurus*

(1) 6 Varirata NP 4.9.

Seen well in the fruiting tree Varirata NP.

Ornate Fruit Dove*Ptilinopus ornatus gestroi*

(1) 2 Varirata NP 4.9.

Seen well in the fruiting tree Varirata NP.

Orange-fronted Fruit Dove*Ptilinopus aurantiifrons*

(1) 2 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

Excellent views in the fruiting fig on the PAU campus.

Superb Fruit Dove*Ptilinopus superbus superbus*

(1) 1 Varirata NP 4.9.

Seen well in the fruiting tree Varirata NP.

Beautiful Fruit Dove*Ptilinopus pulchellus*

(1) 2 Varirata NP 4.9.

Seen well in the fruiting tree Varirata NP.

White-bibbed Fruit Dove*Ptilinopus rivoli bellus*

(4) 1 heard Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 7.9, 1 heard Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 8.9, 1 heard Mount Hagen 9.9 and 1 Mount Hagen 10.9.

Heard often but only glimpsed by some at Murrumbidgee Pass.

Orange-bellied Fruit Dove*Ptilinopus iozonus finschi*

(1) 4 Varirata NP 4.9.

Seen well in the fruiting tree Varirata NP.

Dwarf Fruit Dove*Ptilinopus nainus*

(1) 2 Varirata NP 4.9.

Seen well in the fruiting tree Varirata NP.

Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon*Ducula rufigaster rufigaster*

(1) 1 Varirata NP 4.9.

Seen by some along the River Trail Varirata NP.

Rufescent Imperial Pigeon*Ducula chalconota smaragdina*

(1) 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 7.9.

This rare pigeon showed exceedingly well along the trail at Rondon Ridge.

Zoe's Imperial Pigeon*Ducula zoeae*

(1) 2 Varirata NP 4.9.

Scoped at Varirata NP.

Torresian Imperial Pigeon*Ducula spilorrhhoa*

(1) 5 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

Several views on the PAU campus.

Papuan Mountain Pigeon*Gymnophaps albertisii albertisii*

(3) 6 Varirata NP 4.9, 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 7.9 and 10 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 8.9.

Common in flight and scoped in eucalyptus forest Varirata NP.

Cuckoos Cuculidae**Pheasant Coucal***Centropus phasianinus nigricans*

(1) 3 Varirata NP 4.9.

Seen along the entrance road Varirata NP in the afternoon.

Dwarf Koel*Microdynamis parva parva*

(1) 1 Varirata NP 4.9.

Great scope views of a calling bird in the picnic area Varirata NP.

Rufous-throated Bronze*Chrysococcyx ruficollis***Cuckoo**

(3) Up to 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6-8.9.

Heard often and seen once along the trail Rondon Ridge.

White-crowned Cuckoo*Cacomantis leucolophus*

(1) 1 heard Varirata NP 4.9.

Heard only at Varirata NP.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo*Cacomantis flabelliformis excitus*

(3) 1 heard Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5.9, 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 7.9 and 1 Mount Hagen 9.9.

Seen well at Murrumbidgee Pass.

Brush Cuckoo*Cacomantis variolosus
oreophilus*

(4) 1 heard Varirata NP 4.9, 2 heard Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 8.9, 1 Mount Hagen 9.9 and 2 heard Mount Hagen 10.9.
Excellent views in the Kama Valley.

Owls Strigidae**Papuan Boobook***Ninox theomacha theomacha*

(1) 2 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9.
Fantastic close views at night along the trails at Rondon Ridge with two seen.

Frogmouths Podargidae**Papuan Frogmouth***Podargus papuensis*

(2) 2 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9 and 1 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.
Good views at night Rondon Ridge and then one seen on a nest PAU campus.

Nightjars and Allies Caprimulgidae**Archbold's Nightjar***Eurostopodus archboldi*

(1) 2 Mount Hagen 9.9.
Flight views of two vocal birds after sunset near Kumul Lodge.

Large-tailed Nightjar*Caprimulgus macrurus schlegelii*

(1) 1 Mount Hagen 8.9.
Heard near Rondon Ridge.

Owlet-Nightjars Aegothelidae**Feline Owlet-Nightjar***Aegotheles insignis*

(1) 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 7.9.
Heard only along the trails at Rondon Ridge.

Mountain Owlet-Nightjar*Aegotheles albertisi*

(1) 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 8.9.
Seen well along the trail Kumul Lodge as the bird perched right above our heads.

Barred Owlet-Nightjar*Aegotheles bennettii bennettii*

(1) 1 Varirata NP 4.9.
Great views of a roosting bird Varirata NP.

Swifts Apodidae**Glossy Swiftlet***Collocalia esculenta nitens*

Observed 5 day(s) in total.
Common and widespread.

Mountain Swiftlet*Aerodramus hirundinaceus
hirundinaceus*

(7) Up to 20 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5-7.9.
Abundant in the highlands.

Uniform Swiftlet*Aerodramus vanikorensis yorki*

Observed 1 day(s) in total.
Seen well Varirata NP.

Rollers Coraciidae**Oriental Dollarbird***Eurystomus orientalis
waigiouensis*

(1) 2 Varirata NP 4.9.

Seen in eucalyptus forest Varirata NP.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae**Brown-headed Paradise
Kingfisher***Tanysiptera danae*

(1) 2 Varirata NP 4.9.

Great views of this range-restricted endemic at Varirata NP.

Blue-winged Kookaburra*Dacelo leachii intermedia*

(1) 2 Varirata NP 4.9.

Seen in drier forest Varirata NP.

Rufous-bellied Kookaburra*Dacelo gaudichaud*

(1) 2 Varirata NP 4.9.

Before we left Varirata NP we tracked down this stunning species for great scope studies.

Forest Kingfisher*Todiramphus macleayii elisabeth*

(1) 2 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

One of the final birds of the trip as we left the PAU campus, scope views for all and smiles all around!

Sacred Kingfisher*Todiramphus sanctus sanctus*

(2) 1 Varirata NP 4.9 and 3 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

Not uncommon around Port Moresby.

Mountain Kingfisher*Syma megarhyncha megarhyncha*

(1) 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9.

Seen by some along the ridge trail at Rondon and clearly heard by all.

Azure Kingfisher*Ceyx azureus lessonii*

(1) 1 Varirata NP 4.9.

Seen briefly along the River Trail Varirata NP.

Bee-eaters Meropidae**Rainbow Bee-eater***Merops ornatus*

(2) 4 Varirata NP 4.9 and 1 Mount Hagen 9.9.

Best seen along the entrance road Varirata NP.

Falcons and Caracaras Falconidae**Brown Falcon***Falco berigora novaeguineae*

(1) 1 Varirata NP 4.9.

Seen along the main road as we left Varirata NP.

Cockatoos Cacatuidae**Sulphur-crested Cockatoo***Cacatua galerita triton*

(1) 4 Varirata NP 4.9.

Seen in flight in the late afternoon Varirata NP.

Old World Parrots *Psittaculidae***Eclectus Parrot***Eclectus roratus polychloros*

(1) 1 Varirata NP 4.9.

One shot past us at Varirata NP.

Red-cheeked Parrot*Geoffroyus geoffroyi aruensis*

(2) 2 Varirata NP 4.9 and 4 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

Many seen in flight Varirata NP and PAU campus.

Brehm's Tiger Parrot*Psittacella brehmii pallida*

(4) 4 Mount Hagen 8.9 and 1 Mount Hagen 11.9.

Regular at the feeder Kumul Lodge.

Plum-faced Lorikeet*Oreopsittacus arfaki grandis*

(4) 4 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9 and up to 6 Mount Hagen 9-11.9.

On the final morning at Kumul Lodge we finally had perched views.

Papuan Lorikeet*Chamosyna papou goliathina*

(3) 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9, 1 Mount Hagen 8.9 and 6 Mount Hagen 11.9.

The flowering tree along the main road near Kumul Lodge was productive for lorikeets and we finally had perched views.

Yellow-billed Lorikeet*Neopsittacus musschenbroekii*

(5) Up to 2 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5-7.9, 5 Mount Hagen 9.9 and 5 Mount Hagen 10.9.

Widespread in the highlands with the best views at Murmur Pass.

Orange-billed Lorikeet*Neopsittacus pullicauda*

(2) 2 Mount Hagen 9.9 and 4 Mount Hagen 11.9.

Excellent scope views of a pair Murmur Pass.

Black-capped Lory*Lorius lory erythrothorax*

(1) 6 Varirata NP 4.9.

Seen well in flight and briefly perched Varirata NP.

Goldie's Lorikeet*Psitteuteles goldiei*

(2) 5 Mount Hagen 10.9 and 5 Mount Hagen 11.9.

Only seen in flight near Kumul Lodge.

Coconut Lorikeet*Trichoglossus haematodus
massena*

(4) 6 Varirata NP 4.9, 5 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5.9, 3 Mount Hagen 9.9 and 3 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

Common in open habitats.

Bowerbirds *Ptilonorhynchidae***Ochre-breasted Catbird***Ailuroedus stonii stonii*

(1) 1 Varirata NP 4.9.

Excellent views of this normally difficult species at the beginning of the River Trail Varirata NP.

MacGregor's Bowerbird*Amblyornis macgregoriae
macgregoriae*

(2) 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9 and 2 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 7.9.

Eventually we all had great views of this skulker along the trail Rondon Ridge.

Yellow-breasted Bowerbird*Chlamydera lauterbachii
uniformis*

(3) 2 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5.9, 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 8.9 and 1 en route 9.9.

We tracked down views for all in the Kama Valley.

Fawn-breasted Bowerbird

Chlamydera cerviniventris

(1) 10 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

Abundant on the PAU campus.

Fairywrens *Maluridae*

White-shouldered Fairywren

Malurus alboscapulatus kutubu

(4) 6 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5.9, 2 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 7.9, 4 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 8.9 and 2 Mount Hagen 9.9.

Fairly common in grassy areas in the highlands.

Orange-crowned Fairywren

Clytomyias insignis oorti

(1) 3 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9.

We tracked down a group of these uncommon fairywrens in the clearing Rondon Ridge.

Honeyeaters *Meliphagidae*

Mountain Myzomela

Myzomela adolphinae

(6) Up to 5 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5-7.9, 1 Mount Hagen 9.9 and 2 Mount Hagen 10.9.

Fairly common around Rondon.

Red-collared Myzomela

*Myzomela rosenbergii
rosenbergii*

(6) Up to 6 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5-7.9, 2 Mount Hagen 9.9 and 4 Mount Hagen 10.9.

Common in the highlands, especially around Rondon.

Yellowish-streaked Honeyeater

Ptiloprora meekiana meekiana

(2) 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9 and 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 7.9.

After a quick glimpse in the plantation we tracked one down along the trail at Rondon, a tricky species.

Rufous-backed Honeyeater

Ptiloprora guisei

(2) 1 heard Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9 and 2 Mount Hagen 9.9.

Seen at Murrumbidgee Pass.

Grey-streaked Honeyeater

Ptiloprora perstriata

(4) Up to 2 Mount Hagen 8-11.9.

Regularly visiting flowering trees in the lodge clearing at Kumul.

Plain Honeyeater

Pycnopygius ixoides finschi

(1) 2 Varirata NP 4.9.

Seen well in the fruiting tree in Varirata NP.

Marbled Honeyeater

*Pycnopygius cinereus
marmoratus*

(1) 2 en route 9.9.

Great views in the fruiting tree at the Lai River.

Streak-headed Honeyeater

Pycnopygius stictocephalus

(1) 2 Varirata NP 4.9.

Seen well in the picnic area Varirata NP.

- Silver-eared Honeyeater** *Lichmera alboauricularis*
alboauricularis
(1) 2 en route 12.9.
The final twitch of the tour with some of us tracking down a pair in the middle of Port Moresby.
- Tawny-breasted Honeyeater** *Xanthotis flaviventer visi*
(1) 2 Varirata NP 4.9.
Seen well in Varirata NP.
- New Guinea Friarbird** *Philemon novaeguineae*
ovaeguineae
(2) 6 Varirata NP 4.9 and 2 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.
Common around Port Moresby.
- White-throated Honeyeater** *Melithreptus albogularis*
albogularis
(1) 4 Varirata NP 4.9.
Easy to find in the eucalyptus forest at Varirata NP.
- Common Smoky Honeyeater** *Melipotes fumigatus goliathi*
(7) Up to 6 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5-7.9, 4 Mount Hagen 10.9 and 4 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.
Common in the highlands.
- Rufous-banded Honeyeater** *Conopophila albogularis*
(1) 4 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.
Good views of this responsive honeyeater at PAU campus.
- Black-throated Honeyeater** *Caligavis subfrenata*
(2) 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9 and 1 heard Mount Hagen 9.9.
Great views in the clearing at Rondon.
- Yellow-browed Melidectes** *Melidectes rufocrissalis*
rufocrissalis
(5) Up to 4 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5-8.9 and 2 Mount Hagen 10.9.
The melidectes around Rondon.
- Belford's Melidectes** *Melidectes belfordi schraderensis*
(4) 6 Mount Hagen 8.9 and 8 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.
Common and loud around Kumul.
- Ornate Melidectes** *Melidectes torquatus polyphonus*
(6) Up to 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5-8.9, 2 Mount Hagen 9.9 and 1 Mount Hagen 10.9.
Eventually we had long scope views in the Kama Valley.
- Yellow-tinted Honeyeater** *Ptilotula flavescens flavescens*
(1) 2 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.
Another final five minutes bird at PAU campus.
- Mountain Honeyeater** *Meliphaga orientalis becki*
(1) 4 en route 9.9.
Best seen at the Lai River.
- Mimic Honeyeater** *Meliphaga analoga*
(1) 2 Varirata NP 4.9.
Good views in Varirata NP.

Australasian Warblers *Acanthizidae***Rusty Mouse-warbler***Origma murina murina*

(1) 1 heard Varirata NP 4.9.

Heard only in Varirata NP.

Mountain Mouse-warbler*Origma robusta sanfordi*

(6) Up to 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5-8.9, 1 Mount Hagen 10.9 and 1 Mount Hagen 11.9.

The final morning at Kumul finally offered views for everyone of this vocal but skulky species.

Pale-billed Scrubwren*Aethomyias spilodera guttatus*

(1) 2 Varirata NP 4.9.

Good views of this fast moving species in the feeding flock Varirata NP.

Buff-faced Scrubwren*Aethomyias perspicillatus*

(4) Up to 10 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5-7.9 and 2 Mount Hagen 10.9.

Common around Rondon and Tonga.

Papuan Scrubwren*Aethomyias papuensis buergersi*

(3) 1 Mount Hagen 8.9, 4 Mount Hagen 10.9 and 3 Mount Hagen 11.9.

The best views were had the final morning at Kumul.

Large Scrubwren*Sericornis nouhuysi stresemanni*

(5) Up to 2 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5-7.9, 2 Mount Hagen 8.9 and 2 Mount Hagen 10.9.

Fairly common in forests in the highlands.

Brown-breasted Gerygone*Gerygone ruficollis*

(6) Up to 4 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5-7.9 and 2 Mount Hagen 10.9.

Common in the highlands.

Yellow-bellied Gerygone*Gerygone chrysogaster
chrysogaster*

(1) 2 Varirata NP 4.9.

Good views in the feeding flock Varirata NP.

Green-backed Gerygone*Gerygone chloronota chloronota*

(1) 1 heard Varirata NP 4.9.

Heard only in Varirata NP.

Fairy Gerygone*Gerygone palpebrosa palpebrosa*

(1) 2 Varirata NP 4.9.

Good views in the feeding flock Varirata NP.

Grey Thornbill*Acanthiza cinerea*

(1) 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 7.9.

As usual feeding high in the canopy, but we all eventually saw it along the trail Rondon Ridge.

Satinbirds *Cnemophilidae***Loria's Satinbird***Cnemophilus loriae*

(1) 1 Mount Hagen 10.9.

The fog made it difficult, but we still managed views of a male at Murmur Pass.

Crested Satinbird*Cnemophilus macgregorii
sanguineus*

(2) 1 Mount Hagen 8.9 and 2 Mount Hagen 10.9.

What a stunning species, a male visited the fruiting trees in the Kumul Lodge clearing.

Berrypeckers and Longbills *Melanocharitidae*

Black Berrypecker

Melanocharis nigra unicolor

(1) 2 Varirata NP 4.9.

Males and females seen among the feeding flock Varirata NP.

Mid-mountain Berrypecker

Melanocharis longicauda captata

(1) 2 Mount Hagen 10.9.

Good views at Murmur Pass.

Fan-tailed Berrypecker

*Melanocharis versteri
maculiceps*

(4) Up to 2 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6-8.9 and 2 Mount Hagen 10.9.

The most widespread and common berrypecker in the highlands.

Streaked Berrypecker

*Melanocharis striativentris
striativentris*

(1) 1 Mount Hagen 9.9.

Good but brief views along the main road near Kumul.

Slaty-headed Longbill

Toxorhamphus poliopterus

(1) 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9.

Brief views in the plantation at Rondon Ridge.

Tit Berrypecker and Crested Berrypecker *Paramythiidae*

Tit Berrypecker

Oreocharis arfaki

(2) 10 Mount Hagen 9.9 and 1 heard Mount Hagen 10.9.

A small flock along the main road near Kumul and a pair at Murmur Pass.

Crested Berrypecker

Paramythia montium montium

(1) 1 Mount Hagen 8.9.

Great views of this unique species in the lodge grounds at Kumul.

Whipbirds, Jewel-babblers and Quail-thrushes *Psophodidae*

Painted Quail-thrush

Cinclosoma ajax goldiei

(1) 1 heard Varirata NP 4.9.

Heard only Varirata NP.

Boatbills *Machaerirhynchidae*

Yellow-breasted Boatbill

*Machaerirhynchus flaviventer
xanthogenys*

(1) 2 Varirata NP 4.9.

Less common than its highland counterpart, but we still ended up with great views.

Black-breasted Boatbill

*Machaerirhynchus nigripectus
saturatus*

(7) Up to 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5-7.9 and up to 1 Mount Hagen 8-11.9.

Common in highland forests with many great views.

Woodswallows, Butcherbirds and allies *Artamidae***White-breasted Woodswallow***Artamus leucorhynchus*
leucopygialis

(2) 10 en route 4.9 and 3 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

Common around Port Moresby.

Great Woodswallow*Artamus maximus*

(1) 6 Mount Hagen 9.9.

A big bonus as several of these circled above us at Murmur Pass.

Black Butcherbird*Melloria quoyi quoyi*

(1) 1 heard Varirata NP 4.9.

Heard only along the River Trail Varirata NP.

Black-backed Butcherbird*Cracticus mentalis mentalis*

(1) 2 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

This species showed well on the PAU campus.

Hooded Butcherbird*Cracticus cassicus cassicus*

(1) 2 Varirata NP 4.9.

Good views in Varirata NP.

Mottled Whistler *Rhagologidae***Mottled Berryhunter***Rhagologus leucostigma*
obscurus

(3) 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9, 2 Mount Hagen 9.9 and 3 heard Mount Hagen 10.9.

We finally connected with excellent scope views of a female at Murmur Pass.

Cuckoo-shrikes *Campephagidae***Stout-billed Cuckooshrike***Coracina caeruleogrisea*

(2) 1 Varirata NP 4.9 and 2 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9.

Good views in Varirata NP and seen again at the start of the trail Rondon Ridge.

Hooded Cuckooshrike*Coracina longicauda*

(1) 2 Mount Hagen 10.9.

Distant views along the main road near Kumul Lodge.

Barred Cuckooshrike*Coracina lineata axillaris*

(1) 1 Varirata NP 4.9.

Good views of a male in the picnic area at Varirata NP.

Boyer's Cuckooshrike*Coracina boyeri subalaris*

(1) 4 Varirata NP 4.9.

Great views of several in the picnic area Varirata NP.

White-bellied Cuckooshrike*Coracina papuensis angustifrons*

(2) 1 Varirata NP 4.9 and 2 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

Present at Varirata NP and PAU campus.

Black-bellied Cuckooshrike*Edolisoma montanum montanum*

(2) 3 Mount Hagen 9.9 and 2 heard Mount Hagen 10.9.

Good views at Murmur Pass.

Black Cicadabird*Edolisoma melas melas*

(1) 1 Varirata NP 4.9.

Seen in the picnic area Varirata NP.

Sittellas Neosittidae**Papuan Sittella***Daphoenositta papuensis*
toxopeusi

(1) 8 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9.

An active group passed through the clearing at Rondon Ridge.

Ploughbill Eulacestomatidae**Wattled Ploughbill***Eulacestoma nigropectus*

(3) Up to 3 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5-7.9.

What a bird and the views were out of this world during our first afternoon along the trail at Rondon Ridge.

Australo-Papuan Bellbirds Oreoicidae**Rufous-naped Bellbird***Aleadryas rufinucha niveifrons*

(5) 2 heard Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 7.9 and up to 1 Mount Hagen 8-11.9.

On the final morning we all caught up with views of this vocal species.

Whistlers and allies Pachycephalidae**Black Pitohui***Melanorectes nigrescens meeki*

(3) Up to 2 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5-7.9.

Eventually all of us got a view of this skulker at Rondon Ridge.

Brown-backed Whistler*Pachycephala modesta modesta*

(3) 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5.9, 1 Mount Hagen 8.9 and 1 Mount Hagen 10.9.

Best seen from the porch at Kumul Lodge.

Grey Whistler*Pachycephala simplex*
brunnescens

(1) 1 Varirata NP 4.9.

Seen in the feeding flock Varirata NP.

Slater's Whistler*Pachycephala soror klossi*

(1) 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 7.9.

Seen only briefly along the trail at Rondon Ridge.

Regent Whistler*Pachycephala schlegelii*
obscurior

(7) Up to 2 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5-7.9 and up to 3 Mount Hagen 8-11.9.

The common whistler of the highlands.

Black-headed Whistler*Pachycephala monacha lugubris*

(2) 1 heard Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 7.9 and 2 en route 9.9.

It took a bit of effort to find this species in the Kama Valley, but a strategic stop for refreshments came with two of these.

White-bellied Whistler*Pachycephala leucogastra*
leucogastra

(1) 3 Varirata NP 4.9.

Seen very well in the eucalyptus forest Varirata NP with two males in full display.

Little Shrikethrush*Colluricincla megarhyncha*
despecta

(1) 1 heard Mount Hagen 9.9.

Heard only in Varirata NP.

Grey Shrikethrush*Colluricincla harmonica
superciliosa*

(1) 1 Mount Hagen 9.9.

Seen briefly in the Kama Valley where it was a bit of a surprise, not expected at that elevation.

Shrikes Laniidae**Long-tailed Shrike***Lanius schach stresemanni*

(7) Up to 2 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5-7.9, up to 2 en route 8-10.9 and 2 Mount Hagen 11.9.

Widespread and common in open highland habitats.

Old World Orioles Oriolidae**Australasian Figbird***Sphecotheres vieilloti salvadorii*

(2) 10 Pacific Adventist University 11.9 and 5 en route 12.9.

Numerous on the PAU campus.

Hooded Pitohui*Pitohui dichrous*

(1) 1 Varirata NP 4.9.

Great views on the edge of the picnic area Varirata NP.

Brown Oriole*Oriolus szalayi*

(2) 1 Varirata NP 4.9 and 1 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

Good views in the picnic area Varirata NP and again on the PAU campus.

Drongos Dicruridae**Spangled Drongo***Dicrurus bracteatus carbonarius*

(1) 2 Varirata NP 4.9.

Seen well in the Varirata NP area.

Fantails Rhipiduridae**Willie Wagtail***Rhipidura leucophrys melaleuca*

(5) 1 en route 4.9, 2 en route 9.9 and 1 Mount Hagen 10.9.

Common and widespread.

Black Fantail*Rhipidura atra atra*

(3) Up to 2 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5-7.9.

Good views of birds in the highland forests.

Chestnut-bellied Fantail*Rhipidura hyperythra
castaneothorax*

(1) 2 Varirata NP 4.9.

Great views of this active bird in the feeding flock Varirata NP.

Friendly Fantail*Rhipidura albolimbata*

(6) Up to 6 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5-7.9 and up to 4 Mount Hagen 8-10.9.

Common in the highlands.

Dimorphic Fantail*Rhipidura brachyrhyncha*

(3) Up to 2 Mount Hagen 9-11.9.

Good views in the Kumul area.

Monarchs *Monarchidae***Black Monarch***Symposiachrus axillaris fallax*

(4) 1 heard Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9, 2 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 7.9, 1 en route 9.9 and 2 heard Mount Hagen 10.9.

Eventually after some attempts one showed very well along the main road on the way back to the Kumul Lodge.

Spot-winged Monarch*Symposiachrus guttula*

(1) 1 Varirata NP 4.9.

Another species that showed well in the feeding flock Varirata NP.

Black-faced Monarch*Monarcha melanopsis*

(1) 1 Varirata NP 4.9.

Great views in the feeding flock along the River Trail Varirata NP.

Friiled Monarch*Arses telescopthalmus henkei*

(1) 2 Varirata NP 4.9.

Wow, when the male came in singing and its frill fluffed up it was quite a sight in the gloomy understorey along the River Trail Varirata NP.

Leaden Flycatcher*Myiagra rubecula papuana*

(1) 2 Varirata NP 4.9.

Good views of a pair in the eucalyptus forest Varirata NP.

Crows, Jays, and Magpies *Corvidae***Torresian Crow***Corvus orru orru*

(2) 4 Varirata NP 4.9 and 2 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

Seen Varirata NP and PAU campus.

Melampittas *Melampittidae***Lesser Melampitta***Melampitta lugubris*

(1) 1 Mount Hagen 9.9.

Excellent views as it bounced across the trail at Murrumbidgee Pass.

Ifrita *Ifritidae***Blue-capped Ifrit***Ifrita kowaldi*

(4) 3 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9, 1 Mount Hagen 8.9, 2 Mount Hagen 9.9 and 3 Mount Hagen 11.9.

This monotypic bird showed well many times at Rondon and Kumul.

Birds-of-paradise *Paradisaeidae***Crinkle-collared Manucode***Manucodia chalybatus*

(1) 1 Varirata NP 4.9.

Seen in flight along the River Trail Varirata NP.

Ribbon-tailed Astrapia (NT)*Astrapia mayeri*

(4) Up to 10 Mount Hagen 8-11.9.

What a stunning bird to have around the lodge and on the feeders at Kumul.

Princess Stephanie's Astrapia*Astrapia stephaniae stephaniae*

(2) 4 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9 and 2 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 8.9.

The male really stole the show in the clearing at Rondon Ridge and that alone was worth the climb!

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

(3) 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9, 1 Mount Hagen 9.9 and 1 heard Mount Hagen 10.9.

Great views of males in the clearing at Rondon and Murmur Pass.

Greater Lophorina*Lophorina superba addenda*

(6) Up to 2 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5-8.9, 1 en route 9.9 and 2 Mount Hagen 10.9.
The most common and widespread BOP.

Growling Riflebird*Ptiloris intercedens*

(1) 2 Varirata NP 4.9.

Many heard and some seen Varirata NP.

Black Sicklebill*Epimachus fastosus*

(2) 1 heard Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9 and 1 heard Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 7.9.
Heard only in the clearing at Rondon and again at a distance the next morning.

Brown Sicklebill*Epimachus meyeri*

(4) Up to 4 Mount Hagen 8-11.9.

Female birds visited the feeders at Kumul Lodge and a male was scoped at length at Murmur Pass.

Magnificent Bird-of-paradise*Diphyllodes magnificus
chrysopterus*

(1) 3 Mount Hagen 9.9.

A great addition to the list as we located three female plumaged birds in the Kama Valley.

Raggiana Bird-of-paradise*Paradisaea raggiana raggiana*

(1) 15 Varirata NP 4.9.

Our first BOP of the tour and what a show as several males showed off and then we saw many female birds foraging, all in Varirata NP.

Lesser Bird-of-paradise*Paradisaea minor minor*

(1) 1 Mount Hagen 9.9.

The male really showed off in the Kama Valley.

Blue Bird-of-paradise (VU)*Paradisaea rudolphi margaritae*

(5) Up to 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5-8.9 and 1 Mount Hagen 10.9.

A female was seen regularly in the fruiting trees at Rondon Ridge and we saw a beautiful male several times at Tonga near Kumul.

Australasian Robins Petroicidae**Ashy Robin***Heteromyias albispecularis
armiti*

(2) 1 Mount Hagen 9.9 and 1 Mount Hagen 10.9.

Fantastic views of this difficult species in the clearing at Murmur Pass.

Black-throated Robin*Poecilodryas albonotata
griseiventris*

(2) 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5.9 and 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 7.9.

Great scope studies of a singing bird in the canopy along the trail at Rondon Ridge.

White-winged Robin*Peneothello sigillata sigillata*

(4) Up to 6 Mount Hagen 8-11.9.

Tame and common around the Kumul Lodge.

Slaty Robin *Peneothello cyanus subcyanea*
 (5) Up to 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5-7.9, 1 heard Mount Hagen 9.9 and 1 heard Mount Hagen 10.9.

Common by voice, but only glimpsed by some at Rondon Ridge.

Torrent Flyrobin *Monachella muelleriana muelleriana*

(1) 2 en route 9.9.

Great scope studies of this unique robin on rocks in the Lai River.

Canary Flyrobin *Microeca papuana*

(2) 4 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9 and 1 Mount Hagen 8.9.

Best views along the trail at Rondon Ridge.

Lemon-bellied Flyrobin *Microeca flavigaster flavissima*

(1) 4 Varirata NP 4.9.

Seen well in the eucalyptus forest Varirata NP.

Garnet Robin *Eugerygone rubra*

(2) 1 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9 and 1 Mount Hagen 10.9.

Seen well by all at Murrumbidgee Pass.

Lesser Ground Robin *Amalocichla incerta brevicauda*

(1) 1 heard Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9.

Heard only as we hiked up towards the clearing at Rondon Ridge.

Swallows *Hirundinidae*

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica albescens*

(7) 1 en route 4.9, 4 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5.9, 2 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 7.9, 2 en route 9.9 and 1 Mount Hagen 10.9.

Widespread.

Leaf warblers and allies *Phylloscopidae*

Island Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus maforensis giulianettii*

(5) 8 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9, 2 heard Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 7.9, 2 en route 9.9 and 1 Mount Hagen 10.9.

Common in the highland forests.

Grassbirds and allies *Locustellidae*

Papuan Grassbird *Cincloramphus macrurus alpinus*

(2) 5 en route 9.9 and 1 heard Mount Hagen 10.9.

Heard only in the highlands.

White-eyes *Zosteropidae*

Papuan White-eye *Zosterops novaeguineae wahgiensis*

(6) Up to 5 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5-7.9.

Widespread, although the taxonomy and distribution of this species has to still be worked out.

Starlings *Sturnidae***Metallic Starling***Aplonis metallica metallica*

(1) 15 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

A colony was present on the PAU campus.

Singing Starling*Aplonis cantoroides*

(2) 1 en route 5.9 and 4 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

We tracked down a small group on the PAU campus.

Yellow-faced Myna*Mino dumontii*

(2) 2 Varirata NP 4.9 and 2 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

Seen well Varirata NP and again PAU campus.

Thrushes and Allies *Turdidae***Island Thrush***Turdus poliocephalus papuensis*

(4) Up to 4 Mount Hagen 8-11.9.

Common around the Kumul Lodge.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae***Pied Bush Chat***Saxicola caprata wahgiensis*

(5) 2 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5.9, 2 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 7.9, 4 Mount Hagen 9.9 and 2 Mount Hagen 11.9.

Common in open grasslands.

Flowerpeckers *Dicaeidae***Red-capped Flowerpecker***Dicaeum geelvinkianum
rubrocoronatum*

(6) 4 Varirata NP 4.9, 2 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 6.9, 2 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 7.9, 2 Mount Hagen 9.9 and 2 Mount Hagen 10.9.

Very common and seen nearly every day.

Old World Sparrows *Passeridae***House Sparrow***Passer domesticus domesticus*

(2) 4 Mount Hagen 11.9.

Uncommon.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow*Passer montanus*

(6) 1 Mount Hagen 9.9 and 4 en route 12.9.

Widespread and common.

Waxbills, Munias and allies *Estrildidae***Mountain Firetail***Oreostruthus fuliginosus*

(3) 1 Mount Hagen 8.9, 1 Mount Hagen 10.9 and 1 Mount Hagen 11.9.

Adults and juveniles seen in the lodge clearing at Kumul.

Grey-headed Mannikin*Lonchura caniceps caniceps*

(1) 10 Pacific Adventist University 11.9.

We tracked down a small flock of this endemic in a grassy area on the PAU campus.

Hooded Mannikin

Lonchura spectabilis wahgiensis

(5) 10 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 5.9, 10 Rondon Ridge, Mt Hagen 7.9 and 2 Mount Hagen 10.9.

Common in the highlands.

Wagtails, Pipits *Motacillidae*

Australian Pipit

Anthus australis exiguus

(1) 4 en route 11.9.

Seen well on the airstrip while we waited for our flight in Mount Hagen.

Rockjumper Birding Ltd

Suite 1D, 5 Clarens Fields
Unicity Office Park
Black River Road, Bambous
Mauritius

Tel: (USA & Canada) toll-free: 1-888-990-5552

Email: info@rockjumperbirding.com

Alternative email: rockjumperbirding@yahoo.com

Website: www.rockjumperbirding.com