

This issue of *Muruk* has a distinctly West Papuan flavour and it seems appropriate to give some of the more significant sightings from some recent bird trips there. Given the lack of recent records we go into some detail with the sightings. The Halmahera section is included because of the strong Australasian connection. The two trip reports give an indication of what can be seen in these remote and inaccessible sites, but basic breeding and status data are lacking for many species and further records would be welcome. Observations of the virtually unknown Bruijn's Brush-turkey and Snow Mountain Robin are particularly noteworthy in the two travelogues from Charles Davies.

The Papua Bird Club have led, organised and advised many birding tours to West Papua. An example trip report visiting the most popular birding sites is given below. For more details of their tours, the birds of west Papua and the conservation awareness work undertaken by the club, see www.papuaibirdclub.com

West Papua (and Halmahera) 3rd – 28th April 2006

Leaders: Guy Dutson and Kris Tindige for Sicklebill Safaris

This was perhaps only the second tour operated to West Papua (the Indonesian half of New Guinea, previously known as Irian Jaya) since civil unrest in the late 1990s. We focussed on the West Papuan endemics, notably the birds of paradise, of which we saw all seven species endemic to Indonesia and another three species rarely seen outside Indonesia. We benefited from the recent construction of roads into the Arfaks and Lake Habbema and encountered no real problems except that the poor trails evidenced a lack of visitors and the mountains have not become any less steep...

Since it was taken over by Indonesia in 1963, West Papua has seen a low-level insurgency between the native Papuans and the Indonesian government and security forces. Birders have often been unable to obtain travel permits to visit the province, especially the high mountains of Lake Habbema. We found a solution: to enter overland from PNG, and then to rely on the organisational abilities of the Papua Bird Club.

Tuesday April 3rd

After an early morning walk around the hotel, finding **Blue-winged Kookaburras**, **Grey-headed Munias** and **Fawn-breasted Bowerbird**, our first morning was spent flying from Moresby to Vanimo. We loaded a set of camping gear onto the back of our vehicle then drove to the Indonesian border. Fortunately, the border crossing formalities were straightforward and we were soon whisked away to Jayapura; the increasing numbers of minibuses, motorbikes and cigarettes suggesting that we had left PNG behind and we were truly in Indonesia – this impression was confirmed by the abundance of **Tree Sparrows**.

Wednesday April 4th

In the morning we birded the margins of Lake Sentani, the huge lake set in rolling hills behind Jayapura. We found a pair of **New Guinea (Helmeted) Friarbirds** nesting over the boathouse, and a **Black Bittern** flew past. From the boat, we found another bittern, and the highlight of a scatter of forest birds was a fantastic white-phase **Variable Goshawk** atop a coconut palm. After lunch, we flew to the large raised coral island of

Biak where we met Kris and were bundled into a minibus to look for our first Biak or Geelvink Bay endemics. Kris soon stopped the bus and we were admiring a pair of **Long-tailed Starlings**, their super-long tail feathers billowing in the wind. Next stop was a successful search for **Biak White-eyes** and then onto a forest fragment that Kris had scouted for the **Biak Paradise-Kingfisher**. Kingfishers called around us but it took an hour of effort before we succeeded in obtaining scope views of this iridescent beauty. Biak Scops-Owl remained typically silent and invisible but good views of a **Biak Sugar Glider** was a good compensation.

Thursday April 5th

A dawn start gave us great views of several more paradise-kingfishers, before we explored a forest track, soon finding **Biak Black Flycatchers** and **Yellow-bibbed** and **Claret-breasted Fruit-Doves**. A tall canopy tree held several birds, including more **Long-tailed Starlings**, the fluorescent local subspecies of **Golden Monarch** and reasonable views of a **Geelvink Pygmy-Parrot**. A pair of **Emperor Fairy-Wrens** were seen well in the undergrowth but two **Biak Megapodes** that were flushed were only seen as anonymous shapes.

In the afternoon, we headed west and birded a ridge-top road through extensive but degraded forest. We added **Spice Imperial-Pigeons** and **Biak Red Lorries** to our list but a **Biak Coucal** remained hidden. A **Peregrine** and a **Large-tailed Nightjar** entertained us whilst we sat and enjoyed the sunset from a roadside vantage point.

Friday April 6th

After an early-morning flight to Manokwari, we were met by Kris's wife, Shita, and two land-cruisers loaded with supplies for the Arfak Mountains. We were blessed that the road into the Arfaks had been completed and was still navigable, enabling us to reach our base village in two hours instead of the traditional two days hard trek. Kris spotted two **Long-tailed Buzzards** on the drive, and we were soon finding two local endemics, **Vogelkop Scrub-Wrens** and **Vogelkop (or Western Smoky) Honeyeaters**, in the forest above the village. After settling into the guest-house and lunching, we set off with Zeth our local guide for our first true taste of New Guinea forest birding. As would become typical, the paths were wet and very steep, birding was slow, the birds were elusive, but included a real blocker – a **Long-tailed Paradigalla** perched high above the canopy. Other great birds included a pair of **Josephine's Lorikeets**, good views of **Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrots** and, amongst the small birds, a **Mountain Mouse-Warbler** showed well, and the mixed flocks included **Dimorphic**, **Black** and **Friendly Fantails** and a **Black-breasted Boatbill**.

Saturday April 7th

We trekked up to a forested ridge where Zeth and other villagers had constructed small hides beside the display-arenas of **Western Parotias** and the bowers of **Vogelkop Bowerbirds**. On the walk up, we marvelled at several Vogelkop bowers, which are perhaps the most impressive bird construction in the world. Each male clears a lawn and lays it with moss, then constructs a small house of orchid stems around a maypole, and decorates the lawn with piles of coloured objects, including flowers, fruits and beetle

elytrae. Each male had a slightly different fashion and one was addicted to plastic trash – we wondered how far it had flown with a bottle in its bill. Three male **Western Parotias** called from the treetops but did not come down to the display arena. Birding around these hides in the misty rain, a **Black-mantled Goshawk** gave magnificent views when it landed in front of us, and a female **Black Sicklebill** also perched up at close range. We walked on to the highest clearing, where Zeth hunted around in the undergrowth and found us a superb **Mountain Owlet-nightjar** to admire at point-blank range, one of the many trip highlights. On the return walk, two **Rufescent Imperial-Pigeons** were the highlight of a very steep walk back to the guest house.

Sunday April 8th

We had good views of a **Modest Tiger-Parrot** on the walk up to the hides, and arrived in time for point-blank views of several female Western Parotias at their display arena, one even perching on the hide. A **Buff-tailed Sicklebill** called close to us and we enjoyed several close flight views of this rare species but couldn't manage to find it perched. We walked on up to the mossy forest and had lunch between a couple of calling **Ashy Robins**. Our walk down was enlivened by **Black-throated** and **Garnet Robins** and, after settling into the small hut in the upper clearing, a **Papuan Boobook** perched just a few metres away.

Monday April 9th

Some walked up the steep, muddy track in search of **Arfak Astrapias**, whilst others returned for more, and better, views of the **Vogelkop Bowerbirds** and **Western Parotias**. Up high, two astrapias were found feeding in the mossy forest, along with two **Smoky Robins** and a **Papuan Logrunner**. After lunch, we descended to the guest house and went out on a successful search for the locally endemic **Green-backed Robins**, and some had views of a **Black Pitohui**. Meanwhile, bets were on: was Ron's 6000th bird the exotic **Vogelkop Melidectes** or a **Grey-green Scrub-Wren**?

Tuesday April 10th

On our final morning in the Arfaks, the rain was too heavy for the **Magnificent Bird of Paradise** to perform, but a **White-eared Bronze-Cuckoo** provided some recompense. Our vehicles were waiting to drive us back to the airport and onto our flight to Sorong. In Sorong, we elected to take a chance with the sea and board our boat immediately for the island of Batanta. The crossing proved to be calm, if a little too wet to sit outside, and a couple of flocks of **Red-necked Phalaropes** were flushed off the floating seaweed. Arriving at Batanta in the late afternoon, we watched **Pinon Imperial-Pigeons** and **Blyth's Hornbills** whilst Kris checked us in with the village.

Wednesday April 11th

Wilson's Bird-of-Paradise is perhaps the star bird of the trip and to be sure of seeing it, we left at 4 the next morning for a pre-dawn hike to its display arena. The walk was steeper and slower than we anticipated, so we had to keep walking past the **Marbled Frogmouths** that called before dawn and the **Hook-billed Kingfishers** serenading the sunrise. At the top of a long steep climb, a Wilson's was calling but we weren't quite sure whether it would show itself after our noisy approach along a precarious hillside and our

guides cutting palm leaves for us to hide behind. We need not have worried – an absolutely amazing adult male Wilson's regularly came down to the ground just in front of us over the next two hours with three males jumping around and flaring their breast-shields. What a bird!!

Walking slowly down the path, we soon heard a bird of paradise and had close views of **Red Bird of Paradise**, the other west Papuan endemic, and also a flock of **Rusty Pitohuis**. A **Red-bellied Pitta** refused to show itself but a **Hook-billed Kingfisher** inadvertently called and was soon entered into the digiscope hall of fame. After good views of the local subspecies of **Yellow-bellied Gerygone** which looked very much like a distinct species, the midday heat killed most bird activity and Guy returned uphill to await the Wilson's afternoon activity. The male did return to show off his resplendent colours, and a **Pheasant Pigeon** walked right past the hide. **Great-billed Herons** and a number of other coastal species were seen on an afternoon boat cruise.

Thursday April 12th

Our next morning was spent on Salawati, searching lowland forest along the coast for **Western Crowned Pigeons**. The forests here clearly had many fruity pickings: hornbills and pigeons were noisy overhead, **Red-billed Brush-Turkeys** wailed and **Northern Cassowary** footprints followed our path. Soon after starting our walk at the second site, we heard a pair of crowned pigeons flush up out of sight over a river. We found **Large Fig-Parrots** overhead whilst Kris built a bridge, then as we crossed the river, a crocodile splashed down from the bank. Undaunted, we searched for the pigeons and Kris had soon found a **Western Crowned Pigeon** perched and posed for photos. In the remaining hours before it became too hot, we found a number of passerines including **Rusty Mouse-Warbler** and **Spot-winged Monarchs**. Having successfully seen our target birds, we opted for an early return to Sorong and cruised back up the passage between Batanta and Salawati, grateful that these islands still retain so much forest. Then a distant spout signalled a whale and we enjoyed wonderfully close views of a huge **Bryde's Whale** blowing and diving next to the boat. This chance encounter gave us just a short time on Senapang island, where **Varied Honeyeater** and **Beach Kingfisher** were new birds, and we were soon back to our favourite plate of king prawns in Sorong.

Friday April 13th

The primary objective of our day in Sorong was to find **Black Lory** but the day dawned very misty and over-flying lorries were difficult to see. A **Red-bellied Pitta** teased us but then amazed us when it appeared in full view, whilst **Greater Black Coucals** disappeared into a thicket never to be seen. After lunch, we visited a transmigration area where the rice paddies held a number of wader species and a **Lesser Black Coucal**. Moving on to a logging road inland, **Glossy-mantled Manucodes** and **Streak-headed Munias** showed well, **Black Lorries** finally flew over, and then three perched to give us good scope views of this smart parrot.

Saturday April 14th

After an early check-in at Sorong airport, we explored the airstrip for an hour, finding a scatter of mangrove and coastal species, including much better views of **Lesser Black**

Coucal. From Sorong we flew to Ternate, via Manado, and enjoyed a great lunch in Ternate before crossing to Halmahera, checking into the guest house. We were soon seeing our first Halmahera birds – birding the main road through the hills behind Sidangoli. **White Cockatoos** were obvious, **Long-billed Crows** were impressive, **Grey-headed Fruit-Doves** were distant and our attempts to find some night-birds scored only one distant calling **Moluccan Scops-Owl**.

Sunday April 15th

Our first full day on Halmahera started pre-dawn on the side-road to Kali Batu Putih. Scops-Owls again remained hidden as a dawn chorus of exotic songs confused us all. Our first new birds were a pair of **Giant Coucals**, and just up the road, some of us saw the **Ivory-bellied Pittas** that were flying around and calling. A small roadside pond swarmed with the most amazing golden frogs as we continued along the road to some clearings with **Moluccan (Slaty) Flycatchers**, distant **Dusky-brown Oriole** and **White-streaked Friarbird** and a pair of **Blue-and-white Kingfishers**. A pair of **Paradise Crows** gave very good scope views, then we met up with Kris and Anu who guided us further along the road, past a great pair of **Chattering Lorries**, to a small plantation where we found **Halmahera Cuckoo-shrike**, **White-naped Monarch**, **Dull Whistler** and a surprise **Arctic Warbler**. The midday heat killed off bird activity and we returned to the guesthouse for lunch. Our afternoon excursion was limited by persistent rain and a **Blue-capped Fruit-Dove** only perched up briefly. Another night-birding session after dinner was successful, with good views of a pair of **Moluccan Scops-Owls**.

Monday April 16th

The next day, we walked to Anu's clearing and formed a long wobbly chain to cross the river. A **Cinnamon-bellied Imperial-Pigeon** was the best find on the walk to the Standardwing lek, before we climbed the steep hill where the standardwings were still calling, and settled down to watch. At least two **male Wallace's Standardwings** performed wonderfully, mesmerising us with their display. A **Dusky Scrubfowl** created a short diversion before the sun rose and the standardwings slipped away. Whilst trying to find the **Nicobar Pigeon** and **Dusky Scrubfowl** that flushed up just along the trail, Anu heard a **Sombre Kingfisher** and a **Scarlet-breasted Fruit-Dove**, and somehow we found the kingfisher high in the forest canopy – a great bird undeserving of its name. The fruit-dove took longer to find but was a splendid bird when it appeared, and gave prolonged scope views. That afternoon, we drove to a vantage point at Gunung Potong to look for pigeons and parrots, and had good views of perched **Spectacled Imperial-Pigeon** and a spectacular monstrous **Great-billed Parrot**. **Violet-necked** and **Chattering Lorries** flew past and we had repeated views of **Grey-throated Goshawk**, a proposed split from Variable Goshawk.

Tuesday April 17th

Our last morning and night-birding attempt was suddenly in luck when a **Moluccan Owlet-nightjar** called just before dawn and great views were enjoyed. **White-streaked Friarbirds** finally gave themselves up in Anu's clearing and we enjoyed our last views of many Halmaheran endemics – thank you Anu for all your help and knowledge! In the late morning, we took a boat back to Ternate and the flight to Manado,

Wednesday April 18th

The next day we flew back to Jayapura, where we had time to bird the remnant forest patches along the Lake Sentani road and were rewarded by a splendid, if distant, displaying male **Lesser Bird of Paradise**.

Thursday April 19th

After an early start and drive, we met Jamil, our local guide at Nimbokrang, and spent most of the morning on a narrow plank-trail resembling the best boardwalks on British bird reserves. No such luck; we were soon watching the village boys pushing rainforest planks on skateboards along the plank-trail. A **Greater Black Coucal** and a **Variable Dwarf Kingfisher** showed themselves well along the trail, and a **Double-eyed Fig-Parrot** excavated a nest. The Nimbokrang heat and humidity started to kick-in as we tried to find some shade to shelter until lunch and our motorcycle-lifts home. That afternoon we jumped back onto the bikes and visited some heavily logged swamp forest the other side of town, where we found two **Oriental Cuckoos** and had great views of a **Papuan Nightjar** hawking around us at dusk.

Friday April 20th

The next morning we rode to the Jalan Korea logging road where it passes some particularly wet swamp forest. The road birds included scope views of **Streak-headed Honeyeater** but we had to face up to the swampy interior for Nimbokrang's special birds. Not far in, a **Blue-black Kingfisher** called and whizzed past us; perhaps the same bird performed marvellously on our walk back. Deeper in the forest, Jamil was having some success whistling to a **Pale-billed Sicklebill**, and we eventually had good, albeit brief, views of this unusual bird of paradise. Beaten by the humidity and mosquitoes, we were happy to rest by the road until the day cooled and we explored another road in low hills. The highlight was a **Dwarf Koel** flying past.

Saturday April 21st

On our next day at Nimbokrang, Jamil took us into drier swamp forest behind his garden, but we soon gave up any idea of dry feet. The dense forest thwarted efforts to see many of the birds heard calling but we were very lucky to have great views of a **White-faced Catbird**. A **Jobi Manucode** showed briefly, a **Blue Jewel-babbler** twice flew past, and we had great views of a **Sooty Thicket-Fantail** whilst waiting for the jewel-babbler. Other birds in the area included **King Birds of Paradise** and **Ochre-collared Monarchs** before activity died down and we returned for our midday rest. In the afternoon we visited some forest edge and paddies, finding another **Jobi Manucode**, **Grey-headed Goshawk** and **White-shouldered Fairy-Wrens**, plus some good fly-over views of **Brown Lorries**.

Sunday April 22nd

On our last morning at Nimbokrang, we returned to the first day's boardwalk but there was less activity. **Meyer's Friarbirds** and **Zoe Imperial-Pigeons** seen from the road were the best birds.

Monday April 23rd

An early-morning flight saw us flying up to Wamena across miles of hill forest, lowland swamp forest and montane forest. Much of New Guinea remains an untouched wilderness, and long may it remain so. Paradoxically, it is very difficult to find easy access into forest anywhere in West Papua, and most birding sites are along roads with considerable habitat degradation from industrial logging then village logging and hunting. Wamena is the capital of the West Papuan Highlands, situated in the heavily populated Baliem valley. We were soon driving through fields, grassland and marshes and stopped to watch **Black-breasted Munias** and **Papuan Harriers**. By the time we reached our target forest fragment, the morning bird activity had subsided but we found **Stout-billed Cuckoo-shrike** and **Blue-faced Parrot-Finch** amongst commoner species. Back in Wamena, Kris had completed all our arrangements to drive up to Lake Habbema and, after a gourmet lunch of Habbema crayfish, we were negotiating the steep road. Halfway up we stopped for good views of a fantastic male **Splendid Astrapia** but time was against us and we arrived at the lake after dark to pitch our tents and adjust to the climate and altitude.

Tuesday April 24th

Next morning, we set off in search of one of New Guinea's most-wanted birds: **MacGregor's Bird-of-Paradise**, now reclassified as a honeyeater (MacGregor's Honeyeater of Paradise?) but still a stunning bird. We checked the forest patches close to the lake where MacGregor's have been seen previously but it seems that the road has opened up the area to more visitors and this species, supposedly unwary, has been hunted to rarity. **Orange-cheeked Honeyeaters** were abundant and several **Short-bearded Melidectes** were found in the subalpine bushes. At least two **Salvadori's Teals** were found on the lake and a pair of **Snow Mountain Quail** were flushed and seen by the clients. Some caught a glimpse of a MacGregor's and we spent the next hour or two watching the forest edge, eventually finding another Macgregor's and also several **Splendid Astrapias**. Both were wonderful birds – big, beautiful and in wonderful mountain scenery. The return walk was more notable for its orchids and other alpine flowers, and the afternoon was spent birding from the road near the tree line. A flock of **New Guinea Thornbills** were found, several **Alpine Pipits** were found along the road, a **Black-mantled Goshawk** was seen and also an **Archbold's Bowerbird** down the Ibele Track.

Wednesday April 25th

On our final morning, we descended to the upper montane forest and walked slowly down the road. A couple of tiger-parrots hid before they could be identified, but a **Painted Tiger-Parrot** was scoped later. **Mountain Firetails**, **Black Sitellas** and **Mountain Robins** gave good views, as did **White-winged Robins** and **Hooded Cuckoo-shrikes**. More **Splendid Astrapias** provided some eventual photo-opportunities and we returned to our Wamena hotel in the early evening.

Thursday April 26th

Starting our journey home, we took the early morning flight down to Jayapura, back over those endless forests, to our familiar hotel. We checked out a couple of potential birding

sites close to Jayapura, where the first overgrown hilltop held very little but the forest fragments along another transmigration road supported more birds. Many species were heard calling but few perched out for us. A fig-parrot disappeared straight into its nest-hole but **Rufous-bellied Kookaburra**, **Lesser Black Coucal** and **Grey Crow** all offered themselves to the camera.

Friday April 27th

On our final day, we stopped at several locations on the drive to the border, seeing another **Jobi Manucode**, fleeting views of **New Guinea Bronzewing** but exceptional views of **Magnificent Riflebirds**. The border formalities were straightforward and we returned to the English-speaking world, or at least to pidgin English. A two-hour stop-over at Madang was made far more comfortable thanks to the use of the executive lounge but a last-minute dash for **Grand Munias** at the end of the airstrip turned into a run for the plane.

It had been a very successful tour - we had seen all of our major target birds and encountered no logistical problems. **Wilson's Bird-of-Paradise** and **Wallace's Standardwing** were mind-blowing birds, **MacGregor's Honeyeater-of-Paradise** was a fitting star of its Alpine environment, **Blue-black Kingfisher** and **Pale-billed Sicklebill** made the Nimbokrang swamps seem worth suffering the climate, **Vogelkop Bowerbird**, **Western Parotia** and **Buff-tailed Sicklebill** were a tribute to fantastic local guides, and **Wallace's Standardwing**, **Great-billed Parrot** and **Ivory-breasted Pitta** tempted us to return to visit more of the Moluccas. Many thanks are due to the late Kris Tindige and his wife Shita for their splendid organization and efforts.

Bold type denotes a New Guinea endemic species.

Underlined species are endemic to West Papua (including the islands)

* denotes a near endemic

(H) indicates species which were heard but not seen

Names follow the existing current PNG or Australian usage, and the imposed names from Sibley *et al.* and Clements are given with some reluctance where major confusion exists.

WEST PAPUA

Birds seen in West Papua

[[**Northern Cassowary** *Casuarius unappendiculatus*

Tracks were seen commonly on Salawati.]]

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

Two along the Batanta coast and one at Sorong airport. One perched beside Lake Habbema may be an altitude record for this species!

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*

Two from the boat crossing from Batanta to Sorong.

Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*

Two seen along the coast of Batanta.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*

At least one on the Batanta coast and at the Aimas rice-paddies but others may have been overlooked.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

One on the Batanta coast and one at the Sorong airport.

Eastern Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*

Six on the boat crossing from Sorong to Batanta were mostly perched on floating seaweed far out to sea, and one on the return journey.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

At least 40 at the Aimas rice-paddies. Outside West Papua, about were seen 100 at Manado and up to 30 at Port Moresby and Wewak airports.

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

One flying past at the Sorong airport. First noted for New Guinea by Kris in 2001 (published in *Kukila* volume 12).

Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis*

An immature in flight then an adult perched beside Lake Sentani and probably this species seen after dark at Nimbokrang.

Spotted Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna guttata*

At least 20 along the Batanta coast and Guy saw about 10 coming to the rice paddies at Nimbokrang after dark.

Radjah Shelduck *Tadorna radjah*

Guy saw two off the coast of Batanta.

Salvadori's Teal *Anas waigiensis*

At least two birds seen amongst the Coots on Lake Habbema. This is one of the few known localities that's not on a river – birds are easy to see here but at a distance.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

One seen on Lake Habbema

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

One at Lake Sentani and one or two most days around Batanta.

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*

Three seen on Biak included good views of perched birds, then a total of six seen at Nimbokrang.

Long-tailed Buzzard *Henicopernis longicauda*

Two soaring over the Arfaks on the drive up, then one behind Sorong, and very good views of one circling over the forest below Lake Habbema.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

At least 60 in a thermal at Madang airport was a high count for New Guinea.

Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus*

One over Lake Sentani and one at Port Moresby were the only records.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

Seen most days in the lowlands, with a maximum of four on the boat crossing to Batanta.

Papuan Harrier *Circus (spilonotus) spilothorax*

Two seen in the Baliem valley and two at Lake Habbema. Most recent reviews now treat this as a separate species from Eastern Marsh Harrier.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

One or two seen daily around Batanta, and one along the road beyond Lake Sentani.

* Variable (Grey) Goshawk *Accipiter (novaehollandiae) hiogaster*

Singles and pairs seen at many lowland sites, notably a wonderful white bird perched by Lake Sentani, and a pair posing for photographs behind Sorong. The birds from Wallacea through New Guinea to the Solomons have been split from the Grey Goshawk of Australia.

Grey-headed Goshawk *Accipiter poliocephalus*

One perched instantly then flew past us at dusk at Nimbokrang. Interestingly, this was in exactly the same place and habitat as Variable Goshawk.

Black-mantled Goshawk *Accipiter melanochlamys*

Fantastic views of one perched very close to us in the Arfaks, then another near Lake Habbema.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

One of the small dark resident subspecies flew past at dusk on Biak.

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora*

Two perched below the resort in the Baliem valley and two soaring over the forest below Lake Habbema: one displaying high overhead, and another much lower over us.

Australian Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*

One near Lake Habbema. The Snow Mountain subspecies *baru* is the only resident population outside Australia.

Biak Scrubfowl *Megapodius geelvinkianus*

Two singles flushed on Biak were hardly visible through the dense undergrowth, and another two heard. This species, split in the megapode monograph and most subsequent texts, is currently listed as globally Vulnerable.

*Dusky Scrubfowl *Megapodius decollatus*

One seen briefly on Senapang Island, but seen much better on Halmahera.

Red-billed Brush-turkey *Talegalla cuvieri* (H)

Two heard on Salawati and one behind Sorong

Brown-collared Brush-turkey *Talegalla jobiensis* (H)

Singles heard on several dates at Nimbokrang and Lake Sentani. This genus is always nearly impossible to see!

Snow Mountain Quail *Anurophasis monorhonyx*

Two by Lake Habbema flushed off with noisy wing-beats – close enough for Guy to hear but not see! This monotypic genus is endemic to the highest Snow Mountain peaks.

Buff-banded Rail *Rallus philippensis*

Two seen in the Aimas rice paddies, then great views of two on the road near the Baliem valley resort, and at least two heard at dusk in the Nimbokrang paddies.

Rufous-tailed Bush-hen *Amaurornis moluccanus* (H)

A pair calling on Batanta.

White-browed Crake *Porzana cinerea* (H)

Several calling in the Nimbokrang paddies.

- Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*
Four were seen at the PAU.
- Purple Swamphen (Purple Gallinule) *Porphyrio porphyrio*
Two at the Aimas paddies and two heard in the Nimbokrang paddies. The black backed race *melanotus* is sometimes split as a separate species.
- Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*
At least 32 counted on Lake Habbema.
- Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*
Small numbers seen on several airstrips in both West Papua and especially in PNG, and two at the Aimas paddies.
- Lesser (Mongolian) Sand-Plover *Charadrius mongolus*
Two smart birds in breeding plumage on mud near the Sorong airstrip.
- Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
One feeding on floating seaweed off Batanta.
- Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*
Five at the Aimas paddies were mostly in summer plumage.
- Long-toed Stint *Calidris*
One at the Aimas paddies was the rarest wader seen, fortunately perched close to a Wood Sandpiper for a good size comparison.
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*
Two at the Aimas paddies.
- Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
About 20 at the Aimas paddies were by far the commonest wader at the site.
- Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos*
Four seen rather distantly at the Aimas paddies.
- Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
Three also seen rather distantly at the Aimas paddies.
- Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
Up to three seen at Wewak, Aimas, Batanta and Sorong airstrip, and heard calling over Wamena.
- Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*
About five seen on the crossing to Batanta and three on the return.
- Common Tern *Sterna hirundo longipennis*
About 100 seen on the crossing to Batanta and 20 on the return.
- Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana*
About 30 seen on both crossings to and from Batanta.
- Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus*
About five seen on the crossing to Batanta and one on the return.
- Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*
Two of uncertain origin seen in flight at Jayapura (and two at Port Moresby). This species has not really established itself in New Guinea yet.
- Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove (Brown Cuckoo-Dove) *Macropygia amboinensis*
Up to four seen on many days in the lowlands, especially at Nimbokrang. This is a split from the Brown Cuckoo-Dove of Australia.

*Great Cuckoo-Dove *Reinwardtoena reinwardtii*:

Two fly-bys seen by some of the group: at Biak and the forest fragments past Lake Sentani.

Emerald Ground-Dove *Chalcophaps indica* (H)

Four heard on Biak.

*Stephan's Ground-Dove *Chalcophaps stephani* (H)

Singles heard at Nimbokrang.

New Guinea Bronzewing *Henicophaps albifrons*

Two flying across the road near the PNG border must have been this species, but were only seen very briefly.

*Bronze Ground-Dove *Gallicolumba beccarii*

O was seen in the Arfaks

Pheasant Pigeon *Otidiphaps nobilis*

One walked whilst sat in the Wilson's Bird-of-Paradise hide. Perhaps the same individual as filmed on "Attenborough in Paradise"?!.

Western Crowned Pigeon *Goura cristata*

At least three flushed up on Salawati – fortunately, Kris found one perched for fantastic scope views. Let's hope that the trickle of birdwatchers persuades the hunters to leave these magnificent birds alone...

Wompoo Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus*

Two singles seen at Nimbokrang and one or two heard many days in the lowlands. A beautiful bird perhaps matched only by the similar Scarlet-breasted Fruit-Dove of Halmahera!

Coroneted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus coronulatus*

Two singles scoped in treetops at Nimbokrang gave good views of this scarce species.

Beautiful Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus pulchellus*

One in swamp forest at Nimbokrang.

*Claret-breasted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus viridis*

Good views of six on Biak. A small-island species ranging from east Indonesia to the Solomon Islands but not on mainland New Guinea.

White-bibbed (breasted) Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus rivoli*

Heard commonly in the Arfaks but most of the four birds seen were only seen briefly or through dense vegetation.

*Yellow-bibbed Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus solomonensis*

Six of this beautiful species were seen on Biak. Another small-island species which is widespread on the islands east of New Guinea with an isolated subspecies on Biak.

Orange-bellied Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus iozonus*

Up to 10 seen on many days in the lowlands. This is typically the common fruit-dove of degraded lowland forests.

Rufescent Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula chalconota*

Two seen in the Arfaks. This species is rarely seen but probably not uncommon away from villages and hunters.

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

Frustratingly, this species was heard at Nimbokrang and in forest beyond Lake Sentani, but not seen.

Pinon Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula pinon*

Fairly common on Batanta, Salawati and Nimbokrang and beyond Lake Sentani, with up to 10 seen most days.

Zoe Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula zoeae*

Only seen at Nimbokrang, where about six were seen in flight and one scoped beside the road, and others heard calling here and beyond Lake Sentani.

Spice Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula myristicivora*

Three seen in flight over Biak. This subspecies lacks a knob and Kris believes that it is more closely related to the Elegant Imperial-Pigeon, which occurs on small islands off south-west Papua. (Maybe it should be split as a separate species.) Three seen along the Batanta coast and about 10 seen on Senapang island were of the nominate subspecies which is restricted to the West Papuan islands and eastern Moluccas.

*Papuan Mountain Pigeon *Gymnophaps albertisii*

Surprisingly rare with only two seen – one in the Arfaks and one flying over Nimbokrang.

*Palm Cockatoo *Probosciger aterrimus*

This magnificent king of swamp forests was fairly common on Batanta and Salawati, where eight were seen, and another two at Nimbokrang.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*

Also fairly common on Batanta and Salawati, where up to 15 were seen from the boat, and one or two on several dates at Nimbokrang and Lake Sentani.

Black Lory *Chalcopsitta atra*

Three pairs flying over Sorong were seen well enough to identify to this genus but we then had good scope views of three, showing red on their faces. A West Papuan endemic, basically restricted to the Vogelkop and West Papuan islands.

Brown Lory *Chalcopsitta duivenbodei*

About 10 seen flying over Nimbokrang, some close enough to see the yellow on their faces. A localised species endemic to the north coast of New Guinea.

Dusky Lory *Pseudeos fuscata*

Small flocks flew over Nimbokrang each morning and evening, with a maximum of about 50 seen, but these were all flying at a typically high altitude.

Biak Red Lory *Eos cyanogenia*

Two pairs were seen flying past. This scarcity fits its status as globally threatened, based on the rate of forest loss on Biak, exacerbated by trapping for the pet trade.

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*

Small numbers at most lowland sites, maximum 20 in a day at Nimbokrang.

Western Black-capped Lory *Lorius lory*

A pair in flight on Biak, three behind Sorong and a total of six at Nimbokrang. As typical with many lorries, these were seen in flight only.

Red-flanked Lorikeet *Charmosyna placentis*

A total of 13 seen in small flocks in flight over Nimbokrang and Sorong.

Josephine's Lorikeet *Charmosyna josefinae*

Two and then four birds in flowering trees in the Arfaks. Always a scarce species, we were lucky to see them perched.

Papuan Lorikeet *Charmosyna papou*

Two pairs seen in flight in the Arfaks, and two pairs below Lake Habbema. Always a favourite with perhaps the longest streamers of any parrot.

Plum-faced (Whiskered) Lorikeet *Oreopsittacus arfaki*

At least two birds in both of the flowering trees with the Josephine's Lorikeets, and at least five in flight below Lake Habema.

Yellow-billed Lorikeet *Neopsittacus musschenbroekii*

A total of about 20 seen one day in the Arfaks included good views of a pair in the upper clearing, and great scope views of about 20 below Lake Habbema.

Orange-billed Lorikeet *Neopsittacus pullicauda*

A total of about 15 in the subalpine scrub around Lake Habbema.

Geelvink Pygmy-Parrot *Micropsitta geelvinkiana*

One seen well on Biak, foraging in the crown of a big tree. This is by far the rarest of the world's pygmy-parrots, which range as far east as the Solomons.

Buff-faced Pygmy-Parrot *Micropsitta pusio*

A total of five seen at Nimbokrang, including excellent view of two at close range on the walkway trail.

*Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrot *Micropsitta bruijnii*

Good views of three in the Arfaks.

Double-eyed Fig-Parrot *Cyclopsitta diophthalma*

Good views of up to five a day at Nimbokrang, including a female excavating a nest-hole. Unfortunately, not all fig-parrots were seen well enough to exclude the possibility of the regionally-endemic Salvadori's Fig-Parrot, notably the parrot beyond Lake Sentani which dived into a hole and never reappeared.

Large Fig-Parrot *Psittaculirostris desmarestii*

Two foraging in a big fig tree above us on Salawati were of a subspecies not illustrated in the field guide.

Brehm's Tiger-Parrot *Psittacella brehmii*

We all saw one at Lake Habbema, in addition, two in the Arfaks and one below Lake Habbema.

Painted Tiger-Parrot *Psittacella brehmii*

Good but rather distant scope views of one below Lake Habbema, and several 'possibles' seen in flight around Lake Habbema. This is generally the highest-altitude tiger-parrot.

Modest Tiger-Parrot *P. modesta*

Great views of one in the Arfaks on the trail below the bowers.

*Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi*

Common in most lowland sites, max 10 on several days at Nimbokrang.

*Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus*

Up to five seen on most days in all lowland sites. Beautiful scope views on Batanta of this species.

*Moluccan King-Parrot *Alisterus amboinensis*

One on Batanta perched above the path.

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*

Two seen on two days in rice paddies at Nimbokrang. An uncommon migrant to PNG, this species could be expected to be more common in north-west Papua.

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*

Four seen on Biak and another four at Nimbokrang.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*

One seen in the Arfaks and two below Lake Habbema. Several heard calling both days around Lake Habema.

Rufous-throated Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx ruficollis*

Good but brief views of one in upper montane forest below Lake Habbema.

White-eared Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx meyeri*

One seen well close to the guest house in the Arfaks. This is the mid-altitude bronze-cuckoo in New Guinea.

White-crowned Koel *Caliecthrus leucolophus* (H)

One calling at Nimbokrang. An elusive hill species.

Dwarf Koel *Microdynamis parva*

Two singles heard at Nimbokrang both flew overhead, showing the face pattern of this secretive species.

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

Two flew low over us at Nimbokrang and some of us also saw one at Port Moresby and three near Lake Sentani. These are probably all migrants from Australia.

Greater Black Coucal *Centropus menbeki*

A pair proved very elusive on the road behind Sorong but another pair at Nimbokrang showed themselves much better. Another single seen later at Nimbokrang and many birds heard calling here and at Lake Sentani.

Lesser Black Coucal *Centropus bernsteini*

One found in the paddies at Aimas then a total of five near the Sorong airport and three other singles seen – a good total for this often-elusive species.

Biak Coucal *Centropus chalybeus* (H)

A pair heard calling on Biak but not seen. This species is uncommon and, like all forest coucals, rather difficult to see.

Papuan Boobook (Jungle Hawk-Owl) *Ninox theomacha*

Fantastic but only momentary views of one in the Arfaks which landed just next to us, and another heard calling the next night.

*Papuan Frogmouth *Podargus papuensis*

Two heard on Biak and one at Nimbokrang. Probably more common than these records suggest as the terrain and weather gave little opportunity for night-birding.

*Marbled Frogmouth *Podargus ocellatus* (H)

Two heard calling on the walk up to the Wilson's Bird of Paradise – unfortunately, we were too pushed for time to stop and search for them.

Feline Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles insignis* (H)

Singles heard twice in the Arfaks. Alas, none could be found in their usual roosting area.

Mountain Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles albertisii*

Amazing daytime views of one roosting in the Arfaks. Zeth's knowledge of where to find this species gave us one of the great trip highlights.

Papuan Nightjar *Eurostopodus papuensis*

One hawking around us at Nimbokrang gave us good views of this rarely seen species, clearing showing a white throat and plain wings and tail.

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*

Three seen hawking at dusk on Biak, one seen briefly on Batanta, one on the nest at Nimbokrang and others heard at Nimbokrang and at Lake Sentani.

Mountain Swiftlet *Collocalia hirundinacea*

Large swiftlets in the mountains presumed to be this species were seen in the Arfaks, maximum 10, and Lake Habbema, maximum 20.

Uniform Swiftlet *Collocalia vanikorensis*

Widespread in the lowlands with large counts of 100 on Batanta and behind Sorong.

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*

Common on Biak, small numbers at Nimbokrang, and common at Lake Habbema, especially in the montane forest where 50 were seen on our walk down.

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*

Guy saw four on Batanta.

Papuan Spinetail *Mearnsia novaeguineae*

Up to 10 daily at Nimbokrang, where many were flying low over the roads, and one at the PNG border.

Variable (Dwarf) Kingfisher *Ceyx lepidus*

Fantastic views of two perched close to the path at Nimbokrang. Usually this species is only heard – others were heard on Salawati, Nimbokrang and the PNG border.

*Common Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera galatea* (H)

About five heard on Batanta and three on Salawati

Biak Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera riedelii*

A highlight of Biak was the great views of this endemic species which perched out in the open after we had worked hard to track them down in the forest. A total of nine seen and about 17 heard. Sometimes considered a subspecies of Common Paradise-Kingfisher, this taxon has distinctive body plumage as well as tail shape and colour.

Hook-billed Kingfisher *Melidora macrorrhina*

One called during the day on Batanta and was seen perched, otherwise several calling at dawn on Batanta, one heard behind Sorong and two at Nimbokrang.

Rufous-bellied Kookaburra *Dacelo gaudichaud*

This impressive forest kingfisher was heard regularly in lowland forest, and one seen on Salawati, three seen at Nimbokrang and two seen beyond Lake Sentani.

Blue-black Kingfisher *Halcyon nigrocyanea*

This Nimbokrang speciality was only recorded when we left the roads and waded through the swamp forest. On the first trail, the first bird calling was seen by most of us, the next two birds remained hidden, but the final bird perched up very close for everyone to appreciate this stunning bird. Another heard on the other trail.

Beach Kingfisher *Halcyon saurophaga*

Quintessential views of one perched over the beach on Senapang Island.

Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sancta*

This Australian migrant was fairly common in open habitats at Nimbokrang, where five were seen one morning in the paddies and another four singles seen, and one at Port Moresby.

*Yellow-billed Kingfisher *Halcyon torotoro* (H)

Three heard at Nimbokrang.

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

Small numbers were seen at Nimbokrang, up to 10 at Lake Sentani and 15 at both Batanta and Port Moresby.

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

Common at Nimbokrang, where up to six were seen in open habitats, and four beyond Lake Sentani, and singles on Biak and Batanta. Most were probably Australian migrants.

* Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus*

The regular sightings of pairs and small groups of this magnificent species in most lowland forest sites were a highlight, maximum 15 on Salawati.

Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida* (H)

Elusive but fairly common on Biak, where about seven were heard, and another heard on Salawati.

Red-bellied Pitta *Pitta erythrogaster*

Three heard calling on Batanta, where also flushed one from the trail, and a calling bird behind Sorong obligingly jumped up.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Seven around the Sentani airport on our first day soon dropped to one mid-way through the tour, then none. Two singles also seen near Sorong.

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*

Small numbers, usually pairs, were widespread, especially around airports and hotels.

Tree Martin *Hirundo nigricans*

Singles of this uncommon Australian migrant were seen at Wewak and Nimbokrang.

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla (flava) tschutschensis*

Four at the Aimas rice paddies and one heard over Sorong.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Six singles seen in the Arfaks and around Sorong. These two wagtails are the Palearctic passerine migrants most commonly encountered in New Guinea but perhaps forest warblers and pipits are overlooked.

Alpine Pipit *Anthus gutturalis*

Common along the road at Lake Habbema, where a total of 15 were seen, usually flushing up to land further down the road or in a small tree. This must be the easiest place to see this high-altitude endemic, as the Tari Gap road in PNG is not high enough.

Hooded Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina longicauda*

Four of these impressive birds followed us for a while through the forest below Lake Habema.

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis*

One to three seen on five dates at Batanta, Sorong, Nimbokrang and Lake Sentani.

Boyer's Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina boyeri*

Four of this usually common lowland species were seen at Nimbokrang.

Stout-billed Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina caeruleogrisea*

Good views of one at the Baliem Valley resort.

Grey-headed Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina schisticeps*

Three seen behind Sorong and two at Nimbokrang. Another usually common cuckoo-shrike which seemed rather scarce this time.

Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*

The only record was three of the Biak subspecies. Cicadabirds are absent from most forest in New Guinea, where they are presumably out-competed by the other cuckoo-shrikes.

Black-browed Triller *Lalage atrifrons*

Five on Biak (a separate subspecies), two behind Sorong and a total of six around Nimbokrang.

Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster* (I)

Three seen on Biak. An introduction from western Indonesia, probably Java, reflecting the strong trading links with Biak but not the New Guinea mainland.

Pied Chat (Pied Stonechat) *Saxicola caprata*

Common in the lower montane grasslands, with five seen in the Baliem Valley and about 10 seen on the drive up to Lake Habema, plus one near Lake Sentani.

Island Thrush *Turdus poliocephalus*

Abundant at high altitude at Lake Habbema, especially in the burned grasslands but also in clearings and roadsides through the forest. About 40 seen when we wandered around searching for MacGregor's, where it was the commonest bird.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

One in display flight over Madang airport.

Island Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus poliocephala*

Two in the Arfaks, at relatively low attitude near the guest house and one heard near the Baliem valley resort.

Papuan Grassbird *Megalurus (timoriensis) papuensis*

About ten seen in the grasslands around Lake Habema. The calls of the highland birds are distinct from Australian birds and it is split in the latest Howard and Moore Checklist.

Sooty Thicket-Fantail *Rhipidura threnothorax*

Two heard behind Sorong were typical super-skulkers – coming within a few metres but remaining hidden – then one inside the forest at Nimbokrang did allow brief flight-views, which was totally eclipsed by good views by one foraging naively in front of us as we strained to see a Blue Jewel-Babbler.

White-bellied Thicket-Fantail *Rhipidura leucothorax*

Singles heard frequently but only two were seen – at Nimbokrang and behind Lake Sentani.

Dimorphic Fantail *Rhipidura brachyrhyncha*

Fairly common in the Arfaks where 12 were seen, and three in the forests below Lake Habbema.

Rufous-backed Fantail *Rhipidura rufidorsa*

One seen well at Nimbokrang. A surprisingly unobtrusive species.

Black Fantail *Rhipidura atra*

Another fairly common species in the Arfaks, where a total of 14 were seen.

Friendly Fantail *Rhipidura albolimbata*

The commonest montane fantail, with up to eight seen daily in the Arfaks and below Lake Habbema.

Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris*

Fairly common in lowland forests, including two on Biak, three on Batanta, five on Salawati and up to five per day at Nimbokrang.

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

Common in open lowland habitats, including six and a nest on Biak, up to five elsewhere, and up to 10 at each of the PNG airports.

Black Monarch *Monarcha axillaris*

Two on the last full day in the Arfaks were behaviourally distinct from the commoner Black Fantails.

Hooded Monarch *Monarcha manadensis*

One seen in the first mixed flock encountered at Nimbokrang – an elusive lowland species.

Spot-winged Monarch *Monarcha guttulus*

Great views of a loose group of about five on Salawati, and one at Nimbokrang.

Golden Monarch *Monarcha chrysomela*

This spectacular species proved to be fairly common at Nimbokrang, where 10 were seen. A male of the Biak subspecies was distinctly orange – a feature shared by other island subspecies.

Frilled Monarch *Arses telescopthalmus*

One on Batanta and three on Salawati.

Ochre-collared Monarch *Arses insularis*

Four singles seen at Nimbokrang – a recent split from Frilled Monarch.

Biak Black Flycatcher *Myiagra atra*

Six seen on Biak made it one of the commoner endemics. This genus has speciated widely in the islands around New Guinea but not on New Guinea itself.

Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*

Two seen and a few heard around Lake Sentani, and about six seen at Nimbokrang, including excellent views of some confiding individuals.

Yellow-breasted Boatbill *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*

One seen well close to the crowned pigeon on Salawati, and one heard at Nimbokrang.

Black-breasted Boatbill *Machaerirhynchus nigripectus*

Five seen in the Arfaks and just one below Lake Habbema. A wonderfully patterned bird.

Canary Flycatcher *Microeca papuana*

Two singles seen in the Arfaks were the only records of the unobtrusive *Microeca* flycatchers.

Garnet Robin *Eugerygone rubra*

One in the Arfaks and two below Lake Habbema. This tiny bird is unique in shimmering its wings in a similar fashion to *Myiagra* flycatchers shimmering their tails.

Mountain Robin *Petroica placens*

At least ten seen below Lake Habbema was a great total for this rarely-recorded high altitude species.

Lesser Ground-Robin *Amalocichla incerta*

Several were heard in the Arfaks and two were glimpsed. The least shy out of New Guinea's suite of shy ground birds.

Ashy Robin *Heteromyias (Poecilodryas) albispecularis*

One seen and others heard in the Arfaks were of the Vogelkop subspecies *albispecularis*. This is often lumped with the Grey-headed Robin of Australia, but the calls, songs, habits and habitat are quite different.

Black-sided Robin *Poecilodryas hypoleuca*

Great views of one on Salawati, another seen on Batanta and two at Nimbokrang. This species is easier to see than most robins as it perches in the open.

Black-throated Robin *Poecilodryas albonotata*

Two seen in the Arfaks and two below Lake Habbema. A large robin with an easily-overlooked very thin whistle.

White-winged Robin *Peneothello sigillatus*

Five below Lake Habbema, showing the white shoulder patch of this western subspecies.

Smoky Robin *Peneothello cryptoleucus*

One heard and Guy saw two at high altitudes in the Arfaks. This Vogelkop endemic is remarkably similar in plumage to the Blue-grey Robin.

Blue-grey Robin *Peneothello cyanus*

Fairly common and confiding in the Arfaks, where about six were seen. Only one was heard below Lake Habbema which was at its upper altitudinal range.

Green-backed Robin *Pachycephalopsis hattamensis*

Four were seen in undergrowth close to the Arfaks guest house. Another Vogelkop endemic, named after Zeth's tribe, the Hattam people .

Mottled Whistler *Rhagologus leucostigma*

Two seen briefly in the Arfaks.

Regent Whistler *Pachycephala schlegelii*

Fairly common in the Arfaks, where up to six were seen in a day.

Vogelkop Whistler *Pachycephala meyeri*

This indistinct species was seen alongside the very similar female Sclater's and Regent Whistlers in the Arfaks, where at least four were seen.

Lorentz's Whistler *Pachycephala lorentzi*

Four around the tree-line at Lake Habema were much brighter in plumage than females of other species. Endemic to the high mountains of West Papua.

Sclater's Whistler *Pachycephala soror*

The common montane whistler, with up to five seen daily in the Arfaks, and four on the walk down from Lake Habbema.

Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*

Two at the Baliem Valley resort. This species is widespread on small islands from Indonesia to Fiji but has just this one subspecies on New Guinea, restricted to the montane valleys of West Papua.

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

Two singles seen on Salawati and at Nimbokrang. New Guinea birds are often called Grey-headed Whistler, which Clements splits from the *simplex* taxon, which he calls Grey Whistler even though it's brown.

Rufous-naped Whistler *Pachycephala (Aleadryas) rufinucha*

Good views of at least three in the Arfaks, exhibiting their unusual plumage, harsh call and furtive habits which all support their classification in a separate genus.

Little Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla megarhyncha*

Singles seen on Batanta, Salawati and Nimbokrang.

Variable Pitohui *Pitohui kirhocephalus* (H)

The pitohuis heard by the PNG border but refusing to show themselves were this species.

Hooded Pitohui *Pitohui dichrous*

One dived across the trail at Nimbokrang.

Rusty Pitohui *Pitohui ferrugineus*

The common pitohui of the trip, with flocks of about five of the white-billed subspecies seen on Batanta, and of the dark-billed subspecies on Salawati and Nimbokrang.

Black Pitohui *Pitohui nigrescens*

A male seen briefly in the Arfaks. This pitohui prefers the understorey and is always difficult to see...

Papuan Log-runner *Orthonyx novaeguineae*

Guy saw one high in the Arfaks. Recently split from Australian Log-runner on the basis of biochemistry and morphology, but the songs, calls and habits are also distinct. This is the nominate race.

Spotted Jewel-babbler *Ptilorrhoa leucosticta*

Two heard in the Arfaks where we had wonderful views of one which crossed the path several times.

Blue Jewel-babbler *Ptilorrhoa caerulescens*

Just one was heard calling at Nimbokrang where the forest was too flooded for this species, where it entertained us for hours before eventually giving us some passable flight views.

Emperor Fairywren *Malurus cyanocephalus*

A group of three of this electric-blue forest wren were seen on Biak, one behind Sorong and two at Nimbokrang. This is one of very few species of small New Guinea birds which have colonised Biak without speciating.

White-shouldered Fairywren *Malurus alboscapulatus*

Six of this grassland species were seen at Nimbokrang and four at the lower forest edge below Lake Habbema.

Rusty Mouse-warbler *Crateroscelis murina*

We were lucky to have good views of a singing bird on Salawati. Just one other was heard, behind Sorong.

Mountain Mouse-warbler *Crateroscelis robusta*

Regularly heard in the Arfaks and below Lake Habbema, with a bird showing itself on the first day in the Arfaks and two seen near Lake Habbema.

Perplexing Scrubwren *Sericornis virgatus*

Groups of two and three were seen close to the guest house in the Arfaks. A difficult species to identify, especially as it exhibits great geographical variation.

Large Scrubwren *Sericornis nouhuysi*

A flock of six seen high in the Arfaks.

Buff-faced Scrubwren *Sericornis perspicillatus*

Two of this distinctive species were seen at the Baliem Valley resort.

Vogelkop Scrubwren *Sericornis rufescens*

This Vogelkop endemic was one of the commoner small birds, with two to ten seen daily. Clearly a close relative of the Buff-faced Scrubwren, but foraging higher into the forest sub-canopy.

Papuan Scrubwren *Sericornis papuensis*

Three flocks of scrub-wrens below Lake Habbema appeared to be this species.

Grey-green Scrubwren *Sericornis arfakianus*

Two singles were seen in scrub close to the Arfaks guest house.

New Guinea Thornbill *Acanthiza murina*

A flock of at least eight in small bushes close to Lake Habbema and a couple in the forest a few miles down the road. These close views allowed us to see the distinctive tail-pattern and pale irides.

Grey Gerygone *Gerygone cinerea*

Two seen in the Arfaks.

Large-billed Gerygone *Gerygone magnirostris*

Three seen close to water at Nimbokrang and three in mangroves at Sorong airport.

Brown-breasted (Tree-fern) Gerygone *Gerygone ruficollis*

Several heard in the Arfaks but only one seen on the last morning, and three seen at high altitude around Lake Habbema.

***Fairy Gerygone** *Gerygone palpebrosa*

Three seen the first day at Nimbokrang and two there on a later date.

***Green-backed Gerygone** *Gerygone chloronotus*

Commonly heard in lowland forest but just one seen, at Nimbokrang.

Yellow-bellied Gerygone *Gerygone chrysogaster*

Two on Batanta and three on Salawati gave great views of the distinctive subspecies *notata* (which could be a separate species...). Four of the nominate subspecies seen at Nimbokrang.

Black Sittella *Daphoenositta miranda*

A total of about 20 seen in four flocks in the upper montane forest below Lake Habbema was an exceptional count of this usually uncommon and always beautiful and acrobatic species.

Papuan Treecreeper *Cormobates placens*

Six seen in the Arfaks, where they appear to be commoner than in the central mountain ranges.

Black Sunbird *Nectarinia aspasia*

One of the most widespread birds of lowland forest, usually in forest edge, with a daily maximum of 10 on Biak.

Yellow-bellied Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis*

Similar status to the Black Sunbird but commoner in open habitats, maximum 15 around Lake Sentani.

Yellow-bellied Longbill *Toxorhamphus novaeguineae*

Singles seen on Salawati and at Nimbokrang. The Salawati bird gave atypically prolonged views of this usually shy and hyperactive species.

Dwarf Longbill (Honeyeater) *Oedistoma iliolophus*

Two seen at Nimbokrang by Guy, giving typically momentary views.

Black Berrypecker *Melanocharis nigra*

One female seen on Salawati and one male at Nimbokrang.

Mid-mountain Berrypecker *Melanocharis longicauda*

Three in the Arfaks were unobtrusive and only seen briefly.

Fan-tailed Berrypecker *Melanocharis versteri*

One in the Arfaks and three around Lake Habbema, where better views were obtained in the undergrowth of a forest clearing.

Tit Berrypecker *Oreocharis arfaki*

Small flocks of 8-10 seen twice in the Arfaks. Several widespread New Guinea species are named after the Arfaks, where presumably the first expeditions were mounted into these coastal mountains.

Crested Berrypecker *Paramythia montium*

A total of about 20 seen at Lake Habbema – a gorgeous species.

Olive-crowned Flowerpecker *Dicaeum pectorale*

One or two seen most days in the Arfaks and Salawati. This Vogelkop and West Papuan islands taxon is often lumped with other New Guinea flowerpeckers as Papuan Flowerpecker *D. pectorale*.

Red-capped Flowerpecker *Dicaeum (pectorale) geelvinkianum*

Eight on Biak and one to three most days at Nimbokrang.

Western Mountain White-eye (Dark-capped White-eye) *Zosterops fuscicapillus*

Fairly common in the Arfaks where flocks of 5-10 were seen on most days, and flocks of five were seen at the Baliem valley resort and below Lake Habbema.

Biak White-eye *Zosterops mysorensis*

Six seen on the first afternoon on Biak and about 10 the next day. A white-eye-less species, similar in plumage to some Wallacean and Solomons species.

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

A very familiar call and common sighting in the lowlands. Starting with a pair at a nest beside Lake Sentani, up to 10 were seen daily here, on Batanta and Salawati and at Nimbokrang. Now lumped back with Helmeted by Clements.

Meyer's Friarbird *Philemon meyeri*

Two in a treetop at Nimbokrang. An unobtrusive canopy species which is often overlooked.

Short-bearded Melidectes *Melidectes nouhuysi*

This Snow Mountains endemic was fairly common around the tree-line at Lake Habbema, where nine were seen.

Cinnamon-browed Melidectes *Melidectes ochromelas*

Three seen high in the Arfaks.

Vogelkop Melidectes *Melidectes leucostephes*

Two seen in the forest in the Arfaks, then 10 seen in a loose flock flying over a ravine, and several heard. A rather unobtrusive species, often remaining hidden in the canopy.

Belford's Melidectes *Melidectes belfordi*

Characteristically common and pugnacious in the forests below Lake Habbema, where about 30 were seen.

Western Smoky Honeyeater *Melipotes gymnops*

A common Vogelkop endemic, where two to six were seen daily in the Arfaks. Very similar to the next species and the new species just discovered in the Foya Mountains.

Common Smoky Honeyeater *Melipotes fumigatus*

One at the Baliem Valley resort, two pretending to be MacGregor's and five in the forests below Lake Habbema.

Rufous-sided Honeyeater *Ptiloprora erythropleura*

Another common Vogelkop endemic, where one to six were seen daily in the Arfaks.

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

Quite common at Lake Habbema, where eight were seen around the tree-line and another eight in the forests below.

Long-billed Honeyeater *Melilestes megarhynchus*

Six seen and several heard at Nimbokrang; the first birds perching up for good roadside views.

Streak-headed Honeyeater *Pycnopygius stictocephalus*

Scope views of one at Nimbokrang.

*Tawny-breasted Honeyeater *Xanthotis flaviventer*

Rather elusive at Nimbokrang, where four were seen but others heard.

Spotted Honeyeater *Xanthotis polygramma*

Good views of one on Salawati where it inhabits lowland forest unlike most of New Guinea where it is a mid-montane species.

Varied Honeyeater *Lichenostomus versicolor*

Five on Senapang Island were typically loud and obtrusive.

Black-throated Honeyeater *Lichenostomus subfrenatus* (H)

Heard in the forest below Lake Habbema.

Orange-cheeked Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysogenys*

A spectacular Snow Mountain endemic – large, confident and with a bright yellow-orange cheek patch. Many were foraging on the ground with Island Thrushes around the tree-line at Lake Habbema, where a total of 40 were seen.

Scrub White-eared Honeyeater *Meliphaga albonotata*

Two seen in mangrove scrub near Sorong airport.

Mountain Meliphaga *Meliphaga orientalis* (H)

Two heard around Zeth's house in the Arfaks.

Mimic Meliphaga *Meliphaga analoga*

All of the lowland Meliphagas looked like this species, despite some trip reports claiming that the Nimbokrang birds are Yellow-gaped. Singles seen on Batanta, Salawati and Lake Sentani, and up to four daily at Nimbokrang.

Red-collared Myzomela *Myzomela rosenbergii*

Ten with lorikeets in each of two big flowering trees in the Arfaks, two at the Baliem Valley resort, and four below Lake Habbema. An amazingly brightly-coloured species, albeit rather common.

Macgregor's Honeyeater (of Paradise) *Macgregoria pulchra*

Lake Habbema is the only site where one can drive to see this very localised and highly sought-after species. However they are hunted here and apparently have become rarer and shyer; after seeing one in flight, it took some hours to finally pin another one down. A quite remarkable species, surely deserving of the name 'Honeyeater of Paradise'.

Brown Oriole *Oriolus szalayi*

Singles seen at Lake Sentani and Nimbokrang. Another friarbird-mimic, apparently deriving some peace from looking like an aggressive friarbird.

(Papuan) Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus (bracteatus) carbonarius*

Regularly seen in small numbers in lowland forest, including Biak. Sometimes split from the Australian drongos which have distinct calls.

Lowland Peltops *Peltops blainvillii*

Two singles seen at Nimbokrang – always a great bird!

White-breasted Wood-swallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

Seven around Port Moresby airport, one on Batanta and 17 on Senapang Island.

Great Wood-swallow *Artamus maximus*

Three on the drive up to Lake Habbema.

Hooded Butcherbird *Cracticus cassicus*

Fairly common in the lowlands, with up to five seen on Biak, Batanta, Nimbokrang, Lake Sentani and near the PNG border.

Black Butcherbird *Cracticus quoyi*

Singles of this species with a hugely impressive bill were seen on Salawati, Nimbokrang, Lake Sentani and near the PNG border.

Arfak Astrapia *Astrapia nigra*

This proved to be the most difficult of the Vogelkop endemics as it was restricted to the highest altitudes. None seen on our afternoon walk up to these altitudes but two there the next morning.

Splendid Astrapia *Astrapia splendidissima*

A male seen well on the drive up to Lake Habbema was the first of a total of seven birds seen. This really is one of the most splendid species with a fantastic shimmering green mask and breast-plate. It just creeps into PNG but is rarely seen outside West Papua.

Western Parotia *Parotia sefilata*

Several birds seen around the display grounds in the Arfaks – three female-plumaged birds were seen at very close range on the display ground (and one perched on the hide!), whilst three or four males were more elusive, keeping to the tree-tops.

Long-tailed Paradigalla *Paradigalla carunculata*

The third bird of paradise endemic to the Vogelkop was seen on the first afternoon, when one perched up in an open treetop, but not again.

Magnificent Riflebird *Ptiloris magnificentus*

Fantastic views of two birds close to the PNG border, where a few others were heard, and also one heard beyond Lake Sentani. These had the call of the western birds, sometimes split from those in eastern PNG.

Superb Bird of Paradise *Lophorina superba*

A female at the Baliem Valley resort was not seen well enough to be sure that it wasn't a Carola's Parotia, but this is by far the most likely species.

Black Sicklebill *Epimachus fastuosus*

Very close views of a female in the Arfaks, and another two females (and heard a distant male) at higher altitudes the next day.

Buff-tailed Sicklebill *Drepanornis albertisi*

A calling male seen in flight several times but, frustratingly, always perching out of sight in thickets, was a surprise bonus in the Arfaks. Another was heard.

Pale-billed Sicklebill *Drepanornis bruijnii*

One seen in the swamp forest at Nimbokrang thanks to Jamil's persistent whistling. At least two others heard here in the swamp forest but not from the roads. This poorly-known species is endemic to the central north coast plain (almost endemic to West Papua), and the only lowland sicklebill.

Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise *Seleucidis melanoleuca*

One heard and a female seen in the swamp forest at Nimbokrang.

Wilson's Bird of Paradise *Cicinnurus respublica*

Probably the bird of the trip and one of the best birds in the world. Amazing views of three males and a female just a few metres away at a display ground on Batanta, and two more that afternoon.

King Bird of Paradise *Cicinnurus regius*

Two heard on Salawati and three female-plumaged birds seen at Nimbokrang.

Lesser Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea minor*

A fully-plumed male displaying to at least seven females and young males close to the road at Lake Sentani was a great find. Up to four seen at Nimbokrang, a couple more seen around Lake Sentani, and one heard on Salawati.

Red Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea rubra*

Good views of an immature male on our walk back down the trail on Batanta, where a few others were heard. This West Papuan island endemic has become more difficult to see as the lowland forests are being logged.

Glossy-mantled Manucode *Manucodia atra*

The commonest bird of paradise on the trip, with pairs seen on Salawati, Lake Sentani and Nimbokrang.

Jobi Manucode *Manucodia jobiensis*

This poorly-known species seemed to be more distinctive and more common than expected, with singles seen three times at Nimbokrang and one near the PNG border.

INCERTAE SEDIS Uncertain affinities

Lesser Melampitta *Melampitta lugubris* (H)

Just one heard below Lake Habbema where the forest was too dense to stand a chance of seeing this skulking species.

White-eared Catbird *Ailuroedus buccoides*

One heard at close range but refusing to show itself behind Sorong would have been a typical tally for this species until a pair showed themselves remarkably well at Nimbokrang.

Archbold's Bowerbird *Archboldia papuensis*

One seen briefly on a trail below Lake Habbema.

Vogelkop Bowerbird *Amblyornis inornatus*

This species' bower is of the wonders of the avian world. We saw many bowers decorated with fruits, flowers, beetle elytrae and even plastic junk. Six birds were seen, including one at the parotia's display ground, whose dour plumage compensate for their extravagant bowers.

*Fawn-breasted Bowerbird *Chlamydera cerviniventris*

One seen near Lake Sentani and one near the airport at Port Moresby.

Grey Crow *Corvus tristis*

Fairly common in lowland forests, mostly at Nimbokrang where flocks of up to eight were seen. Several could have been the localised Brown-headed Crow but none was seen well enough.

Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*

Three or four seen daily on Batanta and Salawati but otherwise only two seen at Lake Sentani, five at Port Moresby and one at Madang.

Singing Starling *Aplonis cantoroides*

After ten around Port Moresby airport, none was seen until five seen well and flocks of either Singing or Metallic Starlings seen in flight near Sorong.

Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica*

Locally common in large flocks on Biak, Sorong and Nimbokrang.

Long-tailed Starling *Aplonis magna*

Sixteen were seen on Biak, where we had good views of this Geelvink Bay endemic alongside Metallic Starlings.

Yellow-faced Myna *Mino dumontii*

Our old friend was fairly common in small numbers at Nimbokrang and Lake Sentani.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* (I)

This was a good avian indicator that we had crossed the political line into Indonesia. Fairly common in all the towns, with up to 20 in the outskirts of Jayapura.

Mountain Firetail *Oreostruthus fuliginosus*

Good views of three in the forest below Lake Habbema.

Streak-headed Mannikin *Lonchura tristissima*

Up to 40 seen at Nimbokrang, 20 behind Sorong and five around Lake Sentani.

This is the common mannikin of forest edge and clearings.

Black-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura teerinki*

About 30 in the Baliem valley; endemic to the mid-montane valleys of the Central ranges of West Papua.

Western Alpine Mannikin *Lonchura montana*

Five juveniles close to Lake Habbema were identified as this species by their altitude, but their plumage was plain and indistinguishable from other manikins.

Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax*

Four behind the Lake Sentani hotel, and 20 at the Madang airport.

Blue-faced Parrot-Finch *Erythrura trichroa*

Good views of this elusive species at the Baliem Valley resort. Other parrot-finches were heard but not seen below Lake Habbema.

The following report from **West Papua** is courtesy of Mark van Beirs, from the Birdquest tour of July 7-August 4 2007.

Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*

One along the Salawati shoreline

Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

A couple of observations of this mainly crepuscular species along the Jalan Korea near Sentani.

Papuan Harrier *Circus spilothorax*

Three observations over L. Sentani and the Lake Habbema grasslands.

Black-mantled Goshawk *Accipiter melanochlamys*

One was seen in the L. Habbema area and a confusing immature bird showed in the Long-tailed Paradigalla grove in the Arfak Mountains.

Grey-headed Goshawk *Accipiter poliocephalus*

A wet bird, trying to dry out after rain, in the foothills of the Arfak Mountains.

Gurney's Eagle *Aquila gurneyi*:

Fair views of this impressive raptor on Batanta.

Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*

Single birds were noted on Batanta and in the lower foothills of the Arfak Mountains. Beehler indicates that there are no known observations from the Vogelkop area.....

Australian Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*

A single observation of the resident endemic subspecies *baru* in the Lake Habbema area.

Oriental Hobby *Falco severus*

One was catching dragonflies over our hotel in Sentani and another bird showed near our base on Batanta.

White-headed Shelduck (Radjah Shelduck) *Tadorna radjah*

A few observations of this handsome duck along the Salawati coast.

Salvadori's Teal *Anas waigiensis*

Repeated perfect scope studies of at least ten of these localized ducks on Lake Habbema.

Snow Mountain Quail *Anurophasis monorthonyx*

Excellent views of males and females of this intriguing gamebird on our wanderings through the grasslands near Lake Habbema. No fewer than ten birds were seen, both in flight and on the deck.

King Quail (Blue-breasted Quail) *Coturnix chinensis*

One was flushed from a grassy patch on the shore of Lake Sentani.

New Guinea Flightless Rail *Megacrex inepta*

One in swamp forest at Nimbokrang.

Eurasian Coot (Common C) *Fulica atra*

Up to ten were seen on Lake Habbema.

New Guinea Woodcock *Scolopax rosenbergii*

Brief views of a roding bird performing its territorial rounds at dusk and again just

before dawn along a forest edge near Lake Habbema.

Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia nigrirostris*

Regular observations in the Arfak Mountains, where we also saw a nest with one egg.

Yellow-bibbed Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus solomonensis*

Seen in the forests of Biak.

Claret-breasted Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus viridis*

Regular observations of this magnificent creature on the island of Biak.

Spice Imperial Pigeon *Ducula myristicivora*

We found this island dweller regularly on Biak. Note that the birds on Biak (race *geelvinkiana*) do not show the characteristic enlarged black cere.

Rufescent Imperial Pigeon *Ducula chalconota* (H)

We heard several in the higher reaches of the Arfak Mountains.

Black Lory *Chalcopsitta atra*

Several flocks in flight on Salawati. These birds belonged to the totally black, western nominate race.

Biak Red Lory *Eos cyanogenia*

This smart species is still common on Biak, and is almost always seen in flight.

Palm Cockatoo *Probosciger aterrimus*

Regular observations on Salawati and Batanta and a single sighting in the Nimbokrang area

Salvadori's Fig-Parrot *Psittaculirostris salvadorii*

Several were heard feeding in the canopy of a forest giant at Nimbokrang

Painted Tiger-Parrot *Psittacella picta*

Several excellent encounters at Lake Habbema.

Modest Tiger-Parrot *Psittacella modesta*
 Two birds at our last camp of the Habbema trek.

Great-billed Parrot *Tanygnathus megalorhynchus*
 Three showed nicely in flight over a small island near Batanta.

Papuan Hanging Parrot *Loriculus aurantiifrons*: A male of this rather uncommon creature at Nimbokrang.

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*
 Good views of eight of these impressive, prehistoric-looking birds at Sentani.

Biak Coucal *Centropus chalybeus* (H)
 We only heard this retiring Biak endemic.

Biak Scops-Owl *Otus beccarii*:
 We heard it in a nice patch of forest on Biak, but only managed a glimpse.

Marbled Frogmouth *Podargus ocellatus* (H)
 One was heard near our camp in the lowland forest at Nimbokrang.

Papuan Frogmouth *Podargus papuensis* (H)
 Regularly heard on Biak.

Feline Owlet-Nightjar *Aegotheles insignis*
 Our man on the spot in the Arfak Mountains showed us this jewel on its day roost in a dense patch of secondary growth.

Mountain Owlet-Nightjar *Aegotheles albertisi*
 Fantastic day time views, in a dense patch of secondary growth in the Arfak Mountains.

Papuan Nightjar *Eurostopodus papuensis*
 One flew over the road just after dusk near our camp at Nimbokrang.

Papuan Spine-tailed Swift (Papuan Needletail) *Mearnsia novaeguineae*
 Regular sightings of this distinctive swift at Nimbokrang and also seen on Batanta.

Biak Paradise Kingfisher *Tanysiptera riedelii*
 Perfect scope views of several in the forest on Biak. Most only had short tails, but we saw one or two with distinctive elongated tail feathers.

Blue-black Kingfisher (Black-sided Kingfisher) *Halcyon nigrocyanea*
 Glimpses only of this localized species in swamp forest at Nimbokrang.

Beach Kingfisher *Halcyon saurophaga*
 Good views of two on the shore of a small island off Sorong and excellent views of one along the Salawati coast.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*
 Two were hawking for insects over the Sentani grasslands.

Alpine Pipit *Anthus gutturalis*
 A fairly regular bird of the alpine grasslands surrounding Lake Habbema.

Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster*
 Several parties of this introduced species showed well on Biak.

Pied Chat (Pied Bushchat) *Saxicola caprata*
 This well-known and very widespread species was only encountered in grassland habitat near Sentani.

Papuan Grassbird (Papuan Grass Warbler) *Megalurus macrurus*
 Several in the grasslands near Lake Habbema.

- Emperor Fairy-wren *Malurus cyanocephalus*
A pair showed quite well in the lowland rainforest at Nimbokrang.
- White-shouldered Fairy-wren *Malurus alboscapulatus*
Several encounters in secondary growth in the Arfak Mountains.
- Orange-crowned Fairy-wren *Clytomyias insignis*
Fair views of a swift-moving party in the Arfak Mountains.
- Vogelkop Scrub-wren *Sericornis rufescens*
The most common Scrub-wren in the Arfak Mountains. Small parties were regularly encountered.
- Grey-green Scrub-wren *Sericornis arfakianus*
Four encounters with this unobtrusive little bird in the Mokwam area of the Arfak Mountains.
- Biak Gerygone *Gerygone hypoxantha*
Two birds performed beautifully in a patch of secondary forest on Biak.
- Spot-winged Monarch *Monarcha guttula*
One or two showed well, but briefly, in a mixed flock on Salawati.
- Ochre (Rufous)-collared Monarch *Arses insularis*
Several observations in the lowland forest at Nimbokrang.
- Biak Black Flycatcher *Myiagra atra*
Several encounters in forest patches on Biak.
- Mountain Robin *Petroica bivittata*
Just one in mountain forest near Lake Habbema.
- Smoky Robin *Peneothello cryptoleucus*
A couple of observations in the higher reaches of the Arfak Mountains
- Green-backed Robin *Pachycephalopsis hattamensis*
Splendid views, eventually, of this lovely species in highland forest in the Arfak Mountains.
- Common Golden Whistler (Golden Whistler) *Pachycephala pectoralis* (H)
Several were heard in the Baliem Valley,
- Rusty Pitohui *Pitohui ferrugineus*
Good views of a party of these large and very vocal birds in foothill forest on Batanta. The race here has a distinctive pale bill.
- Papuan Sittella *Daphoenositta papuensis*
Great views of a small party in a mountain forest glade in the Arfaks.
- Black Sittella *Daphoenositta miranda*
Many excellent observations at close range on the Lake Habbema trek.
- Olive-crowned Flowerpecker *Dicaeum pectorale*
Regular observations. This is the form on the Vogelkop, Batanta and Salawati. It should not have any red on the rump or the crown, but some birds show at least traces of red.
- Biak White-eye *Zosterops mysorensis*
This uncommon Biak endemic showed really well on our visit
- Dusky Myzomela (Dusky Honeyeater) *Myzomela obscura*
A single bird was seen on Biak. *This is a bird with a strange distribution in the New Guinea area as it only occurs along the southern coast of PNG, in the Popondetta area of the north coasts, on the Aru Is. and on Biak. This endemic*

race rubrobrunnea is a good candidate for a split and was originally described as a species (Ed.)

Mimic Meliphaga *Meliphaga analoga*

Quite common in the Nimbokrang area, on Batanta and in the lower Arfak Mountains. *The Meliphaga honeyeaters are surely the most difficult New Guinea species complex to identify. They share many features and vocalisations and there seem to be few if any reliable criteria for identification in certain taxa, with the taxonomy still not fully resolved (Ed.)*

Yellow-gaped Meliphaga *Meliphaga flavirictus*

Fantastic studies of this uncommon species in the lower reaches of the Arfaks.

Orange-cheeked Honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysogenys*

A very obvious inhabitant of treeline scrub in the Snow Mountains.

Rufous-sided Honeyeater *Ptiloprora erythropleura*

Commonly encountered in the mountain forests of the Arfaks.

Sooty Melidectes *Melidectes fuscus*

Several showed very well near the treeline in the Snow Mountains.

Short-bearded Melidectes *Melidectes nouhuysi*

A regular and attractive bird of the treeline scrub in the Snow Mountains.

Cinnamon-browed Melidectes *Melidectes ochromelas*

Several were heard and one or two briefly seen in the higher reaches of the Arfak Mountains.

Vogelkop Melidectes *Melidectes leucostephes*

Quite common by voice, but usually not easy to see well.

Hooded Mannikin *Lonchura spectabilis*

Two birds showed briefly in grassland habitat near Sentani.

Black-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura teerinki*

Good views of several in a patch of cultivation in the Baliem Valley.

Western Alpine Mannikin *Lonchura montana*

Eight birds showed beautifully in the grasslands surrounding Lake Habbema.

This species is virtually confined to West Papua, but just creeps into Papua New Guinea at Mount Capella in the Star Mountains.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Everywhere in towns and villages. On our 1995 visit we could only find it at the airport on Biak.

Archbold's Bowerbird *Archboldia papuensis*

We heard its grating call emanating from undergrowth in the higher reaches of the Snow Mountains

Black-faced (Flame) Bowerbird *Sericulus (aureus) ardens*

A striking male was found on a distant hill slope in the lower Arfak Mountains

Macgregor's Bird of Paradise *Macgregoria pulchra*

Views of this most bizarre bird on several occasions at the treeline near Lake Habbema. It is much rarer there now than it used to be, mainly because of it being hunted for its delicious taste. Recent research has shown that this species seemingly belongs with the Honeyeaters.

Crinkle-collared Manucode *Manucodia chalybata*

Bad views of this species in the mist in the foothills of the Arfak Mountains.

Jobi Manucode *Manucodia jobiensis*

Good looks at a single bird in the lowland rainforest at Nimbokrang.

Trumpet Manucode *Manucodia keraudrenii*

Glimpses only of one in the gardens below Mokwam in the Arfak Mountains.

Long-tailed Paradigalla *Paradigalla carunculata*

Two nice observations in the middle reaches of the Arfak Mountains.

Buff-tailed Sicklebill *Epimachus albertisi*

A calling male in the mid montane forest of the Arfak Mountains.

Pale-billed Sicklebill *Epimachus bruijnii*

A perched up male in the soft late afternoon light at Nimbokrang.

Arfak Astrapia *Astrapia nigra*

Excellent views of an adult and an immature male clambering about in a forest giant in the higher reaches of the Arfak Mountains.

Splendid Astrapia *Astrapia splendidissima*

Regular observations of both males and females of this very attractive species in the montane forests of the Snow Mountains.

Wilson's Bird of Paradise *Cicinnurus respublica*

A male of this most wonderful and extraordinary Bird of Paradise on his display court in the hills of Batanta Island.

Red Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea rubra*

A great showing of displaying males of this localized species in a forest giant on Batanta.

Brown-headed Crow *Corvus fuscicapillus* (H)

The distinctive vocalizations were heard in the distance at Nimbokrang.

Waigeo Island, March-April 2007

By Charles Davies

Waigeo is a large island in the Raja Empat group off the west coast of West Papua. It is accessible by an expensive five-hour boat trip from Sorong, a bit further than Batanta and Salawati, which are more popular birdwatching destinations. Waigeo has large areas of pristine forest, an endemic bird (Bruijn's Brush-Turkey) and large mammal (Waigeo Cuscus), as well as large populations of other specialties like Red and Wilson's Bird-of-Paradise, Brown-necked Crow, Western Crowned-Pigeon and Pheasant Pigeon.

I made a three-week trip to Mount Danai together with Iwein Mauro, a Belgian birdwatcher, and Zeth Wonggor, a guide from the Arfak Mountains. Before the trip, Iwein was the only birdwatcher to have seen Bruijn's Brush-Turkey in the field. In fact, the inhabitants of Waigeo (at least the part we visited) do not seem to be familiar with this species, which mostly inhabits the hills in the interior of the island, whereas the human population seems to be restricted to the coast and, based on our experiences, rarely ventures more than a few kilometres inland.

Mount Danai is not the highest hill on Waigeo nor the most accessible. Rather, it is the area with the greatest extent of land above 650m, and would be expected to hold the largest population of Bruijn's Brush-Turkey. The slopes of Mount Salal, the highest mountain on the island further to the north, were extensively burned a few years ago, and