

PAPUA NEW GUINEA HIGHLIGHTS

JULY 26–AUGUST 8, 2018



Ribbon-tailed Astrapia © Dion Hobcroft

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The amazing Southern Crowned-Pigeon on a nest at Kiunga. (Terry Cloudman)

Papua New Guinea offers some of the most exciting birding on the planet. On this adventure, combined with West New Britain, we recorded some 338 species. A perfect storm of events preceded our tour—the largest earthquake in living memory in the Southern Highlands, a contested election result, and the withholding of mining royalties as clan lineages are sorted out—caused much local upset. At the last minute, like all other tour companies, we changed the itinerary to stay at Rondon Ridge in the Central Highlands rather than Ambua Lodge in Hela Province. I thought this might adversely affect our bird list but was pleasantly surprised when we came in right on what we observed last year. Here is an account of our tour.

Arriving on a Saturday afternoon with everything going to plan, we found ourselves birding in the afternoon along the roadside at Brown River, some 50 kilometers from Port Moresby. This is lowland forest at this location, and we

racked up some 40 species in our 90 minutes here. These included great views of staple lowland fare like Orange-bellied and Pink-spotted fruit-doves, flyover Zoe's and Pinon imperial-pigeons, Coconut and Yellow-streaked lorries, and good numbers of Metallic Starlings that are always in a hurry commuting over the forest. Comedic Yellow-faced Mynas “gargoyled” at us—their distinctive vocalization before they prepared to roost. Our first magnificent Rufous-bellied Kookaburra was a big hit, and a beautiful Pacific Baza gave lovely scope looks. This crested hawk is a specialized predator of stick insects and tree frogs. Less frequently encountered birds that showed well were an Orange-footed Scrubfowl and a recently fledged Coroneted Fruit-Dove.



The shy Black-billed Brush-Turkey showed well in Varirata. (Benny Baeten)

Our full day at Varirata National Park is always action-packed; this year it was superb. A termite dispersal event had the birds positively jumping shortly after dawn. It really was quite something, with often notoriously shy birds like Crinkle-collared Manucodes, Growling Riflebirds, and Rusty Pitohuis sallying up and seizing the winged termites. Even a pair of giant Blue-winged Kookaburras was into the action, flying up and snapping up the giant alates (winged termites) and causing the numerous Red-cheeked Parrots to squeal in panic. It seemed everything was out and about as we hoovered up very good looks at a bunch of obscure birds: Plain, Green-backed, Tawny-breasted, and Streak-headed honeyeaters; Mimic Meliphaga; the “poisonous” Hooded Pitohui; Filled Monarch; Brown Oriole; Papuan and Black cicadabirds; Barred and Boyer’s cuckoo-shrikes; and Black and Hooded butcherbirds. It was a feeding frenzy, and our morning was off to a very healthy start. It became even better at the traditional lek of the Raggiana Bird-of-Paradise where four males erupted into periodic climactic inverted displays, “kapowing” and producing odd gurgling and snapping calls while disappearing into a shower of pulsating red plumes. It was very, very good. A bit further along we discovered a Giant Black Coucal that gave some fantastic looks at this typically very secretive and impressive beast with its massive boat-shaped tail. Another stroke of luck produced the bewiskered Barred Owlet-nightjar peering from its tree hollow hide-out. The remainder of our walk was fairly quiet, spotting a few odds and ends, but it finished with a bang when a fine Black-billed Brush-Turkey, another notorious skulker, waltzed backwards and forwards across the trail ahead of us before finally jumping over the creek.

Time for lunch and a rest. Back at a fruiting fig we continued to build our list with Black-fronted White-eye and Puff-backed Meliphaga before walking into a fabulous mixed flock, this time dominated by smaller insectivores. Spot-winged, Golden, and Black-faced monarchs; Fairy, Green-backed, and Yellow-bellied gerygones; Chestnut-bellied Fantail; and Black Berrypecker were all much appreciated, while a timid Rusty Mouse-Warbler gave some views, and the Piping Bellbirds came agonizingly close—but no cigar! At the last minute Leonard pulled a stunning Brown-headed Paradise-Kingfisher out of the ether for more scope

looks at this motmot-like glamour. The forest edge was unusually quiet with little flowering action, although an Elfin Myzomela was a good pick-up. We finished at Pacific Adventist University where we added a trio of Papuan Frogmouths, a pair of Green Pygmy-Geese, an Orange-fronted Fruit-Dove, a covey of Brown Quail, and a healthy flock of Gray-headed Munias to round out very much a huge day.



Raggiana Bird-of-Paradise in full display mode in Varirata. (Dion Hobcroft)

Papua New Guinea is often termed “the land of the unexpected.” Today was one of those days when the leader was temporarily pulled off the flight manifest and his suitcase was permanently pulled off the flight manifest! We all made it to Kiunga (minus my suitcase), and the guesthouse yet again was terrific with their meal service and quick check-in. We enjoyed a siesta. To add to our

“unexpectedness,” while in the forest interior a tree decided to come crashing down in our direction, which sent us all scattering like a bunch of chickens, sending up a cloud of leaf litter and dust. One of the amazing tour highlights was about to unfold, however. The male King Bird-of-Paradise, typically a churring recluse in his vine tangle kingdom, had lured in a female. This sent him into full display mode, including the legendary pendulum maneuver where he hangs upside down, swinging like a metronome. Time and again he clambered up a vertical vine and briefly dropped down very low next to us. This is a rare event to witness. We moved further onto a lek of Greater Birds-of-Paradise, but whereas the King had been a standout, the Greaters were frustrating—calling but remaining well-hidden. Finally, we had some scope views of a couple of well-plumed males, but there was no display. On the return we found two difficult birds—first a Wallace’s Fairy-wren and then a great male Dwarf Koel; it had been a true Papua New Guinea day of drama, danger, and incredible birds.



The male King Bird-of-Paradise in display hangs upside down from a vine. If you look carefully you can make out the discs on either side. (Dion Hobcroft)

A lovely cool, cloudy morning with constant bird activity made our time on the Boystown Road very pleasant. We had cracking looks at Beautiful and Dwarf fruit-doves, Purple-tailed Imperial-Pigeon, Brush Cuckoo, Moustached Treeswifts, Yellow-billed Kingfishers, Palm Cockatoos, Double-eyed Fig-Parrots, Red-flanked Lorikeets, Black-capped Lories, a female Flame Bowerbird, Meyer's Friarbird, Lowland Peltops, Gray-headed Cicadabird, and Glossy-mantled Manucodes. Less cooperative but still seen were Trumpet Manucode, Orange-breasted Fig-Parrots, Yellow-capped Pygmy-Parrot, Orange-fronted Hanging-Parrot, Superb Fruit-Dove, and Stephan's Dove, while we heard Obscure Honeyeater, Blue Jewel-Babbler, and Southern Variable Pitohui. A fine pair of Long-tailed Buzzards sailed around us, and then we explored along a "busy for planes but quiet for birds" airstrip, finding a lone Nankeen Kestrel, a Variable Goshawk, and the leader's lost suitcase. Order had been re-established, and all was good with the world!



A male Golden Monarch glows in the dark forest understory in Kiunga. (Dion Hobcroft)

In the afternoon we returned to Boystown. Birds were active as soon as we arrived; a lovely little mixed flock produced two male Frilled Monarchs contesting a female in a spectacular display worthy of a bird-of-paradise. Both Rufous-

backed Fantail and Yellow-bellied Longbill showed, as did another female Flame Bowerbird. We scoped Little Bronze-cuckoo and had great looks at the enigmatic Long-billed Cuckoo (arguably bird of the day) while Greater Streaked Lories gave fantastic views feeding in a red fruiting *Schefflera*. We finished the session with good looks at a fabulous pair of Emperor Fairy-wrens. All up we saw and heard 80 species on the road today, nearly all from the Bowerbird Hill.



Male Twelve-wired Bird-of-Paradise in Kiunga: showing the amazing wires. (Terry Cloudman)



The scarce Little Paradise Kingfisher in Kiunga. (Dion Hobcroft)

Our big day on the rivers had arrived—down the Fly River and then up the Elevala and Ketu Rivers, traveling by banana boat. It is one of the great birding days in the world—massive jungles, extraordinary birds, and generally complicated by many factors. This year a low river level saw a lot of mud. Thanks to the incredible skills of Edmund, Glen, Archie, and our two captains, who all pulled out some Herculean performances, we made it up and back. If you were to ask me what the bird of the day was, I would say Hooded Monarch, a scarce handsome flycatcher of the flooded forest interior. If you asked everyone else, they would surely answer Twelve-wired Bird-of-Paradise but most likely Southern Crowned-Pigeon. Both are seriously bizarre individuals. The Twelve-wire, with its yellow pantaloons and strange wires projecting rearward, is unlike any other bird-of-paradise; the crowned-pigeon is the world's largest pigeon, 80 cm in length with an extraordinary filigree crest. Beyond these megas we had a supporting cast of Great-billed Heron, Gray-headed Goshawk, Collared Imperial-Pigeon, the luminous Golden Myna, and two other special sightings with Little Paradise-Kingfisher and Blue Jewel-Babbler both seen really well.

We spent our final morning at Kilometer 17 where steady rain made it a damp squib. The Greater Birds-of-Paradise were the undeniable highlight, four males displaying to a rather taciturn female. Southern Variable Pitohui finally broke cover, and some folks caught up with Yellow-bellied Longbill—a hyperactive species. Our charter plane arrived, piloted by George, and we said farewell to Edmund, Archie, and Glen, who had been so great in all respects from locating seriously skulking birds to getting us in and out of various tricky jungle locations. Our flight took a direct course over the Strickland River, past the Doma Peaks and Mount Giluwe (over 13,000 feet) before landing into Hagen where a Black Kite came close to meeting the propeller. Our drive up to Rondon Ridge was very pleasant, as we stopped for several new birds with great looks at Papuan Harrier, Brown Goshawk, Ornate Melidectes, Great Woodswallow, and a hefty flock of Hooded Munias. Once settled into our fabulous accommodations we ventured around the forest edge, jaggng a bonus juvenile Wattled Ploughbill. More typical fare included Brown-breasted Gerygone, Smoky Honeyeater, Yellow-browed

Melidectes, Friendly Fantail, Island Leaf-Warbler, Red-collared Myzomela, and both male and female Superb Bird-of-Paradise.



New Guinea Harpy-Eagle with crest up at Rondon Ridge. (Benny Baeten)

With the closure of Ambua Lodge this year, it became an imperative day to work the forests above Rondon Ridge for as long as possible to see as many montane New Guinea endemics as practicable. We walked about a mile up a fairly steep track to reach the clearing at 2,500 meters asl. On the walk up we struck a bit of ornithological gold with a scope view of a Madarasz's Tiger Parrot and great looks

at the scarce Yellowish Streaked Honeyeater. A Wattled Ploughbill was found feeding a chick. Once at the clearing, the birding floodgates opened with a stunning male Brown Sicklebill; Blue-capped Ifrita; Orange-billed, Papuan, and Plum-faced lorikeets; Black-breasted Boatbill; and Canary Flycatcher. Just as lunch arrived, in flew a New Guinea Harpy-Eagle, but it was frustrating and flew from concealed tree perch to another restlessly, giving itself away in snippets, a tail here, a patch of wing there. After working on it for an hour and when it seemed all was lost, it flew right into us and gave surreal and splendid views. It also vocalized for an extended period of time. It is an extraordinary bird to see so well—fantastic! In flew a male King of Saxony Bird-of-Paradise, and a truly great day was now getting greater. A fine male Stephanie's *Astrapia* continued our rich vein of form with a supporting cast of Sclater's and Regent whistlers, Gray Thornbill, Black and Dimorphic fantails, Buff-faced and Large scrubwrens, Blue-gray Robin, and a glimpse of a Lesser Ground-Robin. Making it down in the nick of time, the heavens opened and tipped down with rain. Two folks who had not wished to walk uphill did some birding around the lodge where they recorded Black-winged Kite and Papuan Sittella.



The shy male Black Pitohui at Rondon Ridge. (Benny Baeten)

This morning we worked the lower forest areas, but it was quite slow for bird activity. A tame Black-throated Robin and a perched Black-mantled Goshawk had us off to a good start. We found a few other good birds with persistence: a great look at a male Black Pitohui, a perched Great Cuckoo-dove, a male Superb Bird-of-Paradise, perched Yellow-billed Lorikeets, a Fan-tailed Cuckoo, the rare Streaked Berrypecker, a confiding Mid-mountain Berrypecker, a brief male Wattled Ploughbill, and a flock of Green-fronted White-eyes all of note. The afternoon proved even slower, the major highlight being locating the bower of Macgregor's Bowerbird—an extraordinary maypole structure in a moss-rimmed circular ground court. A male Black Sicklebill whipped once, and we had excellent views again of Sclater's Whistler and Gray Thornbill plus several other species.



The beautiful Crested Berrypecker at Kumul: the eastern subspecies. (Dion Hobcroft)

Before leaving Rondon Ridge we spent an hour on the edge of the gardens and forest. Here we added a lovely Yellow-breasted Bowerbird and Long-tailed Shrike to our growing list. We transferred to Kumul Lodge seamlessly, and the bird feeding table was an instant hit with point-blank views of the incredible male Ribbon-tailed *Astrapia*, female Brown Sicklebill, Island Thrush, the lovely Brehm's Tiger-Parrot, and plenty of action from Smoky Honeyeaters and Belford's Melidectes. In the immediate vicinity, a family of Eastern Crested Berrypeckers returned frequently, as did the delightful White-winged Robin and a feeding party of Blue-capped Ifrits. A walk in the moss forest was eerily quiet (beyond a reasonably cooperative Mountain Mouse-Warbler) as a thunderstorm brewed, and a night walk was the same.



The extraordinary male Ribbon-tailed *Astrapia*: at Kumul. (Dion Hobcroft)

An early start had us at Kama Village shortly after sunrise where a male Lesser Bird-of-Paradise gave us a great view for as long as we wanted. After purchasing some beautifully hand-made bilums off the local ladies, we transferred to Lai River where the Torrent Flycatchers performed dutifully and we caught up with Mountain Meliphaga. Another walk in the cloud forest produced a good view of the strange inky-black Lesser Melampitta and the glowing-orange male Crested Satinbird. Several people had by now caught up with the Rufous-naped Bellbird. A fairly damp afternoon at Murumuru Pass was highly productive. We again caught up with both male Brown Sicklebill and King of Saxony Bird-of-Paradise. Black-bellied Cicadabird, Tit Berrypecker, Loria's Satinbird, and Blue-faced Parrotfinch were all seen well, and a Speckled Dasyure, a carnivorous marsupial, was briefly located.

We had a final morning in the lower valley at Tonga Village where the local landholders were in a dispute over the Blue Bird-of-Paradise. It was heard calling distantly and never performed. We, however, found a truly excellent male Magnificent Bird-of-Paradise feeding in a fruiting tree, scoped a beautiful White-breasted Fruit-Dove, and had a handy pick-up of the sparse Stout-billed Cuckoo-shrike. Papuan Grassbird seemed particularly shy here, just giving glimpses. A final walk in the cloud forest produced a fitting final bird for the tour with excellent views of Orange-crowned Fairy-wrens—a rare montane bamboo specialist. An on time flight had us back in Port Moresby where we enjoyed a final dinner. Some folks headed for home and some continued their adventure, traveling on to New Britain where we based ourselves in the comfortable Walindi Resort.



One of the great birds of the world, a Palm Cockatoo, crest up in Kiunga. (Dion Hobcroft)

BIRDS

Plumed Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna eytoni*)

Wandering Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna arcuata*)

Green Pygmy-Goose (*Nettapus pulchellus*)

Pacific Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*)

Gray Teal (*Anas gibberifrons*)

Black-billed Brush-Turkey (*Talegalla fuscirostris*)

Orange-footed Scrubfowl (*Megapodius reinwardt*)

Brown Quail (*Coturnix ypsilophora*)

Little Black Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*)

Little Pied Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*)

Great-billed Heron (*Ardea sumatrana*)

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)

Intermediate Egret (*Mesophoyx intermedia*)

Pied Heron (*Egretta picata*)

Eastern Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis coromandus*)

Rufous Night-Heron (*Nycticorax caledonicus*)

Australian White Ibis (*Threskiornis moluccus*)

Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*)

Long-tailed Honey-buzzard (*Henicopernis longicauda*)

Pacific Baza (*Aviceda subcristata*)

New Guinea Harpy-Eagle (*Harpyopsis novaeguineae*)

New Guinea Pied Harrier (*Circus [spilonotus] spilothorax*)

Variable Goshawk (*Accipiter hiogaster*)

Brown Goshawk (*Accipiter fasciatus*)

Black-mantled Goshawk (*Accipiter melanochlamys*)

Grey-headed Goshawk (*Accipiter poliocephalus*)

Collared Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter cirrocephalus*)

Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)

Whistling Kite (*Haliastur sphenurus*)

Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*)

White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)

Rufous-tailed Bush-hen (*Amaurornis moluccana*) Heard only

Australasian Swamphen (*Porphyrio melanotus*)

Dusky Moorhen (*Gallinula tenebrosa*)

Masked Lapwing (*Vanellus miles*)

Comb-crested Jacana (*Irediparra gallinacea*)

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) Introduced

Amboyna (Slender-billed) Cuckoo-Dove (*Macropygia amboinensis*)

Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove (*Macropygia nigrirostris*)

Great Cuckoo-Dove (*Reinwardtoena reinwardtii*)

Stephan's Dove (*Chalcophaps stephani*)

Peaceful Dove (*Geopelia placida*)

Bar-shouldered Dove (*Geopelia humeralis*)

Southern Crowned-Pigeon (*Goura scheepmakeri sclateri*)

Wompoo Fruit-Dove (*Ptilinopus magnificus*) Heard only

Pink-spotted Fruit-Dove (*Ptilinopus perlatus*)

Orange-fronted Fruit-Dove (*Ptilinopus aurantiifrons*)

Superb Fruit-Dove (*Ptilinopus superbus*)

Coroneted Fruit-Dove (*Ptilinopus coronulatus*)

Beautiful Fruit-Dove (*Ptilinopus pulchellus*)

White-breasted [Mountain] Fruit-Dove (*Ptilinopus rivoli bellus*)

Orange-bellied Fruit-Dove (*Ptilinopus iozonus*)

Dwarf Fruit-Dove (*Ptilinopus nanus*)

Purple-tailed Imperial-Pigeon (*Ducula rufigaster*)

Pinon's Imperial-Pigeon (*Ducula pinon*)

Collared Imperial-Pigeon (*Ducula mullerii*)

Zoe Imperial-Pigeon (*Ducula zoeae*)

Torresian Imperial-Pigeon (*Ducula spilorrhoa*)

Papuan Mountain Pigeon (*Gymnophaps albertisii*)

Greater Black Coucal (*Centropus menbeki*)

Pheasant Coucal (*Centropus phasianinus*)

Dwarf Koel (*Microdynamis parva*)

Pacific Koel (*Eudynamis cyanocephalus*)

Long-billed Cuckoo (*Rhamphomantis megarhynchus*)

Rufous-throated Bronze-Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx ruficollis*) Heard only

Little Bronze-Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx minutillus*)

White-crowned Koel (*Cacomantis leucolophus*) Heard only

Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo (*Cacomantis castaneiventris*) Heard only

Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*)

Brush Cuckoo (*Cacomantis variolosus*)

Papuan Boobook (*Ninox theomacha*) Heard only

Feline Owlet-nightjar (*Aegotheles insignis*) Heard only

Barred Owlet-nightjar (*Aegotheles bennettii*)

Papuan Frogmouth (*Podargus papuensis*)

Large-tailed Nightjar (*Caprimulgus macrurus*)

Papuan Spinetailed Swift (*Mearnsia novaeguineae*)

Glossy Swiftlet (*Collocalia esculenta*)

Mountain Swiftlet (*Aerodramus hirundinaceus*)

Uniform Swiftlet (*Aerodramus vanikorensis*)

Moustached Treeswift (*Hemiprocne mystacea*)

Blyth's Hornbill (*Aceros plicatus*)

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

Azure Kingfisher (*Ceyx azureus*)

Papuan Dwarf-Kingfisher (*Ceyx solitarius*) Heard only

Blue-winged Kookaburra (*Dacelo leachii*)

Rufous-bellied Kookaburra (*Dacelo gaudichaud*)

Forest Kingfisher (*Todiramphus macleayii*)

Sacred Kingfisher (*Todiramphus sanctus*)

Hook-billed Kingfisher (*Melidora macrorrhina*) Heard only

Yellow-billed Kingfisher (*Syma torotoro*)

Mountain Kingfisher (*Syma megarhyncha*) Heard only

Little Paradise-Kingfisher (*Tanysiptera hydrocharis*)

Brown-headed Paradise-Kingfisher (*Tanysiptera danae*)

Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*)

Dollarbird (*Eurystomus orientalis*)

Australian Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*)

Palm Cockatoo (*Probosciger aterrimus*)

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua galerita*)

Yellow-capped Pygmy-Parrot (*Micropsitta keiensis*)

Papuan King-parrot (*Alisterus chloropterus*)

Eclectus Parrot (*Lorius roratus*)

Red-cheeked Parrot (*Geoffroyus geoffroyi*)

Brehm's Tiger-Parrot (*Psittacella brehmii*)

Madarasz's Tiger-Parrot (*Psittacella madaraszii*)

Yellow-billed Lorikeet (*Neopsittacus musschenbroekii*)

Orange-billed Lorikeet (*Neopsittacus pullicauda*)

Orange-breasted Fig-Parrot (*Cyclopsitta gulelmitertii*)

Double-eyed Fig-Parrot (*Cyclopsitta diophthalma*)

Large Fig-Parrot (*Psittaculirostris desmarestii*)

Plum-faced Lorikeet (*Oreopsittacus arfaki*)

Red-flanked Lorikeet (*Charmosyna placentis*)
Papuan [Stella's] Lorikeet (*Charmosyna papou stellae*)
Greater Streaked Lory (*Chalcopsitta scintillata*)
Black-capped Lory (*Lorius lory*)
Coconut [Rainbow] Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus*)
Papuan Hanging-Parrot (*Loriculus aurantiifrons*)

Macgregor's Bowerbird (*Amblyornis macgregoriae*)
Flame Bowerbird (*Sericulus aureus*)
Yellow-breasted Bowerbird (*Chlamydera lauterbachii*)
Fawn-breasted Bowerbird (*Chlamydera cerviniventris*)

Wallace's Fairywren (*Sipodotus wallacii*)
Orange-crowned Fairywren (*Clytomyias insignis*)
Emperor Fairywren (*Malurus cyanocephalus*)
White-shouldered Fairywren (*Malurus alboscapulatus*)

Plain Honeyeater (*Pycnopygius ixoides*)
Streak-headed Honeyeater (*Pycnopygius stictocephalus*)
Puff-backed Meliphaga (*Meliphaga aruensis*)
Mountain Meliphaga (*Meliphaga orientalis*)
Mimic Meliphaga (*Meliphaga analoga*)

Elegant Meliphaga (*Meliphaga cinereifrons*)
Black-throated Honeyeater (*Lichenostomus subfrenatus*) Heard only
Obscure Honeyeater (*Lichenostomus obscurus*) Heard only
Ornate Melidectes (*Melidectes torquatus*)
Belford's Melidectes (*Melidectes belfordi*)
Yellow-browed Melidectes (*Melidectes rufocrissalis*)
Rufous-banded Honeyeater (*Conopophila albogularis*)
Smoky Honeyeater (*Melipotres fumigatus*)
Dusky Myzomela (*Myzomela obscura*)
Elfin Myzomela (*Myzomela adolphinae*)
Red-collared Myzomela (*Myzomela rosenbergii*)
Green-backed Honeyeater (*Glycichaera fallax*)
Yellowish-streaked Honeyeater (*Ptiloprora meekiana*)
Rufous-backed Honeyeater (*Ptiloprora guisei*)
Grey-streaked Honeyeater (*Ptiloprora perstriata*)
White-throated Honeyeater (*Melithreptus albogularis*) Heard only
Tawny-breasted Honeyeater (*Xanthotis flaviventer*)
Meyer's Friarbird (*Philemon meyeri*)
Helmeted Friarbird (*Philemon buceroides*)

Rusty Mouse-Warbler (*Crateroscelis murina*)
Mountain Mouse-Warbler (*Crateroscelis robusta*)

Large Scrubwren (*Sericornis nouhuysi*)

Buff-faced Scrubwren (*Sericornis perspicillatus*)

Papuan Scrubwren (*Sericornis papuensis*)

Gray Thornbill (*Acanthiza cinerea*)

Green-backed Gerygone (*Gerygone chloronota*)

Fairy Gerygone (*Gerygone palpebrosa*)

Yellow-bellied Gerygone (*Gerygone chrysogaster*)

Large-billed Gerygone (*Gerygone magnirostris*)

Brown-breasted Gerygone (*Gerygone ruficollis*)

Papuan (Rufous) Babbler (*Pomatostomus isidorei*)

Loria's Satinbird (*Cnemophilus loriae*)

Crested Satinbird (*Cnemophilus macgregorii*)

Black Berrypecker (*Melanocharis nigra*)

Mid-mountain Berrypecker (*Melanocharis longicauda*)

Fan-tailed Berrypecker (*Melanocharis versteri*)

Streaked Berrypecker (*Melanocharis striativentris*)

Tit Berrypecker (*Oreocharis arfaki*)

Crested Berrypecker (*Paramythia montium*)

Blue Jewel-Babbler (*Ptilorrhoa caerulescens*)

Spotted Jewel-Babbler (*Ptilorrhoa leucosticta*) Heard only

Black-breasted Boatbill (*Machaerirhynchus nigripectus*)

Great Woodswallow (*Artamus maximus*)

White-breasted Woodswallow (*Artamus leucorhynchus*)

Lowland Peltops (*Peltops blainvilli*)

Black-backed Butcherbird (*Cracticus mentalis*)

Hooded Butcherbird (*Cracticus cassicus*)

Black Butcherbird (*Cracticus quoyi*)

Stout-billed Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina caeruleo-grisea*)

Hooded Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina longicauda*) Heard only

Barred Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina lineata*)

Boyer's Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina boyeri*)

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina papuensis*)

Golden Cuckoo-shrike (*Campochaera sloetii*) Heard only

Varied Triller (*Lalage leucomela*)

Black-bellied Cicadabird (*Edolisoma montanum*)

Papuan (Sharpe's) Cicadabird (*Edolisoma incertum*)

Grey-headed Cicadabird (*Edolisoma schisticeps*)

Black Cicadabird (*Coracina melas*)

Papuan Sittella (*Daphoensitta papuensis*)

Wattled Ploughbill (*Eulacestoma nigropectus*)

Rusty Pitohui (*Colluricincla ferruginea*)

Little Shrike-thrush (*Colluricincla megarhyncha*)

Grey Shrike-thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*)

Black Pitohui (*Melanorectes nigrescens*)

Regent Whistler (*Pachycephala schlegelii*)

Sclater's Whistler (*Pachycephala soror*)

Brown-backed Whistler (*Pachycephala modesta*)

Grey Whistler (*Pachycephala simplex*)

Mottled Berryhunter (*Rhagologus leucostigma*) Heard only

Rufous-naped Bellbird (*Aleadryas rufinucha*)

Piping Bellbird (*Ornorectes cristatus*) Heard only

Long-tailed Shrike (*Lanius schach*)

Hooded Pitohui (*Pitohui dichrous*)

[Southern] Variable Pitohui (*Pitohui kirhocephalus*)

Brown Oriole (*Oriolus szalayi*)

Australasian Figbird (*Sphecotheres vieilloti*)

Spangled Drongo (*Dicrurus bracteatus*)

Black Fantail (*Rhipidura atra*)

White-bellied Thicket-Fantail (*Rhipidura leucothorax*) Heard only

Willie-wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*)

Rufous-backed Fantail (*Rhipidura rufidorsa*)

Dimorphic Fantail (*Rhipidura brachyrhyncha*)

Friendly Fantail (*Rhipidura albolimbata*)

Chestnut-backed Fantail (*Rhipidura hyperythra*)

Blue-capped Ifrita (*Ifrita kowaldi*)

Golden Monarch (*Carterornis chrysomela*)

Black-faced Monarch (*Monarcha melanopsis*)

Fan-tailed Monarch (*Symposiachrus axillaris*)

Hooded Monarch (*Symposiachrus manadensis*)

Spot-winged Monarch (*Symposiachrus guttula*)

Frilled Monarch (*Arses telescopthalmus*)

Shining Flycatcher (*Myiagra alecto*)

Grey Crow (*Corvus tristis*)

Torresian Crow (*Corvus orru*)

Trumpet Manucode (*Phonygammus keraudrenii*)

Crinkle-collared Manucode (*Manucodia chalybatus*)

Glossy-mantled Manucode (*Manucodia ater*)

King of Saxony Bird of Paradise (*Pteridophora alberti*)

Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise (*Seleucidis melanoleucos*)

Superb Bird of Paradise (*Lophorina superba*)

Growling Riflebird (*Ptiloris intercedens*)

Magnificent Riflebird (*Ptiloris magnificus*) Heard only

Black Sicklebill (*Epimachus fastuosus*) Heard only

Brown Sicklebill (*Epimachus meyerii*)

Stephanie's Astrapia (*Astrapia stephaniae*)

Ribbon-tailed Astrapia (*Astrapia mayeri*)

King Bird of Paradise (*Cicinnurus regius*)

Magnificent Bird of Paradise (*Cicinnurus magnificus*)

Raggiana Bird of Paradise (*Paradisea raggiana*)

Greater Bird of Paradise (*Paradisea apoda*)

Lesser Bird of Paradise (*Paradisea minor*)

Lesser Melampitta (*Melampitta lugubris*)

Lesser Ground-Robin (*Amalocichla incerta*)

Torrent Flycatcher (*Monachella muelleriana*)

Papuan [Canary] Flycatcher (*Microeca papuana*)

Black-throated Robin (*Poecilodryas albonotata*)

White-winged Robin (*Peneothello sigillata*)

Blue-grey Robin (*Peneothello cyanus*)

Ashy Robin (*Heteromyias albispecularis*) Heard only

Papuan Scrub-Robin (*Drymodes beccarii*) Heard only

Pacific Swallow (*Hirundo tahitica*)

Tree Martin (*Petrochelidon nigricans*)

Island Leaf-Warbler (*Phylloscopus poliocephalus*)

New Guinea Grassbird (*Megalurus [timoriensis] macrurus*)

Black-crowned White-eye (*Zosterops atrifrons*)

Green-fronted White-eye (*Zosterops minor*)

Pied Bushchat (*Saxicola caprata*)

Island Thrush (*Turdus poliocephalus*)

Metallic Starling (*Aplonis metallica*)

Singing Starling (*Aplonis cantoroides*)

Yellow-faced Myna (*Mino dumontii*)

Golden Myna (*Mino anais*)

Red-capped Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum geelvinkianum*)

Black Sunbird (*Leptocoma sericea*)

Olive-backed Sunbird (*Cinnyris jugularis*)

Australasian Pipit (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*)

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) Introduced

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) Introduced

Blue-faced Parrotfinch (*Erythrura trichroa*)

White-spotted Munia (*Lonchura leucosticta*)

Hooded Munia (*Lonchura spectabilis*)

Grey-headed Munia (*Lonchura caniceps*)

MAMMALS

Speckled Dasyure (*Neophascogale lorentzii*)

Raffray's Bandicoot (*Peroryctes raffrayana*)

Large-eared Flying-fox (*Pteropus macrotis*)

REPTILES

New Guinea Crocodile (*Crocodylus novaeguineae*)



Rarely encountered: a large adult New Guinea Crocodile in Kiunga. (Terry Cloudman)