

Trip Report: Papua New Guinea (Enga and Western New Britain)

14th - 24th August 2010

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TropicalBirdPhotos



Our 'Papua New Guinea (PNG) sampler' trip included four days of birding in the highlands of New Guinea and four days of diving and birding on New Britain. This was sufficient time to expose us to some of the amazing birdlife found in both upper elevation and lowland forests and the diverse fish and corals in some of the world's most pristine waters, plus a touch of indigenous culture at the Mt Hagen Show (or 'sing-sing'). Enough, certainly, to convince us that we want to return and explore much more of this exotic country!



Brown Sicklebill (female) [Kumul Lodge]



Mt Hagen Show (Emma's photos)



Mt Hagen Show (Emma's photos)



Mt Hagen Show (Emma's photos)

In the highlands we were based at Kumul Lodge, an hour's drive from Mt Hagen town past small villages and well maintained rural gardens up into the cooler climes of Enga Province (the lodge is located at 2700m altitude). The bungalows and meals at the lodge are simple, but perfectly adequate, and it proved to be a wonderful and reasonably priced (by PNG lodge standards) base for exploring the avifauna in this highland region. It was also a perfect tranquil setting, away from the urban insecurity of town, for those attending the Mt Hagen Show. On-site trails, totalling maybe 1 or 2 km, wind around the forested slopes of the hill on which the lodge is perched. These provide visitors with freedom to explore this moss-laden forest, whilst the traditional landownership structure in PNG means that all off-site birding requires a guide.

Having spent the day flying from Sydney to Port Moresby and then on to Mt Hagen (where we were relieved to land just before the Wahgi Valley was deluged by heavy rain from clouds that had gathered during our flight up from Port Moresby), Emma and I arrived at the lodge at dusk. In the fading light and cool air we saw our first endemics - elegant White-winged Robins moving between perches around the cabins. Then it was time for a reunion - over an SP beer and dinner - with David M-K, Mikko, Pia and family who had already spent several hours birding around the lodge and a day in town enjoying the sights of the Mt Hagen Show.

David M-K and I spent the next day birding around the lodge, whilst the others attended the second and final day of the 'sing-sing'. A Blue-capped Ifrita (one of the world's few poisonous birds) and male Ribbon-tailed *Astrapia* (our first bird-of-paradise, complete with ridiculously long, bright white tail streamers flowing behind) were seen at dawn from the car park as we waited for the 'sing-sing' attendees to depart. Then it was on to the forest trails around the lodge. Full of ferns and mossy trees, this forest harbours a good collection of endemic birds – all of which were, naturally, new for me. We saw Papuan Parakeets entering an apparent nest hole, Dimorphic Fantails flashing their two-tone tails at us, Regent Whistlers raising their golden crest/ruffs and Lesser Melampittas skulking in the undergrowth, whilst the occasional rustle from the tail of a passing Ribbon-tailed *Astrapia* was heard overhead.



Ribbon-tailed Astrapia [Kumul Lodge]

One of my trip highlights occurred on these trails when we had a surprise encounter with a half dozen Huli Wigmen, fully regaled in their traditional 'sing-sing' attire - including body and face paint, feathers and hair-wigs. They were on their way to a nearby property and were a dramatic sight as they marched towards us down the narrow forest trail.

Returning to the lodge gardens we secured excellent views of Black-breasted Boatbill, Fan-tailed Berrypecker and Red-collared Myzomela before settling in to enjoy the stream of birds visiting the mixed-fruit platter laid out on the fully 10 metre long bird table below the dining room balcony, whilst the summit of Mt Hagen loomed in the far distance.



Brehm's Tiger-Parrot (male and female) [Kumul Lodge]

Star attractions at the bird table over the next few days included Ribbon-tailed and Princess Stephanie's Astrapia (both infrequent), Sanford's Bowerbird (once), Brehm's Tiger-Parrot (frequent), Brown Sicklebill (female-frequent; male-infrequent), Belford's Melidectes (frequent) and Smoky Honeyeater (frequent). With its ability over a period of about a minute to change, seemingly at will, its facial skin colour between bright yellow and red-orange (or vice versa) the Smoky Honeyeater is indeed a curious species.

During the afternoon we again toured the trails – accompanied by Emma and Mikko – seeing specialities such as Canary Flycatcher/Flyrobin and Yellow-billed Lorikeet, birded the gardens (seeing Mountain Mouse-warbler, Mountain Firetail, Rufous-naped Whistler and Brown-breasted Gerygone) and relaxed by the bird table. Birding was not easy - I saw a modest 27 species over the course of the day – but it was certainly enjoyable and the altitude made for good exercise.



Brown Sicklebill [Kumul Lodge]



Bird table dispute between Brown Sicklebill and Ribbon-tailed Astrapia (female) [Kumul Lodge]

On each of the following two days, together with David M-K, Mikko, Max (our very personable and knowledgeable guide) and a ‘strongman’ (to watch over the vehicle whilst we were out birding), we enjoyed half day tours to various bird-of-paradise (BoP) display sites located in Enga Province between the lodge and Wabag.

The first trip, to see Lesser BoP, involved a 4 am breakfast and two hour drive, initially along the heavily potholed main road towards Wabag and then down a rough dirt road to Kama village at about 1700m altitude. On arrival at Kama, just after dawn, we were met by Peter and other community members who guided us up one of the step-ladders that are characteristic of these cultivated areas and into their village garden. A viewing area has been established next to a tree covered hillside and Lesser BoPs could already be heard calling high up on the ridge. Having been assured that the BoPs would gradually move down the slope towards us, we spent the next half hour meeting the villagers and identifying a variety of birds that appeared in the scattered trees around the fields (including Ornate Melidectes, Mountain Meliphaga and Red-capped Flowerpecker) whilst other villagers and some pigs started their work day in the gardens.

Initially we caught only glimpses of the male Lesser BoPs as they flew between perches but eventually dramatic males, with their long gold and white plumes and green throats, as well as beady-eyed females were well seen, albeit a couple of hundred meters up slope. Knowing that we would need to leave before the BoPs reached the trees closest to our lookout, Peter guided us along a pathway under the casuarinas from where we were rewarded with closer views of several males gathered together as they performed for their female admirers. The first BoPs on the life-list for Emma, Mikko and I may have been ‘Lesser’, but given how impressive they were I view that name as merely a reflection of their discoverers having already exhausted their list of ‘Superb’ and ‘Magnificent’-like adjectives!



Lesser Bird-of-paradise [Kama Village]

Sightings during brief stops en-route back to the Wabag road included Black-headed Whistler and Long-billed Honeyeater, before we continued west to a lookout at the side of the main road. Well-tended garden plots and fields were laid out like a tapestry below us and several Yellow-breasted Bowerbirds, our second key bird of the day, were seen feeding in bushes.

The rest of the morning was spent working our way back to the lodge, punctuated by a series of roadside birding stops. The highlight was undoubtedly at the Lai River Bridge, where we enjoyed the unanticipated bonus of a male Magnificent BoP (Max’s ‘Mag BoP’) with his orange back and spiral tail wires.



Roadside gardens at 1700m altitude (Enga Province); Traditional house [Kumul Lodge]

Our second morning trip with Max was to see the Blue BoP near to Tonga village, only some 30 minutes drive down the Wabag road. Shortly after dawn, following a scramble up a steep slope, we were attentively awaiting the star attraction's appearance at his display site on the hillside above us – and he duly arrived in the appointed tree and proceeded to call for several minutes from a mossy branch. An impressive bird indeed but, given the considerable distance at which he was seen, it was hard to get good photographs that did him justice. As I was learning, this is a recurring challenge with many of the charismatic birds in New Guinea.

A couple of hours birding the productive woodlands around Tonga delivered a shiny green cravatted male Superb BoP (feeding in a tree and displaying on a log), Lawes' Parotia (one individual seen fleetingly, then a pair feeding as we descended back to the road), a Streaked Berrypecker and Macgregor's Bowerbird that appeared simultaneously, plus several New Guinea White-eyes and Island Leaf-Warblers. On the downside, our presence was undoubtedly responsible for a delay in the Tonga primary school's schedule that morning, as the boys and girls walking past on their way to class stopped to watch us watching the birds.



Children on their way to school; Emma, Max, David M-K and Mikko [both at Blue BoP site, Tonga Village]

After lunch each day we followed a similar schedule: early-afternoon birding on our own around the lodge, followed by a trip with Max to the Pigetes Trail. This well maintained trail is located about 10 minutes drive west and slightly down-slope from the lodge and winds gradually up the side of a hill through primary forest. These enjoyable walks added several species (including Loria's Satinbird, Orange-billed Lorikeet, Rufous-backed Honeyeater, Lemon-breasted Berrypecker, Orange-crowned Fairywren and Garnet Robin), with the undoubted highlight being when our persistence in following the distant calls of a King-of-Saxony BoP to the top of the trail was rewarded with eye-level views as he gave his rattling call and waved his serrated, ivory colored, antennae-like head feathers. In the same area a male Brown Sicklebill was heard periodically giving his machine-gun like call and he was also eventually spotted calling from a canopy tree on the far ridgeline.



Friendly Fantail [Kumul Lodge]; Papuan Scrubwren [Kumul Lodge]



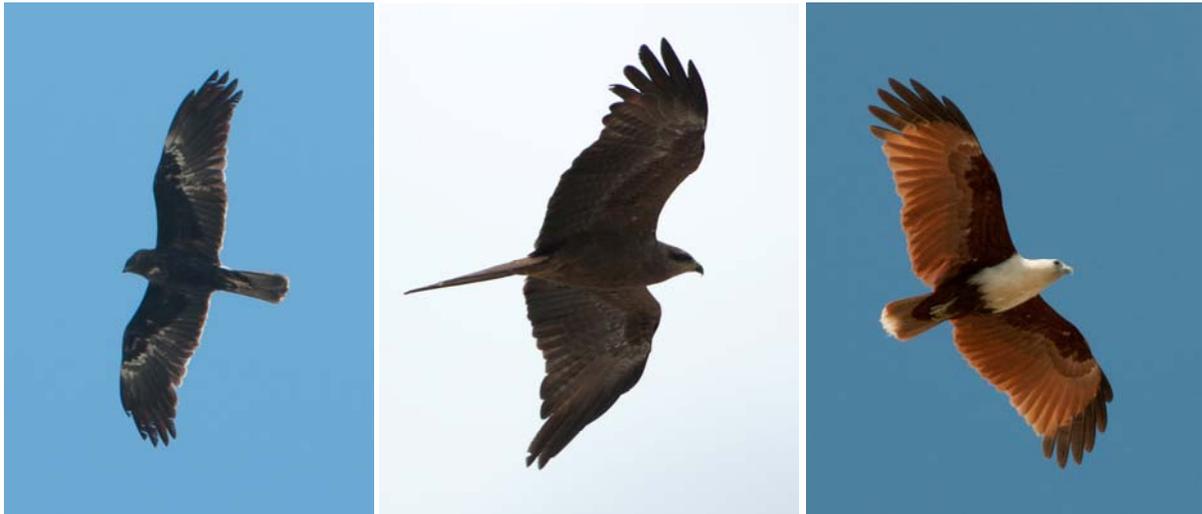
Smoky Honeyeater [Kumul Lodge]; Grey-streaked Honeyeater [Kumul Lodge]

Our final morning at the lodge was spent on the trails with another guide – known as ‘Max (#2)’ – who is also the landowner of an adjacent property. To our relief, Emma and I finally encountered two of the lodge’s most sought after species – a male Crested Satinbird at a fruiting tree and a Chestnut Forest-Rail creeping through the under-storey (David & Mikko had seen both on their first day, but they had gone undetected since). We then enjoyed a tour of Max (#2)’s orchid garden and completed a loop on his trails back to the lodge. Although we failed to locate the Wattled Ploughbill that was heard calling, we did find beautiful pairs of Goldie’s Lorikeet and Tit Berrypecker along the way.

In total, our three and a half days based at Kumul Lodge resulted in a highlands trip list of some 82 species (including sightings such as endemic Papuan Harrier added whilst waiting for our flight out of Mt Hagen airport).



Orchids [near Kumul Lodge]



Papuan Harrier [Mt Hagen]; Black Kite [Mt Hagen]; Brahminy Kite [Kimbe Bay]



Handbag vendors [Mt Hagen airport]

An overnight stay at David M-K's apartment in Port Moresby provided an opportunity to recharge our batteries, enjoy a tasty barramundi dinner at the busy Royal Papua Yacht Club and see six new species from David M-K's balcony, before Emma and I caught a one hour flight on a brand-new Air Niugini Q400 aircraft to Hoskins on the island of New Britain. En-route we passed over the unbroken forest landscape of the Owen-Stanley ranges and lowlands of the north coast of New Guinea, a cloud covered ocean and the forested spine of New Britain before Kimbe Bay, ringed by volcanos and dotted with coral reefs, appeared below us. An hour's drive from Hoskins airport to Walindi Plantation Resort, through a few quiet villages and a near continuous 'green desert' of oil palm plantations, brought us to this lushly vegetated resort on the edge of the bay.



New Britain Birdwing (Ornithoptera priamus bornemanni) [Walindi]

The resort is as friendly, relaxed and luxurious as one could want – a series of well appointed bungalows in a garden setting, a large central restaurant/bar overlooking the bay (where excellent buffet meals are served) and a dive centre providing daily boat access to the underwater world in this diving Mecca. Although Walindi is best known as a diving destination, it also provides an excellent base for exploring some of the volcanoes and hot rivers in the area, whilst an increasing number of birders are visiting in order to see the many New Britain and Bismarck Archipelago endemics found here. For us this was a perfect combination of diving and birding.



Local canoe approaching Restorf Island; Ready to dive [both Kimbe Bay]

Having arrived too late to schedule any diving for the day, we paddled a canoe out to the nearest reef - where we enjoyed some excellent snorkelling in the very warm (about 87°F) waters - and prepared our dive gear for

the following morning. Late-afternoon birding around the resort grounds added several New Britain/Bismarck Archipelago endemics in the large trees (Knob-billed Fruit-Dove, Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeon, Pied Coucal and Bismarck Crow) plus Black Sunbird, Olive-backed Sunbird and beautiful New Britain Birdwing butterflies at flowering bushes.



Barracuda [Kimbe Bay]



Feather-duster Worm; Starfish [both Kimbe Bay]

During our stay at Walindi we spent two days diving in Kimbe Bay - a 3-dive day trip on our first full day and a 2-dive half-day after David M-K had joined us for the weekend. The reef and fish in these high visibility waters were absolutely superb, with the highlights being our dives on the sea mounts at Inglis and Joelles'. These isolated sea mounts are near sheer-sided pillars that rise from the depths of Kimbe Bay, with their summit typically being a near tennis-court sized area some 60 feet below the surface that is covered in the most amazing coral and fish life. Surrounded by blue water, they also attract a large number of pelagics that hangout nearby. A typical dive involved heading straight down to inspect the life on the walls at around 80 to 100 feet, gradually making a circuit or two around the sea mount whilst checking out the occasional cruising shark or large school of barracuda hovering nearby, before spending the remainder of the dive exploring the brightly lit summit of the sea mount.

Between dives, tea and lunch breaks at Restorf Island offered opportunities for snorkelling and some birding, with Scarlet-bibbed (Sclater's) Myzomela and Island Imperial-Pigeon being new additions, whilst Brahminy Kites entertained birders and divers alike by catching chicken drumsticks thrown into the air.



Clown Anemone Fish [Kimbe Bay]



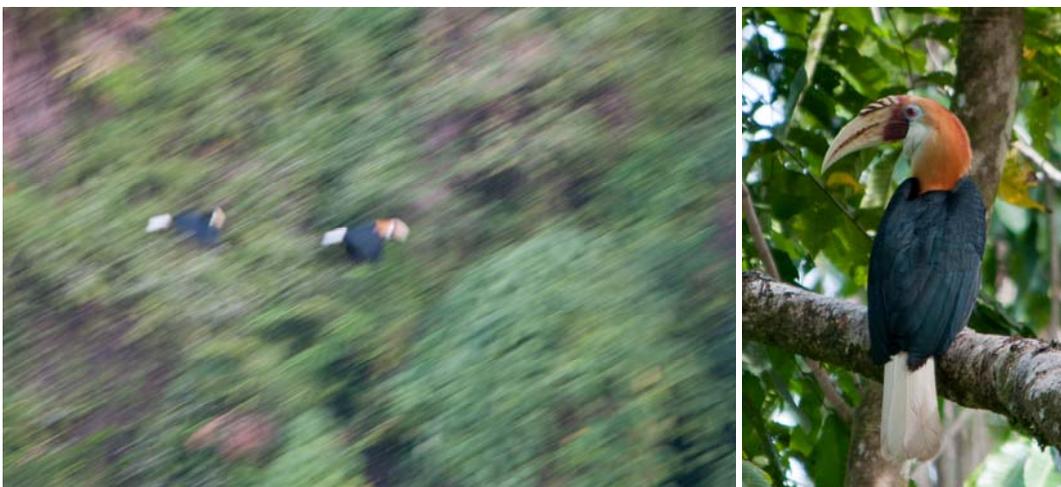
Clark's Anemone Fish; Bat Fish [both Kimbe Bay]

Birding trips from the resort are lead by Joseph, a former dive centre manager who is rapidly developing his above-water guiding skills. Joseph proved to be very helpful in scheduling our various trips, including a full day spent with David M-K visiting four of the main sites near to Walindi – Tove Forest; the oil palm plantations, creeks and remnant forest patches near to the Kulu River; the Garu Wildlife Management Area; and, finally, Ela Ridge. Getting to these sites involves driving through extensive oil palm plantations that have replaced much of the lowland forest and our birding started at dawn at Tove, about an hour’s drive from the resort. This area has been ‘selectively’ logged and we birded from the logging roads that cut through the forest. Highlights included New Britain/Bismarck endemics such as Black-capped Paradise-Kingfisher (that was frequently heard but proved very difficult to see), Finsch’s Imperial-Pigeon (of which several were well seen), Bismarck Flowerpecker and Black Honey-Buzzard (sometimes known as New Britain Buzzard), plus close-up views of a perched Blyth’s Hornbill.



Lowland oil palm plantation and volcanos; Oil palm fruit-bunches [both Kimbe Bay]

Highlights in the plantations and along the Kulu River included several new kingfishers (including a Variable Dwarf-Kingfisher that Joseph flushed down the river towards us) and a White-breasted Fruit-Dove found in a forest buffer zone next to a creek, whilst Stephan’s Doves were common on a quiet dirt road as we approached Garu Wildlife Management Area. The literally steaming Garu forest is criss-crossed by hot streams and as we walked the forest trails several Melanesian Scrubfowl flew out of holes dug into the volcanically warmed earth where they lay their eggs to incubate. Finally, at Ela we saw a roost tree full of Yellowish Imperial-Pigeons. One curiosity pointed out to us by Joseph as we passed the oil-processing centre in the middle of the plantations was the head-office building with a large rectangular funnel protruding from its’ roof. Apparently, due to security concerns, it is unwise for large sums of cash to be delivered by road so helicopters fly in with the payroll and drop the cash through the office roof.



Abstract of a pair of Blyth’s Hornbills [near Walindi]; Blyth’s Hornbill [Tove Forest]

The final onshore location that we birded was Nick's Place, a ridge on a local landowner's property at Nambala some 20 minutes walk inland from the resort through an oil palm plantation and then another 15 minute slog up a steep slope. This gave fantastic sunset views over the plantation and across two forested valleys, with Kimbe Bay and a ring of volcanos in the background. Endemic Blue-eyed Cockatoo, New Britain Friarbird, Bismarck Woodswallow and Purple-bellied (Eastern Black-capped) Lory were regulars, as were pairs of Eclectus Parrot heading towards their roost sites.



Insects suspended from a thread [near Tove Forest]



Knob-billed Fruit-Dove [Walindi]; Red-knobbed & Yellowish Imperial-Pigeons [Tove Forest & Ela]

On our final day, keen to spot a couple of the specialties that reside on the small islands in the bay, we chartered a dive boat for a dawn trip to Restorf and Malumalu Islands. A magical sunrise as we sped across the bay was followed by sightings on the islands of several Nicobar Pigeons, plus Mackinlay's Cuckoo-Dove and Golden Mangrove Whistler. A White-bellied Sea-Eagle perched on a reef and an Osprey flying back to shore clutching two fish – one in each claw – were highlights of the return trip. Future visitors should be aware, however, that the high cost of this 3 hour trip seemed rather disproportionate to the costs charged for our other dive and birding excursions at Walindi and made my three lifers probably the most expensive birds that I have ever seen! Our final endemic, a New Britain Boobook seen at its day roost in a village garden near to the resort, brought my New Britain trip list to 61 species. Then it was back to Hoskins for our flight to Port Moresby and a final, celebratory dinner prior to our return to Australia the following morning.



New Britain Boobook [near Walindi]; White-bellied Sea-Eagle (immature) on reef [Kimbe Bay]



Dawn skies above one of the ca. 20 volcanoes around Kimbe Bay

During the whole PNG trip I identified a total of some 143 bird species (of which 136 were lifers). More details on each of these sightings are included in the list that follows at the end of this report.

1. Bird Trip List¹

(Confirmed personal sightings only for DJS – excludes birds heard only unless otherwise indicated. Where included in the following books, birds are listed here in order of appearance on plates of i) Beehler, Pratt and Zimmerman's 'Birds of New Guinea', Princeton, 1986 and ii) Coates and Peckover's 'Birds of New Guinea and the Bismarck Archipelago', Dove, 2001). Various taxonomic additions as per 'The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World', Cornell, 2007 with updates through December 2009 are also noted.

Locations where species seen in sequence of travel:

POM = Port Moresby, including the grounds of the airport (flights through POM on August 14th, 18th, 19th, 23rd and 24th) and the grounds of DMK's apartment (mornings of August 19th and 24th);

KL = Kumul Lodge in Enga Province, including lodge grounds, surrounding forest trails and bird table at ca. 2700m altitude (evening of August 14th through lunchtime on August 18th);

KV = Kama village, between Kumul Lodge and Wabag in Enga Province, including forest, gardens and access road at ca. 1700m altitude (early-morning of August 16th);

LR = Lai River near to Kama village, between Kumul Lodge and Wabag in Enga Province, including views from bridge and roadside at ca. 1500m altitude (late-morning of August 16th);

R = Wabag Road, between Kumul Lodge and Wabag in Enga Province, at between 1700 and 2500m altitude (various brief stops during travel on August 16th and 17th);

PT = Pigetes Trail through primary forest near to Kumul Lodge in Enga Province at between 2500 and 2600m altitude (afternoons of August 16th and August 17th);

T = Tonga village between Kumul Lodge and Wabag in Enga Province, at between 1750 and 1950m altitude (early-morning of August 17th);

MtH = Mt Hagen airport in Wahgi Valley, Western Highlands Province at ca. 1600m altitude (afternoon of August 18th);

H = Hoskins airport, New Britain, at sea level (morning of August 19th);

W = Walindi Resort on Kimbe Bay, New Britain, including incidental birding around the resort's gardens, creek, shoreline and nearby reefs at sea level (afternoon of August 19th through lunchtime of August 23rd) plus the ridge at Nick's Place (Nambala) behind the resort, at ca. 200m altitude (dusk on August 20th and 22nd);

TF = Tove Forest near to Walindi, New Britain, including logging roads through 'partially' logged forest at ca. 20 to 120m altitude (morning of August 21st);

KR = Kulu River near to Walindi, New Britain, including river and oil palm plantations between Tove and Garu at ca. 25m altitude (afternoon of August 21st);

G = Garu Wildlife Management Area near to Walindi, New Britain, including access road and forest trail at ca. 25m altitude (afternoon of August 21st);

E = Ela near to Walindi, New Britain at ca. 55m altitude (dusk on August 21st);

I = Islands near to Walindi Resort on Kimbe Bay, New Britain, including Restorf and Malumalu islands (during lunch break on diving days August 20th and 22nd, plus dedicated early-morning birding trip on August 23rd).

Melanesian Scrubfowl (*Megapodius eremite*) [G]: Having decided to forgo the long trip to Pokili, we instead made a late-afternoon visit to the steaming hot forest of the Garu Wildlife Management Area where a smaller colony of scrubfowl lay their eggs in large holes excavated in the ground. We followed some trails through the very humid forest and across steaming, hot-water streams and saw one juvenile fly across the trail and several adults, which shot out of the egg incubation holes as we approached.

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [LR]: Vagrant seen flying along the Lai River where one had also been seen the day before by John Hornbuckle's tour group.

Black Bittern (*Ixobrychus flavicollis*) [KR]: One flushed mid-afternoon in an oil palm plantation near to the Kulu River.

Pacific Reef-Heron (*Egretta sacra*) [W]: Referred to by Beehler as Eastern Reef-Egret. Individuals seen walking the shoreline at the Walindi Resort. Several others encountered on reefs further west along the coast towards Malumalu.

Intermediate Egret (*Mesophoyx intermedia*) [POM]: A few were seen in the fields near to the airport runways.

Pacific Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*) [KR]: One flushed late-afternoon in an oil palm plantation near to the Kulu River.

Variable Goshawk (*Accipiter biogaster*) [E]: Beehler refers to this as Grey Goshawk (*Accipiter novaehollandiae*). One was seen perched at dusk near to the Yellowish Imperial-Pigeon roost tree.

Black Honey-Buzzard (*Henicopernis infuscatus*) **E** [TF]: Elsewhere referred to as New Britain Buzzard (*H. infuscata*). During our mid-morning coffee break at Tove, one bird was seen flying along a logging road.

¹ First sighting ever for DJS; * = photo; **G** = New Guinea endemic species; **E** = Bismarck/New Britain endemic species

Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur Indus*) * [R; H; W; I; E]: Seen occasionally in the highlands and daily on New Britain where it was the most common raptor on New Britain. The best views were at Restorf Island where several individuals performed at lunchtime for the visiting dive boat by plucking chicken drumsticks from the air.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) * [W; I]: Seen flying near to Walindi Resort and Restorf Island. An immature individual was seen perched on a shallow reef, with its legs underwater, before it flew off as our boat passed by.

Long-tailed Honey-Buzzard (*Henicopernis longicauda*) **E** [LR]: From the bridge over the Lai River one seen flying past the cliffs.

[Eastern] Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus cristatus*) [W; I]: The Osprey found from Sulawesi through Australia, including Papua New Guinea, has been split from the western forms as Eastern Osprey, *P. cristatus* on the IOC list, with western birds listed as Western Osprey, *P. haliaetus*. One bird was seen flying past the ridge at Nick's Place behind the Walindi Resort and two birds were seen just off the coast between Walindi Resort and Restorf Island shortly after dawn, one of which flew slow and low past our boat clutching two large fish – one in each claw!

Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) * [KL; LR; R; MtH]: Commonly encountered in the highlands, especially around Kumul Lodge and Mt Hagen airport.

Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) [MtH]: One individual seen flying around Mt Hagen airport.

Eastern Marsh-Harrier (Papuan Harrier) (*Circus spilonotus spilotborax*) **E** * [MtH]: Considered a separate endemic species on the IOC list and in Coates, although elsewhere considered a subspecies of Eastern Marsh-Harrier (*Circus spilonotus spilotborax*). Several seen flying around Mt Hagen airport.

Buff-banded Rail (*Rallus philippensis*) [KV]: One seen early in the morning as we drove along the bumpy dirt road towards Kama village.

Chestnut Forest-Rail (*Rallina rubra*) **E** [KL]: Although this usually shy species was an occasional visitor beneath the Kumul Lodge bird table, I was never there at the right time to see it. Fortunately, on our last morning, we caught up with a male in its forest habitat near to the entrance to Max's Trail, where it crossed the trail and then worked its way stealthily through the undergrowth only feet away from us.

White-browed Crake (*Porzana cinerea*) [KR]: Whilst we were checking out an Azure Kingfisher perched over a small creek in an oil palm plantation near to the Kulu River, one individual emerged a couple of times onto a small sandbank.

Nicobar Pigeon (*Caloenas nicobarica*) [I]: Shortly after dawn several birds were seen moving around on Restorf Island. At Malumalu Island we then saw several individuals both perched in the large trees and flying between perches, with their distinctive white tails clearly visible. They were rather shy and although we climbed up a bank onto the centre of tiny (ca. 1 hectare?) Malumalu Island, we were unable to secure any prolonged close-up views.

Stephan's Dove (*Chalcophaps stephani*) * [KR]: Beehler refers to this as Stephan's Ground-Dove. Common in small groups of 1 to 4 individuals foraging along a several km long section of lightly travelled dirt road through an oil palm plantation between the Kulu River and Garu Wildlife Management Area. Not seen elsewhere.

Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove (*Macropygia amboinensis*) * [R; T; TF]: Beehler refers to this as Brown Cuckoo-Dove. Individuals were seen on several days in forest-edge habitat in the highlands below Kumul Lodge. Better views were obtained when a pair flew in and perched in a tree alongside one of the Tove Forest logging roads.

Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove (*Macropygia nigrirostris*) [R; T; PT]: Seen only in the highlands and even then less frequently observed than the larger, Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove.

Mackinlay's Cuckoo-Dove (*Macropygia mackinlayi*) [I]: Small island specialist glimpsed moving around on the various Kimbe Bay islands.

White-breasted Fruit-Dove (*Ptilinopus rivoli*) [KR]: One beautifully colored bird was well seen perched above us on a trail through a buffer strip of forest next to a creek in one of the large oil palm plantations near to the Kulu River, between the Tove Forest and Garu Wildlife Management Area.

Knob-billed Fruit-Dove (*Ptilinopus insolitus*) **E** * [W; TF]: Beehler refers to this as Red-knobbed Fruit-Dove. Several sightings on New Britain, including in the grounds of the Walindi Resort (where pairs were seen perched high at dawn and dusk) and in trees alongside logging roads in the Tove Forest.

Island (Grey) Imperial-Pigeon (*Ducula pistrinaria*) * [I; W]: Several sightings of this small island specialist on the islands of Kimbe Bay (Restorf, Malumalu) where they were the most commonly seen bird. Occasionally seen flying between these islands and the mainland about a km away.

Yellowish Imperial-Pigeon (*Ducula spilorrhoa subflavescens*) **E** * [W; E]: Split off as an endemic species under the IOC list, but considered a subspecies of Torresian Imperial-Pigeon (*D. spilorrhoa*) on the Clements list. A large (ca. 20 individuals?) roost colony was seen at dusk on the Ela Ridge and several individuals were seen at dusk from the ridge at Nick's Place behind the Walindi Resort.

Red-knobbed Imperial-Pigeon (*Ducula rubricera*) **E** * [W; TF; KR]: Several sightings on New Britain, including in the grounds of the Walindi Resort where individuals were seen perched high at dawn and dusk. Our best view was of an individual that came to drink from a creek in a buffer strip of forest in one of the large oil palm plantations near to the Kulu River, between the Tove Forest and Garu Wildlife Management Area.

Finsch's Imperial-Pigeon (*Ducula finschii*) **E** * [TF]: Well seen in the Tove Forest area, where several pairs and individuals were seen perched high in roadside trees. In the absence of clear illustrations to help confirm our identification we were initially concerned that we may be seeing immature Red-knobbed Imperial-Pigeons, but Joseph knew their calls (growls?) and eventually the diagnostic chest color and/or tail-band were clearly seen on many of the birds.

Papuan Lorikeet (*Charmosyna papou*) E [KL; PT]: This spectacular, long-tailed montane parrot was seen on most days that we were based at Kumul Lodge, both flying over the forest and in one case entering an apparent nest near to the lodge's access road.

Red-flanked Lorikeet (*Charmosyna placentis*) [W; TF]: Distant views of perched pairs were obtained at dusk from the ridge at Nick's Place behind the Walindi Resort.

Goldie's Lorikeet (*Psittuteles goldiei*) E [KL]: Seen only once, when a beautifully patterned pair were all too briefly observed from one of the Kumul Lodge trails as they foraged in the bushy top of a tall tree.

Purple-bellied (Eastern Black-capped) Lory (*Lorius hypoinochrous*) E [W; TF]: Small groups were seen at dusk on both evenings that we climbed the ridge at Nick's Place behind the Walindi Resort.

Rainbow Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus*) [POM; TF; E]: Small flocks best seen at dawn flying past DMK's apartment in Port Moresby and also at dusk from the ridge at Nick's Place behind the Walindi Resort.

Plum-faced Lorikeet (*Oreopsittacus arfaki*) E [KL; PT]: This montane species was seen several times around Kumul Lodge and on the Pigetes Trail.

Yellow-billed Lorikeet (*Neopsittacus musschenbroekii*) E * [KL; R]: During walks along the Kumul Lodge forest trails this montane parrot was occasionally seen perched, although our best views were of a flock foraging in small trees beside the road a few km from the lodge in the direction of Wabag.

Orange-billed Lorikeet (*Neopsittacus pullicauda*) E [PT]: Seen once, in a clearing towards the top of the Pigetes Trail. Most readily distinguished from the more regularly seen Yellow-billed Lorikeet by the green, rather than yellow, under-tail.

Eclectus Parrot (*Eclectus roratus*) * [W, TF; G; E]: Remarkably common on New Britain, where emerald green males and vermilion red females were regularly seen flying over both forest and oil palm plantations or perched in tall trees.

Blue-eyed Cockatoo (*Cacatua ophthalmica*) E * [W; TF; E]: Small flocks of 2 to 6 individuals were common at dusk on the ridge at Nick's Place behind the Walindi Resort.

Singing (Song) Parrot (*Geoffroyus heteroclitus*) [TF]: Several pairs of this Bismarck Archipelago/Solomon Islands specialty was seen flying low over the forest at Tove.

Buff-faced Pygmy-Parrot (*Micropsitta pusio*) E [TF]: Several of these VERY tiny parrots were seen flying over the logging roads, however it was essentially impossible to identify any features as they shot past. Fortunately Emma found a pair perched in a roadside tree where they occasionally emerged from amongst the leaves.

Brehm's Tiger-Parrot (*Psittacula brehmii*) * [KL]: The only tiger-parrot that we conclusively identified. One of the regular visitors to Kumul Lodge's feeding table, where plump males and females feasted on fruit. One individual was also seen feeding at a palm on the lodge's trails.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*) [T] heard only: Whilst we were watching a Superb BoP, this highland cuckoo was heard calling on the hillside below Tonga village.

Brush Cuckoo (*Cacomantis variolosus*) [KV] heard only: One individual was heard calling from below the casuarina trees on the edge of the village garden whilst we waited at dawn for Lesser BoPs to move down the hillside towards us.

Asian (Common) Koel (*Eudynamis scolopacea*) [W]: Seen at dusk on the ridge at Nick's Place when we were looking (unsuccessfully) for Violaceous Coucal.

Pied Coucal (*Centropus ateralbus*) E [W; TF]: Seen several times in trees on the grounds of the Walindi Resort.

Black-capped Paradise-Kingfisher (*Tanysiptera sylvia nigriceps*) E * [TF, G]: A full species on the IOC list, Clements identifies it as a subspecies of the Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher. Although heard several times in both the Tove Forest and Garu Wildlife Management Area, and somewhat responsive to playback, it proved infuriatingly difficult to see given its habit of remaining within dense cover. Shortly after dawn at Tove I finally saw one briefly perched in between its forays up and down a nearby creek. Unfortunately it flew before the others arrived.

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) * [W]: A lovely, blue coloured pair is resident along the creek that runs through the Walindi Resort.

Variable (Dwarf) Kingfisher (*Ceyx lepidus*) [KR]: One of these multi-coloured gems seen all too briefly as it flew, perched and then flew again along a creek in a buffer strip of forest in one of the large oil palm plantations near to the Kulu River, between the Tove Forest and Garu Wildlife Management Area.

Azure Kingfisher (*Alcedo azurea*) * [KR]: Seen perched over a small creek in an oil palm plantation near to the Kulu River.

Sacred Kingfisher (*Todiramphus sanctus*) * [W; KR]: Several individuals seen near to the Kulu River and also perched in trees and on the beach at the Walindi Resort.

Collared Kingfisher (*Todiramphus chloris*) * [TF; KR]: Several individuals seen in the Tove Forest and at the Kulu River.

Beach Kingfisher (*Todiramphus saurophagus*) * [I]: One gloriously shining bright blue and white individual perched over the water's edge at dawn on Malumalu island.

Dollarbird (*Eurystomus orientalis*) * [W; TF]: One individual seen at dawn in the Walindi Resort grounds and another perched next to a pair of Collared Kingfishers in a large tree next to a logging trail in the Tove Forest.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater (*Merops philippinus*) [TF]: A pair was seen hawking from a large tree next to a logging trail in the Tove Forest.

Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) [R; W; I]: A small group was seen from long distance at the Yellow-breasted Bowerbird site on the Wabag Road. Others were subsequently seen in the grounds of the Walindi Resort and even on one of the small islands in Kimbe Bay.

Blyth's Hornbill (*Aceros plicatus*) * [W; TF; G]: This large and spectacular bird was regularly seen in forested areas of New

Britain. Several pairs were seen flying above the oil palms and tree tops at dusk from the ridge at Nick's Place behind the Walindi Resort, whilst DMK and I enjoyed eye-level, close up views of a perched male in the Tove Forest.

New Britain hawk-owl (Boobook) (*Ninox odiosa*) **E** * [W]: Joseph scouted the day roost of one individual in the forest-garden of a village close to Walindi Resort and took us there on our final morning. We enjoyed good views as the boobook surveyed us from his perch.

Mountain Owlet-Nightjar (*Aegotheles albertisi*) **E** [KL] (heard only): Heard calling from the trees close to our rooms on a couple of nights, but not seen (we did not invest a lot of time searching).

Mountain Swiftlet (*Aerodramus hirundinaceus*) **E** [R]: Regularly recorded in the highlands.

Glossy Swiftlet (*Collocalia esculenta nitens*) [KL; R]: Regularly recorded in the highlands.

Moustached Treeswift (*Hemiprogne mystacea*) [W; TF]: One individual seen at dusk in the Walindi Resort grounds and another in a large tree next to a logging trail in the Tove Forest.

White-breasted Woodswallow (*Artamus leucorhynchus*) [POM]: Observed at dawn from DMK's apartment in Port Moresby.

Great Woodswallow (*Artamus maximus*) **E** [KL; PT]: Coates refers to this as New Guinea Woodswallow. Seen flying over Kumul Lodge and also hawking from a snag at the entrance to the Pigetes Trail.

Bismarck Woodswallow (*Artamus insignis*) **E** [W]: Coates refers to this as White-backed Woodswallow. Two or three individuals – with their distinctive black and white pattern - were seen perched and hawking from the bare limbs of trees in the valley below on each of our visits to the ridge at Nick's Place behind the Walindi Resort.

White-rumped Swiftlet (*Aerodramus spodiopygius*) * [TF]: Coates refers to this as *Collocalia spodiopygius*. Numerous at Tove.

Pacific Swallow (*Hirundo tabitica*) [R; MtH]: Seen in the highlands.

Island Thrush (*Turdus poliocephalus*) * [KL]: Good views at Kumul Lodge, where a few regularly hopped in to feed at the bird table. Distinctly different from the *seebohmi* subspecies I saw in Borneo earlier in August. In New Guinea, the *seebohmi*'s contrasting black upper chest and rufous below combination (that was so reminiscent of an American Robin) was absent.

Lesser Ground-Robin (*Amalocichla incerta*) **E** [PT] (heard only): Heard calling along the Pigetes Trail, but did not approach closely despite playback.

Lesser Melampitta (*Melampitta lugubris*) **E** [KL]: DMK and I enjoyed amazing late-afternoon views of a pair that gradually approached us through thick undergrowth before eventually emerged onto one of the Kumul Lodge trails close to the Crested Satinbird feeding tree. Also seen with Mikko and Emma when one hopped along a trail in the same area. On a third occasion, whilst I was waiting quietly for the satinbird to arrive, I enjoyed good views of an individual perched and then feeding on a trail.

Varied Triller (*Lalage leucomela*) [TF; G]: Several sightings of individuals and pairs in trees along the roads.

White-shouldered Fairywren (*Malurus alboscapulatus*) **E** [LR; R]: Pairs and small groups of these open and scrub habitat fairywrens were seen in roadside vegetation at various locations along the Wabag Road below Kumul Lodge.

Orange-crowned Fairywren (*Clytomyias insignis*) **E** [PT]: A small group of these hyperactive forest under-storey inhabitants were seen on the lower section of the Pigetes Trail. Proved impossible to photograph, thanks to their constant movement! DMK also enjoyed good views on the steep section of the Kumul Lodge trail.

Papuan (Tawny) Grassbird (*Megalurus macrurus* or *M. papuensis*) **E** [KL]: Although Clements lists this as a subspecies of the Tawny Grassbird (*Megalurus timoriensis macrurus*) this form is split as an endemic species, Papuan Grassbird, *M. macrurus* on the IOC list or elsewhere as *M. papuensis*. DMK/Mikko saw these in the tall grass of a field across from the Kumul Lodge access road and we all saw several moving between the grass seed-heads in an open area next to Max #2's orchid garden at the far end of the Kumul Lodge trails.

Brown-breasted Gerygone (*Gerygone ruficollis*) **E** [KL]: Seen around the lodge grounds near to the start of the steep trail.

Island Leaf-Warbler (*Phylloscopus poliocephalus*) [T]: Several seen shortly after dawn in scattered trees below Tonga village whilst waiting for the Blue BoP to appear.

Papuan (New Guinea) Thornbill (*Acanthiza murina*) **E** [KL]: One seen on the lodge's trails near to the access road.

Mountain (Grey) Gerygone (*Gerygone cinerea*) **E** [PT]: One seen at close-range in small trees alongside the trail.

Mountain Mouse-Warbler (*Crateroscelis robusta*) **E** [KL]: Regularly seen around the grounds of the lodge, moving at or near ground level through the grass and bushes between the cabins.

Papuan Scrubwren (*Sericornis papuensis*) **E** * [PT; KL]: I struggled to confirm the ID between this and the Large Scrubwren.

Large Scrubwren (*Sericornis noubuisi*) **E** [KL]: Seen several times on the lodge's trails.

Dimorphic Fantail (*Rhipidura brachyrhyncha*) **E** [KL]: Pairs or small groups seen regularly on the lodge's trails. One of the few birds that appeared highly responsive to playback.

Friendly Fantail (*Rhipidura albolimbata*) **E** * [KL; PT]: Seen daily in the highlands. Especially common around the grounds of Kumul Lodge where individuals would return, time after time, to their preferred perch between sallies for insects.

Willie-wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) [T; MtH; POM; H; W; TF; E]: Less frequently encountered than the Friendly Fantail in the upper highlands, but very regularly encountered at lower elevations, especially in disturbed habitat and gardens.

Shining Flycatcher (*Myiagra alecto*) [I]: My only sighting was of a flat-headed male seen perched over the water's edge on Malumalu Island.

Torrent Flycatcher (*Monachella muelleriana*) **E** * [LR]: Seen only at the bridge over the Lai River on the Wabag Road, where several individuals were initially seen flying along the river between perches on boulders and subsequently in large trees on the valley sides.

Pied Bushchat (*Saxicola caprata*) [R]: Beehler refers to this as Pied Chat. Seen, on a couple of occasions, perched in roadside

vegetation along the Wabag Road.

White-winged Robin (*Peneothello sigillatus*)  * [KL]: Seen daily in the lodge's grounds (using the fences and buildings as perches). One of the commonest calls heard along the lodge's trails where small groups were often quite confiding.

Canary Flycatcher (Flyrobin) (*Microeca papuana*)  * [KL; PT]: Seen on a couple of occasions along the lodge's trails and on both occasions that we visited the Pigetes Trail. From my perspective, the "Flyrobin" name more accurately reflects its appearance and sedate behaviour!

Black-breasted Boatbill (*Machaeirrhynchus nigripectus*)  [KL]: Seen just once in the trees at the edge of the lodge's grounds above the start of the steep trail.

Garnet Robin (*Eugerygone rubra*)  [PT; KL]: A female was seen on the steep lodge trail and a male was seen on the Pigetes Trail when it flew into a trailside bush just in front of us.

Mangrove Golden (Black-tailed) Whistler (*Pachycephala melanura*)  [I]: A female was seen at dawn on Restorf Island and, to our relief, a stunning male was seen just as DMK and I departed from Malumalu Island.

Regent Whistler (*Pachycephala schlegelii*)  * [PT; KL]: Arguably the most beautiful of all the New Guinea whistlers, especially when it raises its golden crest/ruff. Seen on most walks in the forest interior, with the best views being of several individuals singing by a lodge trail on our final morning.

Brown-backed Whistler (*Pachycephala modesta*)  [R; PT]: Seen once in roadside vegetation along the Wabag Road below Kumul Lodge and once in the forest interior along the Pigetes Trail.

Black-headed Whistler (*Pachycephala monacha*)  [KV]: A singing male was seen in roadside trees at ca. 1625m altitude, shortly after departing from Kama village towards the Wabag Road.

Wattled Ploughbill (*Eulacestoma nigropectus*)  [PT; KL] **(heard only)**: Despite our best efforts none of us had conclusive views of a ploughbill, although they were heard on several occasions and a female was likely seen by Mikko in a mixed flock that we encountered on the Pigetes Trail.

Blue-capped Ifrita (*Ifrita kowaldi*)  [KL]: One of the poisonous birds of New Guinea! Several small and subtly attractive individuals were seen around the lodge trails, with my best views being at dawn on our first morning when one came within feet of us as it methodically worked its way through some bushes and the covered pathway next to the car park!

Rufous-naped Whistler (*Aleadryas rufinucha*)  * [KL]: Very different body shape and behaviour from the other whistlers, being usually seen on the ground or in low bushes. Seen daily on the grounds of the lodge and also on the lodge trails where DMK and I encountered a small group noisily calling and performing various dance moves.

Rufous (Little) Shrike-Thrush (*Colluricincla megarhyncha*) [R]: Seen once in roadside vegetation along the Wabag Road below Kumul Lodge.

Red-capped Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum geelvinkianum*)  * [KV; R; T]: Referred to as Papuan Flowerpecker in both Beehler and Coates. Seen on several occasions in the highlands. At the Blue BoP site near to Tonga village we were confused by the difference between one individual with the usual red forehead and chest patch and another seen shortly afterwards with a large red crown but no red chest-patch. The ID of the latter remains a mystery.

Red-banded Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum eximium*)  [TF]: Referred to as Bismarck Flowerpecker in Coates. New Britain subspecies (*D. g. layardorum*) of Bismarck Archipelago endemic species conclusively identified only once - in a tree alongside a logging road in the Tove Forest.

Tit Berrypecker (*Oreocharis arfaki*)  [KL; PT]: A very attractive bird, which I struggled to get good views of! Secured only glimpses on the lodge's trails and the Pigetes Trail. DMK had good views in a fruiting tree on the lodge grounds before our arrival.

Streaked Berrypecker (*Melanocharis striativentris*)  [T]: This scarce berrypecker was briefly seen at the Blue BoP site near to Tonga village, somewhat compensating for my failure to see the Crested Berrypecker that David and Mikko saw at Kumul Lodge before our arrival but then went unseen during our entire visit.

Lemon-breasted Berrypecker (*Melanocharis longicauda*)  [PT]: Referred to as Mid-mountain Berrypecker in Beehler. One seen at close-range in a late-afternoon mixed flock.

Fan-tailed Berrypecker (*Melanocharis versteri*)  * [KL]: Individuals seen on several occasions on the lodge's trails and grounds.

New Guinea White-eye (*Zosterops novaeguineae*)  [LR; R; T]: Seen near to the Lai River and also near to Tonga village.

Rufous-banded Honeyeater (*Conopophila albogularis*) [POM]: One seen at dawn from the balcony of DMK's apartment in Port Moresby.

Rufous-backed Honeyeater (*Ptiloprora guisei*)  [PT]: Only once conclusively distinguished from the more commonly encountered Grey-streaked Honeyeater.

Grey-streaked (Black-backed) Honeyeater (*Ptiloprora perstriata*)  * [KL; PT]: Recorded daily in good numbers in the highlands around Kumul, with confiding individuals seen regularly on the lodge grounds.

Olive-backed Sunbird (*Cinnyris jugularis*)  [W]: Beehler and Coates refer to this as Yellow-bellied Sunbird (*Nectarinia jugularis*). Seen in flowing bushes on the resort grounds.

Black Sunbird (*Leptocoma sericea*)  [W; TF]: Beehler refers to this as *Nectarinia aspasia*. Well seen in flowering bushes on the resort grounds, plus on the ridge at Nick's Place. Distant views in the Tove Forest.

Red-collared Myzomela (*Myzomela rosenbergii*)  * [KL; T; PT]: Seen at various locations in the highlands, with our best views being of males and females feeding from flowering bushes on the lodge's grounds. Caution required to avoid confusing the female with the male of other Myzomelas not found at these altitudes.

Scarlet-bibbed (Sclater's) Myzomela (*Myzomela sclateri*) [E] [I]: A small island specialist, well seen a number of times on Restorf and Malumalu Islands.

Ashy Myzomela (*Myzomela cineracea*) [E] [G]: Although elsewhere reported as common on New Britain, we struggled to get conclusive sightings until we secured our best views at the Garu Wildlife Management Area.

Black-bellied Myzomela (*Myzomela erythromelas*) [E] [TF]: Relatively common on New Britain, although the differences in nomenclature for several of the Myzomela/Honeyeaters species between the various books and trip reports left us wondering at times exactly what to call these red-headed birds that we were seeing!

Mountain Meliphaga (*Meliphaga orientalis*) [E] [KV]: Seen at the Lesser BoP site in Kama village.

Smoky Honeyeater (*Melipotus fumigatus*) [E] * [KL; PT; T]: This bird has an amazing ability to change its facial skin colour between bright yellow and red-orange. It was literally possible to watch a bird's face change from yellow to red-orange, or vice versa, over about a minute! Commonly encountered in the highlands where excitement at seeing movement in the tree tops would often be shortly followed by the words "it's only a Smoky". A regular visitor to the Kumul Lodge bird table.

Belford's Melidectes (*Melidectes belfordi*) [E] * [KL; PT]: Commonly encountered in the highlands where it was a noisy forest inhabitant. Second only to the Smoky Honeyeater in seeing initial excitement turn to disappointment when its identity was revealed! A regular visitor to the Kumul Lodge bird table.

Ornate Melidectes (*Melidectes torquatus*) [E] [KV; PT; T]: Several of these boldly-marked honeyeaters were seen in forest edge and garden settings, plus once in the forest interior on the Pigetes Trail.

Long-billed Honeyeater (*Melilestes megarhynchus*) [E] [KV]: Seen in roadside trees shortly after departing from Kama village towards the Wabag Road - same location as the Black-headed Whistler.

Marbled Honeyeater (*Pycnopygius cinereus*) [E] [LR; T]: Seen in a massive fruiting fig tree adjacent to the bridge over the Lai River on the Wabag Road.

New Britain Friarbird (*Philemon cockerelli*) [E] [W; TF; G]: The most reliable site was at dusk on the ridge at Nick's Place behind the Walindi Resort, where several birds were seen on both occasions that we visited.

Mountain Firetail (*Oreostruthus fuliginosus*) [E] * [KL]: Seen only in the grass and shrubs on the lodge grounds.

Hooded Munia (*Lonchura spectabilis*) [E] [KL]: Beehler refers to this as Hooded Mannikin. Seen only once, with several individuals perched on grass seed-heads in an open area next to Max #2's orchid garden at the far end of the Kumul Lodge trails.

Long-tailed Shrike (*Lanius schach*) [KV]: Seen perched on a tall roadside grass stem shortly after departing from Kama village towards the Wabag Road.

Long-tailed Myna (*Mino kreffti*) [TF; G]: Several pairs and individuals well seen in tall trees along the Tove Forest logging access roads.

Fawn-breasted Bowerbird (*Chlamydera cerviniventris*) [POM]: Several seen at dusk and dawn from the balcony of DMK's apartment in Port Moresby.

Yellow-breasted Bowerbird (*Chlamydera lauterbachii*) [E] [R]: Mid-morning, several of this local endemic were seen feeding at ca. 1715m altitude by the side of the Wabag Road as we looked down from a high vantage point that overlooks cultivated fields and scattered bushes about 50m below.

Macgregor's Bowerbird (*Amblyornis macgregoriae*) [E] [T]: A shy and rarely seen montane species, one flew in near to the Blue BoP site at Tonga village.

Sanford's Bowerbird (*Archboldia sanfordi*) [E] [KL]: Beehler refers to this as a subspecies of Archbold's Bowerbird (*Archboldia papuensis sanfordi*). Reportedly a shy and difficult highland species, we saw one female when she came to the lodge's bird table on our last morning.

Loria's Satinbird (*Cnemophilus loriae*) [E] [PT]: A pair was seen in tall trees at a clearing along the trail.

Crested Satinbird (*Cnemophilus macgregorii*) [E] [KL]: Before the trip I anticipated excellent opportunities to see and photograph this striking looking former BoP (recently renamed as a satinbird) at Kumul Lodge (see the various close-up photos in other's trip reports), but in reality - and after several unsuccessful days of searching - I was very relieved to finally enjoy a quick sighting of a male at a fruiting tree next to one of the lodge's trails on our very last morning! Unfortunately, a mossy nest at head height in a branch over a trail (where DMK and Mikko had seen a chick and female the day before our arrival) was empty on our first day, with the inference being that the chick had "disappeared" during the day when workers were chopping tree ferns and laying a new path under the nest.

Lesser Bird-of-paradise (*Paradisaea minor*) [E] * [KV]: An early start and two hour drive - initially along the potholed Wabag Road and then along a very bumpy dirt road - to Kama village was rewarded with dawn views of several males and females. The birds' calls were initially distant, but they gradually moved down the hillside into casuarina trees nearer to our vantage point on the edge of village garden. Venturing into the partially cultivated under-storey we secured good views of several males performing next to some interested females. After an hour we decided to leave Kama so as to maximise our chances of seeing other species before the day became too hot. Anyone wanting to more easily photograph the Lesser BoPs would need to wait considerably longer (maybe until 9am?) when the birds reportedly often reach the forest edge.

Blue Bird-of-paradise (*Paradisaea rudolphi*) [E] * [T]: One male was seen performing and giving his electronic call shortly after dawn on a high mossy branch on a hillside below Tonga village. Although he was too far away for any high quality photographs we could appreciate all of his amazing plumage through our binoculars.

Brown Sickbill (*Epimachus meyeri*) [E] * [KL; PT]: Several females/immatures were regular visitors to the lodge's bird table and two fully plumaged males also made less frequent visits. Their bright yellow gape, blue eyes and head tossing antics as

they devoured the fruit were a joy to watch. An aggressive stand-off/dance performed by a Brown Sicklebill and Ribbon-tailed Astrapia as they jostled for position on the table was another highlight. Near to the top of the Pigetes Trail a male was heard giving his machine-gun like call and he was eventually spotted displaying on top of a tall tree on the far ridgeline.

Ribbon-tailed Astrapia (*Astrapia mayeri*) **E** * [KL]: Fully plumaged males, with their one metre long, white ribbons were first seen from the car park at Kumul Lodge and subsequently on several of the lodge's trails. On a couple of occasions they also visited the bird table. Hearing them fly through or over the canopy, with their distinctive tail rustling behind, was a fairly common occurrence.

Princess Stephanie's Astrapia (*Astrapia stephaniae*) **E** [KL]: Although the others saw males, I only saw females in the lodge's grounds.

Lawes's Parotia (*Parotia lawesii*) **E** [T]: A male was seen as we walked up a path from the Blue BoP site towards Tonga village and a pair were seen feeding in a tree as we descended back to the Wabag Road.

Superb Bird-of-paradise (*Lophorina superb*) **E** * [T]: Heard near to the Blue BoP site and finally found by Emma from a vantage point on the path leading towards Tonga village. His iridescent green "cravat" was occasionally visible, but he then descended onto a display log in the gully below and we enjoyed partially obscured views as he danced back and forth some 100m below us.

Magnificent Bird-of-paradise (*Cicinnurus magnificus*) **E** [LR]: Seen in a massive fruiting fig tree adjacent to the bridge over the Lai River on the Wabag Road where his orange back was a dead give away. After much craning of necks we eventually all enjoyed good views of this male, complete with coiled tail wires, before he dropped down into some thick vegetation closer to the river.

King-of-Saxony Bird-of-paradise (*Pteridopora alberti*) **E** * [PT]: Several individuals were eventually seen on both visits to the Pigetes Trail, however it took a long time to find the first one ... on our first visit a male's rattling call drew us to the top of the trail, but despite half an hour of searching we simply could not locate his perch in the gully from which he was calling. Just as we were starting to get desperate, he appeared at eye level in a tree not 100m away and proceeded to give his call and wave his serrated, ivory colored, antennae-like head feathers. Our persistence having finally paid off, this was definitely one of my highlights of the trip. Thereafter we enjoyed views of at least two other males and females in trees along the trail.

Metallic Starling (*Aplonis metallica*) **E** * [W; TF; E]: Regularly seen on New Britain, including in the resort grounds.

Singing Starling (*Aplonis cantoroides*) **E** [H]: A few birds were seen at Hoskins on our way in and out of New Britain.

Torresian (Bismarck) Crow (*Corvus insularis*) **E** * [W]: With its distinctive voice and blue eyes it is split off as Bismarck Crow on the IOC list, however it is included by Clements as a subspecies of Torresian Crow (*C. orru insularis*). Regularly observed on the grounds of the Walindi Resort.

Combined total: 143 (138 seen, 5 heard only), with 136 of these confirmed "first time ever" species for DJS of which 71 are New Guinea endemic species and 14 are New Britain/Bismarck Archipelago endemic species ...