

PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND AUSTRALIA

November 1, 2007 to November 19, 2007

Guided by
Phil Gregory

This was the first offering of the New Guinea-Australia sampler trip since 2002, and what a success it was, kicking off in Far North Queensland with a couple of nights at the Cassowary House birding lodge before moving on up to the Atherton Tablelands. We got a fine selection of the local birds, including Cassowary, Red-necked Crake, amazingly close Chowchilla, male Golden Bowerbird and the huge Australian Bustard, as well as both Brolga and Sarus Crane. Mammals weren't too shabby either, with great looks at platypus, black flying fox, the local endemic Mareeba rock-wallaby and a surprise rufous bettong.

Then it was a short flight up to legendary New Guinea, with some great birding around Port Moresby- Greater and Lesser Frigatebird, Spotted Whistling Duck, Papuan Frogmouth, Brown-headed Paradise-Kingfisher and Barred Owlet-nightjar plus Raggiana Bird-of-Paradise proved very popular. Our new destination at Kumul Lodge in Enga Province proved very rewarding, in beautiful rural surroundings with very helpful local people. The feeders here were just amazing, with simply eye-popping views of Ribbon-tailed Astrapia, Brown Sicklebill and Brehm's Tiger-Parrot, all of which come right in and proved highly photogenic! Birding the local area was also good, with the rare Blue Bird-of-Paradise (BoP), King-of-Saxony, Superb, unexpected Magnificent and Lesser BoP giving good looks, plus the seldom seen Yellow-breasted Bowerbird and a nice selection of the montane parrots which included Papuan Lorikeet melanistic morphs, Plum-faced and Goldie's Lorikeet. It was definitely a keeper, not a luxury destination but with great birding, hospitality and local culture.

We then flew down to Brisbane and went up to the Lamington National Park and the world famous O'Reillys, adding lots of nice things to the list including koala, Paradise Riflebird, Green Catbird, Satin and Regent Bowerbird (both with bowers), Southern Logrunner, and an obliging Southern Boobook one night, all in really beautiful landscapes in great weather conditions.

Our finale in Sydney was also very nice, our sunny day at Royal NP giving us a wonderful male Superb Lyrebird, the New South Wales endemic Rock Warbler, an unexpected Satin Flycatcher and lots of the other local species showing very well. All in all very nice way to end, and a wonderful revitalized trip that we all really enjoyed.

My thanks to Karen at Field Guides Head Quarters for good logistics, to Andrew and Augustus in POM, Kim and Max and the staff at Kumul, Sue at Cass House and last but not least, the group for being such good company. Why not join us for 2008?

Phil Gregory Kuranda 07

List total: 393 bird taxa and 17 mammal taxa

*If marked to left of list, * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic,
N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant*

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Casuariidae

- E** SOUTHERN CASSOWARY (*Casuarius casuarius*)
The big female Missy at Cassowary House was a star and surely one of the birds of the trip, with brilliant and repeated views.

Podicipedidae

- E** AUSTRALASIAN GREBE (*Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*)
A few on the tablelands and one at the PAU.
- GREAT CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus*)
A large flock of 110 were on Lake Barrine.

Pelecanidae

- E** AUSTRALIAN PELICAN (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*)
Widespread in small numbers in Australia.

Phalacrocoracidae

- LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*)
A few in Queensland and 20 at the PAU.
- GREAT CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)
Three at Lake Barrine and an amazing record of one flying over in Enga Province near Mambis; it is a vagrant to PNG with just a handful of records, and this may be the first for the highlands.
- LITTLE PIED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*)
A few in FNQ and one at the PAU.

Anhingidae

- E** "AUSTRALIAN" DARTER (*Anhinga melanogaster novaehollandiae*)
A few around in FNQ, with nests at Yorkie's Knob pond. Most people now split the darters into 4 species.

Fregatidae

- GREAT FRIGATEBIRD (*Fregata minor*)
Four over Ela Beach in stormy weather, this seems to be a good spot for them.
- LESSER FRIGATEBIRD (*Fregata ariel*)
Two over Ela Beach in the windy, stormy weather, a good trip bird.

Ardeidae

- GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*)
Widespread in Queensland, and now likely to be split by Australian authorities as Eastern Great Egret.
- E** PIED HERON (*Ardea picata*)
Four birds in nice breeding dress at the PAU.
- INTERMEDIATE EGRET (*Mesophoyx intermedia*)
A couple in Queensland and 3 at the PAU.
- WHITE-FACED HERON (*Egretta novaehollandiae*)
Small numbers in Queensland.
- LITTLE EGRET (*Egretta garzetta*)
Small numbers in Queensland and one at the PAU.
- CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)
A few in the north and about 30 around Port Moresby.
- STRIATED HERON (*Butorides striata*)
A couple at Cairns and one seen by some at Manly.
- RUFOUS (NANKEEN) NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax caledonicus*)
Singles around Cairns and one at the PAU.

Ciconiidae

- E** BLACK-NECKED STORK (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*)
A couple of sightings in FNQ.

Threskiornithidae

E AUSTRALIAN (WHITE) IBIS (*Threskiornis molucca*)
Widespread.

E STRAW-NECKED IBIS (*Threskiornis spinicollis*)
A few in the far north.

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*)
One in FNQ.

E ROYAL SPOONBILL (*Platalea regia*)
Small numbers in the north.

Anatidae

E MAGPIE GOOSE (*Anseranas semipalmata*)
About 40 at Hastie's Swamp and a few around Cairns.

SPOTTED WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna guttata*)
Eight sat in the big trees at the PAU, always a very good bird to get.

E PLUMED WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna eytoni*)
About 300 at Lake Tinaroo and just 10 at Hastie's Swamp.

E WANDERING WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna arcuata*)
Small numbers around Cairns.

E BLACK SWAN (*Cygnus atratus*)
Twenty at Lake Mitchell.

E RADJAH SHELDUCK (*Tadorna radjah*)
Five at the PAU were a good find here, where it is a scarce visitor.

E GREEN PYGMY-GOOSE (*Nettapus pulchellus*)
Ten at Yorkey's Knob and 30 at L. Mitchell, with a pair at the PAU.

E MANED (AUSTRALIAN WOOD) DUCK (*Chenonetta jubata*)
A few around Brisbane and Sydney after 12 at L. Tinaroo.

GRAY TEAL (*Anas gracilis*)
Ten at L. Tinaroo and 2 near Sydney.

PACIFIC BLACK DUCK (*Anas superciliosa*)
Widespread in small numbers throughout.

E WHITE-EYED DUCK (HARDHEAD) (*Aythya australis*)
A few in FNQ.

Pandionidae

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*)
One at Cairns airport when we came to get the new arrivals. Seemingly about to be split as Wallacean Osprey, based on DNA work.

Accipitridae

PACIFIC BAZA (*Aviceda subcristata*)
A great close bird at Mareeba, and another at Daisy Hill later.

E SQUARE-TAILED KITE (*Lophoictinia isura*)
An adult and a juv. on the nest near Mt. Molloy, and another adult and juv. at the nest at Daisy Hill. This is one of the quite rare Aussie raptors, widespread but very sparse.

BLACK KITE (*Milvus migrans*)
Common in the north and a few around POM and Mt. Hagen.

WHISTLING KITE (*Haliastur sphenurus*)
Small numbers in FNQ, one near POM.

BRAHMINY KITE (*Haliastur indus*)
One at POM airport and 3 chasing at Manly.

WHITE-BELLIED SEA-EAGLE (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)
A super pair at Hastie's Swamp and one in Royal NP.

- E** EASTERN (PAPUAN) MARSH-HARRIER (*Circus spilonotus spilothorax*)
Nice views of a male and female at Kumul Lodge. Usually split these days as Papuan Harrier, a NG endemic.
- SPOTTED HARRIER (*Circus assimilis*)
Two nice sightings on the Tablelands.
- E** VARIABLE GOSHAWK (*Accipiter hiogaster*)
One near Kumul Lodge, seen perched very nicely.
- E** GRAY GOSHAWK (*Accipiter novaehollandiae*)
A great white phase bird along Duck Creek Road, flying at eye level just as we got to a viewpoint.
- E** BROWN GOSHAWK (*Accipiter fasciatus*)
Three sightings of single birds.
- E** COLLARED SPARROWHAWK (*Accipiter cirrhocephalus*)
A single at Daisy Hill, the notched tail seen well.
- E*** NEW GUINEA (HARPY) EAGLE (*Harpyopsis novaeguineae*)
One was heard calling in the distance at Kumul Lodge late one afternoon, but was too far way to tape closer.
- E** WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE (*Aquila audax*)
Three near Mareeba and a couple of sightings on the Tablelands.
- E** LITTLE EAGLE (*Aquila morphnoides*)
The nest at Mt Molloy was supposedly abandoned, but luckily for us a bird came back to visit.

Falconidae

- E** AUSTRALIAN (NANKEEN) KESTREL (*Falco cenchroides*)
Just one near Mareeba, very scarce this trip.
- E** AUSTRALIAN HOBBY (*Falco longipennis*)
Two sightings on the Tablelands.
- E** BROWN FALCON (*Falco berigora*)
A great view of one near Mareeba, which flew right over us and was the only one of the trip.

Megapodiidae

- E** AUSTRALIAN BRUSH-TURKEY (*Alectura lathami*)
Common at Cassowary House and Lamington.
- E*** BLACK-BILLED BRUSH-TURKEY (*Talegalla fuscirostris*)
Heard honking at Varirata and a large nest mound seen, the Talegalla brush-turkeys are very hard to actually see.
- E** ORANGE-FOOTED SCRUBFOWL (*Megapodius reinwardt*)
A few around Cass House and the Tablelands, with a huge nest mound at Kingfisher Park.

Phasianidae

- E** BROWN QUAIL (*Coturnix ypsilophora*)
We flushed a small flock near Lake Tinaroo.

Gruidae

- SARUS CRANE (*Grus antigone*)
Good numbers on the Tablelands, with 110 one day, they seem late in departing to the Gulf this year.
- E** BROLGA (*Grus rubicunda*)
A family of 4 with Sarus Crane near Mareeba.

Rallidae

- E** RED-NECKED CRAKE (*Rallina tricolor*)
Two great birds at Cassowary House, one of the best places in the world to see this elusive species. Our long-time resident "cheesebird" disappeared after some 9 years in Dec 06, and it has taken us months to get the descendants to come in like before.
- BUFF-BANDED RAIL (*Gallirallus philippensis*)
One in the road as we were leaving Enga Province.
- RUFOUS-TAILED BUSH-HEN (*Amaurornis moluccanus*)
Heard at the PAU.

PURPLE SWAMPHEN (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)

Widespread, this is the race melanotus, the Black-backed Swamphen, which is split by some authorities.

DUSKY MOORHEN (*Gallinula tenebrosa*)

Generally seen in pairs, at wetlands in the north and at the PAU.

EURASIAN COOT (*Fulica atra*)

About 30 at Lake Barrine and Brian saw one at Royal.

Otididae

E AUSTRALIAN BUSTARD (*Ardeotis australis*)

A pair in a dry field near Mareeba were a nice sight.

Jacanidae

E COMB-CRESTED JACANA (*Irediparra gallinacea*)

Ten at Lake Mitchell and one at the PAU.

Haematopodidae

E PIED OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus longirostris*)

Singles at Cairns and 8 at Manly.

Recurvirostridae

WHITE-HEADED (BLACK-WINGED) STILT (*Himantopus leucocephalus*)

Small numbers seen in Australia.

Burhinidae

E BUSH THICK-KNEE (*Burhinus grallarius*)

Eight birds at Cairns cemetery and singles on the Tablelands twice.

BEACH THICK-KNEE (*Burhinus magnirostris*)

Two splendid birds at the N end of Cairns Esplanade as we went to the airport to meet the rest of the group.

Charadriidae

MASKED LAPWING (*Vanellus miles*)

Most were of the northern race miles, and we saw the nominate near Brisbane.

PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER (*Pluvialis fulva*)

Eight at the Esplanade and two at the PAU.

E RED-CAPPED PLOVER (DOTTEREL) (*Charadrius ruficapillus*)

Six were at Machan's Beach and gave good views.

LESSER SANDPLOVER (*Charadrius mongolus*)

A few at Cairns.

GREATER SANDPLOVER (*Charadrius leschenaultii*)

A few on the Esplanade and 15 at Machan's Beach.

E BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL (*Euseyornis melanops*)

A couple at Hastie's Swamp.

Scolopacidae

LATHAM'S SNIPE (*Gallinago hardwickii*)

One at Hastie's Swamp was a nice find.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa limosa*)

Ten of the east Asian race at Cairns.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*)

Up to 40 at Cairns and similar numbers at Manly.

WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*)

Four at Cairns and 4 at Manly.

FAR EASTERN CURLEW (*Numenius madagascariensis*)

This endangered large shorebird was present in good numbers this year, with 15 at Cairns and 30 at Manly.

COMMON GREENSHANK (*Tringa nebularia*)

A couple at Cairns and Manly.

TEREK SANDPIPER (*Xenus cinereus*)

Up to 4 at Cairns of this highly distinctive orange-legged shorebird with the toppling forward gait.

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

Three at the PAU and one at Koki Village.

GRAY-TAILED TATTLER (*Heterosceles brevipes*)

Four at Cairns.

RUDDY TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*)

One at Machan's Beach, not common here.

GREAT KNOT (*Calidris tenuirostris*)

Up to 70 at Cairns.

RED-NECKED STINT (*Calidris ruficollis*)

Good numbers at Cairns, with 110 on one visit.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (*Calidris acuminata*)

Up to 40 at Cairns and 7 at Hastie's Swamp.

CURLEW SANDPIPER (*Calidris ferruginea*)

Just 3 at Cairns.

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER (*Limicola falcinellus*)

Great views of two at Cairns, this is quite a rare species and comes through in very small numbers.

Laridae

SILVER GULL (*Larus novaehollandiae*)

Common on the coast in Queensland.

Sternidae

GULL-BILLED TERN (*Sterna nilotica*)

Up to 10 at Cairns and one at Manly.

CASPIAN TERN (*Sterna caspia*)

Four at Cairns.

LESSER CRESTED TERN (*Sterna bengalensis*)

Two at Machan's Beach, which is a good site for them.

GREAT CRESTED TERN (*Sterna bergii*)

Just a couple at Cairns.

LITTLE TERN (*Sterna albifrons*)

Ten at Machan's Beach.

WHISKERED TERN (*Chlidonias hybrida*)

One at Lake Mitchell.

Columbidae

I ROCK (FERAL) PIGEON (*Columba livia*)

A few in urban areas of Queensland.

E WHITE-HEADED PIGEON (*Columba leucomela*)

Great views of one at Lamington, along the Border forest track.

I SPOTTED DOVE (*Streptopelia chinensis*)

A few around Cairns and Brisbane.

E BROWN CUCKOO-DOVE (*Macropygia phasianella*)

Just two at Lamington.

E SLENDER-BILLED CUCKOO-DOVE (*Macropygia amboinensis*)

One at Varirata and 4 at Kumul.

E BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO-DOVE (*Macropygia nigrirostris*)

One seen at Kumul, much smaller and more rufous than its cousin.

EMERALD DOVE (*Chalcophaps indica*)

Great looks at Cassowary House.

- E** STEPHAN'S DOVE (*Chalcophaps stephani*)
One fly-by at Varirata.
- E** CRESTED PIGEON (*Geophaps lophotes*)
Small numbers in Queensland.
- E** SQUATTER PIGEON (*Geophaps scripta*)
Lovely views of 10 out near Mareeba, a scarce and declining species.
- PEACEFUL DOVE (*Geopelia placida*)
Quite common in the north and also at the PAU and Varirata.
- BAR-SHOULDERED DOVE (*Geopelia humeralis*)
Quite a few in the north and 2 at the PAU.
- E** WONGA PIGEON (*Leucosarcia melanoleuca*)
Very confiding at Lamington, but only small numbers, and heard at Royal.
- E** WOMPOO FRUIT-DOVE (*Ptilinopus magnificus*)
Great looks at Cassowary House and in Varirata.
- E** PINK-SPOTTED FRUIT-DOVE (*Ptilinopus perlatus*)
Three fine birds at Varirata, with the toothpaste pink wing spots.
- SUPERB FRUIT-DOVE (*Ptilinopus superbus*)
We worked hard and got a nice co-operative male at Cassowary House.
- E** BEAUTIFUL FRUIT-DOVE (*Ptilinopus pulchellus*)
A fine male at Varirata.
- E** ORANGE-BELLIED FRUIT-DOVE (*Ptilinopus iozonus*)
Two at Varirata, one sitting out very well along the approach road.
- TORRESIAN IMPERIAL-PIGEON (*Ducula spilorrhoa*)
Quite a few at cairns and also at the PAU and Varirata.
- E** TOPKNOT PIGEON (*Lopholaimus antarcticus*)
Three at Lake Barrine, great spotting from Brooke at long range!
- E** PAPUAN MOUNTAIN-PIGEON (*Gymnophaps albertisii*)
Good numbers at Varirata and singles at Kumul.

Cacatuidae

- E** RED-TAILED BLACK-COCKATOO (*Calyptorhynchus banksii*)
Five flying over near Mareeba, huge almost harrier-like cockatoos.
- E** GALAH (*Eolophus roseicapillus*)
A couple of this striking strawberry pink and grey cockatoo were near Beaudesert.
- I** LONG-BILLED CORELLA (*Cacatua tenuirostris*)
There were a couple of feral birds at Manly, they seem to have been long-established here.
- I** LITTLE CORELLA (*Cacatua sanguinea*)
Two flyovers at the beach stop near Royal, they would be feral birds here.
- E** SULPHUR-CRESTED COCKATOO (*Cacatua galerita*)
A superb rolling flock of 90 feeding in a potato field on the tablelands, the back birds flying forwards as the flock moved its way through the field, quite a sight. They often get orange stained from the soil here. There were tame and entertaining birds at Royal too.

Psittacidae

- RAINBOW LORIKEET (*Trichoglossus haematodus*)
Small numbers in both countries.
- E** SCALY-BREASTED LORIKEET (*Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*)
Common on the tablelands.
- E** GOLDIE'S LORIKEET (*Psitteuteles goldiei*)
These were a nice surprise at Kumul where the guide did not know them, they were feeding by the car park and gave very nice looks.

- E*** BLACK-CAPPED LORY (*Lorius lory*)
Only heard at Varirata, which was a shame.
- E** PAPUAN LORIKEET (*Charmosyna papou*)
Fantastic at Kumul, where black morph birds showed nicely too, surely one of the most beautiful of all parrots.
- E** PLUM-FACED LORIKEET (*Oreopsittacus arfaki*)
Some good flight views at Kumul.
- E** YELLOW-BILLED LORIKEET (*Neopsittacus musschenbroekii*)
A feeding flock of 15 at Kumul.
- E** DOUBLE-EYED FIG-PARROT (*Cyclopsitta diophthalma*)
Great looks at the race macleayana at Cassowary House.
- E** CRIMSON ROSELLA (*Platycercus elegans*)
A single of the northern race nigricans for some of us at Longlands Gap, and then the nominate was tame and common at O'Reillys.
- E** PALE-HEADED ROSELLA (*Platycercus adscitus*)
Nice looks near Mareeba.
- E** BREHM'S TIGER-PARROT (*Psittacella brehmii*)
This was confiding at Kumul, coming to the feeders.
- E** RED-CHEEKED PARROT (*Geoffroyus geoffroyi*)
A few up around Varirata, which gave good looks.
- ECLECTUS PARROT (*Eclectus roratus*)
A couple of folks saw one at Varirata.
- E** AUSTRALIAN KING-PARROT (*Alisterus scapularis*)
Common and tame at O'Reillys, not every day a life bird lands on you!
- E** PAPUAN KING-PARROT (*Alisterus chloropterus*)
A couple up at Kumul were a nice sight.

Cuculidae

- BRUSH CUCKOO (*Cacomantis variolosus*)
A great view of one that I taped in at Mareeba Golf Course.
- E** CHESTNUT-BREASTED CUCKOO (*Cacomantis castaneiventris*)
One was seen very well at Varirata.
- FAN-TAILED CUCKOO (*Cacomantis flabelliformis simus*)
Good views of two birds on the tablelands.
- E** HORSFIELD'S BRONZE-CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx basalis*)
One on the sandy beach at Machan's Beach was unexpected and a very unusual site for it, usually a dry country species.
- SHINING BRONZE-CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx lucidus*)
A nice look at one at Lamington.
- E*** RUFIOUS-THROATED BRONZE-CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx ruficollis*)
One was calling up at Kumul.
- E** WHITE-EARED BRONZE-CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx meyeri*)
Lovely looks at two birds near the Sepik R. headwaters.
- LITTLE (GOULD'S) BRONZE-CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx minutillus russatus*)
Great looks at two males near Cassowary House, now lumped with Malay Bronze in Clements.
- E*** WHITE-CROWNED KOEL (*Caliechthrus leucolophus*)
Heard at Varirata.
- AUSTRALIAN KOEL (*Eudynamys cyanocephala*)
Two at the stockyards near Mareeba.
- CHANNEL-BILLED CUCKOO (*Scythrops novaehollandiae*)
This striking bird gave a great show at the Mareeba stockyards, then again near Mareeba before a couple showed very well down at Royal.

- E PHEASANT COUCAL (*Centropus phasianinus*)
One near Mareeba then a few near Varirata.

Tytonidae

BARN OWL (*Tyto alba*)

*A fantastic view of one on the tablelands, now split as Pacific Barn Owl *Tyto javanica* in Australia.*

Strigidae

- E SOUTHERN BOOBOOK (*Ninox boobook*)
A nice obliging bird at O'Reillys.

Aegothelidae

- E* MOUNTAIN OWLET-NIGHTJAR (*Aegotheles albertisi*)
One called right by Phil's cabin at 0210 and he stumbled out to try and get tape, seeing it sat in a small tree. We heard it on subsequent nights but got no more sightings. This was a lifer for Phil too, and it was good to get the tape. The neck collar was much less well marked than in some photos.
- E BARRED OWLET-NIGHTJAR (*Aegotheles bennettii*)
This was quite outstanding, sat in a hole at about the fourth site we checked at Varirata, and giving a superb view. It was an almost never seen species till we nailed it in 2005, and it's been great ever since.
- E* AUSTRALIAN OWLET-NIGHTJAR (*Aegotheles cristatus*)
Hmm, beware of info from O'Reillys guides, who told us one was roosting in a split trunk- sure enough there was fuzzy gray blob inside, but I felt unhappy about it and coming back later discovered it was actually a sugar glider! Moving right along, we heard one calling down a track one night but got no sightings.

Podargidae

- E TAWNY FROGMOUTH (*Podargus strigoides*)
A pair with a juv. at Daisy Hill gave great looks.
- E* MARBLED FROGMOUTH (*Podargus ocellatus*)
Heard at Lamington, what a great call.
- E PAPUAN FROGMOUTH (*Podargus papuensis*)
A pair with a big youngster at the PAU just as we were on our way out, a trip highlight which was much appreciated by the group, really impressive and strange.

Apodidae

- GLOSSY SWIFTLET (*Collocalia esculenta*)
Quite common in PNG, blue above with a white belly.
- E MOUNTAIN SWIFTLET (*Aerodramus hirundinaceus*)
Quite common around Kumul.
- E AUSTRALIAN SWIFTLET (*Aerodramus terraereginae*)
Some nice looks around the tablelands and at Cass House.
- UNIFORM SWIFTLET (*Aerodramus vanikorensis*)
Nice looks at Varirata.
- WHITE-THROATED NEEDLETAIL (*Hirundapus caudacutus*)
About 100 came through at Cassowary House, in advance of a storm front.

Alcedinidae

- COMMON KINGFISHER (*Alcedo atthis*)
Three at the PAU, which actually gave nice views.
- E AZURE KINGFISHER (*Alcedo azurea*)
A super bird on the creek by Cassowary House, and another was heard only at Royal.
- E LAUGHING KOOKABURRA (*Dacelo novaeguineae*)
Quite common in the north, great vocals too.
- E BLUE-WINGED KOOKABURRA (*Dacelo leachii*)
Good views on the tablelands and two at the Varirata entrance road.
- E* RUFIOUS-BELLIED KOOKABURRA (*Dacelo gaudichaud*)
Heard distantly at Varirata.

FOREST KINGFISHER (*Todirhamphus macleayii*)
A pair at Cass House and one near the hydro at Varirata.

COLLARED KINGFISHER (*Todirhamphus chloris*)
A nice responsive bird in Cairns, and a couple at Manly.

SACRED KINGFISHER (*Todirhamphus sanctus*)
Just two at Daisy Hill this trip, the migrants have all gone through.

E YELLOW-BILLED KINGFISHER (*Syma torotoro*)
Fine views of 2 birds at Varirata.

E BROWN-HEADED PARADISE-KINGFISHER (*Tanysiptera danae*)
A great look at one at Varirata, this is scarce endemic to SE PNG.

E BUFF-BREASTED PARADISE-KINGFISHER (*Tanysiptera sylvia*)
Major irritation! We heard them close at Kingfisher Park and again at Varirata, but most everyone only heard them. We just did not get one to show, I was surprised that we failed to see one.

Meropidae

RAINBOW BEE-EATER (*Merops ornatus*)
Common in the north.

Coraciidae

DOLLARBIRD (*Eurystomus orientalis*)
Common in the tropics, with great looks at Varirata especially.

Pittidae

HOODED PITTA (*Pitta sordida*)
Heard at Varirata.

E NOISY PITTA (*Pitta versicolor*)
One at Cassowary House, and nice looks at one near Kingfisher Park.

Menuridae

E* ALBERT'S LYREBIRD (*Menura alberti*)
Somewhat unlucky here, we heard them at O'Reillys but the breeding season is over and it's a matter of luck if you connect with one.

E SUPERB LYREBIRD (*Menura novaehollandiae*)
A much better state of affairs, we had terrific looks at a male feeding on the track at Royal, despite a jogger scaring the bird away initially. This is the world's largest passerine too.

Hirundinidae

TREE MARTIN (*Petrochelidon nigricans*)
Just 3 near Beaudesert.

FAIRY MARTIN (*Petrochelidon ariel*)
Nice looks on the tablelands.

PACIFIC SWALLOW (*Hirundo tahitica*)
Quite common in PNG, like a short tailed Welcome Swallow.

WELCOME SWALLOW (*Hirundo neoxena*)
Common in Australia.

Motacillidae

GRAY WAGTAIL (*Motacilla cinerea*)
One at Kumul was a pleasing find of a Palearctic migrant, one of the few passerines that migrates so far south. They are vagrants in Australia but quite common in New Guinea.

AUSTRALASIAN PIPIT (*Anthus [novaeseelandiae] australis*)
A couple at Yorkey's Knob and one on the tablelands.

Campephagidae

BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina novaehollandiae*)
Widespread in small numbers.

YELLOW-EYED CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina lineata*)

Seen at Cassowary House and near Atherton, with one of the race axillaris in Varirata, which has very different calls.

WHITE-BELLIED CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina papuensis papuensis*)

Four sightings of single birds, on the tablelands and at the PAU and Varirata.

CICADABIRD (*Coracina tenuirostris*)

Good views of a male at Cassowary House, and a female bird in Varirata.

E NEW GUINEA (BLACK) CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina melas*)

Two pairs were seen nicely in Varirata.

E WHITE-WINGED TRILLER (*Lalage tricolor*)

A male at Hastie's Swamp was unexpected, this is more of a dry country bird.

VARIED TRILLER (*Lalage leucomela*)

A few on the tablelands and one at Varirata.

Turdidae

E OLIVE-TAILED THRUSH (*Zoothera lunulata*)

Good views of two at Lamington, the olive rump and tail seen very well.

E RUSSET-TAILED THRUSH (*Zoothera heinei*)

A nice look of one at Lamington where they overlap with the previous species, the reddish tail is a good character.

ISLAND THRUSH (*Turdus poliocephalus*)

One at Kumul gave very fine looks on the lawn.

Cisticolidae

GOLDEN-HEADED CISTICOLA (*Cisticola exilis*)

A couple up on the Tablelands.

Sylviidae

AUSTRALIAN REED-WARBLER (*Acrocephalus australis*)

Brian saw the singing bird in the reeds near Beaudesert.

ISLAND LEAF-WARBLER (*Phylloscopus poliocephalus*)

Good looks at a pair near Kumul.

E TAWNY GRASSBIRD (*Megalurus timoriensis*)

We did well for them, with quite good looks on the tablelands and down near Beaudesert.

Muscicapidae

PIED BUSHCHAT (*Saxicola caprata*)

Fairly common around Kumul.

Rhipiduridae

WILLIE-WAGTAIL (*Rhipidura leucophrys*)

Seen on most days but absent from the high montane rain forests in Queensland.

E FRIENDLY FANTAIL (*Rhipidura albolimbata*)

Obliging at Kumul.

E CHESTNUT-BELLIED FANTAIL (*Rhipidura hyperythra*)

One with a mixed flock in Varirata.

E GRAY FANTAIL (*Rhipidura [fuliginosa] albiscapa*)

Just a few on the tablelands and at Lamington and Royal.

E DIMORPHIC FANTAIL (*Rhipidura brachyrhyncha*)

Nice looks at Kumul.

E RUFOUS FANTAIL (*Rhipidura rufifrons*)

Tame and obliging at Lamington.

Monarchidae

E BLACK-WINGED MONARCH (*Monarcha frater*)

Brief views of one in a mixed flock at Varirata.

- E BLACK-FACED MONARCH (*Monarcha melanopsis*)
A couple of this striking bird at Lake Barrine, one at Varirata and then a few down at Lamington.
- E WHITE-EARED MONARCH (*Monarcha leucotis*)
A nice look at an immature at Cassowary House, and heard at Lake Barrine, this is a scarce and tricky species.
- E SPOT-WINGED MONARCH (*Monarcha guttulus*)
Two at Varirata in the mixed flock.
- SPECTACLED MONARCH (*Monarcha trivirgatus*)
Quite common around Cassowary House.
- E FRILLED MONARCH (*Arses telescopthalmus*)
Nice looks at a pair in the mixed flock at Varirata.
- E PIED MONARCH (*Arses kaupi*)
We did well for them by Cassowary House, picking their way up trunks like a creeper, and had one sat on a nest at the Curtain Fig.
- E LEADEN FLYCATCHER (*Myiagra rubecula*)
A male on the tablelands and a nest of a pair in the car park at Royal NP.
- E SATIN FLYCATCHER (*Myiagra cyanoleuca*)
This was a pleasing find at Royal, when a speculative try in what looked like good habitat brought in a fine male.
- E BLACK-BREASTED BOATBILL (*Machaerirhynchus nigriceps*)
A good look at one on the King of Saxony trek, a very attractive species.
- E YELLOW-BREASTED BOATBILL (*Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*)
A few around Cassowary House, initially troublesome to see but eventually coming good.

Petroicidae

- E TORRENT FLYCATCHER (*Monachella muelleriana*)
This striking and attractive bird was quite common by a couple of the creeks near Kumul.
- E LEMON-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Microeca flavigaster*)
One at Varirata.
- E ROSE ROBIN (*Petroica rosea*)
A very unobliging subadult male at O'Reillys gave neck breaking views, but I think most folks got it fairly well by the end.
- E PALE-YELLOW ROBIN (*Tregellasia capito*)
Nice looks at Cassowary House, they cling on the sides of saplings.
- E (EASTERN) YELLOW ROBIN (*Eopsaltria australis*)
Common at Lamington and Royal.
- E BLACK-THROATED ROBIN (*Poecilodryas albonotata*)
One came into the dining room at Kumul and spent much of the day trapped in the roof beams. They got it out next morning but I am sure it was thoroughly traumatized!
- E WHITE-WINGED ROBIN (*Peneothello sigillatus*)
These high altitude robins are garden birds at Kumul. They often come round the path lights pre-dawn to pick up insects.
- E* BLUE-GRAY ROBIN (*Peneothello cyanus*)
Heard on the King of Saxony trek.
- E ASHY (GRAY-HEADED) ROBIN (*Heteromyias albispectus cinereifrons*)
The Gray-headed Robin was quite obliging at Lake Eacham and the Curtain Fig.

Pachycephalidae

- E RUFOUS-NAPED WHISTLER (*Aleadryas rufinucha*)
Nice looks at this rather odd whistler at Kumul.
- E BROWN-BACKED WHISTLER (*Pachycephala modesta*)
Endemic to PNG and seen well at Kumul.
- E GRAY-HEADED WHISTLER (*Pachycephala griseiceps*)
One at Cassowary House.

- GOLDEN WHISTLER (*Pachycephala pectoralis*)
A showy bird that showed well at all three main sites in Australia
- E** SCLATER'S WHISTLER (*Pachycephala soror*)
A few folks saw one at Kumul.
- E** REGENT WHISTLER (*Pachycephala schlegelii*)
A fine pair when we did the King of Saxony trek.
- BLACK-HEADED WHISTLER (*Pachycephala monacha*)
They liked the casuarinas in the valleys near Kumul.
- E** WHITE-BELLIED WHISTLER (*Pachycephala leucogastra*)
A scarce and poorly known endemic that is quite readily found on the approach road to Varirata, where we saw a fine male. For years it was lumped with Rufous Whistler despite the obvious plumage and song differences.
- RUFOUS WHISTLER (*Pachycephala rufiventris*)
A male near Mareeba.
- RUFOUS SHRIKE-THRUSH (*Colluricincla megarhyncha*)
Good views around Cassowary House.
- E** BOWER'S SHRIKE-THRUSH (*Colluricincla boweri*)
This FNQ endemic showed well at the Curtain Fig.
- GRAY SHRIKE-THRUSH (*Colluricincla harmonica*)
A couple on the tablelands and one at O'Reillys.
- E** HOODED PITOUI (*Pitohui dichrous*)
The famous poison bird looks somewhat like an American oriole species, being orange and black. We saw a nice obliging one at Varirata and heard many of them.
- E** RUSTY PITOUI (*Pitohui ferrugineus*)
A couple seen at Varirata, another poisonous bird.

Orthonychidae

- SOUTHERN LOGRUNNER (*Orthonyx temminckii*)
These endearing characters with the sideways kicking legs showed very nicely in the leaf litter at Lamington.
- E** CHOWCHILLA (*Orthonyx spaldingii*)
A super group of 4 at Lake Barrine and then another 3 at Longlands Gap, great to see them so well. A FNQ endemic too.

Eupetidae

- E** EASTERN WHIPBIRD (*Psophodes olivaceus*)
Obliging at Lamington after being heard at a number of other sites.
- E*** PAINTED QUAIL-THRUSH (*Cinlosoma ajax*)
Heard at Varirata but always extremely hard to see.
- E** BLUE-CAPPED IFRITA (*Ifrita kowaldi*)
Nice looks up at Kumul, it is meant to be another of the poisonous bird guild and is of uncertain affinities.

Maluridae

- E** WALLACE'S FAIRYWREN (*Sipodotus wallacii*)
A very scarce and hard to see aberrant fairywren that acts like a gerygone, inhabiting rainforest tangles at mid-height. We got very good looks at a couple at Varirata.
- WHITE-SHOULDERED FAIRYWREN (*Malurus alboscapulatus*)
These were seen at the PAU and then at Kumul.
- E** RED-BACKED FAIRYWREN (*Malurus melanocephalus*)
A lovely bird, seen very well on the tablelands and near Beaudesert. The male is really showy.
- E** SUPERB FAIRYWREN (*Malurus cyaneus*)
Another beautiful member of the family, they showed well near Beaudesert and up at O'Reillys.
- E** VARIEGATED FAIRYWREN (*Malurus lamberti*)
Two fine males at Daisy Hill.

LOVELY FAIRYWREN (*Malurus amabilis*)

Endemic to north Queensland, it likes thickets on the edge of rainforest and is quite local. We had fine views of a pair near Cassowary House.

Acanthizidae

E ROCK WARBLER (ORIGMA) (*Origma solitaria*)

The only endemic bird of NSW, mostly restricted to the Hawkesbury sandstone, and a great bird to find, especially with such nice looks. Yip yip!

E* FERNWREN (*Oreoscopus gutturalis*)

One was heard singing close by in dense tangles at Longlands Gap, but we couldn't get into a view spot. Shame.....

E* RUSTY MOUSE-WARBLER (*Crateroscelis murina*)

The lovely three note song was a feature up at Varirata, but they sure kept their distance this year.

E MOUNTAIN MOUSE-WARBLER (*Crateroscelis robusta*)

One was seen by a few folks at Kumul.

E YELLOW-THROATED SCRUBWREN (*Sericornis citreogularis*)

Tame and curious at Lamington, with quite a few of their hanging mossy nests seen too.

E WHITE-BROWED SCRUBWREN (*Sericornis frontalis*)

Very confiding at Lamington.

E ATHERTON SCRUBWREN (*Sericornis kerri*)

A couple up at Longlands Gap, but they sure didn't hang about! Endemic to FNQ.

E LARGE SCRUBWREN (*Sericornis nouhuysi*)

Two seen well at Kumul.

E LARGE-BILLED SCRUBWREN (*Sericornis magnirostris*)

Good looks at the Curtain Fig and again at Lamington.

E PAPUAN SCRUBWREN (*Sericornis papuensis*)

A couple of sightings of this high altitude species up at Kumul.

E MOUNTAIN THORNBILL (*Acanthiza katherina*)

Three of this sweet voiced restricted range FNQ endemic at Longlands Gap.

E BROWN THORNBILL (*Acanthiza pusilla*)

Some good looks at Lamington and Royal NP.

E STRIATED THORNBILL (*Acanthiza lineata*)

Nice looks at a couple of responsive birds at Royal NP.

E* GREEN-BACKED GERYGONE (*Gerygone chloronotus*)

Heard at Varirata but stayed stubbornly unseen.

E FAIRY GERYGONE (*Gerygone palpebrosa*)

A nice look at a male at Cassowary House.

E WHITE-THROATED GERYGONE (*Gerygone olivacea*)

This beautiful little gerygone with the lovely wistful song gave a great view at Lake Mitchell.

E LARGE-BILLED GERYGONE (*Gerygone magnirostris*)

A couple at Centenary Park in Cairns.

E BROWN GERYGONE (*Gerygone mouki*)

Good looks at CH and the Curtain Fig, and again at Lamington where we saw a nest.

E BROWN-BREASTED GERYGONE (*Gerygone ruficollis*)

Birds with a juv. were seen near Kumul, and the delightful descendant song was a nice feature here.

E MANGROVE GERYGONE (*Gerygone levigaster*)

Two at Manly mangroves showed nicely.

Neosittidae

E BLACK SITTELLA (*Daphoenositta miranda*)

Three birds at Kumul were a good find of a scarce species.

Climacteridae

- E WHITE-THROATED TREECREEPER (*Cormobates leucophaeus*)
The nominate race was heard at Lamington, and the small northern race minor seen well at the Curtain Fig.
- E RED-BROWED TREECREEPER (*Climacteris erythroptera*)
Great looks at one that came in and sat for ages en route to O'Reillys, this is quite a scarce species.
- E BROWN TREECREEPER (*Climacteris picumnus*)
One out in the dry country near Mareeba, of the dark northern race melanotus.

Nectarinidae

- OLIVE-BACKED (YELLOW-BELLIED) SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris jugularis*)
Great views at Cassowary House.

Melanocharitidae

- E BLACK BERRYPECKER (*Melanocharis nigra*)
A female at Varirata with the mixed species flock.
- E FAN-TAILED BERRYPECKER (*Melanocharis versteri*)
Heard at Kumul Lodge but unaccountably scarce this trip.
- E DWARF HONEYEATER (LONGBILL) (*Toxorhamphus iliolophus*)
Nice views in Varirata, formerly placed with honeyeaters.

Paramythiidae

- E TIT BERRYPECKER (*Oreocharis arfaki*)
A male and female were seen at Kumul Lodge, a new family for everyone.
- E CRESTED BERRYPECKER (*Paramythia montium*)
A couple of folks saw this great high altitude bird at Kumul.

Dicaeidae

- E RED-CAPPED FLOWERPECKER (*Dicaeum geelvinkianum*)
Nice looks near Kumul.
- E MISTLETOEBIRD (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*)
Great looks at males near Cassowary House.

Pardalotidae

- E SPOTTED PARDALOTE (*Pardalotus punctatus*)
The best by far was one at eye level at the Python Rock Lookout, a really stunning bird. Others were much higher up in big trees.

Zosteropidae

- E BLACK-FRONTED WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops minor*)
A good look at one in Varirata.
- E NEW GUINEA WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops novaeguineae*)
These were fairly common around the Kumul Lodge area.
- SILVER-EYE (*Zosterops lateralis*)
Small numbers in north Queensland, seen well at Cass House.

Meliphagidae

- E* LONG-BILLED HONEYEATER (*Melilestes megarhynchus*)
Heard at Varirata.
- E BROWN HONEYEATER (*Lichmera indistincta*)
The default honeyeater in far north Queensland.
- E SILVER-EARED HONEYEATER (*Lichmera alboauricularis*)
My new site at the Arts warehouse in POM came up good again, with a couple of these feeding in a flowering mango. I used to have to go about 70 km out to get this species!
- DUSKY MYZOMELA (*Myzomela obscura*)
Common in far north Queensland
- E BLACK MYZOMELA (*Myzomela nigrita*)
A bonus bird popped up in the scope as we were looking at the Orange-bellied Fruit-Dove!

- E** MOUNTAIN (RED-HEADED) MYZOMELA (*Myzomela adolphinae*)
A brilliant male was feeding in flowers by the roadside near Kumul Lodge.
- E** SCARLET MYZOMELA (*Myzomela sanguinolenta*)
Fine views of males and females on the Tablelands.
- E** RED-COLLARED MYZOMELA (*Myzomela rosenbergii*)
There were very good numbers of this species at flowering trees near Kumul Lodge, with a dozen birds there one morning.
- E** BANDED HONEYEATER (*Certhionyx pectoralis*)
Three birds near Lake Mitchell were unexpected, and Phil saw one along Black Mt Road which was his first ever here.
- E** MOUNTAIN MELIPHAGA (*Meliphaga orientalis*)
A couple of this higher elevation meliphaga were near Kumul Lodge.
- E** GRACEFUL HONEYEATER (*Meliphaga gracilis*)
One at Cassowary House. Birds in Varirata are of the form cinereifrons which is to be split.
- E** YELLOW-SPOTTED HONEYEATER (*Meliphaga notata*)
A few of this far north Queensland endemic species were around Cassowary House.
- E** LEWIN'S HONEYEATER (*Meliphaga lewinii*)
This large and quite vocal species showed nicely on the tablelands and at Lamington and Royal NP.
- E** BLACK-THROATED HONEYEATER (*Lichenostomus subfrenatus*)
Quite good looks at Kumul Lodge, another of the high elevation honeyeaters.
- E** BRIDLED HONEYEATER (*Lichenostomus frenatus*)
This big FNQ endemic gave good looks at Longlands Gap.
- E** YELLOW-FACED HONEYEATER (*Lichenostomus chrysops*)
A few along Duck Creek Road in the dry country there.
- E** VARIED HONEYEATER (*Lichenostomus versicolor*)
Lovely looks at cairns Esplanade, they were very responsive to pishing.
- E** MANGROVE HONEYEATER (*Lichenostomus fasciularis*)
An uncommon sibling of the previous species, we got one at Manly very nicely.
- E** YELLOW HONEYEATER (*Lichenostomus flavus*)
Endemic to north Queensland, we saw them well on the tablelands.
- E** YELLOW-TINTED HONEYEATER (*Lichenostomus flavescens*)
Two at the PAU which proved hard to see well, this is an odd outlying population of an Australian dry country species. It also has an odd call and more work is needed here to work out its affinities.
- E** TAWNY-BREASTED HONEYEATER (*Xanthotis flaviventer*)
One up at Varirata.
- E** MACLEAY'S HONEYEATER (*Xanthotis macleayana*)
Common at Cassowary House and another north Queensland endemic.
- E** WHITE-NAPED HONEYEATER (*Melithreptus lunatus*)
A couple around in the eucalypt forest near O'Reillys.
- E** WHITE-THROATED HONEYEATER (*Melithreptus albogularis*)
Seen near Mareeba and at Varirata, a striking bird.
- E** MARBLED HONEYEATER (*Pycnopygius cinereus*)
This is a large and uncommon higher altitude species that proved to be fairly widespread around Kumul, with several sightings.
- E** STREAK-HEADED HONEYEATER (*Pycnopygius stictocephalus*)
A couple of sightings of this friarbird-mimic near Varirata.
- E** LITTLE FRIARBIRD (*Philemon citreogularis*)
A couple in the dry country near Mareeba.
- E** HELMETED FRIARBIRD (*Philemon buceroides*)
Birds of the race yorki are feeder birds at Cassowary House, and there were a few around Port Moresby too.

- E** NOISY FRIARBIRD (*Philemon corniculatus*)
Common and very vocal out in the drier country of the tablelands.
- E** RUFIOUS-BACKED HONEYEATER (*Ptiloprora guisei*)
A PNG endemic, we saw a couple by Kumul Lodge.
- E** BLACK-BACKED (GRAY-STREAKED) HONEYEATER (*Ptiloprora perstriata*)
This was quite common around Kumul, usually found at slightly higher altitudes than the former species.
- E** BELFORD'S MELIDECTES (*Melidectes belfordi*)
A big, noisy and striking honeyeater that was common around Kumul.
- E** ORNATE MELIDECTES (*Melidectes torquatus*)
A couple of this uncommon melidectes showed quite well near Kumul.
- E** SMOKY HONEYEATER (*Melipotes fumigatus*)
A trip favorite, as this is the bird that can blush, the facial skin turning bright red at times. They were common at the Kumul feeders.
- E** NEW HOLLAND HONEYEATER (*Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*)
Quite common at Royal NP.
- E** WHITE-CHEEKED HONEYEATER (*Phylidonyris nigra*)
A striking and uncommon species that we saw very well on the tablelands at Phil's site near Hastie's Swamp.
- E** TAWNY-CROWNED HONEYEATER (*Phylidonyris melanops*)
A couple of quite obliging birds in the heath at Royal NP.
- E** BROWN-BACKED HONEYEATER (*Ramsayornis modestus*)
A few at Yorkey's Knob and again at Centenary Park in Cairns.
- E** RUFIOUS-BANDED HONEYEATER (*Conopophila albogularis*)
Nice looks at the PAU.
- E** EASTERN SPINEBILL (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*)
Seen well at Lake Barrine, then at Royal NP.
- E** BLUE-FACED HONEYEATER (*Entomyzon cyanotis*)
This big and distinctive honeyeater was first seen at Mareeba.
- E** BELL MINER (*Manorina melanophrys*)
A colony on a steep slope down the Duck Creek Road enabled us to hear them nicely, with their ringing bell-like note, and get assorted views.
- E** NOISY MINER (*Manorina melanocephala*)
Quite common in the Brisbane and Sydney areas.
- E** RED WATTLEBIRD (*Anthochaera carunculata*)
This large honeyeater was at our hotel in Sydney.
- E** BRUSH WATTLEBIRD (*Anthochaera chrysoptera*)
*We saw a couple of Little Wattlebirds around Royal NP, split from the Western Wattlebird *A. lunulata*, which is known as the Brush Wattlebird in Australia- good 'ol Clements muddies the waters again!*

Oriolidae

- E** BROWN ORIOLE (*Oriolus szalayi*)
Nice looks at the PAU and Varirata, a close mimic of the quite pugnacious Helmeted Friarbird.
- E** OLIVE-BACKED ORIOLE (*Oriolus sagittatus*)
One seen nicely at Royal NP.
- E** GREEN (YELLOW) ORIOLE (*Oriolus flavocinctus*)
One in Centenary Park in Cairns. Just for a change the Clements imposed name is actually better!
- E** GREEN (AUSTRALASIAN) FIGBIRD (*Sphecotheres viridis*)
*Common in the north with the yellow race *flaviventris*, and also seen at the PAU, which race *salvadorii* is strangely omitted in Clements. There is a major error in Clements who splits Figbird into two, Australian and Green, but lists the race *flaviventris* under both! They actually intergrade over a wide area so there is just the one here and in PNG. We saw the race *vielloti* near Sydney.*

Laniidae

LONG-TAILED SHRIKE (*Lanius schach*)

One near Kumul, which disappeared quickly after we stopped for it.

Dicruridae

SPANGLED DRONGO (*Dicrurus bracteatus*)

A few around in the north and at Varirata.

Grallinidae

E MAGPIE-LARK (*Grallina cyanoleuca*)

Common in the north of Queensland.

Artamidae

GREAT WOODSWALLOW (*Artamus maximus*)

A few of this, the largest of the family, near Kumul.

E WHITE-BREASTED WOODSWALLOW (*Artamus leucorhynchus*)

A few around Cairns and again around Port Moresby.

Cracticidae

E BLACK-BACKED BUTCHERBIRD (*Cracticus mentalis*)

Seen well at the PAU, where two juv. birds had brownish heads. Otherwise only in the SE PNG savannas on Cape York.

E GRAY BUTCHERBIRD (*Cracticus torquatus*)

A couple of tame ones at O'Reillys.

E HOODED BUTCHERBIRD (*Cracticus cassicus*)

Good views near Varirata, where the lovely song was very apparent.

E PIED BUTCHERBIRD (*Cracticus nigrogularis*)

Small numbers in Queensland.

E BLACK BUTCHERBIRD (*Cracticus quoyi*)

Two birds were regulars at Cassowary House.

E AUSTRALASIAN MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina tibicen*)

Common in Queensland, and nothing to do with regular magpies!

E PIED CURRAWONG (*Strepera graculina*)

One at Atherton and quite common at O'Reillys, they are locally known as bell-magpies due to the lovely calls, and the family as a whole is often known by this name.

Paradisaeidae

GLOSSY-MANTLED MANUCODE (*Manucodia atra*)

E* CRINKLE-COLLARED MANUCODE (*Manucodia chalybata*)

One was calling close by at Varirata but stayed out of sight.

E RIBBON-TAILED ASTRAPIA (*Astrapia mayeri*)

Fantastic, one of the birds of the trip, with incredible views of males, females and various sub-adults coming to the feeders at Kumul Lodge. It is one of the most spectacular members of the family and was also the last discovered, only described in 1948.

E PRINCESS STEPHANIE'S ASTRAPIA (*Astrapia stephaniae*)

There was a female near Kumul Lodge, the ribbon-tail generally being the higher altitude bird.

E KING-OF-SAXONY BIRD-OF-PARADISE (*Pteridophora alberti*)

Two males and a female plumaged bird were seen on the climb up the ridge near Kumul, the males in song and giving very good looks. A fantastic bird.

E MAGNIFICENT (EASTERN) RIFLEBIRD (*Ptiloris magnificus intercedens*)

Heard at Varirata, the growling disyllabic call very distinctive but the bird always hard to see.

E PARADISE RIFLEBIRD (*Ptiloris paradiseus*)

We did well for this, the most southerly of the family, at O'Reilly's, having fine views of males twice and female plumaged bird once. They can be elusive, much shyer and scarcer than the Victoria's Riflebird.

- E VICTORIA'S RIFLEBIRD (*Ptiloris victoriae*)
Great views of good plumaged males and female plumaged birds at Cassowary House, where they come to the breakfast table- guard your cornflakes!
- E SUPERB BIRD-OF-PARADISE (*Lophorina superba*)
A male near Kumul, quite a trick to spot the calling bird across the creek but eventually successful. They should be common here but are evidently heavily hunted.
- E BROWN SICKLEBILL (*Epimachus meyeri*)
Amazing, just outstanding views of males, females and immature birds at the Kumul Lodge feeders, amongst my best ever and the first time I've managed to get photos. Kumul means bird of paradise and the lodge is aptly named.
- E MAGNIFICENT BIRD-OF-PARADISE (*Cicinnurus magnificus*)
This was a surprise at this altitude, up to 1800m, which is quite high for what is more usually a hill forest bird. We heard them quite frequently, and amazingly a moulting male was perched out in tree near the Sepik headwaters. It sure took me by surprise, and was the first male I'd seen for several years.
- E LESSER BIRD-OF-PARADISE (*Paradisaea minor*)
This is a recent discovery up here, and we had quite good looks at a young male by the Sepik R. headwaters. Just as well, as our trek to a lek site was impossible due to the track being washed away.
- E RAGGIANA BIRD-OF-PARADISE (*Paradisaea raggiana*)
Nice looks at a raggedy male in heavy moult at Varirata, calling quite well too.
- E BLUE BIRD-OF-PARADISE (*Paradisaea rudolphi*)
We were lucky enough to pick up a male Blue Bird BoP from the road, saving us a steep climb up the ridge for this rare and Vulnerable PNG endemic. Quite good scope views followed.
- E* LESSER MELAMPITTA (*Melampitta lugubris*)
One was calling very close to us at the King of Sax site, but stayed buried in dense undergrowth. Probably a new family too, and clearly wrongly placed in birds of paradise.

Ptilonorhynchidae

- E SPOTTED CATBIRD (*Ailuroedus melanotis*)
Great looks at the Cassowary House feeders, and a great yowling call.
- E GREEN CATBIRD (*Ailuroedus crassirostris*)
Good looks at O'Reillys at the shyer southern relative of Spotted Catbird.
- E TOOTH-BILLED CATBIRD (*Ailuroedus dentirostris*)
A fine male was close by in full song above his upturned leaf bower at Lake Barrine.
- E GOLDEN BOWERBIRD (*Prionodura newtoniana*)
The usual bower has been inactive, so a check of a small one nearby turned up a female and a quick look at a male. We then checked the usual site to find it back in use, and with a fine male sitting nearby!
- E REGENT BOWERBIRD (*Sericulus chrysocephalus*)
Great looks at Lamington, the corporate logo was very showy at O'Reillys. We were also lucky enough to get to see good bower complete with a few blue objects beside the track, a rare site as they are usually tucked away in inaccessible spots.
- E SATIN BOWERBIRD (*Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*)
Great looks at Lamington and a fine bower with lots of blue objects near the park entrance.
- E GREAT BOWERBIRD (*Chlamydera nuchalis*)
We got to see a couple at Mareeba and Mt. Molloy, and a nice bower complete with lots of white snail shells as an apron near Mareeba.
- E YELLOW-BREASTED BOWERBIRD (*Chlamydera lauterbachii*)
Lucky here, this is species not on the usual tour routes, and there is a good site for it near the Sepik headwaters. We had nice views of one bird here with a couple of others nearby briefly.
- E FAWN-BREASTED BOWERBIRD (*Chlamydera cerviniventris*)
Good looks at the PAU, another of the Cape York specials that we can get near POM.

Corvidae

- E*** GRAY CROW (*Corvus tristis*)
Heard along the approach road to Varirata.
- TORRESIAN CROW (*Corvus orru*)
Quite common around Brisbane.
- E** AUSTRALIAN RAVEN (*Corvus coronoides*)
Some good views near Sydney, and we heard the bawling bay call.

Sturnidae

- E** METALLIC STARLING (*Aplonis metallica*)
A good colony near Cairns, the red eye is amazing.
- E** SINGING STARLING (*Aplonis cantoroides*)
We got this on our last outing in PNG, at Ela Beach.
- E** YELLOW-FACED MYNA (*Mino dumontii*)
Good looks at the PAU and Varirata. Bizarre call too.
- I** COMMON MYNA (*Acridotheres tristis*)
Unfortunately quite common in Queensland.
- I** EUROPEAN STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*)
A few around Sydney.

Passeridae

- I** HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*)
Quite common in the urban areas and also seen at Port Moresby.

Estrildidae

- E** MOUNTAIN FIRETAIL (*Oreostruthus fuliginosus*)
Fabulous views at Kumul Lodge.
- E** RED-BROWED FIRETAIL (FINCH) (*Neochmia temporalis*)
Great looks at Kingfisher Park, a very pretty little finch, also seen at Lamington.
- E** CRIMSON FINCH (*Neochmia phaeton*)
Six birds at a canefield site near Cairns.
- E** DOUBLE-BARRED FINCH (*Taeniopygia bichenovii*)
This owl-faced finch was seen well at Mareeba.
- * BLUE-FACED PARROTFINCH (*Erythrura trichroa*)
Heard at Kumul, our video making friend Tony saw one by the feeders too.
- I** NUTMEG MANNIKIN (*Lonchura punctulata*)
Ten in Cairns.
- E** HOODED MUNIA (*Lonchura spectabilis*)
Quite common around Kumul.
- E** GRAY-HEADED MUNIA (*Lonchura caniceps*)
Nice looks at the PAU and Sogeri, endemic to SE PNG too.
- E** CHESTNUT-BREASTED MUNIA (MANNIKIN) (*Lonchura castaneothorax*)
This striking finch showed well at Cairns and on the tablelands, and again at the PAU.

MAMMALS

- E** PLATYPUS (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*)
Fantastic looks at this strange creature near Atherton as it surfaced and then dived repeatedly.
- E** NORTHERN BROWN BANDICOOT (*Isodon macrourus*)
A nice fat one was at Cassowary House at night.
- E** KOALA (*Phascolarctos cinereus*)
Great views of two animals at Daisy Hill, an iconic aussie mammal.
- E** COMMON BRUSHTAIL POSSUM (*Trichosurus vulpecula*)
Three of the coppery form (or species) were on the tablelands near Yungaburra when we went spotlighting.

- E MOUNTAIN BRUSHTAIL POSSUM (*Trichosurus caninus*)
This is now split as Short-eared Possum, with Mountain Brushtail T. cunninghami found further south, but whatever, we had great looks at them on the O'Reillys feeders.
- E SUGAR GLIDER (*Petaurus breviceps*)
We saw part of one wedged in a hollow trunk at Lamington, masquerading as an owlet-nightjar!
- E MUSKY RAT-KANGAROO (*Hypsiprymnodon moschatus*)
This delightful little proto-kangaroo showed well at Cassowary House, and briefly at Lake Barrine. it is endemic to the rainforests of FNQ.
- RUFIOUS RAT-KANGAROO (*Aepyprymnus rufescens*)
The sight of a Rufous Bettong on our spotlighting outing near Yungaburra was a big surprise, as it is usually a species of the dry country a bit further inland!
- E RED-NECKED PADEMELO (Thylogale thetis)
Common at O'Reillys.
- E RED-LEGGED PADEMELO (Thylogale stigmatica)
Nice looks at Pademelon Haven near Kingfisher Park.
- E GRAY DORCOPSIS (*Dorcopsis luctuosa*)
Two of this dark forest wallaby were on the trail down from the Varirata Lookout and were seen by a few folks. It would have been a female with a big youngster.
- AGILE WALLABY (*Macropus agilis*)
A couple on the tablelands.
- E RED-NECKED WALLABY (*Macropus rufogriseus*)
Great looks at Daisy Hill, where clearly very used to people.
- E EASTERN GRAY KANGAROO (*Macropus giganteus*)
A large mob of about 30 on the Mareeba golf course.
- E BLACK FLYING-FOX (*Pteropus alecto*)
Five near Yungaburra feeding in tree blossoms at night and making a huge racket.
- E SPECTACLED FLYING-FOX (*Pteropus conspicillatus*)
A few of this large flying-fox on the tablelands.
- E BUSH RAT (*Rattus fuscipes*)
Good looks at Cassowary House.

Additional Comments

Non-birdy or mammalian creatures were a fine Boyd's Forest Dragon at Lake Barrine, a Gould's Monitor on the tablelands and another large monitor up a big gum tree at Royal, and a couple of Krefft's River Turtles at Cairns Centenary Park. Birds of the trip were the fantastic Ribbon-tailed Astrapias at Kumul, followed by the Brown Sicklebills there and the huge Papuan Frogmouths at the PAU. For once Cassowary got beaten out! PG Kuranda Dec 07 The endemic symbol in the triplist for this tour means the bird is endemic to PNG and/or Australia.

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