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Papua New Guinea, Nature & Culture
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Peg Abbott, June Matsui (Sicklebill Safaris), local guides including Kwiwan Sibon – Fly River & Tabubil, Max of Kumul Lodge, and Daniel Wackra, Varirata NP) and five participants

SPECIES LIST, compiled by Jun Matsui, Sicklebill Safaris

Locations:

- 5th Port Moresby-Daru-Kiunga
- 6th Fly River, Elevala River Cruise. Kiunga to Kwatu Lodge.
Afternoon birding around Kwatu Lodge.
- 7th Elevala River, Fly River Cruise. Kwatu Lodge to Kiunga.
Morning birding near Kwatu Lodge.
- 8th Morning birding at Boystown Road, then Drive to Tabubil.
Several stops and birding on the way.
- 9th Birding near Tabubil. Morning at Dablin Creek (Steep gravel)
and Bultem Bridge. Afternoon at Ok Menga (through tunnel).
- 10th Morning birding at Dablin Creek, Afternoon at Ok Menga.
- 11th Very Early morning birding at Ok Menga, Airport, Hotel
- 12th Drive to Kiunga from Tabubil. Afternoon birding at Kumul
Lodge feeder.
- 13th Mount Hagen Show. Birding at Kumul Lodge feeder.
- 14th Wapenimanda (Lookout and Superb BoP, Yellow-breasted
Bowerbird site). Wabag show, birding on the way back
(rain).
- 15th Tonga (Blue BoP site), Pigites Trail. Kumul Lodge Trail.
- 16th Travel, Lunch, R& R and Shopping day.
- 17th Morning at Varirata National Park, PAU ponds afternoon.
- 18th Morning at Varirata National Park.

Species List

Birds

MEGAPODIDAE Megapodes

Black-billed Brushturkey *Talegalla fuscirostris*

Sicklebill Safaris PO Box 387, Kuranda, QLD 4881, Australia.

Ph: +61 7 40 937 318 - Email: info@sicklebillsafaris.com –www.sicklebillsafaris.com

Gingy might seen one (legs) at Kwatu. Saw mound at Kwatu.

ANATIDAE Wildfowl

Spotted Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna guttata*

2 Flew over at Fly Riv. 5 at the PAU ponds.

Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

Rufous brown middle-sized duck.

20 at the PAU ponds.

Radjah Shelduck *Tadorna radjah*

White headed, pale bill, brown back.

4 at the PAU.

Green Pygmy Goose *Nettapus pulchellus*

Small duck with greenish glossy wings.

6 at the PAU.

Salvadori's Teal *Anas waigiuensis*

Yellow bill, black head, finely barred body.

Great view at Ok Menga.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

PAU ponds.

PODICIPEDIDAE Grebes

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Spotted by Daniel. Dark iris, chestnut throat.

1 at the PAU.

Australasian Little Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

Yellow iris, black throat.

6 at the PAU, include some young ones.

THRESKIORNITHIDAE Ibis & Spoonbills

Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca*

Listed by Beehler as Sacred Ibis *T. aethiopicus*, but long since split.

Several birds at the PAU.

ARDEIDAE Herons, Bitterns & Egrets

Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

Small black heron, similar to Striated Heron.

Seen quite a few times at Elevala Riv.

Great Egret *Ardea alba modesta*

The race *modesta* was split by C & B as Eastern Great Egret, but subsequent data seems to show retention within the broad species group may be best pending further work.

4 at Elevala Riv.

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*

4 at the PAU

Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*

Big dark heron.

2 at Elevala Riv.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

Significant differences in breeding plumage suggest a split from nominate Western Cattle Egret, as adopted by the IOC.

40 at Port Moresby Airport, also near PAU.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

Leading (or being chased by?) the boat at Elevala Riv.

Pied Heron *Egretta picata*

Black and white small heron. We only saw young birds with white heads.

3 on PAU.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta nigripes*

The local race has some differences in leg colouration and displays, and may be worthy of specific status, requires some genetic work to elaborate further.

2 on PAU pond.

Nankeen Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

Similar to Striated Heron, but bigger and brown with white spots.

1 young bird near Kwatu, in same tree as Striated Heron.

4 roosting at the PAU.

PHALACORACIDAE Cormorants

Little Pied Cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleucos*

Small cormorant with white belly, black back.

Seen near Kiunga. 20 on PAU ponds.

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Small cormorant with black belly, black back.

2 fly over at Sepik River Kama bridge.

ACCIPITRIDAE Kites, Eagles, Hawks

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White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Huge bird. Grey back, white belly.

At Fly Riv.

Long-tailed Honey Buzzard *Henicopernis longicauda*

Large raptor, distinctive long and barred tail.

1 at Fly Riv, Dablin Creek. 2 perch near Tabubil.

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*

Small raptor. Grey with barred belly.

Couple of places on cruise.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

White head, rufous back. It's common but great looking bird.

Quite common on Kiunga, Tabubil. Saw some in the Highlands and at Port Moresby as well.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans affinis*

Large Kite with distinctive square, or notched tail.

Very common in the Highlands, some in lowland areas.

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

Large kite with long, rounded tail.

1 near Kiunga, also at Port Moresby.

Papuan (Eastern Marsh) Harrier * *Circus (spilonotus) spilothorax*

At Mt Hagen Airport.

Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*

Small Accipiter with square tail.

1 flew over at the PAU.

Variable Goshawk *Accipiter hiogaster*

The form here has now been split from the Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae* since it differs so much from Australian species.

1 good view on the way back to Kiunga. 1 fly over at Boystown Rd. 1 perched at Dablin creek.

Grey-headed Goshawk *Accipiter poliocephalus*

1 perched along Boystown Rd. Best view at Dablin Creek.

Doria's Goshawk *Megatriorchis doriae*

Heavily barred large goshawk.

1 flew over at Varirata.

New Guinea Harpy Eagle *Harpyopsis novaeguineae* H

Daniel heard at lookout on Varirata.

Pygmy Eagle (Little Eagle, New Guinea Hawk-Eagle, Papuan Little Eagle) *Hieraaetus weiskei*

Previously lumped with Little Eagle (*Hieraaetus (Aquila) morphnoides*) of Australia, but has striking morphological differences, and genetic work confirms status as a biological species.

1 nice view at Bultem Bridge, perched on dead tree.

FALCONIDAE Falcons

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*

1 perch at Bultem Bridge, also at Hagen.

Oriental Hobby *Falco severus*

Perched on same tree for 2 mornings at Varirata.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

1 perch at Boystown Rd. Uncommon here.

RALLIDAE Rails, Moorhens & Coots

Chestnut Forest Rail *Rallicula rubra*

Some lucky ones saw this elusive bird at the feeder at Kumul Lodge.

Red-necked Crake *Rallicula tricolor* H

1 calling loudly at Dablin creek, heard only.

Pacific (Black-backed / Purple) Swamphen *Porphyrio melanotus*

The local taxa *samoensis*, *melanopterus* and *melanotus* can be separated as Pacific Swamphen *P. melanotus*, with the complex proposed as being split into 6 species. Pending taxonomic review all the main checklists have adopted the status quo, as species limits need to be defined. Gregory has been proactive and split it from the complex as Pacific Swamphen *P. (p.) melanotus*.

1 at Port Moresby Airport. 16 on the PAU ponds.

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*

Several birds at the PAU ponds.

CHARADRIIDAE Plovers

Masked Lapwing (Plover) *Vanellus miles miles*

Large plover with distinctive yellow wattle on face.

Several birds on PAU.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius dubius / papuanus*

The species requires genetic evaluation, the former endemic race *papuanus* was subsumed into nominate *dubius* of

Philippines, but is highly distinct from curonicus and perhaps also this nominate form, which is still remarkably poorly known. It is resident, has a pink base to lower mandible, broad yellow eye-ring, lacks a very distinct non-breeding dress, and is smaller. Also has distinct call notes with an emphatic single "keeee!", sometimes repeated two or three times, and a harsh "chi chit" both quite different to Palearctic curonicus which has a plaintive, disyllabic "pee-oo"
1 on the way to Tabubil.

JACANIDAE Jacanas
 Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea*
 Jacana with red wattle.
 Several birds on PAU ponds.

SCOLOPACIDAE Sandpipers & Snipe
 Common Sandpiper *Tringa nebularia*
 1 at Ok Menga.

GLAREOLIDAE Coursers & Pratincoles
 Australian Platincole *Stiltia isabella*
 4 at Daru Airport, 7 at Kiunga Airport.

LARIDAE Gulls & Terns
 Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*
 At Daru Airport, and Port Moresby.

COLUMBIDAE Pigeons & Doves
 Feral Pigeon (Rock Dove) *Columba livia*
 At Port Moresby.
 Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis*
 This is a split from the Brown Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia phasianella* of Australia. Brown and long tail.
 At Varirata.

Bar-tailed (BI-b) Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia nigrirostris*
 Similar to Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove, but short stout bill with barred tail.
 1 at Dablin creek, and also at Wapenamanda.

Great Cuckoo-Dove *Reinwardtoena reinwardtii*

Huge pigeon with very long tail.

A few flyovers in several places.

New Guinea Bronzewing *Henicophaps albifrons* H

Heard only along Boystown Rd.

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata*

Tiny pigeon with Blue eye-rings.

50 or more birds on PAU.

Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis*

Medium sized pigeon with rufous collar.

2 at the PAU.

Southern Crowned Pigeon (Scheepmaker's Crowned Pigeon, Goura Pigeon) *Goura scheepmakeri*

We had a brilliant view of this fantastic bird. seeing 2 birds on the ground on the way back along the river from Kwatu..

Wompoo Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*

Heard at Kwatu.

Pink-spotted Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus perlatus*

Saw 4 in a scope, long distance. "Pink Spot" is not quite distinctive.

Good view on the way to Tabubil, also along Boystown rd.

Ornate Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus ornatus*

Good view in Scope at Kwatu Lodge and on the way to Tabubil.

Beautiful Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus pulchellus*

Heard at Km17. 1 near Kwatu. Good scope view at Varirata.

Orange-bellied Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus iozonus*

Seem many places along the river. mostly fly by.

Dwarf Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus nanas*

2 seen on the scope at Kwatu Lodge.

Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula rufigaster*

Heard at Km17, 1 Fly over at Fly Riv.

Pinon's Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula pinon*

Common upstream on Elevala River.

Collared Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula mullerii*

Good view on the way back down the Fly River.

Zoe's Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula zoeae* H

Heard at Varirata.

Torresian Imperial Pigeon *D. (b.) spilorrhoea*

Split from Pied Imperial Pigeon *D. bicolor* of the west.

2 fly overs at the PAU.

Papuan Mountain Pigeon *Gymnophaps albertisii*
Flew over many times on river trip, Dablin Creek. Best viewed at Pigites Trail near Kumul Lodge.

CACATUIDAE Cockatoos

Palm Cockatoo *Probosciger aterrimus*
Flew over couple of times, also at Tabubil.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita triton*
Heard at Km17, Noisy along the river, seen well.
Common in most of the lowland area.

PSITTACIDAE Parrots

Pesquet's (Vulturine) Parrot *Psittarchas fulgidus*

Some of us saw one perched at Kwatu. We tried hard at many other places.

Papuan Hanging Parrot *Loriculus aurantiifrons*

Several fly overs along the Boystown Rd, also seen at hotel in Tabubil.

Buff-faced Pygmy Parrot *Micropsitta pusio*

Small flock at Dablin Creek.

Red-breasted Pygmy Parrot *Micropsitta bruijnii*

Seen in quick flight, calling, Tabubil

Greater Streaked (Yel-str.) Lory *Chalcopsitta squamata*

Small flock flew over several times along Boystown Road and also near Tabubil.

Dusky Lory *Pseudeos fuscata*

Heard at Kawatu, seen a couple hundreds of birds fly over at Ok Menga, also at Dablin Creek.

Coconut (Rainbow) Lorikeet *Trichoglossus (m.) haematodus*

This form with heavy black bars on the chest is split by the IOC as Coconut Lorikeet.

Seen at Ok Menga and at Varirata.

(Western) Black-capped Lory *Lorius lory*

Bright red Lory, especially when it flies.

Seen well at Kwatu Lodge and near Tabubil.

Papuan Lorikeet *Charmosyna papou*

Must be one of the world's most beautiful parrots, seen well at Kumul Lodge.

Yellow-billed Lorikeet *Neopsittacus musschenbroekii*

Fly over several times at Hagen, no good view.

- Orange-breasted Fig Parrot** *Cyclopsitta gulieimitertii*
Near Kawatu Lodge, Boystown Rd. Good views at Ok Menga, Dablin Creek.
- Double-eyed Fig Parrot *Cyclopsitta diophthalma*
Near Kwatu Lodge and along Boystown Rd.
- Large Fig Parrot** *Psittaculirostris desmarestii*
Fly over at Elevela Riv.
- Brehm's Tiger Parrot** *Psittacella brehmii*
Everyday on feeder at Kumul Lodge.
- Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi*
Seen on perch at Km17, Fairly common at cruise. Nice view along the Boystown Rd.
- Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus*
Fairly common in most places. 1 in the nest hollow at Ok Menga.

CUCULIDAE Coucals & Cuckoos

- Ivory-billed (Greater Black) Coucal** *Centropus menbeki*
Seen on Elevela river, heard at Boystown Rd.
- Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus* H
Heard at Km17, along the river.
- Black-billed (Lesser. Black.) Coucal** *Centropus bernsteinii*
Heard at Km17, Good view near Kawatu.
- Dwarf Koel** *Microdynamis parva* H
Heard at Varirata.
- Eastern (Pacific) Koel *Eudynamis (s.) cyanocephala*
Heard at Km17, Seen couple of times along the river.
- Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*
Very large light grey cuckoo.
Seen couple of times along the river.
- Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis castaneiventris*
Rich chestnut belly, grey back.
Heard at Dablin Creek, Ok Menga, seen well at Varirata.
Distinctive call, but difficult to find.
- Fan-tailed (Montane) Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis excitus*
At Kwatu Lodge.
- Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*
Heard at several places, Seen on Dablin creek.
Seen on Wapenamanda
- White-crowned Cuckoo (Koel)** *Cacomantis leucolophus* H

Heard at Varirata along the Tree House Trail.
Little (Malay) Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*
Near Kwatu.

White-eared Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx meyeri*

The one in "Pajamas".

Nice close view at Dablin creek

Long-billed Cuckoo *Rhamphomantis megarhynchus*

Heard only, pointed out by Kwiwan on cruise

STRIGIDAE Owls

Papuan Boobook *Ninox theomacha*

Great view at Ok Menga.

PODARGIDAE Frogmouths

Papuan Frogmouth *Podargus papuensis*

Good view at Ok Menga, 4 birds roosting at the PAU.

Marbled Frogmouth *Podargus ocellatus ocellatus* H

Heard at Kwatu Lodge.

AEGOTHELIDAE Owlet-nightjars

Starry Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles tatei* H

Called at Kwatu Lodge.

Wallace's Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles wallacii* H

Called at Kwatu Lodge.

Barred Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles bennettii*

Lovely view at Varirata, still there for 2 years.

HEMIPROCNIDAE Tree-swifts

Moustached Tree Swift *Hemiprocne mystacea*

Seen both ways on the cruise. Also seen at Boystown Rd,
Dablin creek. Great view at Varirata.

APODIDAE Swifts

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*

Uniform (Lowland) Swiftlet *Collocalia vanikorensis*

Mixed flock near Kiunga, Tabubil, Mt. Hagen.

Papuan Spine-tailed Swift *Mearnsia novaeguineae*

Many birds along Fly and Elevela Rivers.

CORACIIDAE Rollers

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Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*
Very common in lowland area.

ALCEDINIDAE Kingfishers

Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azurea*

Flew past several times along the Fly river.

Variable Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx lepidus*

Heard very well and close at Varirata. Peg managed to see one fly past us.

Common Paradise Kingfisher *Tanysiptera galatea*

Long tail with "racket", white outer tail feathers.

Very hard, eventually had a good view.

Little Paradise Kingfisher *Tanysiptera hydrocharis*

Similar to Common Paradise Kingfisher, Blue outer tail feathers.

Also hard, had good view.

Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher *Tanysiptera sylvia*

Saw young bird without long tail.

Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher *Tanysiptera danae*

Red belly, long tail, beautiful Kingfisher. This is a rare bird only found in SE PNG.

At Varirata, Tree House Trail.

Hook-billed Kingfisher *Melidora macrorrhina* H

Heard at Km17, Kwatu and at Varirata. Not responsive.

Shovel-billed Kingfisher *Clytoceyx rex* H

Heard very close at Ok Menga.

Rufous-bellied Kookaburra *Todiramphus nigrocyaneus*

Seen well near Kwatu. Good view on the way to Tabubil, also at Varirata.

Blue-winged Kookaburra *Dacelo leachii*

At Varirata.

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*

Common near Kwatu Lodge, Tabubil. Also at the PAU pond.

Yellow-billed Kingfisher *Syma torotoro*

Almost looked like a Toy bird. Cute one.

Seen well in a scope at Kwatu. Best seen at Varirata.

MEROPIDAE Bee-eaters

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

Good scope view at Wapenamanda. Also at Varirata, PAU.

BUCEROTIDAE Hornbills

Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus*

Great bird. Fairly common along Fly/Elevala River. Fly over at Boystown Rd.

PITTIDAE Pittas

Red-bellied (Blue-breasted) Pitta *Pitta erythrogaster* H

Heard at Km17.

Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida* H

Heard at Km17, Kwatu.

PTILONORHYNCHIDAE Bowerbirds

Archbold's Bowerbird *Archboldia papuensis*

Large black chunky bird with yellow spots on wings and crown.

On feeder at Kumul Lodge. Mostly female, but male seen nce. This is rare and restricted range montane endemic.

Macgregor's Bowerbird *Amblyornis macgregoriae*

Large light brown chunky bird.

On feeder at Kumul Lodge, mostly females.

Flame Bowerbird *Sericulus ardens*

Stunning orange bird.

Saw bower, fly over at Kwatu Lodge, Elevala River. Best view along Boystown Rd, Gingy spotted one fly over.

Fawn-breasted Bowerbird *Chlamydera cerviniventris*

Saw several times at the PAU.

MALURIDAE Fairywrens

Wallace's Fairywren *Sipodotus wallacii*

Nice view along trail at Kwatu, Dablin Creek. Also at Varirata.

Emperor Fairywren *Malurus cyanocephalus*

Jean and Gingy managed to see one near Tabubil. Also seen at Dablin creek. Really beautiful species that is very skulking.

White-shouldered Fairywren *Malurus alboscapulatus*

Fairy Common at Hagen. Came out into the open and gave us great view at the Blue BoP site.

MELIPHAGIDAE Honeyeaters

Mountain Honeyeater / Mountain Meliphaga *Meliphaga orientalis*

This small montane meliphaga was seen at Dablin Creek, Ok Menga.

Scrub Honeyeater / Scrub White-eared Meliphaga *Meliphaga albonotata*

Heard at Km17, Seen at Dablin Creek. One of the few readily identifiable species in the group.

Mimic Honeyeater *Meliphaga analoga*

Another "Yellow-spotted" meliphaga, almost identifiable with Puff-backed Honeyeater. At Varirata.

Elegant Honeyeater *Meliphaga (g.) cinereifrons*

This split from Graceful Honeyeater *M. gracilis* with the large yellow ear patch, which does not give the "plik" call of FNQ birds was seen at Varirata.

Yellow-gaped Honeyeater *Meliphaga flavirictus*

Good view at Boystown Rd, Dablin creek.

Obscure Honeyeater *Lichenostomus obscura* H

Heard at Boystown Rd.

Rufous-banded Honeyeater *Conopophila albogularis*

Seen near jetty on Kiunga, where it was a new find 2 years ago. Also seen at Kiunga Airport. Saw them bathing at the PAU ponds.

Red-collared Myzomela *Myzomela rosenbergii*

Black head, Crimson chest and back.

Stunning bird. Seen well near Kumul Lodge.

Black Myzomela *Myzomela nigrita*

Unexpected view at Cloudlands Hotel, male and female flew into the flowering tree.

Red-headed Myzomela *Myzomela erythrocephala*

Red head, black body, red rump.

Another stunning myzomela at Varirata.

Mountain (Mt. Red-Headed or Midget) Myzomela *Myzomela adolphinae*

1 female near Kumul Lodge.

Green-backed Honeyeater *Glycichaera fallax*

At Varirata, near Raggiana BoP site.

Plain Honeyeater *Pycnopygius ixoides*

This rather uncommon nondescript and scarce species was seen along the trail at Kwatu, and also at Varirata.

Marbled Honeyeater *Pycnopygius cinereus* H

Max mentioned one near Kumul Lodge, heard only.

Meyer's Friarbird *Philemon meyeri*

Fly overs several times at river.

New Guinea (Helmeted) Friarbird *Philemon (novaeguineae) buceroides*

Lumped with Helmeted Friarbird by Clements, but split by the IOC. Heard at Km17, Fly overs several times along the river. Also at Varirata.

Smoky Honeyeater *Melipotes fumigatus*

Black bird with Yellow / Red face.

Common at Kumul, where it has the endearing habit of blushing, the facial skin going from yellow to red.

Yellow-browed Melidectes *Melidectes rufocrissalis*

Similar to Belford's Melidectes, paler face with small red patch on throat.

Several birds near Kumul Lodge.

Belford's Melidectes *Melidectes belfordi*

Large sized blue faced honeyeater.

Noisy and annoyingly common at Kumul Lodge.

Ornate Melidectes *Melidectes torquatus*

Seen well near Kumul Lodge, Also at Varirata. Very colorful Melidectes.

Rufous-backed Honeyeater *Ptiloprora guisei*

Called loudly near Pigites trail, some of us might have seen it when it was flushed from a tree.

Grey-streaked (Black- backed) Honeyeater *Ptiloprora perstriata*

Around Kumul Lodge, especially in the car park area.

Long-billed Honeyeater *Melilestes megarhynchus*

Some saw this species at Dablin creek.

Tawny-breasted Honeyeater *Xanthotis flaviventer*

Fly overs several times along river. Boystown Rd.

At Dablin creek. Ok Menga.

ACANTHIZIDAE Thornbills, Scrubwrens, Mouse-warblers & Gerygones

Rusty Mouse Warbler *Crateroscelis murina*

Black cap, red iris, pale throat.

At Kawatu. Heard at Dablin Creek. Noisy at Ok Menga. Also at Varirata.

Mountain Mouse Warbler *Crateroscelis robusta*

Brown small bird with white throat.

Heard at Pigites Trail, Peg saw one at the feeder on Kumul Lodge.

Pale-billed Scrubwren *Sericornis spilodera*

Pink bill, Olive above, pale belly.

This scarce species was seen along the Tree House Trail, Varirata.

Large Scrubwren *Sericornis nouhuysi*

Another brown puff ball.

At Kumul Lodge.

Papuan Scrubwren *Sericornis papuensis*

Small brown bird with pale eye ring.

At Pigites trail.

Brown-breasted Gerygone *Gerygone ruficollis*

Another brown chap, at Wapenamanda, Pigites trail.

Large-billed Gerygone *Gerygone magnirostris*

Along trail at Kwatu and river.

Yellow-bellied Gerygone *Gerygone chrysogaster*

Heard at Km17, Seen on trail at Kwatu, also at Varirata.

Green-backed Gerygone *Gerygone chloronotus*

At trail at awatu, also at Varirata. It is always hard to get into view.

Fairy Gerygone *Gerygone palpebrosa*

Good view at Varirata.

Goldenface / Dwarf Whistler *Pachycare flavogriseum*

Now shown to be not a Pachycephalid at all but a part of the Acanthizids, albeit an aberrant one.

Heard well near Tree House at Varirata, hard one to get. Some of us got a view.

POMATOSTOMIDAE Australasian Babblers

New Guinea (Rufous) Babbler *Garritornis isidorei* H

Heard only at Km17.

CNEMOPHILIDAE Satinbirds

Loria's (Velvet) Satinbird (BoP) *Cnemophilus loriae* H

Heard once along the Pigites trail.

Crested (Silken) Satinbird (BoP) *Cnemophilus macgregorii*

A male and female at a fruiting tree below Kumul Lodge, the former a stunning vision in orange and black. Also especially significant as they are now moved to CNEMOPHILIDAE, a new endemic family. Female flew into feeder as well.

MELANOCHARITIDAE Berrypeckers & Longbills

Obscure Berrypecker *Melanocharis arfakiana*

1 seen at Dablin creek, Heard several places. Still a virtually unknown bird known from only a handful of sites.

Black Berrypecker *Melanocharis nigra*

Heard at Km17, Seen some at Kawatu, Dablin Creek.

Mid-mountain (Lemon-breasted) Berrypecker *Melanocharis longicauda*

Heard along Pigites trail, some might have seen it fly off from mid canopy. Long tail, looks bit like a Flycatcher.

Dwarf (Plumed) Longbill *Oedistoma iliolophum*

Formerly treated as honeyeaters, but now placed by Dickinson in H & M (2003) with the berrypeckers in the new endemic NG family Melanocharitidae. There are rumours of a new and genetically very distinct form of berrypecker from the eastern highlands!

At Varirata there was a mixed flock in the white flowers.

Pygmy Longbill *Oedistoma pygmaeum*

Flew across watershed road as we walked back to the bus, Tabubil

Yellow-bellied Longbill *Toxorhamphus novaeguinear*

Also formerly treated as honeyeaters, but now placed with the berrypeckers in the new endemic NG family Melanocharitidae. Along trail at Kwatu.

PARAMYTHIIDAE Painted berrypeckers

These two species are split in Clements and the IOC into an endemic NG family, the Paramythiidae. Dickinson in H & M subsumes them back into Melanocharitidae berrypeckers and longbills, making that a strangely diverse group.

Tit-Berrypecker *Oreocharis arfaki*

Good views of small flock of this species along the Pigites trail.

Crested Berrypecker *Paramythia montium*

Brenda and Jean got a ventral view at Crested Satinbird site.

PSOPHODIDAE Whipbirds & Jewel-babblers

Clements put them with Quail-thrushes in the family Cinclosomatidae, but H & M separated them out as a distinct family the Eupetidae, whilst later treatments recognize Psophodidae, the whipbirds, quail-thrushes and jewel-babblers, with Eupetidae consisting of the Malaysian Rail-babbler (*E. macrocerus*). Clements (2010) places Blue-capped Ifrita with this otherwise monotypic family but this has not been widely accepted and the IOC maintain Eupetidae as monotypic.

Blue Jewel-babbler *Ptilorrhoea caerulescens*

Heard at Km17, An excellent View at Kwatu.

CINCLOSOMATIDAE Quail-thrushes

Painted Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma ajax* H

Heard on trail at Kwatu.

MACHAERIRHYNCHIDAE Boatbills

Yellow-breasted Boatbill *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*

At Varirata.

Black-breasted Boatbill *Machaerirhynchus nigripectus* H

Heard at the Pigites trail.

CRACTICIDAE Butcherbirds, Australian Magpie & Peltops

Black Butcherbird *Cracticus quoyi*

Seen at Dablin creek and near Tabubil.

Black-backed Butcherbird *Cracticus mentalis*

Black and white butcherbird with white throat, black back.

At Varirata, and PAU.

Hooded Butcherbird *Cracticus cassicus*

Black and white butcherbird with black throat, less black back.

Fairly common along the river. Boystown Rd.

Lowland Peltops *Peltops blainvillii*

1 along the Fly River.

Mountain Peltops *Peltops montanus*

1 nice view at Dablin creek

ARTAMIDAE Woodswallows

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

Near Kiunga Airport, also at the PAU.

CAMPEPHAGIDAE Cuckooshrikes & Trillers

Large-billed (Stout-b) Cuckooshrike *Coracina caeruleogrisea*

All grey Cuckooshrike with stout bill.

Good view at Ok Menga, Dablin Creek.

Boyer's Cuckooshrike *Coracina boyeri*

All blue-grey Cuckooshrike with black lores.

Fly over several times at Fly river, Seen at Dablin creek, and Varirata.

White-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina papuensis*

Grey Cuckooshrike with black mask.

Fly over several times at river.

Black-shouldered (Papuan) Cicadabird (Cuckooshrike)
Coracina incerta

Dark grey Cuckooshrike with black shoulder.

Several sightings at Dablin creek

Grey-headed (Black-tipped) Cuckooshrike *Coracina schisticeps*

Fly over several times at river. Seen well at Dablin Creek.

Female are rufous brown with grey cap.

Papuan Black (New Guinea) Cuckooshrike *Coracina melas*

At Varirata, Bud got a picture.

Golden Cuckoo-shrike *Campochaera sloetii*

Good view at river bank.

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*

Near Kwatu, also heard at Varirata.

PACHYCEPHALIDAE Whistlers, Shrike-thrushes & Pitohuis

Grey (Grey-headed) Whistler *Pachycephala (simplex) griseiceps*

NG birds are often called Grey-headed Whistler. Clements splits it from the simplex taxon, which he calls Grey Whistler even though t's brown.

1 At trail at Kwatu, 8 at Varirata.

Regent Whistler *Pachycephala schlegelii*

Peg saw them along the Pigites trail. Also female came in to feeders at Kumul Lodge, later that afternoon

Black-headed Whistler *Pachycephala monacha*

Black head, upperparts, white belly.

1 Dablin creek, and Wapenamanda

Little (Rufous) Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla megarhyncha*

Rufous brown bird with long bill and tail.

At trail at Kwatu, seen well at Varirata.

White-bellied Pitohui *Colluricincla incertus*

Brown bird with pale belly.

Heard at Fly river, and 1 fly over.

Rusty Pitohui *Colluricincla ferrugineus*

Reddish brown bird with paler belly.

Heard at Km17, seen well at Varirata.

Crested Pitohui *Oreonectes (P.) cristatus* H

Heard during cruise.

Rufous-naped Whistler *Aleadryas rufinucha*

Nice view of this odd species At Kumul Lodge. Now shown to not belong to Whistler at all, but rather allied with the Crested Bellbird, and now about to moved into another family.

LANIIDAE Shrikes

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach stresemanni*

Seen well at Wapenamanda.

ORIOOLIDAE Orioles & Figbirds

Australasian Figbird *Sphecotheres vieilloti salvadorii*

Beehler lumps this with the Timor or Green Figbird (*S. viridis*), as do Coates and Clements, but most checklists now list it as a part of Australasian Figbird (*S. vieilloti*).

Male and female at the PAU.

Brown Oriole *Oriolus szalayi*

Good view on Boystown Rd and at Ok Menga.

Variable Pitohui *Pitohui kirhocephalus* H

The pitohuis have been recently analysed by Dumbacher et al (2007) and a major rearrangement has resulted. The only remaining members of the genus Pitohui are now the

Hooded (*P. dichrous*) and Variable, the latter comprising 3 separate lineages which seem likely to result in 3 distinct species groupings, from the West Papuan Islands, the NW and the rest of the mainland. An analysis by Jonsson et al (2010) also makes a radical change and now shifts them to within Oriolidae.

The other former pitohui species remain within the Pachycephalidae family but change place in the sequence: Black Pitohui is now *Melanorectes nigrescens*, with Crested Pitohui *Oronectes cristatus*; Rusty Pitohui becomes *Colluricincla ferrugineus* and White-bellied Pitohui *Colluricincla incertus*, both transferred to the shrike-thrush clade within the broad family. Finally, Rufous-naped Whistler is moved out of the whistler clade and becomes *Aleadryas rufinucha* at the end of the family sequence.

Heard only at Km17.

Hooded Pitohui *Pitohui dichrous*

Rufous body with black head, wing and tail.

Heard during cruise, seen well at Varirata in small flock.

DICRURIDAE Drongos

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*

Fly overs several times at river.

Noisy at Ok Menga, seen well at Varirata.

RHIPIDURIDAE Fantails

Willie-wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

Everywhere

Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris*

1 perch at Dablin creek.

White-bellied Thicket Fantail *Rhipidura leucothorax*

Good view at Dablin creek

Black Fantail *Rhipidura atra*

Good view at Dablin creek. Also seen along Pigites trail.

Female is rufous brown.

Chestnut-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura hyperythra*

Good view along Tree House Trail, Varirata with a mixed feeding flock.

Friendly Fantail *Rhipidura albolimbata*

Common at Kumul Lodge

Dimorphic Fantail *Rhipidura brachyrhyncha* H

Heard well at Pigites trail. No sightings.

MONARCHIDAE Monarchs

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*

1 at the Kiunga wharf.

Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

Common along Fly and Elevala Rivers.

Black-faced Monarch *Myiagra melanopsis*

Black face, wing, orange belly, grey back.

1 good view at Dablin creek.

Spot-winged Monarch *Myiagra guttula*

Grey upperparts, black mask, white spots on wing.

on the trail at Kwatu. also at Varirata.

Hooded Monarch *Myiagra manadensis*

Similar pattern to Spot-winged Monarch, but much darker, no spots on wing.

together with Spot-winged Monarch

Golden Monarch *Myiagra chrysomela*

Bright yellow bird, if it is in good light.

At Dublin creek.

Torrent Lark *Grallina bruijni*

Gingy had nice view at Bultem Bridge.

Friiled Monarch *Arses telescopthalmus*

The Cape York form of what was Friiled Monarch, which has the sexes the same, is now often split as a separate species under the name *A. lorealis*, the Frill-necked Monarch, though curiously C & B still lump it. Friiled Monarch thus becomes a New Guinea endemic.

Nice view on the trail near the Raggiana site, Varirata.

Female is rufous brown.

CORVIDAE Crows

Grey (Bare-eyed) Crow *Corvus tristis*

Flew over several times at river with small flocks. Also at Boystown Rd.

Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*

A few seen around Port Moresby.

GENERA INCERTAE SEDIS Species of uncertain family placement

Blue-capped Ifrita *Ifrita kowaldi*

This is reputedly another member of the guild of poisonous birds.

Brown bird with blue cap. Forage like Treecreepers. Had a good views along Pigites trail.

Pygmy (Mountain) Drongo *Chaetorhynchus papuensis*

Genetic work shows it to be most closely related to monarchs and not drongos at all.

Near the Tree House at Varirata.

Goldenface (Dwarf Whistler) *Pachycare flavogriseum*

We worked on this one a long time, hearing it at close range, and Elaine got a look at it in the canopy, Varirata NP

PARADISAEIDAE Birds-of-Paradise & Manucodes

Glossy-mantled Manucode *Manucodia atra*

Fly overs several times along river.

Good view on Boystown Rd.

Crinkle-collared Manucode *Manucodia chalybatus*

2 Flew over along river.

Good view on Boystown Rd, Dablin Creek.

Trumpet Manucode *Manucodia keraudrenii*

Scope view at Kwatu Lodge.

Good view of displaying male along Boystown Road.

Ribbon-tailed Astrapia *Astrapia mayeri*

Great bird. Seen well on feeder at Kumul Lodge. Another restricted range PNG endemic.

Princess Stephanie's Astrapia *Astrapia stephaniae*

A female showed up along the Pigites trail. Brenda saw male fly off just before female.

Queen Carola's Parotia *Parotia carolae*

Female, young male and adult male, whole set of this species seen on Dablin Creek.

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

Quite noisy along Pigites trail. Saw female and young male.

We tried for adult male, without success.

Superb Bird-of-Paradise *Lophorina superba*

A couple of females and young males seen at Ok Menga, Dablin Creek. Adult male seen at Wapenamanda. Best seen at Blue BoP Site. A fine and truly bizarre bird, what a weird display!

Brown Sicklebill *Epimachus meyeri*

1 female on feeder at Kumul Lodge.

Magnificent Bird-of-Paradise *Cicinnurus magnificus*

1 female feed on tree at Dablin creek, 1 male following day. Great bird.

King Bird-of-Paradise *Cicinnurus regius*

On trail near Kawatu

Twelve-wired Bird-of-Paradise *Seleucidis melanoleucus*

Along trail near Kawatu, good view.

Greater Bird-of-Paradise *Paradisaea apoda*

It took us while, but patience paid off. Our 1st BOP. We had a good view of displaying males, include some hybrid ones. Suprisingly common along the river, also along the Boystown Rd.

Raggiana Bird-of-Paradise *Paradisaea raggiana*

Great view at Varirata. Only showed display for a short time, few of us saw it.

Blue Bird-of-Paradise *Paradisaea rudolphi*

A male was seen after a long scan-search, allowing a very nice scope look as he perched up at his calling post.

PETROICIDAE Australasian Robins

White-winged Robin *Peneothello sigillata*

Black bird with white wing patch.

Common at Kumul Lodge.

Black-sided Robin *Poecilodryas hypoleuca*

Black upperparts, white belly, black and white pattern on face.

On the trail near Kwatu, also heard at Boystown Rd.

White-rumped Robin *Peneothello bimaculata*

Black bird with white side, rump, and lower belly.

Good view at Dablin creek.

Torrent Robin (Flycatcher) *Monachella muelleriana*

Great views by the Bultem Bridge, Ok Menga. Also seen in the Highlands.

Canary Flyrobin *Microeca papuana*

Heard along Pigites trail. Flew into feeder at Kumul Lodge.
Lemon-bellied Flyrobin *Microeca flavigaster*
2 at Dablin creek.

Northern Scrub-robin *Drymodes superciliaris* H

Heard very well at Varirata but it didn't come in to tape.

HIRUNDINIDAE Swallows & Martins

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*

Common NG swallow.

PHYLLOSCOPIDAE Leaf Warblers

Island Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus poliocephalus*

Decent view near Kumul Lodge.

MEGALURIDAE Grassbirds, Locustella Warblers & Songlarks

Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis*

At Blue BoP site. Bud saw it fly off.

ZOSTEROPIDAE White-eyes

Black-fronted White-eye *Zosterops atrifrons*

White-eye with dark head.

At Dablin Creek, also at Varirata. This is the common lowland and hill forest white-eye.

New Guinea White-eye *Zosterops novaeguineae*

Fairy common around Hagen.

STURNIDAE Starlings & Mynas

Metallic (Shining) Starling *Aplonis metallica*

Black starling with red eye, long pointy tail.

Flew over several times at river in small flocks. Colony at Kiunga Airport.

Singing Starling *Aplonis cantoroides*

Black starling with black eye, short tail.

Small flock at the PAU.

Yellow-faced Myna *Mino dumontii*

Several times along river in small flocks. Good views along Boystown Rd. Also at the PAU.

Golden Myna *Mino anais*

Several times along river, at Kwatu Lodge.

TURDIDAE Thrushes

Island Thrush *Turdus poliocephalus*
Common at Kumul Lodge

MUSCICAPIDAE Chats & Old World Flycatchers

Pied (Black) Bushchat *Saxicola caprata aethiops*
Flew on to roof at Cloudlands Hotel. Also seen at Mt Hagen.

DICAEIDAE Flowerpeckers

Red-capped Flowerpecker (Papuan Flowerpecker)
Dicaeum geelvinkianum
Seen several times at Mt Hagen, also at Varirata.

NECTARINIIDAE Sunbirds

Black Sunbird *Leptocoma sericea*
At Fly river, Good view at Boystown Rd, Dablin Creek.

PASSERIDAE Sparrows

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
This sparrow has only colonized PNG since 1986, mostly since 1992, and we duly logged it in Port Moresby. PNG has only three introduced species on the mainland (this, the newly arrived Eurasian Tree Sparrow and perhaps Feral Pigeon). At Port Moresby.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*
3 on Tabubil Airport. New bird for Kwiwon. This species is a new colonist in PNG, being first recorded in 2007.

ESTRILDIDAE Waxbills, Finches & Mannikins (Munias)

Mountain Firetail *Oreostruthus fuliginosus*
Common at Kumul Lodge. One of the GIngy's favorites.
Hooded Mannikin *Lonchura spectabilis*
Seen a couple of times near Kumul Lodge.

MAMMALS

Greater Flying-fox *Pteropus neojobernicus*
This large species was seen over the Fly and Elevala Rivers.

Raffery's Giant Rat

Seen on feeder at Kumul lodge, Max told me the name.

REPTILES

Skinks

Saw quite a few skinks on this trip. None of them identified.

INSECTS - Butterflies

Queen Alexandra's Birdwing *Ornithoptera alexandrae*

One of the world largest butterflies.

Seen at Varirata, male and female.

Papilio ulysses

Stunning blue butterfly. Seen several places.

Papilio aegaeus, *Papilio ambrax*?

Black large Swallowtail with large white patch on wing. Has no tail.

Graphium weiskei

Small sized black swallowtail with pink and green patch on wing. Flew around Kumul Lodge.

Red Lacewing *Cethosia cydippe*

Bright red butterfly with black margin. Peg got a nice picture of this species.

Taenaeis sp

White butterfly with 2 eyes on wing. Seen at Kwatu.

Danaus ? sp

Black and white butterfly, many at Kwatu.

Mycalesis sp

Small brown butterfly, usually stays close to ground. Many eyes on wing.

Euploea sp.

Silky black butterfly. We saw several species in different location.

Tellervo sp.

Small black and white butterfly.

SPIDERS

Golden Orb Spider *Nephila* sp.

Seen at top of the Dablin Creek track. Distinctive yellow horse shoe shaped web.

Tent Spider *Cyrtophora*? sp.

Seen at Dablin creek. Formed massive colonies.