Melanesia Discoverer
Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands
8th to 21st October 2017 (14 days)
Trip Report

Meek’s Pygmy Parrot by Stephan Lorenz

Trip report compiled by Tour Leader, Stephan Lorenz
Tour Summary

It is a challenge to summarise a fantastic trip like this one in just a few paragraphs, but I will give it my best effort. We didn’t just cover two countries, but also explored two separate bioregions, the Bismarck Arch and Solomon Islands, each with its own set of specialities and endemic birds. Along the way, we covered 1,544 nautical miles, visited some of the most remote islands of the South Pacific and saw several endemics rarely seen by any birdwatchers. During each landing, we of course also enjoyed unique, rarely-visited cultures, and the days at sea offered excellent pelagic birding with phenomenal snorkelling opportunities available almost daily.

Overall, we made 17 landings on 17 separate islands, recording 185 bird species, including many Bismarck and Solomon endemics. The trip started in Madang, Papua New Guinea, where our first morning netted us one of the most iconic birds of PNG in the form of a Lesser Bird-of-Paradise. Continuing to the Sepik River, the largest in PNG, the following morning was busy with waterbirds, pigeons, doves, and parrots; while we also enjoyed some of the best pelagic birding of the trip the afternoon of the same day. Over the next three days, we stopped in Manus and Mussau Islands, which rarely see outsiders, and we recorded a wide variety of little-known endemics.

On New Ireland, we woke up very early for the long drive to the Lelet Plateau, but were happy we did since our visit netted us the endemic and spectacular Paradise Drongo, plus several other New Ireland endemics. The visit to the Wild Dog Mine road on New Britain was hot, but persistence paid off with several endemics and, best of all, a Woodford’s Rail along the roadside during the drive back. A day on remote Nissan Island offered us the chance to catch up with Louisiade White-eye and Atoll Starling, both rarely-seen species restricted to small, remote islands.

We were also one of the few visitors to return to Bougainville (part of PNG, but biologically part of the Solomon Islands) where the road to the Panguna Mine crossed productive cloud forest with a host of Bougainville endemics, including the bizarrely-shaped Bougainville Crow. On Choiseul Island, we started the morning with a Zodiac cruise following the meandering Sui River past mangroves and lowland rainforest, which offered the chance for great looks at a variety of kingfishers and fruit doves. Volcanic Kolombangara Island still holds extensive primary forest above 400 metres, and we netted the range-restricted Pale Mountain Pigeon and stunning White-capped Monarch among spectacular scenery. On the Arnavon Islands, we were privileged to visit a research station that protects vital nesting grounds of the Pacific Hawksbill Turtle and not only did we learn about the turtles, but we were also able to see two nests hatching during our visit. In addition, the nearby mudflats offered the best birding for migrant shorebirds of the trip. The
final day at Mt Austin on Guadalcanal, in the heart of the Solomon Islands, harboured many Solomon endemics and most notably, we ended up with scope views of Buff-headed Coucals for a fitting end to the trip.

Heritage Expedition’s Spirit of Enderby proved to be a comfortable vessel ideal for this type of expedition cruising. The cabins were spacious and comfortable, the crew excellent, and the staff phenomenal. We enjoyed many delicious meals in the dining room and often an entertaining recap in the bar each night. Of course, we were also treated to a wide variety of fascinating lectures offered by the staff and visiting lecturers.

Tour in Detail

Most of us arrived in Madang around noon and checked into the Madang Resort. In the afternoon, we did a bit of birding around the resort grounds, which proved quite productive with Orange-bellied Fruit Doves, Varied Honeyeaters, Variable Goshawks, Sacred Kingfisher, Torresian Imperial Pigeons, and familiar Common Sandpipers. We left the Madang Resort at dawn the following day, and drove approximately thirty minutes out of town to an area of forested ridges and lowland gardens. After being welcomed by our local guides, we followed a wide path into the secondary forest, seeing what hidden avian treasures we could uncover. Before too long, a careful scan of the ridges revealed perched Blyth's Hornbills and Sulphur-crested Cockatoos; while Brahminy and Black Kites cruised overhead. A Palm Cockatoo was seen all too briefly, but a pair of Rufous-bellied Kookaburras showed extremely well.

We continued to a clearing that was surrounded by old trees and overlooked steep karst ridges that still held good forest. Here we added Pinon's Imperial Pigeon and Orange-bellied Fruit Dove; while a rare Lowland Peltops perched atop a snag. Yet, the morning’s highlight for many was a calling Lesser Bird-of-Paradise that flew in close. During our walk out, we added Grey Crow, Golden Myna, Hooded Butcherbird, and the diminutive Red-capped Flowerpecker. A very brief stop along a bridge across the river added Common Greenshanks and fly-over New Guinea Friarbird. We also spent a bit of time birding the well-vegetated resort grounds, adding the abundant Varied Honeyeater, many Singing Starlings, Torresian Imperial Pigeons, and a pair of Variable Goshawks that appeared to be nesting nearby.

Two Zodiacs started early in the morning to head towards the mouth of the epic Sepik River, the longest waterway in Papua New Guinea. We recorded Little, Whiskered and Common Terns feeding offshore and all along the section of river we covered. A wide variety of pigeons and parrots were commuting in the early morning and we saw many Eclectus and Red-cheeked Parrots, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and lesser numbers of Coconut Lorikeets and Black-capped Lories. Among the doves and pigeons, we found Pinon's Imperial Pigeons and Orange-bellied Fruit Doves perched and Orange-fronted Fruit
Doves flying over along with the occasional Torresian and one Collared Imperial Pigeons. Herons and egrets were present in good numbers, with Little and Great Egrets both numerous; while Pied Herons flew past. One of the highlights of the morning were good views of two Great-billed Herons, one flushing quite close, and we were able to appreciate the enormous size of this uncommon heron. Before we returned to the village, we added Brahminy, Black and Whistling Kites to the raptor tally that included several White-bellied Sea Eagles seen earlier, including excellent perched and flight views of this magnificent raptor. We followed our productive Zodiac cruise with a visit to a traditional village, where we witnessed a dance and welcome ceremony. During the afternoon en route to Manus Island, we also enjoyed the first taste of pelagic birding Melanesia has to offer, with many Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, close Bulwer's Petrels, three Tahiti Petrels sitting on the water, and most excitingly of all, a distant Beck's Petrel.

As the ship approached Bipi Island the next day, we noted large numbers of Black Noddies and once we were at anchor, we observed a single Island Imperial Pigeon. After a memorable welcome on Bipi Island, we joined our local guides for a walk across the island, where we found several Bismarck Black Myzomelas (a small island specialist) and, eventually, three Island Monarchs alongside a pair of Variable Goshawks that flew back and forth on the small island. A single Shining Flycatcher rounded out the birding for the morning. With the small island specialist species in the bag, we enjoyed an afternoon of snorkelling just off Bipi.

With several endemics on the target list, we left the ship early and arrived on the shores of remote Manus Island just at dawn. We quickly boarded our van and drove out of Lorengau along a gravel road, climbing towards the forested ridges of Rossun Village. Once we left the vehicle and started our walk along this quiet backroad, the birds appeared right on cue. Common Cicadabird (sometimes split as Manus Cicadabird) was the first species in the scope, nearly simultaneously followed by two Manus Friarbirds, a large and distinctive species that called throughout the morning. A small, yellow bird on a wire turned out to be a Bismarck White-eye rather than one of the ubiquitous Olive-backed Sunbirds, and soon we had two or three of these distinctive white-eyes flying all around us. A bit further, the forest edge held a pair of sharp Manus Monarchs alongside another Common Cicadabird. A distant tree held several of the widespread Island Imperial Pigeons. A calling Bismarck Whistler flew back and forth across the road twice. A decision was made for us to climb into the valley below the road in search of the super rare Superb Pitta, and we made a long loop through beautiful forest, crossing a cool and clear rainforest stream along the way. While the pitta was absent, we did find a Nicobar Pigeon, which was nicely scoped, and then came across a Manus Dwarf Kingfisher that was heard by all, but not seen well. We were all a bit tired when we reached the main
road again, but happy to have given the pitta our best efforts. Our afternoon plans took us to the small island of Hawei, near Manus, where snorkelling was available. We skipped snorkelling and continued birding through coconut palms and shrubby forest along the coast of this idyllic island. Island Monarchs were common, and suddenly a large bird shot through, flying up into a nearby tree. Careful scanning revealed a Melanesian Megapode and we were able to enjoy excellent views of this much-wanted species. An open area held Stephan’s Emerald Doves; and working through a small feeding flock, we finally found what we had hoped for, the rare Manus Fantail. This hyperactive, but stunning fantail offered good views for all before disappearing as quickly as it had appeared. *We had done very well on Manus Island.*

We disembarked right after the ship anchored and headed via Zodiads towards our landing point on Mussau Island, one of the most remote islands we would visit during the cruise. After meeting our local guide and getting a short introduction, we headed up the road towards taller forest, hoping to find some of the island's endemics, some of which have been seen by very few birders. First, we found a pair of singing Island Leaf Warblers, here the *matthiae* ssp. with bright yellow underparts. Three cooperative Blue-faced Parrotfinches in the middle of the path were soon in the scope, and the group enjoyed the intense blues, reds, and greens of these colourful finches. In a patch of taller forest, we found the first Mussau Monarch, a strikingly-coloured endemic. We walked back and forth along the road through good forest and eventually tracked down a small group of Meek's Pygmy Parrots that foraged unconcerned right next to the road. A Yellow-bibbed Fruit Dove showed briefly; while Island Imperial Pigeons were more obliging. Closer to shore, we found our first Whimbrel and Grey-tailed Tattlers of the trip, and briefly saw a Pacific Reef Heron being chased by an aggressive Willie Wagtail!

This would be the earliest start of the trip; and by 2:40 am(!), we were standing on the gangway under clear, starry skies ready to head via Zodiac to Kavieng, New Ireland. Without spending too much time, we boarded the open, four-wheel drive truck and whisked down the highway towards the Lelet Plateau. It took nearly three hours to reach the Limbin Road, but we arrived right at dawn, and three White-necked Coucals flushing from the roadside vegetation caused our first impromptu stop. The early morning hours proved quite busy, with Red-chinned, Red-flanked, and Coconut Lorikeets screeching overhead, and the large and distinctive Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeon sitting atop distant trees. This forested corner also held the first endemics, including spectacular Paradise Drongos and the odd Bismarck Crow. A pair of cooperative Long-tailed Mynas came very close, showing off their bright yellow faces and vocal abilities.

We drove higher up along the road and the next stop held a small flock of the endemic White-backed Woodswallow, with up to eight birds squeezed onto a single branch. A careful scan of the forested ridge in the distance held Knob-billed Fruit Doves; while
Bismarck Imperial Pigeon was seen only briefly. Song Parrots eventually revealed themselves, perching up nicely in the scope. We moved further up the road to an area of tall forest on both sides and immediately found Golden Monarchs, a showy species glowing in the canopy, and we lured in the endemic Red-banded Flowerpecker that came very close. Several flowering trees held half-a-dozen Red Myzomelas. At our last stop, we called in a Finsch's Pygmy Parrot, and the inquisitive bird nearly landed on top of one of us before altering its course for a nearby branch and offering unparalleled views of this diminutive Psittacid. A quick stop at the airport en route produced great views of the endemic Hunstein's Manakin, along with the only Australian Reed Warbler of the trip. As the ship headed out in the early evening, we enjoyed a spectacle of hundreds of Black Noddies streaming past the ship and two concrete channel markers held a dozen Brown Boobies. Just before a perfect sunset, Lesser Frigatebirds circled lazily above the ship, and a dozen high-flying Nicobar Pigeons were spotted commuting between islands.

We landed at Kokopo Village on New Britain in the early morning and boarded two land rovers for the long drive to the Wild Dog Mine road. During a brief stop en route, we added our first New Britain endemics to the list, the large New Britain Friarbird and an Ashy Myzomela that zipped across the road. After arriving at the start of the road, more of a track really, we hiked uphill. The morning warmed up quickly, but we managed to find several great birds, including additional New Britain endemics in the form of perched Blue-eyed Cockatoo seen well in the scope, and a brief male Black-bellied Myzomela. In addition, Red-chinned Lorikeets and Purple-bellied Lories flew over while the ever-present Brahminy Kites circled above. During the return trip, we made another brief stop and scoped a pair of Moustached Treeswifts and discovered a roosting Bismarck Flying Fox. The short grass near the landing site held our first Pacific Golden Plover of the trip; and as the Zodiac approached the ship during our return, a Black Noddy offered several close views.

At Nissan Island, after welcome dances and ceremonies, we headed out into the forest of this small, but beautifully green island. It did not take long until we found the first active flock of Louisiade White-eyes, and we tallied at least two dozen of this distinct species before the end of the day. Then it started to drizzle, then rain, and then just pour buckets, but we hung in there and found a fruiting tree that was briefly visited by an Atoll Starling among many Metallic Starlings. The afternoon on rough seas held several Red-footed Boobies and the first White-tailed Tropicbird of the trip. We then enjoyed an early evening and rested en route to Bougainville.

We set foot on Bougainville in the early morning, eager to get onto the Panguna Mine Road and into higher elevation forest. Before we even left the wharf, we already added the first Solomon Islands endemic in the form of several Solomons Cockatoos on a distant ridge alongside a group of Blyth's Hornbills. After a 45-minute drive, we reached the top of the road, where we left
the remainder of the group. We started our walk back down the road and immediately bumped into new birds. An active flock of Yellow-throated White-eyes passed through; while a male Steel-blue Flycatcher called nearby and showed well. Midget Flowerpeckers were fairly common, with fewer Red-capped Myzomelas also seen well. Bougainville Crows calling on a distant ridge got our attention, and soon enough we had one, two, then three fly right over us and perch in view. We walked further along the road and carefully scrutinised each feeding flock, and finally found several Oriole Whistlers and two Solomons Monarchs, plus Grey-throated White-eyes that showed briefly.

At the last stop, a spritely Rufous Fantail came close, allowing everyone to get good views of this distinctively-marked species. Yet, the morning was not over, and one of the birding highlights of the trip came during the drive back towards the wharf when a Woodford's Rail appeared on the side of the road. A quick stop and scramble from the van, some manoeuvring, and we were able to flush it out enough for the whole group to have brief, but good views. During the afternoon, we enjoyed a visit to the market, and then watched a local dance. Nevertheless, we still added Sanford's Sea Eagle, Cardinal Lory, and a pair of Brown-winged Starlings right as we were leaving Bougainville.

This morning, we entered the Solomon Islands officially and proceeded towards the Sui River by Zodiac for a productive birding cruise through the mangroves and lowland rainforest. A Beach Kingfisher welcomed us at the mouth of the river, and we would add a pair of endemic Ultramarine Kingfishers, a calling North Solomons Dwarf Kingfisher, and a Little Kingfisher throughout the morning. Solomons Cockatoos were numerous overhead, and Cardinal Lories showed well several times. Moustached Treeswifts also offered some of the best views of the trip yet, catching insects right overhead. A Striated Heron flushed with a squawk and Long-tailed Mynas called from a rainforest giant. We stopped underneath a fruiting tree and finally, everyone had great views of the stunning Claret-breasted Fruit Dove. A flock a smaller species held the first Chestnut-bellied Monarch of the trip, alongside Red-capped Myzomelas and Yellow-throated White-eyes. Two Whimbrels and Common Sandpipers were reminders that shorebirds had vacated their breeding grounds to the north and were migrating south. A Sanford's Sea Eagle that sailed across finished a very enjoyable and productive morning.

We landed on Kolombangara Island during the early morning hours and quickly boarded a jeep to take us to higher elevations in the conservation area above 400 metres. The gravel road left the coast and headed towards the two distant volcanoes, steadily rising in elevation. After fifteen minutes, we left the forest plantations behind and entered vivid green submontane forest. The road ended at the research station, where we set up on the porch overlooking the valley beyond. Pale Mountain Pigeons flew in within a few minutes and offered excellent views in the scope. A distant ridge held Knob-billed Imperial Pigeons and Claret-breasted Fruit Doves. Solomons...
Cockatoos and Cardinal Lories were common all morning; while Buff-headed Coucal was heard only. Solomons White-eyes passed through in small flocks; while fidgety Crimson-rumped Myzomelas stayed higher in the canopy. Fortunately, the stunning, endemic White-capped Monarch proved to be quite common, and one individual offered lengthy scope studies. A small feeding flock held the only Cockere11's Fantail of the morning, which sat still long enough for everyone to get a view. A Stephan's Emerald Dove foraged in the middle of the road, allowing everyone to have excellent views if they missed it earlier during the trip. Overall, it was a very productive morning with pleasantly cool temperatures at the slightly higher elevations. The biggest surprise and likely one of the trip highlights happened late in the day. The group had returned to land at a small village off Kolombangara at dusk in order to look for bats with Dr Flannery. I mentioned that we should keep an eye out for nightjars, and minutes later, one flew right over us, perfectly silhouetted against the crimson sky. Solomons Nightjar has been seen by very few birdwatchers, and we were now some of the lucky few.

Today we enjoyed the unique opportunity to watch hatchling Hawksbill Turtles leave their nest and scamper to the sea on the Arnavon Islands. Afterwards, we enjoyed the best chance for shorebirds during the trip, and we were not disappointed. Greater and Lesser Sand-plovers offered excellent comparisons, Pacific Golden Plovers proved common, with 2-3 Grey Plovers mixed in. Both Grey-tailed and Wandering Tattlers made their presence known with their distinctive calls and Common Sandpipers were… well… common. A few Bar-tailed Godwits patrolled the drier sand; while a flock of locally rare Black-tailed Godwits waded in deeper water along the edge of the mangroves. We also discovered a hyperactive Terek's Sandpiper among the more sedate Curlew and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers – all three species relatively rare here. Other new birds for the trip included Nankeen Night Heron and Australasian Swamphen; while a regal Sanford's Sea Eagle was scoped nicely. Before heading back to the ship, we tracked down a Melanesian Megapode for scope views. At sea, we recorded good numbers of noddies, boobies, and the first White Tern of the trip.

We had another early start this morning, and after breakfast we stood on the gangway at 5:00 am, ready to board the Zodiaks and head to Honiara, the capital of the Solomon Islands, hoping to make the most of the final day of the tour. We certainly did by the end of the morning. We arrived in the dark on the wharf and quickly loaded three vans to drive up to Mt Austin. At the top of the road, we started birding under cloudy skies, which kept temperatures very comfortable all morning. Walking down towards the river with our local guide, Samson, we soon recorded the first Solomon endemic in the form of a noisy Solomons Cockatoo that perched on a distant snag. A pair of Blyth's Hornbills offered a nice flyby, and several Knob-billed Imperial Pigeons sat out in the early hours. A musical call got us onto a pair of endemic Yellow-bibbed Lories that were feeding
in a tulip tree, and we would see additional lories throughout the morning.

A small bird that shot in for good views turned out to be the only Black-headed Myzomela of the day, and was a welcome Guadalcanal endemic. Two viewpoints offered excellent opportunities to scan the distant treetops, and we soon found Brown-winged Starlings, Long-tailed Mynas, Barred and White-bellied Cuckoo-shrikes, and Claret-breasted Fruit Doves. One of the real highlights of the morning was two pairs of Buff-headed Coucals that perched up long enough for lengthy scope studies – what a massive coucal! We hiked back up the hill along the wide track and continued past the vans to bird some of the grassy clearings at the top. Soon, we heard a pair of Woodford's Rails and after some manoeuvring and patient waiting, we had the pair cross the road, offering point-blank views, the definite highlight of the morning. We got into the vans again and drove down with one final stop producing a close pair of Ultramarine Kingfishers that showed exceptionally well, ending a very productive morning and finishing the trip on several high notes. Thank you for a successful tour full of rare endemics, little-visited places, and a lifetime of memories.

Annotated List of species recorded
Note: Number in brackets ( ) indicate number of days on the tour the species was recorded. List powered through the report generator of our partner iGoTerra.

Visited locations Panguna Mine Road, Madang, Sepik River, Bipi Island, Rossum (Manus), Mussau, Lelet Plateau Rd, Wild Dog Mine Road, Nissan Island, Sui River Choiseul, Kolombangara I, Arnavon Islands, Mt. Austen.

Birds (185 in total: 182 seen, 3 heard)
Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2017. IOC World Bird List (v 7.3).
Status codes: E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced

IUCN codes: CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl Anatidae

Spotted Whistling Duck
(1) 10 Sepik River 10.10.
Seen in flight along Sepik River.

Pacific Black Duck
(1) 2 Madang 9.10.
Briefly seen in flight near Madang.

Dendrocygna guttata

Anas superciliosa pelewensis
**Megapodes Megapodiidae**

**Melanesian Megapode - E** *Megapodius eremita*
(4) 1 Rossum (Manus) 12.10, 1 heard Kolombangara I 19.10, 1 Arnavon Islands 20.10 and 2 heard Mt. Austen 21.10.
Seen well on Hawai Island near Manus and again Arnavon Island, also heard Mt. Austin.

**Shearwaters and Petrels Procellariidae**

**Tahiti Petrel (NT)** *Pseudobulweria rostrata trouessarti*
(1) 3 en route 10.10.
Sitting on water en route to Manus Island.

**Beck's Petrel (CR)** *Pseudobulweria becki*
(1) 1 en route 10.10.
Distant views of at least one bird en route to Manus Island.

**Wedge-tailed Shearwater** *Ardenna pacifica*
(2) 100 en route 10.10 and 2 Bipi Island 11.10.
The most common tubenose of the trip.

**Bulwer's Petrel** *Bulweria bulwerii*
(1) 3 en route 10.10.
Seen close to the ship en route to Manus.

**Tropicbirds Phaethontidae**

**White-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon lepturus dorotheae*
(1) 1 en route 16.10.
Briefly seen during rough weather.

**Ibis and Spoonbills Threskiornithidae**

**Australian White Ibis** *Threskiornis molucca molucca*
(1) 1 Sepik River 10.10.
Brief views along Sepik River.

**Heron, Egrets, and Bitterns Ardeidae**

**Nankeen Night Heron** *Nycticorax caledonicus mandibularis*
(1) 1 Arnavon Islands 20.10.
Brief views of a flushed bird.

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata solomonensis*
(1) 1 Sui River Choiseul 18.10.
Flight views.

**Great-billed Heron** *Ardea sumatrana*
(1) 2 Sepik River 10.10.
Fantastic flight views while cruising the Sepik River by Zodiac.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba modesta*
(3) 1 Madang 8.10, 1 Madang 9.10 and 2 Sepik River 10.10.
Sepik River and the Madang area.

**Pied Heron** *Egretta picata*
(1) 3 Sepik River 10.10.  
Flight views along the Sepik River.

**Little Egret**  
_Egretta garzetta nigripes_  
(1) 2 Sepik River 10.10.  
Seen close and well along the Sepik River.

**Pacific Reef Heron**  
_Egretta sacra sacra_  
(4) 1 Mussau 13.10, 2 en route 14.10, 2 en route 15.10 and 6 Arnavon Islands 20.10.  
Common throughout.

**Frigatebirds Fregatidae**

**Lesser Frigatebird**  
_Fregata ariel ariel_  
(4) 6 en route 10.10, 2 en route 13.10, 10 en route 14.10 and 5 en route 20.10.  
Commonly observed at sea.

**Boobies and Gannets Sulidae**

**Red-footed Booby**  
_Sula sula rubripes_  
(1) 4 en route 16.10.  
Only a few this year at sea.

**Brown Booby**  
_Sula leucogaster plotus_  
(3) 12 en route 14.10, 1 en route 16.10 and 20 en route 20.10.  
Mainly observed closer to land than preceding species with up to 20 perched on channel markers.

**Osprey Pandionidae**

**Eastern Osprey**  
_Pandion cristatus_  
(3) 3 en route 14.10, 1 Nissan Island 16.10 and 1 Arnavon Islands 20.10.  
A few seen in flight.

**Hawks, Eagles, and Kites Accipitridae**

**Variable Goshawk**  
_Accipiter hiogaster_  
(1) 2 Madang 8.10.  
A pair was likely nesting on the resort grounds in Madang, great views.

(1) 2 Bipi Island 11.10.  
Brief views of a flighty pair.

**Pied Goshawk - E**  
_Accipiter albogularis woodfordi_  
(1) 1 Mt. Austen 21.10.  
One shot across the path and was seen by few in flight.

**Black Kite**  
_Milvus migrans affinis_  
(2) 4 Madang 9.10 and 2 Sepik River 10.10.  
Seen in Madang

**Whistling Kite**  
_Haliastur sphenurus_  
(1) 3 Sepik River 10.10.  
Circling above the village during our visit.

**Brahminy Kite**  
_Haliastur indus_
(5) 4 Madang 9.10, 2 Sepik River 10.10, 2 Rossum (Manus) 12.10, 2 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10 and 5 Wild Dog Mine Road 15.10.
Widespread with several subspecies seen.

flavirostris:

(4) 3 Panguna Mine Road 17.1, 2 Sui River Choiseul 18.10, 1 Arnavon Islands 20.10 and 2 Mt. Austen 21.10.

**White-bellied Sea Eagle**  
*Haliaeetus leucogaster*
(2) 4 Sepik River 10.10 and 1 Rossum (Manus) 12.10.
Numerous especially along the Sepik River.

**Sanford's Sea Eagle (VU)**  
*Haliaeetus sanfordi*
(3) 1 en route 17.1, 1 Sui River Choiseul 18.10 and 1 Arnavon Islands 20.10.
Soaring above while we enjoyed the traditional dance on Bougainville, one soared right overhead.

### Rails, Gallinules, and Coots *Rallidae*

**Woodford's Rail - E**  
*Nesoclopeus woodfordi*
(1) 1 en route 17.1.
One of the highlights of the trip with one seen on Bougainville and a pair on Guadalcanal at Mt. Austin.

woodfordi:

(1) 2 Mt. Austen 21.10.

**Australasian Swamphen**  
*Porphyrio melanotus samoensis*
(1) 1 Arnavon Islands 20.10.
A calling bird at the edge of the mudflat.

### Thick-knees *Burhinidae*

**Beach Stone-curlew (NT)**  
*Esacus magnirostris*
(1) 2 Arnavon Islands 20.10.
Showing very well on the mudflats of Arnavon Island.

### Plovers and Lapwings *Charadriidae*

**Pacific Golden Plover**  
*Pluvialis fulva*
(2) 3 en route 15.10 and 6 Arnavon Islands 20.10.
Widespread.

**Grey Plover**  
*Pluvialis squatarola squatarola*
(1) 2 Arnavon Islands 20.10.
Scoped.

**Lesser Sand Plover**  
*Charadrius mongolus*
(1) 3 Arnavon Islands 20.10.
Nice comparison with following species.

**Greater Sand Plover**  
*Charadrius leschenaultii leschenaultii*
(1) 3 Arnavon Islands 20.10.
Scope studies.

### Jacanas *Jacanidae*

**Comb-crested Jacana**  
*Irediparra gallinacea*
(1) 2 Madang 9.10.
Seen well at the small pond in the middle of Madang.

**Sandpipers and Allies Scolopacidae**

**Whimbrel**  
*Numenius phaeopus variegatus*  
The most widespread and common migrant shorebird.

**Bar-tailed Godwit**  
*Limosa lapponica baueri*  
(1) 3 Arnavon Islands 20.10.  
Excellent views.

**Black-tailed Godwit (NT)**  
*Limosa limosa melanuroides*  
(1) 20 Arnavon Islands 20.10.  
A regional rarity, but many feeding on the edge of the mangroves on Arnavon Islands.

**Ruddy Turnstone**  
*Arenaria interpres interpres*  
(1) 2 Arnavon Islands 20.10.  
Widespread.

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**  
*Calidris acuminata*  
(1) 2 Arnavon Islands 20.10.  
Uncommon, but present on Arnavon Islands.

**Curlew Sandpiper**  
*Calidris ferruginea*  
(1) 2 Arnavon Islands 20.10.  
Rare in the region, but present on Arnavon Islands.

**Terek Sandpiper**  
*Xenus cinereus*  
(1) 1 Arnavon Islands 20.10.  
Extremely rare in the region, but photographed on Arnavon Islands.

**Red-necked Phalarope**  
*Phalaropus lobatus*  
(1) 5 Sepik River 10.10.  
Only seen briefly at sea off the Sepik River mouth.

**Common Sandpiper**  
*Actitis hypoleucos*  
(6) 1 en route 17.1, 1 Madang 9.10, 2 en route 14.10, 1 en route 15.10, 2 Sui River Choiseul 18.10 and 3 Arnavon Islands 20.10.  
Widespread.

**Wandering Tattler**  
*Tringa incana*  
(1) 1 Arnavon Islands 20.10.  
One heard and seen well Arnavon Islands.

**Grey-tailed Tattler (NT)**  
*Tringa brevipes*  
(2) 3 Mussau 13.10 and 3 Arnavon Islands 20.10.  
Seen on Mussau and also Arnavon Islands.

**Common Greenshank**  
*Tringa nebularia*  
(1) 2 Madang 9.10.  
Along the river near Madang.

**Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers Laridae**

**Brown Noddy**  
*Anous stolidus pileatus*
(1) 8 Nissan Island 16.10. 
Uncommon at sea.

**Black Noddy**  
*Anous minutus minutus*  
Common and widespread at sea.

**Greater Crested Tern**  
*Thalasseus bergii cristatus*  
(8) 1 en route 17.1, 2 Bipi Island 11.10, 5 Rossum (Manus) 12.10, 5 Mussau 13.10, 10 en route 14.10, 2 en route 15.10, 2 Nissan Island 16.10 and 6 Arnavon Islands 20.10. 
The most common and widespread tern of the trip.

**Little Tern**  
*Sternula albifrons sinensis*  
(2) 1 Nissan Island 16.10 and 20 Arnavon Islands 20.10. 
Uncommon.

**Sooty Tern**  
*Onychoprion fuscatus serratus*  
(1) 10 en route 10.10. 
Uncommon at sea.

**Black-naped Tern**  
*Sterna sumatrana sumatrana*  
(2) 5 Mussau 13.10. 
Surprisingly uncommon.

**Common Tern**  
*Sterna hirundo longipennis*  
(2) 2 Sepik River 10.10 and 10 Arnavon Islands 20.10. 
Best seen at Sepik River and Arnavon Islands.

**Whiskered Tern**  
*Chlidonias hybrida javanicus*  
(1) 20 Sepik River 10.10. 
Small flocks swirling around the Zodiac while cruising along the Sepik River.

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**Pigeons and Doves**  
*Columbidae*

**Metallic Pigeon**  
*Columba vitiensis halmaheira*  
(1) 1 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10. 
Uncommon.

**Amboyna Cuckoo-Dove**  
*Macropygia amboinensis*  
(1) 2 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10. 
Seen well in the scope on the Lelet Plateau New Ireland.

**MacKinlay's Cuckoo-Dove - NE**  
*Macropygia mackinlayi*  
(2) 1 Panguna Mine Road 17.1 and 4 Rossum (Manus) 12.10. 
Widespread with several excellent sightings.

**Pied Cuckoo-Dove (NT) - E**  
*Reinwardtoena browni*  
(1) 2 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10. 
Brief flight views of this large cuckoo-dove along the Limbin Rd. of the Lelet Plateau.

**Stephan's Emerald Dove**  
*Chalcophaps stephani mortoni:*  
(2) 1 Rossum (Manus) 12.10 and 2 Mussau 13.10. 
Widespread.

(1) 2 Kolombangara I 19.10.
Nicobar Pigeon (NT)  
*Caloenas nicobarica nicobarica*  
(2) 1 Rossum (Manus) 12.10 and 12 en route 14.10.  
Seen very well in the scope during the long hike on Manus Island, a trip highlight.

Orange-fronted Fruit Dove  
*Ptilinopus aurantiifrons*  
(1) 10 Sepik River 10.10.  
Numerous along the Sepik River, where seen in flight.

Yellow-bibbed Fruit Dove  
*Ptilinopus solomonensis*  
(3) 2 Panguna Mine Road 17.1, 2 Rossum (Manus) 12.10 and 1 Mussau 13.10.  
Widespread but not numerous.

Claret-breasted Fruit Dove  
*Ptilinopus viridis*  
(3) 1 en route 17.1, 4 Sui River Choiseul 18.10 and 2 Mt. Austen 21.10.  
Eventually seen very well, especially during the Zodiac cruise along the Sui River on Choiseul Island.

Orange-bellied Fruit Dove  
*Ptilinopus iozonus*  
(3) 10 Madang 8.10, 4 Madang 9.10 and 2 Sepik River 10.10.  
Common in the Madang area and along Sepik River.

Knob-billed Fruit Dove - E  
*Ptilinopus insolitus*  
(1) 8 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10.  
Distant but excellent scope studies of this distinct Fruit Dove on the Lelet Plateau.

Pacific Imperial Pigeon  
*Ducula pacifica sejuncta*  
(1) 1 en route 17.1.  
Brief views.

Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeon (NT) - E  
*Ducula rubricera*  
Widespread with many excellent scope studies.

Island Imperial Pigeon  
*Ducula pistrinaria*  
(4) 1 Bipi Island 11.10, 10 Rossum (Manus) 12.10, 6 Mussau 13.10 and 3 Nissan Island 16.10.  
Common, especially on small islands.

Island Imperial Pigeon  
*Ducula pistrinaria pistrinaria*  
(3) 2 Sui River Choiseul 18.10, 6 Kolombangara I 19.10 and 4 Arnavon Islands 20.10.

Pinon's Imperial Pigeon  
*Ducula pinon*  
(2) 4 Madang 9.10 and 5 Sepik River 10.10.  
Excellent scope views near Madang.

Black Imperial Pigeon - E  
*Ducula melanochroa*  
(1) 1 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10.  
Brief and distant scope views of this rare endemic on the Lelet Plateau.

Collared Imperial Pigeon  
*Ducula mullerii*  
(1) 1 Sepik River 10.10.  
Flight views along the Sepik River of this good-looking imperial pigeon.

Torresian Imperial Pigeon  
*Ducula spilorrhoa*  
(3) 8 Madang 8.10, 2 Madang 9.10 and 3 Sepik River 10.10.  
Common in coastal New Guinea mainland.

Yellowish Imperial Pigeon (NT) - NE  
*Ducula subflavescens*
(1) 3 Wild Dog Mine Road 15.10.
Seen in flight along the Wild Dog Mine Rd. on New Britain.

**Pale Mountain Pigeon - E**
*Gymnophaps solomonensis*
(1) 4 Kolombangara I 19.10.
This can be a tricky bird to find so we were pleased with lengthy scope views at the research station.

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**Cuckoos Cuculidae**

**Buff-headed Coucal - E**
*Centropus milo milo*
(2) 2 heard Kolombangara I 19.10 and 4+2 heard Mt. Austen 21.10.
After only hearing them on Kolombangara, we were pleased with our lengthy scope studies of two pairs on Mt. Austin, this is a truly massive coucal.

**White-necked Coucal - E**
*Centropus ateralbus*
(1) 6 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10.
Fantastic views of this distinct coucal on the Lelet Plateau.

**Ivory-billed Coucal**
*Centropus menbeki menbeki*
(1) 1 heard Madang 9.10.
Heard only near Madang.

**Pacific Koel**
*Eudynamys orientalis alberti*
(1) 1 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10.
Female seen briefly.

**Shining Bronze Cuckoo**
*Chrysococcyx lucidus plagosus*
(1) 1 heard Madang 9.10.
Heard only near Madang.

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**Nightjars and Allies Caprimulgidae**

**Solomons Nightjar (VU) - E**
*Eurostopodus nigripennis*
(1) 1 Kolombangara I 19.10.
One of the absolute trip highlights was this species that flew right over us at dusk while visiting a village and looking for bats on Kolombangara Island, one of very few sightings of this species!

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**Treeswifts Hemiprocnidae**

**Moustached Treeswift**
*Hemiprocne mystacea*
(1) 1 Rossum (Manus) 12.10.
Fairly widespread with many excellent views of this distinctive species.

(1) 4 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10.

(1) 4 Sui River Choiseul 18.10.

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**Swifts Apodidae**

**Glossy Swiftlet**
*Collocalia esculenta*
(1) 2 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10.
Widespread with many subspecies noted.

(1) 2 Rossum (Manus) 12.10.
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(1) 4 Wild Dog Mine Road 15.10.

(1) 6 Nissan Island 16.10.

(1) 10 Panguna Mine Road 17.1.

(1) 2 Mt. Austen 21.10.

**White-rumped Swiftlet - NE**

(1) 1 Rossum (Manus) 12.10.

Widespread with many subspecies noted.

(1) 10 Mussau 13.10.

(1) 4 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10.

**Uniform Swiftlet**

(1) 4 Madang 9.10.

Widespread with many subspecies noted.

(1) 5 Rossum (Manus) 12.10.

(1) 4 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10.

(2) 5 Sui River Choiseul 18.10 and 20 Mt. Austen 21.10.

**Rollers *Coraciidae***

**Oriental Dollarbird**

(2) 2 Sui River Choiseul 18.10 and 1 Kolombangara I 19.10.

Sitting up in the canopy.

**Kingfishers *Alcedinidae***

**Rufous-bellied Kookaburra**

(2) 2 Madang 9.10 and 1 Sepik River 10.10.

Great views near Madang and again from the Zodiacs while cruising along the Sepik River, a hefty kingfisher.

**Ultramarine Kingfisher - E**

(2) 2 Sui River Choiseul 18.10 and 2 Mt. Austen 21.10.

Two pairs seen well, one on Choiseul in the mangroves and one Mt. Austin.

**Melanesian Kingfisher - NE**

(1) 1 Mussau 13.10.

Several subspecies noted of this complex species, which is a relatively recent split from the Collared Kingfisher.

(1) 1 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10.

(1) 3 Wild Dog Mine Road 15.10.
(1) 1 Arnavon Islands 20.10.

**Beach Kingfisher**  
*Todiramphus saurophagus*

(1) 2 Sui River Choiseul 18.10.

**Sacred Kingfisher**  
*Todiramphus sanctus sanctus*

(1) 1 Madang 8.10.

One in the resort grounds of Madang.

**Manus Dwarf Kingfisher (NT) - E**  
*Ceyx dispar*

(1) 1 Rossum (Manus) 12.10.

Heard by all, but only seen by few as a bird perched close to the small stream on Manus carrying a frog in its bill. It was likely nesting nearby.

**North Solomons Dwarf Kingfisher - E**  
*Ceyx meeki meeki*

(1) 1 Sui River Choiseul 18.10.

Heard by all and briefly seen by some during the Zodiac cruise along the Sui River.

**Little Kingfisher**  
*Ceyx pusillus bougainvillei*

(1) 1 Sui River Choiseul 18.10.

Seen well during the Zodiac cruise along the Sui River.

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**Hornbills Bucerotidae**

**Blyth's Hornbill**  
*Rhyticeros plicatus*

(6) 8 Panguna Mine Road 17.1, 8 Madang 9.10, 2 Sepik River 10.10, 2 Wild Dog Mine Road 15.10, 2 Kolombangara I 19.10 and 2 Mt. Austen 21.10.

Common and widespread.

**Cockatoos Cacatuidae**

**Palm Cockatoo**  
*Probosciger aterrimus stenolophus*

(1) 1 Madang 9.10.

Briefly seen during our morning outing near Madang.

**Solomons Cockatoo - E**  
*Cacatua ducorpsii*


Noted right from the wharf on Bougainville and many seen throughout Solomon Islands.

**Sulphur-crested Cockatoo**  
*Cacatua galerita triton*

(2) 10 Madang 9.10 and 6 Sepik River 10.10.

Common near Madang.

**Blue-eyed Cockatoo (VU) - E**  
*Cacatua ophthalonica*

(1) 2 Wild Dog Mine Road 15.10.

One scoped and another seen in flight along the Wild Dog Mine Rd.

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**Old World Parrots Psittaculidae**

**Meek's Pygmy Parrot - E**  
*Micropsitta meeki meeki*

(2) 6 Rossum (Manus) 12.10 and 10 Mussau 13.10.
Flight views on Manus and then very close extended views of a small flock on Mussau where we watched them creep around the trunk of a large tree.

**Finsch's Pygmy Parrot - E**  
*Micropsitta finschii*  
(1) 2 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10.  
One came in to within a few feet, almost landing on top of us, but then perching almost within touching distance for great views.

(1) 1 Kolombangara I 19.10.

**Eclectus Parrot**  
*Eclectus roratus*  
(2) 6 Madang 9.10 and 6 Sepik River 10.10.  
Common.

(2) 2 Rossum (Manus) 12.10 and 2 Mt. Austen 21.10.

**Red-cheeked Parrot**  
*Geoffroyus geoffroyi minor*  
(1) 8 Sepik River 10.10.  
Several in flight along the Sepik River.

**Song Parrot - NE**  
*Geoffroyus heteroclitus heteroclitus*  
(2) 2 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10 and 1 Kolombangara I 19.10.  
Scope views.

**Red-chinned Lorikeet - E**  
*Charmosyna rubrigularis*  
(2) 25 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10 and 2 Wild Dog Mine Road 15.10.  
Common on the Lelet Plateau where a flowering tree held a good-sized flock and we were able to get excellent scope views.

**Red-flanked Lorikeet**  
*Charmosyna placentis pallidior*  
(1) 2 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10.  
Flight views only.

**Black-capped Lory**  
*Lorius lory salvadorii*  
(2) 4 Madang 9.10 and 4 Sepik River 10.10.  
Seen well perched near Madang and again in flight along the Sepik River.

**Purple-bellied Lory - E**  
*Lorius hypoinochrous devittatus*  
(1) 2 Wild Dog Mine Road 15.10.  
In flight as they came screeching over us along the Wild Dog Mine Rd.

**Yellow-bibbed Lory - E**  
*Lorius chlorocercus*  
(1) 4 Mt. Austen 21.10.  
Excellent views of at least one pair feeding in an African tulip tree.

**Cardinal Lory - E**  
*Pseudeos cardinalis*  
(4) 8 en route 17.1, 18 Sui River Choiseul 18.10, 20 Kolombangara I 19.10 and 10 Arnavon Islands 20.10.  
Common.

**Coconut Lorikeet - NE**  
*Trichoglossus haematodus*  
(2) 4 Madang 9.10 and 2 Sepik River 10.10.  
Very common and widespread.

flavicans:

(2) 4 Bipi Island 11.10 and 6 Rossum (Manus) 12.10.

**Edwards's Fig Parrot - E**

*Psittacirostris edwardsii*

(1) 2 Sepik River 10.10.

Seen briefly in flight along the Sepik River.

**Bismarck Hanging Parrot (NT) - E**

*Loriculus tener*

(1) 1 Wild Dog Mine Road 15.10.

Seen briefly perched, but not by all, along the Wild Dog Mine Rd.

### Honeyeaters *Meliphagidae*

**Ashy Myzomela - E**

*Myzomela cineracea*

(1) 1 Wild Dog Mine Road 15.10.

One flew across the road at our first stop on New Britain.

**Red Myzomela**

*Myzomela cruentata erythrina*

(1) 14 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10.

Numerous on the Lelet Plateau where nearly every flowering tree held one.

**Bismarck Black Myzomela - NE**

*Myzomela pammelaena*

(1) 8 Bipi Island 11.10.

Common on small islands.

pammelaena:

(2) 15 Rossum (Manus) 12.10 and 15 Mussau 13.10.

**Red-capped Myzomela - E**

*Myzomela lafargei*

(3) 6 Panguna Mine Road 17.1, 1 Sui River Choiseul 18.10 and 4 Arnavon Islands 20.10.

Several seen very well at the top of the Panguna Mine Rd.

**Crimson-rumped Myzomela - E**

*Myzomela eichhorni*

(1) 5 Kolombangara I 19.10.

Good views of this endemic.

**Black-headed Myzomela - E**

*Myzomela melanocephala*

(1) 1 Mt. Austen 21.10.

Brief but good views of this endemic Mt. Austin, where surprisingly scarce this year.

**Black-bellied Myzomela - E**

*Myzomela erythromelas*

(1) 3 Wild Dog Mine Road 15.10.

Brief views of a pair and juvenile along the Wild Dog Mine Rd., but luckily everyone saw them.

**Streak-headed Honeyeater**

*Pycnopygius stictocephalus*

(1) 1 heard Madang 9.10.

Heard only near Madang.

**New Guinea Friarbird - E**

*Philemon novaeguineae jobiensis*

(1) 1 Madang 9.10.

Seen in flight at bridge near Madang.

**New Britain Friarbird - E**

*Philemon cockerelli cockerelli*

(1) 2 Wild Dog Mine Road 15.10.

Best seen at the first stop on New Britain.

**Manus Friarbird - E**

*Philemon albitorques*

(1) 10 Rossum (Manus) 12.10.
Fairly common and vocal on Manus Island.

**Varied Honeyeater**  
*Gavicalis versicolor sonoroides*  
(2) 4 Madang 8.10 and 2 Madang 9.10.  
Common and vocal at Madang Resort. This species is restricted to the coast in New Guinea.

**Woodswallows, butcherbirds and allies Artamidae**

**White-backed Woodswallow - E**  
*Artamus insignis*  
(1) 10 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10.  
Great scope views of eight lined up on a branch on the Lelet Plateau.

**Lowland Peltops - NE**  
*Peltops blainvillii*  
(1) 1 Madang 9.10.  
Excellent scopes views of one perched in a dead tree near Madang.

**Hooded Butcherbird**  
*Cracticus cassis cassis*  
(1) 4 Madang 9.10.  
Several near Madang.

**Cuckoo-shrikes Campephagidae**

**Barred Cuckooshrike**  
*Coracina lineata*  
(1) 2 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10.  
Widespread.

(1) 1 Sui River Choiseul 18.10.  

(1) 2 Kolombangara I 19.10.  

(1) 2 Mt. Austen 21.10.

**White-bellied Cuckooshrike**  
*Coracina papuensis*  
(2) 2 Madang 9.10 and 2 Sepik River 10.10.  
Widespread with several subspecies noted.

(2) 2 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10 and 2 Wild Dog Mine Road 15.10.  

(2) 2 Panguna Mine Road 17.1 and 4 Sui River Choiseul 18.10.  

(1) 1 Mt. Austen 21.10.

**Manus Cuckooshrike - E**  
*Coracina ingens*  
(1) 6 Rossum (Manus) 12.10.  
Good views of this endemic on Manus Island.

**Common Cicadabird**  
*Coracina tenuirostris*  
(1) 3 Rossum (Manus) 12.10.  
A few sightings.

**Common Cicadabird**  
*Coracina tenuirostris admiralitatis*  
(1) 1 Madang 9.10.

**Grey-capped Cicadabird - E**  
*Coracina remota saturatior*  
(2) 2 Panguna Mine Road 17.1 and 2 Kolombangara I 19.10.
This recent split from Common Cicadabird was seen well.

**Black-browed Triller - NE**

Lalage atrovirens atrovirens

(1) 3 Madang 9.10.
Scope views near Madang.

**Varied Triller**

Lalage leucomela

(1) 6 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10.
Common on the Lelet Plateau.

(1) 2 Wild Dog Mine Road 15.10.

**Whistlers and Allies Pachycephalidae**

**Bismarck Whistler - E**

Pachycephala citreogaster goodsoni

(1) 2 Rossum (Manus) 12.10.
Two males chased each other across the road on Manus Island.

**Oriole Whistler - E**

Pachycephala orioloides bougainvillei

(1) 2 Panguna Mine Road 17.1.
Good views in a feeding flock.

**Drongos Dicruridae**

**Spangled Drongo**

Dicrurus bracteatus carbonarius

(1) 1 Madang 9.10.
Distant bird near Madang.

**Paradise Drongo (NT) - E**

Dicrurus megarhynchus

(1) 5 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10.
One of the trip highlights included this species and we enjoyed excellent scope studies and had three fly right over our heads with their tail streamers fluttering.

**Fantails Rhipiduridae**

**Willie Wagtail**

Rhipidura leucophrys melaleuca

Widespread and common.

**Northern Fantail**

Rhipidura rufiventris

(1) 1 Mussau 13.10.
Good views.

**Northern Fantail**

Rhipidura rufiventris setosa

(1) 2 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10.

**Cockerell's Fantail (NT) - E**

Rhipidura cockerelli albina

(1) 1 Kolombangara I 19.10.
One seen in a feeding flock.

**White-bellied Thicket Fantail - NE**

Rhipidura leucothorax

(2) 2 Madang 9.10 and 4 heard Sepik River 10.10.
It took some patience, but eventually, we lured one from the thickets near Madang.

**Manus Fantail (VU) - E**

Rhipidura semirubra
(1) 1 Rossum (Manus) 12.10.
We searched diligently on the small island of Hawei and came away with excellent views of this very rare endemic which for some unknown reason is likely extinct on the main island of Manus.

**Rufous Fantail**  
*Rhipidura rufifrons commoda*  
(1) 1 Panguna Mine Road 17.1.  
Good views in a feeding flock.

---

**Monarch Flycatchers Monarchidae**

**Manus Monarch - E**  
*Symposiachrus infelix infelix*  
(1) 5 Rossum (Manus) 12.10.  
A very rarely seen species which we found along the main road near Rossum village.

**Mussau Monarch - E**  
*Symposiachrus menckei*  
(1) 3 Mussau 13.10.  
Even more rarely seen than the previous species, but we even enjoyed watching an adult feed a recently fledged juvenile.

**Solomons Monarch - E**  
*Symposiachrus barbatus barbatus*  
(1) 2 Panguna Mine Road 17.1.  
Brief but good views in a feeding flock.

**Island Monarch**  
*Monarcha cinerascens*  
(3) 3 Bipi Island 11.10, 6 Rossum (Manus) 12.10 and 2 Mussau 13.10.  
Common on small islands.  
*impediens:*  
(1) 5 Arnavon Islands 20.10.

**Chestnut-bellied Monarch - E**  
*Monarcha castaneiventris castaneiventris*  
(1) 1 Sui River Choiseul 18.10.  
Brief views in a feeding flock.

**White-capped Monarch - E**  
*Monarcha richardsii*  
(1) 5 Kolombangara I 19.10.  
Common on Kolombangara Island.

**Golden Monarch**  
*Carterornis chrysomela chrysomela*  
(1) 5 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10.  
Scope studies of this stunning monarch on the Lelet Plateau.

**Steel-blue Flycatcher - E**  
*Myiagra ferrocyanea*  
(1) 4 Panguna Mine Road 17.1.  
A vocal male came right in and we saw additional birds in feeding flocks.  
*ferrocyanea:*  
(1) 4 Mt. Austen 21.10.

**Shining Flycatcher**  
*Myiagra alecto chalybeocephala*  
(3) 1 Bipi Island 11.10, 2 Rossum (Manus) 12.10 and 1 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10.  
Widespread.

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**Crows, Jays, and Magpies Corvidae**

**Bougainville Crow - E**  
*Corvus meeki*  
(1) 4 Panguna Mine Road 17.1.
Good scope studies.

**Grey Crow - NE**  
*Corvus tristis*  
(1) 2 Madang 9.10.  
Flight views near Madang.

**Torresian Crow**  
*Corvus orru orru*  
(2) 2 Madang 8.10 and 4 Sepik River 10.10.  
Common at the Madang Resort and Sepik River.

**Bismarck Crow - E**  
*Corvus insularis*  
(2) 4 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10 and 3 Wild Dog Mine Road 15.10.  
Seen well in the scope.

**Birds-of-Paradise Paradisaeidae**

**Glossy-mantled Manucode - NE**  
*Manucodia ater ater*  
(2) 1 heard Madang 9.10 and 2 Sepik River 10.10.  
Heard near Madang and then seen briefly during Zodiac cruise along Sepik River.

**Lesser Bird-of-Paradise - NE**  
*Paradisaea minor minor*  
(1) 1 Madang 9.10.  
After some waiting, a male came in very close, showing its brilliant colours to all, the highlight during our morning near Madang.

**Swallows Hirundinidae**

**Pacific Swallow**  
*Hirundo tahitica*  
(3) 2 Madang 8.10, 2 Madang 9.10 and 2 Sepik River 10.10.  
Common and widespread.

**Leaf-Warblers Phylloscopidae**

**Island Leaf Warbler**  
*Phylloscopus maforensis matthiae*  
(1) 2 Mussau 13.10.  
A vocal pair was seen well on Mussau Island where the species occurs down to sea level, whereas on other islands this species is usually confined to higher elevations.

**Reed-Warblers and Allies Acrocephalidae**

**Australian Reed Warbler**  
*Acrocephalus australis sumbae*  
(1) 1 en route 14.10.  
Heard and seen briefly in flight at the Kavieng airport on New Ireland.

**Cisticolas and Allies Cisticolidae**

**Golden-headed Cisticola**  
*Cisticola exilis polionotus*  
(1) 1 en route 14.10.  
Heard and seen briefly in flight at the Kavieng airport on New Ireland.

**Yuhinas, White-eyes, and Allies Zosteropidae**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Bismarck White-eye - E</strong></th>
<th><em>Zosterops hypoxanthus admiralitatis</em></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(2) 6 Rossum (Manus) 12.10 and 2 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10. Small flocks seen well.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Yellow-throated White-eye - E</strong></th>
<th><em>Zosterops metcalfii exiguis</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(2) 12 Panguna Mine Road 17.1 and 1 Sui River Choisneul 18.10. Common on Bougainville and again Choisneul Island.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Louisiade White-eye - NE</strong></th>
<th><em>Zosterops griseotinctus eichhorni</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) 25 Nissan Island 16.10. Very common on Nissan Island where a large flock foraged right at the landing point and this species was heard throughout the island. This is a small island specialist or tramp species.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Solomons White-eye - E</strong></th>
<th><em>Zosterops kulambangrae</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) 6 Kolombangara I 19.10.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Grey-throated White-eye - E</strong></th>
<th><em>Zosterops rendovae hamlini</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) 2 Panguna Mine Road 17.1. The darker subspecies, lacking the grey throat, was seen on Bougainville.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Starlings Sturnidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Metallic Starling</strong></th>
<th><em>Aplonis metallica</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) 3 Madang 9.10. Widespread and very common with several nesting colonies noted.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Singing Starling</strong></th>
<th><em>Aplonis cantoroides</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Atoll Starling (NT) - NE</strong></th>
<th><em>Aplonis feedensis heureka</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) 1 Nissan Island 16.10. One barely seen in heavy rain on Nissan Island where it showed among throngs of Metallic Starlings at a fruiting tree.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Brown-winged Starling - NE</strong></th>
<th><em>Aplonis grandis</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) 2 Panguna Mine Road 17.1. Distant scope views on Bougainville and then seen well Mt. Austin.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Yellow-faced Myna</strong></th>
<th><em>Mino dumontii</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) 2 Sepik River 10.10. Flight views.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Long-tailed Myna - E</strong></th>
<th><em>Mino kreffii</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) 4 Wild Dog Mine Road 15.10. Common and widespread endemic.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(4) 4 Panguna Mine Road 17.1, 4 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10, 2 Sui River Choiseul 18.10 and 2 Kolombangara I 19.10.

Sanford's Myna
(1) 4 Mt. Austen 21.10.

Golden Myna
(1) 2 Madang 9.10.
Flight views.

Common Myna
(1) 4 en route 21.10.

**Flowerpeckers Dicaeidae**

Red-capped Flowerpecker
(1) 2 Madang 9.10.
Excellent scope studies of this tiny bird near Madang.

Red-banded Flowerpecker - E
(1) 6 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10.
Great, close views of this endemic on the Lelet Plateau where a responsive bird landed right in front of us.

Midget Flowerpecker - E
(1) 8 Panguna Mine Road 17.1.
Fairly common endemic with many excellent views.

**Sunbirds and Spiderhunters Nectariniidae**

Black Sunbird
(1) 2 Madang 9.10.
Widespread.

Caeruleogula
(1) 2 Wild Dog Mine Road 15.10.

Corinna
(1) 2 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10.

Olive-backed Sunbird
(3) 2 Bipi Island 11.10, 10 Rossum (Manus) 12.10 and 4 Mussau 13.10.
Widespread.

Olive-backed Sunbird
(4) 2 Panguna Mine Road 17.1, 2 Sui River Choiseul 18.10, 8 Arnavon Islands 20.10 and 2 Mt. Austen 21.10.

**Old World Sparrows Passeridae**

Eurasian Tree Sparrow - I
(1) 1 en route 14.10.
Not listed for New Ireland, but we noted one in town as we returned to the Zodiaks for departure, maybe a recent arrival.
**Waxbills and Allies Estrildidae**

**Blue-faced Parrotfinch**
*Erythrura trichroa eichhorni*
(1) 4 Mussau 13.10.
Excellent views on the path on Mussau Island where they stayed long enough to enjoy these colourful finches through the scope.

**Hunstein's Mannikin - E**
*Lonchura hunsteini hunsteini*
(1) 12 en route 14.10.
A cooperative flock at the Kavieng airport where they sat up in the grass feeding.

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**Mammals (6 in total: 6 seen)**

**Status codes:** E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced
**IUCN codes:** CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

**Oceanic Dolphins Delphinidae**

**Melon-headed Whale**
*Peponocephala electra*
(1) 3 en route 11.10.
Three seen briefly.

**Common Bottlenose Dolphin**
*Tursiops truncatus*
(1) 1 en route 10.10.
One seen by a few observers as it jumped once.

**Sac-winged or Sheath-tailed Bats Emballonuridae**

**Lesser Sheath-tailed Bat**
*Mosia nigrescens*
(1) 3 Bipi Island 11.10.
Three roosting underneath a large leaf on Bipi Island.

**Old World Fruit Bats Pteropodidae**

**Admiralty Flying Fox**
*Pteropus admiralitatum*
(2) 1 Mussau 13.10 and 4 Kolombangara I 19.10.
Briefly seen as one flew from its roost.

**Bismarck Flying Fox**
*Pteropus capistratus*
(2) 4 Lelet Plateau Rd 14.10 and 1 Wild Dog Mine Road 15.10.

**Solomons Flying Fox**
*Pteropus rayneri*
Observed 1 day in total.