



Above: **Brown Sicklebill** *Epimachus meyeri* (male)
Front cover: **Emperor Bird of Paradise** *Paradisaea guilielmi* (male)

Papua New Guinea is world famous for its birds of paradise. These wonderful birds are widely known for their beautiful plumage and the amazing courtship displays and dances the males perform to show off their plumage. Birds of paradise, or 'kumul' in Pidgin English, play a significant role in the rich and colourful cultural heritage of this nation, making PNG a very special place.

This handy pocket guide illustrates 29 of the 31 species of birds of paradise found in PNG (all 31 are described here). Twelve of these are unique to PNG - found nowhere else on Earth. The remaining 19 species are shared with Indonesia's Papua and West Papua Provinces, and two species also with Australia's Cape York Peninsula. The birds of paradise family presently comprises 41 species. Four species traditionally included in this family (illustrated at the end of this guide) have recently been transferred to other families: one to the honey-eater family (Meliphagidae), while the other three belong in their own unique family, the Satinbirds (Cnemophilidae). In PNG, birds of paradise are found only on the mainland and on some islands in Milne Bay Province. They are not present in the Bismarck Archipelago and North Solomons Province.

Birds of paradise are characteristic inhabitants of native forests, in the lowlands, hills and mountains. However, adequate protection of these forests is essential for the continued presence, wellbeing and survival of these birds. A few species are found mainly or only in the lowlands, although the majority of species are found only in the mountains. The reason why there are so many different species of birds of paradise, especially in the highlands, appears to be due to the rugged terrain of New Guinea combined with extreme changes in climate during the past two million years. These changes caused repeated rising and falling of sea levels, and the compression and expansion of vegetation zones; and the fragmentation and rejoining of bird populations, resulting, over time, in their evolution in isolation on multiple ecological islands, into the different species we know today.

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A Pocket Guide to the Birds of Paradise of Papua New Guinea



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Emperor Bird of Paradise
Paradisaea guilielmi
Left: male in display.
Above: female.
ENDEMIC TO PNG.
Found only in the mid-mountain forests of the Huon Peninsula.



Goldie's Bird of Paradise
Paradisaea decora
Right: male.
Below: female.
ENDEMIC TO PNG.
Found only in the hill forests of Fergusson and Normanby Islands, Milne Bay Province.



Lesser Bird of Paradise
Paradisaea minor
Right: male.
Above: female.
In PNG widespread in the lowlands and hills of the northern mainland, from the Indonesian border to the northern Huon Peninsula; also in upland valleys. Inhabits forests, gardens and casuarina groves.



Raggiana Bird of Paradise
Paradisaea raggiana
Top: male.
Above: female.
ENDEMIC TO PNG.
Widespread and locally common in the lowlands and hills of the southeastern and southern mainland, west to the Madang area in the north and Kiunga in the south; also in upland valleys, including the Wahgi Valley and the Tari area. Inhabits forests, casuarina groves and gardens.



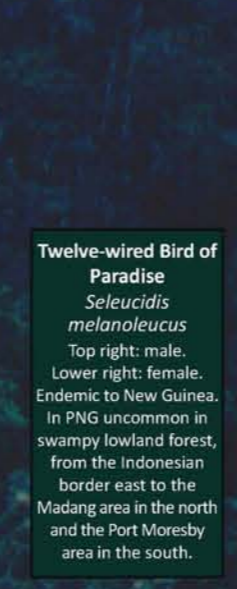
Greater Bird of Paradise
Paradisaea apoda
Top: male.
Above: female.
Endemic to southwest New Guinea and the Aru Islands. In PNG found only in the Indonesian border area of the Western (Fly River) Province, east to Ok Tedi, Kiunga and Bensbach.



Blue Bird of Paradise
Paradisornis (Paradisaea) rudolphi
Top: male.
Above: female watching male display.
ENDEMIC TO PNG.
Uncommon and local in the Central Ranges, from the Tari area east to the Owen Stanley Mountains in the southeast. Inhabits mid-mountain forests; visits nearby gardens.



Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise
Seleucidis melanoleucus
Top right: male.
Lower right: female.
Endemic to New Guinea. In PNG uncommon in swampy lowland forest, from the Indonesian border east to the Madang area in the north and the Port Moresby area in the south.



Growth Riflebird
Ptiloris intercedens
Top right: male.
Lower right: female.
ENDEMIC TO PNG.
Widespread in the lowland and hill forests of the southeast mainland and Huon Peninsula, west to the Ramu River in the north and the Purari River in the south.
This bird has only recently been recognised as a full species, separate from the Magnificent Riflebird. Its distinctive call is a pair of deep guttural growls: "CRRRAIY-CRRROW".



Magnificent Riflebird
Ptiloris magnificentus
Not illustrated.
Virtually identical to the Growth Riflebird. Best identified by its voice and geographical distribution. Widespread in western and central New Guinea, east to the Sepik River in the north and the Purari River in the south. Its distinctive call is two (or more) powerful whistles: "WHOOIIEET-WOIT".



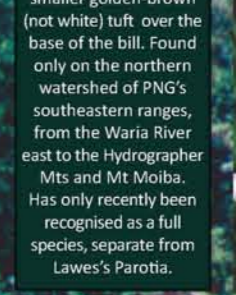
Superb Bird of Paradise
Lophorina superba
Top right: male.
Lower right: female.
Endemic to New Guinea. In PNG common in the mid-mountains of the Central Ranges, from the Indonesian border east to the Owen Stanley Mts; also the Huon Peninsula, and Adelbert Mts. Inhabits forests, gardens and casuarina groves.



Lawes's Parotia
Parotia lawesii
Right: male.
Bottom right: female.
ENDEMIC TO PNG.
Moderately common in the mid-mountain forests of the Central Ranges, from Oksapmin in the west to the Owen Stanley Range in the southeast (except for range of Eastern Parotia).



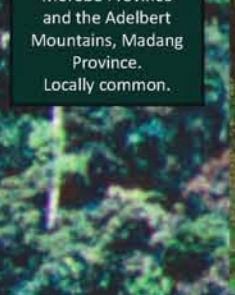
Eastern Parotia
Parotia helenae
No photo available.
ENDEMIC TO PNG.
Very similar to Lawes's Parotia; the male has a smaller golden-brown (not white) tuft over the base of the bill. Found only on the northern watershed of PNG's southeastern ranges, from the Waria River east to the Hydrographer Mts and Mt Moiba. Has only recently been recognised as a full species, separate from Lawes's Parotia.



Carola's Parotia
Parotia carolae
Top right: male.
Lower right: female.
Endemic to the Central Ranges of New Guinea. In PNG uncommon in mid-mountain forest from the Indonesian border east to the Bismarck Mts and Crater Mountain; also Mt Bosavi.



Wahnes's Parotia
Parotia wahnesi
Right: male.
Bottom right: female.
ENDEMIC TO PNG.
Found only in the mountain forests of the Huon Peninsula, Morobe Province and the Adelbert Mountains, Madang Province. Locally common.



King Bird of Paradise
Cicinnurus regius
Right: male.
Bottom right: female.
Endemic to New Guinea, (including some western satellite islands). This is PNG's smallest bird of paradise. Widespread and moderately common on the mainland in lowland and foothill forests.



Magnificent Bird of Paradise
Cicinnurus magnificentus
Right: male.
Bottom right: female.
Endemic to New Guinea, (including some western satellite islands). Widespread and moderately common on the PNG mainland. Inhabits foothill and lower montane forests; visits nearby gardens.



Photo by William S Peckover

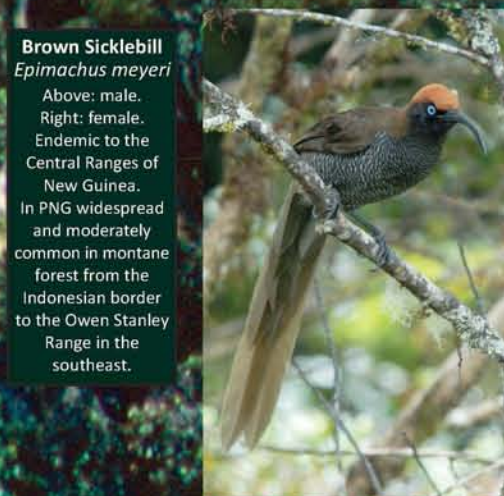
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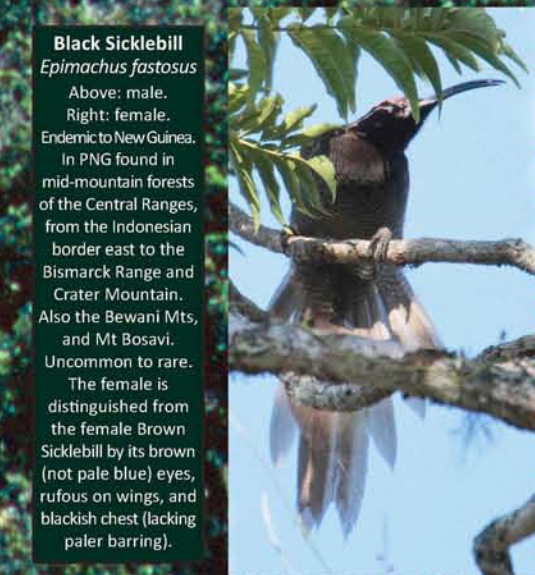
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Brown Sicklebill
Epimachus meyeri
Above: male.
Right: female.
Endemic to the Central Ranges of New Guinea. In PNG widespread and moderately common in montane forest from the Indonesian border to the Owen Stanley Range in the southeast.



Black Sicklebill
Epimachus fastuosus
Above: male.
Right: female.
Endemic to New Guinea. In PNG found in mid-mountain forests of the Central Ranges, from the Indonesian border east to the Bismarck Range and Crater Mountain. Also the Bewani Mts, and Mt Bosavi. Uncommon to rare. The female is distinguished from the female Brown Sicklebill by its brown (not pale blue) eyes, rufous on wings, and blackish chest (lacking paler barring).



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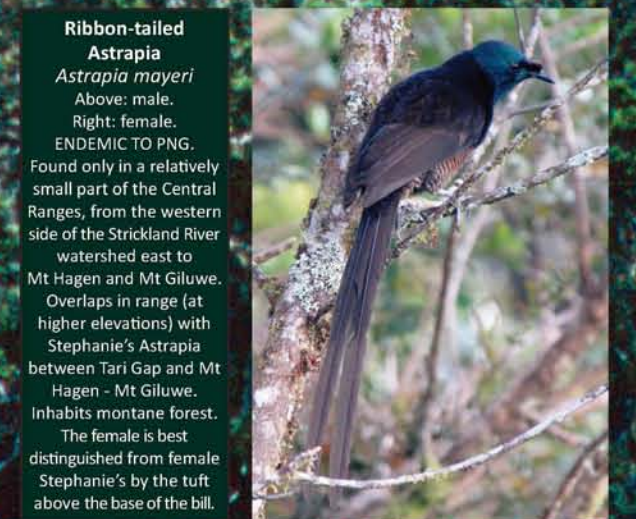
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Black-billed Sicklebill
Drepanornis albertsi
Top left: male.
Lower left: female.
Endemic to New Guinea. In PNG uncommon and local in mid-mountain forests of the Central Ranges. Found from the Sepik Mountains and the Tari area east to the Owen Stanley Range; also the Huon Peninsula.

Pale-billed Sicklebill
Drepanornis bruijnii
Left: male.
Bottom left: female.
Endemic to northern New Guinea. In PNG found only in the northwestern Sandaun Province, from the Indonesian border east to the Vanimo area, the foothills of the Bewani Mts, and Utai at the edge of the Sepik basin. Inhabits lowland rainforest.



Ribbon-tailed Astrapia
Astrapia mayeri
Above: male.
Right: female.
ENDEMIC TO PNG. Found only in a relatively small part of the Central Ranges, from the western side of the Strickland River watershed east to Mt Hagen and Mt Giluwe. Overlaps in range (at higher elevations) with Stephanie's Astrapia between Tari Gap and Mt Hagen - Mt Giluwe. Inhabits montane forest. The female is best distinguished from female Stephanie's by the tuft above the base of the bill.



Stephanie's Astrapia
Astrapia stephaniae
Left: female.
Below: male.
ENDEMIC TO PNG. Widespread and common in montane forest of the Central Ranges, from the Tari area east to the Owen Stanley Range in the southeast. Overlaps in range (at lower elevations) with Ribbon-tailed Astrapia between Tari Gap and Mt Hagen - Mt Giluwe. The female is distinguished from the female Ribbon-tailed by the lack of a tuft above the base of the bill; it also has broader tail feathers.



Huon Astrapia
Astrapia rothschildi
Above: male.
Left: female.
ENDEMIC TO PNG. Found only in the montane forests of the Huon Peninsula, where it is the only astrapia and is locally common.



King of Saxony
Pteridophora alberti
Above: male. Left: female.
Endemic to the Central Ranges of New Guinea. In PNG widely but sparsely distributed in montane forest from the Indonesian border east to the Kratke Mts, Eastern Highlands Province.

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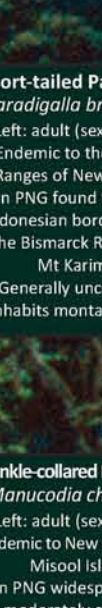
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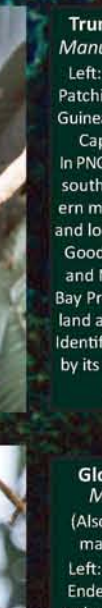
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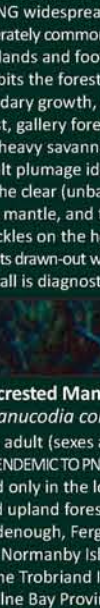
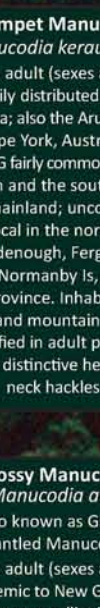
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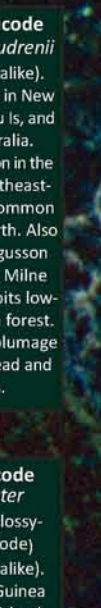
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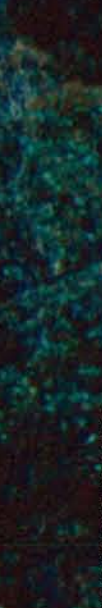
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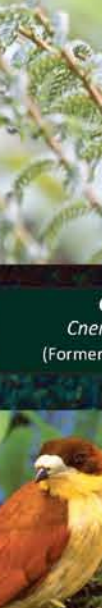
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Giant Wattled Honeyeater
Macgregoria pulchra
(Formerly Macgregor's Bird of Paradise)
Photo by William S Peckover



Crested Satinbird
Cnemophilus macgregorii
(Formerly Crested Bird of Paradise)
Photo by William S Peckover



Yellow-breasted Satinbird
Loboparadisea sericea
(Formerly Yellow-breasted Bird of Paradise)
Photo by William S Peckover



Loria's Satinbird
Cnemophilus loriae
(Formerly Loria's Bird of Paradise)
Photo by William S Peckover

Birds of paradise no more ...

Trumpet Manucode
Manucodia keraudrenii
Left: adult (sexes alike). Patchily distributed in New Guinea; also the Aru Is, and Cape York, Australia. In PNG fairly common in the south and the southeastern mainland; uncommon and local in the north. Also Goodenough, Fergusson and Normanby Is, Milne Bay Province. Inhabits lowland and mountain forest. Identified in adult plumage by its distinctive head and neck hackles.
Photo by William S Peckover

Glossy Manucode
Manucodia ater
(Also known as Glossy-mantled Manucode)
Left: adult (sexes alike). Endemic to New Guinea and some satellite islands. In PNG widespread and moderately common throughout the hills and lower mountains, and locally in the lowlands. Inhabits forest, and also regrowth at higher elevations. In adult plumage identified by the clear (unbarred) glossy mantle, and the lack of hackles on the head and neck. Its drawn-out whistled call is diagnostic.
Photo by William S Peckover

Curly-crested Manucode
Manucodia comrii
Left: adult (sexes alike). ENDEMIC TO PNG. Found only in the lowland and upland forests of Goodenough, Fergusson and Normanby Islands, and the Trobriand Islands, Milne Bay Province. This is by far the largest manucode. It is common, conspicuous and noisy; and also frequents disturbed habitat and gardens.
Photo by William S Peckover

Short-tailed Paradigalla
Paradigalla brevicauda
Left: adult (sexes alike). Endemic to the Central Ranges of New Guinea. In PNG found from the Indonesian border east to the Bismarck Range and Mt Karimui. Generally uncommon. Inhabits montane forest.
Photo by William S Peckover

Crinkle-collared Manucode
Manucodia chalybatus
Left: adult (sexes alike). Endemic to New Guinea and Misool Island. In PNG widespread and moderately common throughout the hills and lower mountains, and locally in the lowlands. Inhabits forest, and also regrowth at higher elevations. In adult plumage identified by the prominent 'bump' above each eye.
Photo by William S Peckover

Splendid Astrapia
Astrapia splendidissima
Above left: male. Top right: male. Above right: female. Endemic to the Central Ranges of western New Guinea. In PNG found in montane forest, from the Indonesian border east to the Hindenburg Mts, Mt Stolle and Victor Emanuel Mts.
Photo by William S Peckover

Jobi Manucode
Manucodia jobiensis
Above: adult (sexes alike). Endemic to western and northern New Guinea, and Yapen Island. In PNG found in lowland and hill forest from the Indonesian border east to Sepik & Ramu Rivers. Best distinguished from Crinkle-collared by the lack of prominent eyebrow 'bumps', slightly shorter bill and shorter tail.
Photo by William S Peckover