Visiting a Raggiana Bird of Paradise lek is a true ‘Attenborough moment’

Tour Leader: Lisle Gwynn
All photos in this report were taken by Lisle Gwynn on this tour
Species depicted in photographs are named in BOLD RED
INTRODUCTION

When the words ‘Papua New Guinea’ are uttered, what springs to mind? Birds of Paradise? Interesting cultural groups? Thick humid forests? Idyllic sandy beaches? Pristine coral reefs? ‘PNG’, as it is affectionately known, is all of these things and so much more. This tour was special in its specificity; we had custom organised this tour for a client interested in two main things - attending the Mount Hagen Show, a huge gathering of tribes and clans in the highlands to sing and dance, and to see his penultimate bird family - Mottled Berryhunter (a.k.a. ‘The Rhagologus’). Seeing the show would be easy enough, but the berryhunter is a notoriously low-density, rare, difficult and shy species. Finding it would require a lot of effort and a heavy dose of luck.

This is a tough country to work in, with travel delays, flight cancellations and other logistical mishaps that frequently bend the limits of imagination being a common occurrence, and it is a country where travel must be undertaken with a good sense of humour and patience. By PNG standards the tour ran blissfully trouble free. All of our flights ran on time, our ground transport was trouble free, our accommodation was as expected and even the birds decided to behave exceptionally well. With the show and berryhunter in mind, the itinerary was quite different to that of our normal set departure tour. We opted to spend a few days at Varirata National Park near Port Moresby first of all, where a decent list of possible lifers was whittled through quickly, followed by 5 nights at Kumul Lodge an hour or so west of Mount Hagen in the central highlands. This was further followed by 6 nights at the spectacular and luxury Rondon Ridge Lodge where we spent 3 days at the Mount Hagen Show, and 3 days birding and relaxing. The show itself was equally as spectacular as any of the birds of paradise we saw and we spent two days watching, listening and enjoying the dances and songs, but it was being able to interact with the groups on a personal level that really struck us. We were able to sit with the children and chat with the parents and learn their stories, myths and legends. The photography was also, to be frank, obscenely good.

All in all, the birding was as spectacular as it is often touted to be, but also as difficult as it is renowned to be. Here, you have to earn every bird you see; hunting is widespread and a basic fact of life, so birds are wary and mammals near non-existent. In spite of this, places like Varirata, Kumul and Rondon Ridge provide small havens where birding is both excellent and incredibly rewarding. The highlights of the tour bird-wise were endless and extreme in quality, from the diminutive Pygmy Drongo-Fantail (a rumoured family split), jewel-like Papuan Pitta, Painted Quail-Thrush, Chestnut-backed Jewel Babbler and Barred Owlet-Nightjar at Varirata, to Crested Satinbird, New Guinea Woodcock, Spotted Jewel Babbler and the iconic Blue Bird of Paradise at Kumul. In fact, we managed 13 species of bird of paradise on this tour, with a further two heard only - not bad considering only Blue and Lesser were really targeted. We also managed 10 species of kingfisher heard and seen, and perhaps more impressive 6 species of Accipiter as well as some very good birds of prey indeed including the rarely recorded Black-mantled, Meyer’s and Chestnut-shouldered Goshawks. Overall we saw 190 species of bird and heard a further 17, but did we see Mottled Berryhunter? Read on to find out…

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DAY 1: PORT MORESBY COASTAL AREA

With the clients arriving in the early afternoon I made my way to Port Moresby International Airport with Daniel, our local guide and the main man in Moresby, and after our hellos we swiftly made our way through the heat of the midday sun in air-conditioned comfort to our base for the next few nights in the centre of the city. Our hotel was well appointed, with lush gardens, and extremely comfortable. So, once the heat had died down just a little, Diane opted to settle in whilst Howard, Daniel and I met in the lobby to formulate a plan for the afternoon. Howard had arrived with a set of defined target birds; having visited PNG before he was not here to mess around, and neither was I. So, straight off of the bat instead of opting for the logical PNG starting point - the Pacific Adventist University grounds - we decided to head further afield in search of new blood, or feathers should I say.

Storming along the coast at slightly-above-snail's pace thanks to poor road conditions we had our first birds of the trip. **Australian Pratincole** on the airfield was joined by such common but interesting beasts as **Hooded Butcherbird, White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, Pheasant Coucal, Orange-bellied Fruit Dove** and both **Whistling and Brahminy Kites**, the latter one of the best looking birds of prey in my opinion. After a stop at a local supermarket to stock up on several gallons of water and have a giggle with some locals we arrived at our destination - a roadside flanked by patches of scrappy forest, tawny meadows and the odd old tall tree. Immediately the activity was noticeably good with a load of new species seen right away, including **Zoe Imperial Pigeon, Pinon Imperial Pigeon, Pink-spotted Fruit Dove, Willie Wagtail, Grey-headed Munia, White-shouldered Fairywren, White-shouldered Fairywren, Purple Swamphen, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Red-cheeked and Eclectus Parrots** and several calling **Common Paradise Kingfishers**. After a while of searching and a few different stops we finally managed to locate our target and after considerable effort and a final push through and into the forest we entered the territory of a **Black Thicket-Fantail** and scored excellent views. Exiting, a **Collared Sparrowhawk** drifted by.

With our main target scored, we had a little time left before sunset to try for another target. A brief stop along the main road for a **Glossy-mantled Manucode** (our first Bird of Paradise for the tour), **Torresian Pigeon** and some **Rainbow Bee-eaters** was all that stopped us en route to another roadside area of sparse forest where we immediately heard **Streak-headed Honeyeater** along with a handful of **New Guinea Friarbirds**. The afternoon was a resounding success and all that was left was to enjoy our first meal of the tour back at the hotel and get our heads down for an early night.

DAY 2: VARIRATA NATIONAL PARK

An early breakfast delivered by room service was necessary this morning as we left under cover of darkness to reach Varirata National Park shortly after dawn. The reasoning for such an early departure was two-fold: 1) Varirata is an hour or so away, so needs an early start to avoid the heat of the day, and 2) the utterly phenomenal **Raggiana Bird of Paradise** lek is most active early and no visit to PNG is complete without seeing these floating, flopping, up-turning, down-turning, screaming, hollering, bellowing, squawking, puffy birds do what they do best - which is apparently dance in the treetops.
Moving on from this display we made our way into the forest properly in search of some more critical birds, and more importantly, lifers! First up was the cute, amusing and fantastically common Chestnut-bellied Fantail, probably the easiest bird on the list to score. Second up, and off the back of a chance blast of playback came an absolutely brilliant and surprisingly obliging Hook-billed Kingfisher - we had started well! Moving up one of the main forest trails we crossed a creek and then ascended steeply before flattening off. In an area of really great looking forest we bumped into a big mixed flock that held stunning Fairy Gerygone as well as Yellow-bellied and the not-often-seen Green-backed Gerygone which is far more common by voice than sight, together with Frilled (page 6) and a brief Hooded Monarch, a vocal but impossible-to-see Goldenface and an obliging Pygmy Longbill that, in the heat of the moment, was mistakenly heard as ‘pygmy hornbill’ creating an amusing confusion as to what we were looking for. Ultimately frustrating for us though was the presence of a Pygmy Drongo-Fantail that we could hear but not lay eyes on. As a potential family-split (with Silktail, oddly) this was our main and most important target for Varirata and it was frustratingly close. Moving on we reached an area of fragrant fern, the trees above which held Red-throated and Red-headed Myzomela, whilst a Pheasant Pigeon calling in the distance proved tantalising. Next up was the beautiful White-faced Robin but a slight movement on a broken trunk had us rushing to see a showstopper - a cracking roosting Barred Owlet-Nightjar (next page top)! Reaching the final stretch of our walk on this trail we heard the tell-tale boiling-kettle sound of Papuan Pitta below us. Despite a lot of hard work, running back and forth, and trying every trick in the book, only I managed a look at the bird before it retreated. The disappointment wasn’t even momentary though as our local guide Daniel announced ahead of us that he could hear the Drongo-Fantail in a small flock… it took a short jog and a swift lift of the bins to connect us with our prey - Pygmy Drongo-Fantail (next page below) was in the bag - a pair of them in fact, and superb views too. Fantastic.
Our excellent morning of lifers had taken its time and it was soon midday and time to move on to another trail. This time we chose the lookout trail, starting from the top and making our way down in search of yet more good birds. Setting off down the track a bird bursting from the side of the path shocked us and gave brief but good views of **Pheasant Pigeon**! Continuing the theme of birds bursting out of nowhere, a female **Growling Riflebird** surprised us disappearing from a bush on the side of the track - a quick look showed us why - a nest with two ornate eggs - wow! Further along, whilst Daniel searched high and low for Forest Bittern, I searched for Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher, unfortunately finding nothing, however a close-calling **White-crowned Koel** took a little work but eventually gave us a look, albeit brief and in flight. The high-pitched chattering of a kingfisher soon had us chasing and running around and after significant work and amusement we eventually had excellent views of a perched **Papuan Dwarf Kingfisher** - diminutive but stunning.
A Long-tailed Buzzard stole our attention just before we enjoyed a leisurely lunch at the picnic benches in the cool shade, sheltering from the now rising and sweltering heat of the day. We had one more spot to try though before we could escape from the heat properly. Entering the forest once more, we found a spot and settled down for a short while. A White-eared Catbird gave good looks as it came in to check on its half-built nest, but two birds whistling beside us were what we were really hoping to see. After a lot of trying and quite some frustration we walked away with undesirably tantalising glimpses of both Chestnut-backed Jewel Babbler and Painted Quailthrush, but that’s what tomorrow is for… Brown-headed Paradise Kingfisher also gave brief views, but we didn’t really try for better.

After a successful day in Varirata we decided to head out of the park in search of one more target bird. For this one we had to go to the Pacific Adventist University (Port Moresby’s famous PAU birding site) where we spent a long time searching every fruiting and flowering tree in the place, initially with no success. We did however find a few new birds for the trip list, including Pacific Black Duck, Spotted and Plumed Whistling Ducks, Pied Heron, Little Pied and Little Black Cormorants, Sacred Kingfisher, Cattle and Great Egrets, White-breasted Woodswallow and Fawn-breasted Bowerbird. It was at the very last moment that we heard, and then saw our target move in a fruiting tree - a quick grab of the scope and we were enjoying the absolutely gorgeous Orange-fronted Fruit Dove in all its glory.
DAY 3: VARIRATA NATIONAL PARK

The beauty of a custom/private tour is that with a significant number of our targets under the belt already we approached today with a slightly more relaxed demeanour. We had a leisurely breakfast (albeit still an early one) with Diane who wasn’t going to join us in the field, and then headed into the park. We made a straight run for the ridge track, not stopping for much along the way, and went off track descending a steep slope past parts of an old plane crash wreck and into a gully that, according to our guide, held our targets. Sure enough it didn’t take much time perched on the dry creek side before our first began calling. It was a prolonged and tough game of cat and mouse but eventually we had reasonable views of the extremely tricky Chestnut-backed Jewel Babbler, improving slightly on yesterday’s views, however a close calling Painted Quailthrush simply refused to show itself. Making our way back up to the ridge after we failed to provoke a response from a Pheasant Pigeon, our next hope was for a better encounter with a Papuan Pitta that was holding territory close by. Sure enough, with a lot of gentle persuasion, and a slight descent into the forest, we managed really good views of this striking crimson and blue pitta.

Deciding to make a retreat to the river, we spent the remainder of the morning walking the trail that follows its banks. Here we encountered a couple of good mixed flocks that included Spot-winged Monarch, a brief Yellow-breasted Boatbill and many species we’d seen yesterday. Our pre-lunch battle was to be with a surprisingly responsive Painted Quailthrush that managed to strut its way into view a couple of times - a real win. With most of our targets in the bag and oppressive heat descending in the mid afternoon we decided to call it a day, having exhausted our options in the best possible way. However, we did have time for one final stop at some farmland close-by. It took almost no time at all to find both Grey-headed and more importantly Grand Mannikins. A fantastic end to our time here around Port Moresby.

DAY 4: PORT MORESBY TO KUMUL LODGE

Today was very much a travel day, however that is not to say we didn’t get some really good birding done and some excellent species on the list. The majority of the day was spent having a relaxing morning at the hotel in Port Moresby before heading to the airport for a rather uneventful flight that ran as scheduled (not that common an occurrence here in PNG) to Mount Hagen in the heart of the Southern Highlands. Here we were met by a representative from Kumul Lodge, one of the most fantastic birding lodges in the country. We travelled an hour and a half or so west and eventually made it to the lodge where we were instantly enthralled by the abundance of birds at the well-maintained and excellently set-up feeders beside the restaurant. From our lunch table, where we enjoyed tasty pork and chicken with locally grown vegetables, we ogled the likes of White-winged Robin, Smoky Honeyeater, Belford’s Melidictes (page 10), Brehm’s Tiger Parrot, Grey-streaked Honeyeater, Island Thrush, Rufous-naped Bellbird and the absolute star of the show - several Ribbon-tailed Astrapia. As if this wasn’t enough, after settling in, we made our way out onto one of the lodge trails for a quick hours birding before darkness. We managed Bicoloured Mouse-Warbler and the curious Lesser Melampitta for our efforts.
DAYS 5 - 8: KUMUL LODGE AREA
We spent four full days in the area surrounding Kumul Lodge, generally venturing away from the lodge each morning to target specific birds and spending the afternoons relaxing around the lodge itself, enjoying the feeders and occasionally working one or more of the trails. The lodge grounds and trail system are idyllic from a birder’s perspective and also offer fantastic photographic opportunities. We made several walks around the area finding a great selection of birds to keep us occupied, including spectacular **Ribbon-tailed Astrapia** that are almost omnipresent here, **Smoky Honeyeater**, **Belford’s Melidectes**, **Mountain Firetail**, **Brehm’s Tiger Parrot**, **Brown-backed** and **Regent Whistlers**, **Rusty-naped Bellbird**, the incredible **Crested Satinbird**, **Crested (page 11)** and **Tit Berrypeckers**, **Mountain Mousewarbler**, **Large** and **Buff-faced Scrub-Wrens**, **Ashy Robin**, **Dimorphic Fantail**, **Lesser Melampitta**, **Brown Quail** and **White-winged Robin** to name just a few. By dusk and nightfall we discovered **New Guinea Woodcock**, **Papuan Boobook** and **Mountain Owlet-Nightjar** around the premises.
Murumuru Pass
Our local guide Wilson had told us that he had seen Mottled Berryhunter, our main target, a couple of days ago at a site upslope from the lodge so we made our way half an hour up on the first morning to work the Murumuru Pass as hard as possible in search of this tricky bird. As it turned out, we didn’t need to work that hard. One of the first birds we heard on arriving was a calling Mottled Berryhunter that gave brief but satisfying views, ending our quest and making the trip a success. The general area here was very productive and we managed to add quite a few tough new species to the trip over the morning including exceptional views of Spotted Jewel-Babbler as well as Spotted Berripexer, Long-billed Honeyeater, Brown Sicklebill, Stephanie’s Astrapia, Red-collared and Elfin Myzomelas, King of Saxony Bird of Paradise and a host of parrots including Stella’s and Orange-billed Lorikeets, Modest Tiger Parrot and the uncommon Red-breasted Pygmy Parrot. We made a second visit here on our final morning at Kumul in search of better views of the berryhunter but unfortunately were not successful in better views - the bird did act aggressively and fly in close for a brief couple of seconds however. We did succeed here though in finding Bronze Ground Dove, Rufous-backed Honeyeater, Scrub Honeyeater, Loria’s Satinbird and a fly-over Meyer’s Goshawk.
Kama Village
A whole morning was spent venturing downslope to the area around the village of Kama where our main target was Lesser Bird of Paradise. On arriving we meandered through small agricultural fields and the village itself toward a well-constructed shelter on the edge of a steep slope which gave spectacular views across the valley and high up into the mountains. On our way out we disturbed an Oriental Hobby, a good omen if ever there was one, but it took quite some time and frustration before we could glimpse Lesser Bird of Paradise, and for quite some time only at a distance and in varying states of obscured. Fortunately, whilst we waited we managed to add some new birds, as usual, which included Hooded Mannikin, Yellow-breasted Bowerbird, White-shouldered Fairy Wren, Ornate Melidectes, Goldie’s Lorikeet and absolutely fantastic views of a nearby perched Pygmy Eagle - a welcome surprise! After a while though the bird of paradise flew towards the road, so we decided to move around the village to try and relocate it. Sure enough, after a short walk, we were welcomed into another part of the village to get excellent views of a male Lesser Bird of Paradise as it called and perched in a tree close by. On exiting we were also treated to a female Magnificent Bird of Paradise, very briefly, and much less brief and much more exhilarating views of a male Superb Bird of Paradise complete with strange iridescent winged chest shield. A Glossy-mantled Manucode rounded it out to four birds of paradise for the morning. Despite trying a few spots along the river we couldn’t locate a Torrentlark, but we did have a few Torrent Flycatchers perform for us.
**Tonga Village**
The site that we bird around Tonga Village is actually a hillside patch of forest above a river, but it has one very special bird indeed… the main reason for visiting is the absolutely phenomenal **Blue Bird of Paradise**. Abnormally, it took us two visits to score on this trip. The first morning we heard the birds calling nearly constantly but they just refused to come lower than the ridge and we had to walk away without a view. We did however find distraction in **Ornate Melidectes, Elfin Myzomela, New Guinea White-eye, Brown Goshawk, Yellow-breasted Bowerbird, Black Monarch** and far and away the highlight of the first visit - a **Black-mantled Goshawk**. The second visit, however, more than made up for the first day’s lack of luck, with absolutely excellent ‘scope views of **Blue Bird of Paradise** obtained and some reasonable photos. We could have waited longer and the birds probably would have performed even better, but we decided instead to readjust our focus and head back to Murumuru Pass to have another shot at Mottled Berryhunter.
DAYS 9 - 15: RONDON RIDGE & MT. HAGEN SHOW
The Mount Hagen Show really has to be seen and experienced to be believed. We set off from Kumul early on the first morning in time to make it to Rondon Ridge before lunch so that we could settle in before heading out to the pre-show. This was good planning as we were able to drop our belongings and grab a snack before we headed down to the ceremonial area actually on-site at Rondon Ridge in time to spend a few hours wandering around, sauntering between the many cultural groups, tribes and clans, chatting and conversing with many of the great assemblage and taking advantage of some of the most enthralling photographic opportunities I have ever experienced. Throughout the late morning and afternoon groups danced, sang and interacted with each other to give a show like no other, and included some of the most instantly recognisable cultural groups in the world like the Huli Wigmen, the Mindima Mudmen and the Omo skeleton boys. I’ll let some images do the talking here…
On the second day we attended the main show, down in the actual town of Mount Hagen. This is a significantly larger event and is actually a competition, with groups competing for various titles. We were provided with a shady shelter, a buffet lunch and some seats to watch all the activity. Following the groups parading themselves in full regalia, we were able to enter the display field and move between the groups, where we spent quite some time once again speaking with the tribes and taking advantage of amazing photographic opportunities.
For our remaining four days at Rondon Ridge we took a significantly more relaxed approach than we had until this point as we had already achieved our main target, and the clients wanted to spend some time simply enjoying the relaxation of this stunning lodge. Generally speaking, mornings were spent birding and afternoons spent relaxing and strolling gently to see just whatever we could find. We saw a lot of similar species to those seen at Kumul, however over the four days we racked up a good tally of new species. The highlights included Chestnut-shouldered Goshawk perched on a roadside tree, Papuan Parrotfinch flying through a wooded gully, Blue Bird of Paradise seen just above the lodge, a frustrating heard-only encounter with two Mottled Berryhunters also just above the lodge, a phenomenal Wattled Ploughbill on a short walk and an exciting (and exhausting) hike to the top of the mountain in search of a specific beast of note. Long before dawn we left the lodge, post cookies and coffee, and hiked in darkness by torch light for 90 minutes or so into the forest and up the mountain where we eventually emerged into the sunrise in a natural clearing. Here we could here the familiar machine-gun rattle of Brown Sicklebill, which soon perched nearby, but the telltale ‘ZWINK ZWINK’ of our target belied its presence. A short dash down a muddy trail had us lock eyes on a phenomenal, near-spectral silhouette in the mist. Eventually it cleared and we had stonking ‘scope views of an enormous Black Sicklebill. Nearby we also had excellent views of a plump and astonishingly-adorned King-of-Saxony Bird of Paradise, a few Stephanie’s Astrapias and we could hear Buff-tailed Sicklebill just to round out our morning’s birds of paradise.
The absolutely unbelievable Ribbon-tailed Astrapia. This is a young male with incomplete tail!

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It felt all too soon that our time in Papua New Guinea had come to an end. It had been a spectacular journey through both the known, and the unknown. We had taken in some of the best birds on the island, as well as some of the toughest and the least known. We had enjoyed the expected, and rolled with the unexpected, and enjoyed every moment of it. In particular, it was great to team spectacular birding with rewarding cultural experiences, something that is so easy to do in a destination like this.
BIRD LIST
The taxonomy of the bird list follows: Clements, James F., White, Anthony W., and Fitzpatrick, John W. The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World. Cornell, 2007. This list is up to date with the major changes published by Cornell up until August 2016.

190 bird species seen, 17 species heard only

DUCKS, GEESE AND WATERFOWL: Anatidae
Spotted Whistling-Duck Dendrocygna guttata
Plumed Whistling-Duck Dendrocygna eytoni
Pacific Black Duck Anas superciliosa

MEGAPODES: Megapodiidae
Black-billed Brush-turkey Talegalla fuscirostris

PHEASANTS, GROUSE AND ALLIES: Phasianidae
Brown Quail Coturnix ypsilophora

CORMORANTS AND SHAGS: Phalacrocoracidae
Little Black Cormorant Phalacrocorax sulcirostris
Little Pied Cormorant Phalacrocorax melanoleucos

HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNs: Ardeidae
Great Egret Ardea alba
Pied Heron Egretta picata
Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis

IBISES AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae
Australian Ibis Threskiornis molucca

HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES: Accipitridae
Long-tailed Honey-buzzard Henicopernis longicauda
Black Kite Milvus migrans
Whistling Kite Haliastur sphenurus
Brahminy Kite Haliastur indus
Eastern (Papuan) Marsh-Harrier Circus spilonotus
Variable Goshawk Accipiter hiogaster
Brown Goshawk Accipiter fasciatus
Black-mantled Goshawk Accipiter melanochlamys
Gray-headed Goshawk Accipiter poliocephalus
Collared Sparrowhawk Accipiter cirrocephalus
Meyer's Goshawk Accipiter meyerianus
Chestnut-shouldered Goshawk Erythrotriorchis buergersi
Pygmy Eagle Hieraetos weiskei

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae
Nankeen Kestrel Falco cenchroides
Oriental Hobby Falco severus

RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS: Rallidae
Purple Swamphen Porphyrio porphyrio
Dusky Moorhen Gallinula tenebrosa

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae
Masked Lapwing Vanellus miles

JACANAS: Jacanidae
Comb-crested Jacana Irediparra gallinacea

PRATINCOLES AND COURSERS: Giareolidae
Australian Pratincole Stiltia isabella

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PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae

Rock Pigeon  Columba livia
Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove  Macropygia amboinensis
Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove  Macropygia nigrirostris
Great Cuckoo-Dove  Reinwardtoena reinwardtii
Peaceful Dove  Geopelia placida
Bar-shouldered Dove  Geopelia humeralis
Bronze Ground-Dove  Gallicolumba salamonis
Pheasant Pigeon  Otidiphps nobilis
Wompoo Fruit-Dove  Ptilinopus magnificus
Pink-spotted Fruit-Dove  Ptilinopus perlatus
Ornate Fruit-Dove  Ptilinopus ornatus
Orange-fronted Fruit-Dove  Ptilinopus aurantiifrons
Beautiful Fruit-Dove  Ptilinopus pulchellus
Orange-bellied Fruit-Dove  Ptilinopus Iozonus
Dwarf Fruit-Dove  Ptilinopus nanus
Rufescent Imperial-Pigeon  Ducula chalconota
Pinon Imperial-Pigeon  Ducula pinon
Zoe Imperial-Pigeon  Ducula zoae
Torresian Imperial-Pigeon  Ducula spilorrhoa
Papuan Mountain-Pigeon  Gymnophaps albertisii

PARROTS: Psittacidae

Dusky Lory  Pseudeos fuscata
Rainbow Lorikeet  Trichoglossus haematodus
Goldie's Lorikeet  Psitteuteles goldiei
Black-capped Lory  Lorius lory
Stella's Lorikeet  Charmosyna papou
Plum-faced Lorikeet  Oreopsittacus arfaki
Yellow-billed Lorikeet  Neopsittacus musschenbroekii
Orange-billed Lorikeet  Neopsittacus pullicauda
Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrot  Micropsitta bruinjii
Brehm's Tiger-Parrot  Psittacula brehmii
Modest Tiger-Parrot  Psittacula modesta
Red-cheeked Parrot  Geoffroyus geoffroyi
Eclectus Parrot  Eclectus roratus

CUCKOOS: Cuculidae

White-crowned Koel  Cacomantis leucolophus
Dwarf Koel  Microdynamis parva
Pheasant Coucal  Centropus phasianinus

OWLS: Strigidae

Jungle Hawk-Owl (Papuan Boobook)  Ninox theomacha

OWLET-NIGHTJARS: Aegothelidae

Mountain Owlet-Nightjar  Aegotheles albertisi
Barred Owlet-Nightjar  Aegotheles bennettii

FROGMOUTHS: Podargidae

Papuan Frogmouth  Podargus papuensis

NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES: Caprimulgidae

Archbold's (Mountain) Nightjar  Eurostopodus archboldi

SWIFTS: Apodidae

Glossy Swiftlet  Collocalia esculenta
Mountain Swiftlet

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae

Azure Kingfisher
Variable (Dwarf) Kingfisher
Blue-winged Kookaburra
Sacred Kingfisher
Hook-billed Kingfisher
Yellow-billed Kingfisher
Mountain Kingfisher
Common Paradise-Kingfisher
Brown-headed Paradise-Kingfisher

WHITE-THROATED KINGFISHER

BEE-EATERS: Meropidae
Rainbow Bee-eater

ROLLERS: Coraciidae
Dollarbird

HORNBILLS: Bucerotidae
Blyth's Hornbill

PITTIAS: Pittidae
Red-bellied (Blue-breasted) Pitta

BOWERBIRDS: Ptilonorhynchidae
White-eared Catbird
Macgregor's Bowerbird
Yellow-breasted Bowerbird
Fawn-breasted Bowerbird

AUSTRALASIAN TREECREEPERS: Climacteridae
Papuan Treecreeper

FAIRYWRENS: Maluridae
Orange-crowned Fairywren
White-shouldered Fairywren

HONEYEATERS: Meliphagidae
Plain Honeyeater
Streak-headed Honeyeater
Mountain Meliphaga
Scrub Honeyeater
Mimic Honeyeater
Red-throated Myzomela
Red-headed Myzomela
Mountain Myzomela
Red-collared Myzomela
Helmeted Friarbird
Long-billed Honeyeater
Smoky Honeyeater
Belford's Melidectes
Ornate Melidectes
Rufous-backed Honeyeater
Black-backed (Gray-streaked) Honeyeater

THORNBILLS AND ALLIES: Acanthizidae

Rusty Mouse-Warbler
Mountain Mouse-Warbler

Aerodramus hirundinaceus
Ceyx azureus
Ceyx lepidus
Dacelo leachii
Todiramphus macleayii
Todiramphus sanctus
Melidora macrorhina
Syma megarhyncha
Tanysiptera galatea
Tanysiptera danae
Merops ornatus
Eurystomus orientalis
Pitta erythrogaster
Ailuroedus buccoides
Amblyornis macgregoriae
Chlamydera lauterbachi
Chlamydera cerviniventris
Cormobates placens
Clytomyias insignis
Malurus alboscapulatus
Pycnopygius ixoides
Pycnopygius stictocephalus
Meliphaga orientalis
Meliphaga albonotata
Meliphaga analoga
Myzomela eques
Myzomela erythroccephala
Myzomela adolphinae
Myzomela rosenbergii
Philemon buceroides
Melilestes megarhynchus
Melipotes fumigatus
Melidectes belfordi
Melidectes torquatus
Ptilorhra guisei
Ptilorhra perstriata
Crateroscelis murina
Crateroscelis robusta
Large Scrubwren
Buff-faced Scrubwren
Pale-billed Scrubwren
Green-backed Gerygone
Fairy Gerygone
Yellow-billed Gerygone

**SATINBIRDS: Cnemophilidae**
Loria's Satinbird
Crested Satinbird

**BERRYPECKERS AND LONGBILLS: Melanocharitidae**
Black Berrypeercker
Spotted Berrypeercker
Yellow-billed Longbill
Pygmy Honeyeater

**TIT BERRYPECKER, CRESTED BERRYPECKER: Paramytiidae**
Tit Berrypeercker
Crested Berrypeercker

**QUAIL-THRUSHES AND JEWEL-BABBLERS: Cinclosomatidae**
Painted Quail-thrush
Spotted Jewel-babbler
Chestnut-backed Jewel-babbler

**BOATBILLS: Machaerirhynchidae**
Black-breasted Boatbill
Yellow-breasted Boatbill

**WOODSWALLOWS: Artamidae**
Great Woodswallow
White-breasted Woodswallow

**BELLMAGPIES AND ALLIES: Cracticidae**
Black-backed Butcherbird
Hooded Butcherbird
Black Butcherbird

**CUCKOO-SHRIKES: Campephagidae**
Stout-billed Cuckoo-shrike
Barred (Yellow-eyed) Cuckoo-shrike
Boyce's Cuckoo-shrike
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike
New Guinea (Black) Cuckoo-shrike
Varied Triller

**WHISTLERS AND ALLIES: Pachycephalidae**
Mottled Berryhunter
Dwarf Whistler
Rufous-naped Whistler
Brown-backed Whistler
Gray-headed (Gray) Whistler
Sclater's Whistler
Regent Whistler
Rufous (Little) Shrike-Thrush
Hooded Pitohui
Rusty Pitohui
Crested Pitohui

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**Additional Information**

www.tropicalbirding.com
+1-409-515-9110
info@tropicalbirding.com
Black Pitohui
Wattled Ploughbill

**SHRIKES: Laniidae**

Long-tailed Shrike

**OLD WORLD ORIOLES: Oriolidae**

Brown Oriole
Australasian Figbird

**DRONGOS: Dicruridae**

Pygmy Drongo
Spangled Drongo

**FANTAILS: Rhipiduridae**

Willie-wagtail
Friendly Fantail
Chestnut-bellied Fantail
Black Thicket-Fantail
Dimorphic Fantail

**MONARCH FLYCATCHERS: Monarchidae**

Black Monarch
Spot-winged Monarch
Frilled Monarch

**CROWS, JAYS AND MAGPIES: Corvidae**

Torresian Crow

**BIRDS-OF-PARADISE: Paradisaeidae**

Glossy-mantled Manucode
Crinkle-collared Manucode
Trumpet Manucode
Ribbon-tailed Astrapia
Princess Stephanie's Astrapia
King-of-Saxony Bird-of-paradise
Growling Riflebird
Superb Bird-of-paradise
Black Sicklebill
Brown Sicklebill
Black-billed Sicklebill
Magnificent Bird-of-paradise
King Bird-of-paradise
Lesser Bird-of-paradise
Raggiana Bird-of-paradise
Blue Bird-of-paradise
Lesser Melampitta

**AUSTRALASIAN ROBINS: Petroicidae**

Torrent Flycatcher
White-faced Robin
Black-throated Robin
White-winged Robin
Ashy Robin
Northern Scrub-Robin

**RAIL-BABBLER AND IFRITA: Eupetidae**

Blue-capped Ifrita

**SWALLOWS: Hirundinidae**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Genus</th>
<th>Species</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Swallow</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Hirundo tahitica</em></td>
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<td>LEAF-WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae</td>
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<td><em>Phylloscopus poliocephalus</em></td>
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<td>Island Leaf-Warbler</td>
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<td>CITICOLAS AND ALLIES: Cisticolidae</td>
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<td><em>Cisticola exilis</em></td>
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<td>Golden-headed Cisticola</td>
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<td>YUHINAS, WHITE-EYES AND ALLIES: Zosteropidae</td>
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<td><em>Zosterops minor</em></td>
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<td>Black-fronted White-eye</td>
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<td>New Guinea White-eye</td>
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<td><em>Saxicola caprata</em></td>
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<td>Pied Bushchat</td>
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<td><em>Turdus poliocephalus</em></td>
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<td>Island Thrush</td>
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<td>STARLINGS: Sturnidae</td>
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<td><em>Mino dumontii</em></td>
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<td>Yellow-faced Myna</td>
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<td>FLOWERPECKERS: Dicaeida</td>
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<td><em>Dicaeum geelvinkianum</em></td>
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<td>Mountain Firetail</td>
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<td><em>Lonchura caniceps</em></td>
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