



The display of the amazing Wilson's Bird-of-paradise was out of this world (Josh Bergmark)

BEST OF WEST PAPUA

5 – 19 AUGUST 2017

LEADER: MARK VAN BEIRS and JOSH BERGMARK

The incandescent Wilson's Bird-of-paradise and the seemingly rather modestly attired Superb Bird-of-paradise were, by far, the favourite birds of our new "Best of West Papua" tour. The former because the flamboyant male showed so very well as he was cleaning his dance court and displaying a bit to his lady and the latter because we were so incredibly fortunate to be able to observe the very rarely seen full display of this fairly common and widespread, well-named species. We were the first birding tour ever to be able to offer the unique, out of this world spectacle of a dancing male Superb Bird-of-paradise to our clients! Both Birds-of-paradise were observed at close range from well positioned hides. In fact, the five most fascinating



The male Black Sicklebill on his display post (tour participant Marcel Holyoak)

birds of the tour were all admired and studied from hides, as we were also lucky enough to appreciate the intricate display of a fabulous male Black Sicklebill, the wonderful ballerina dance of a male Western Parotia (for some) and the unique fashion-conscious behaviour of a decidedly unpretentiously-plumaged Vogelkop Bowerbird at his truly amazing bower. In contrast to the situation in Papua New Guinea, where hides are virtually non-existent, these simple, easily built structures make all the difference in getting the most astonishing insight in the behaviour and appreciation of some of the most appealing birds of our planet. Other Birds-of-paradise that performed very well for us included the rare and very little-known Long-tailed Paradigalla, Arfak Astrapia, Black-billed Sicklebill, the widespread, but so very attractive Magnificent Bird-of-paradise (also from a hide) and the Raja Ampat endemic Red Bird-of-paradise. Notable birds that showed

particularly well or stood out included beauties like Gurney's Eagle (perched), White-striped Forest Rail (for some), the wonderfully extravagant Western Crowned Pigeon, Marbled and Papuan Frogmouths, the stunning Feline and the more subtle Mountain Owlet-Nightjars, Hook-billed and Yellow-billed Kingfishers, Common Paradise Kingfisher, Palm Cockatoo, Great-billed Parrot, the exquisite Masked Bowerbird, Tit Berrypecker, the outstanding Spotted Jewel-babbler, Mottled Berryhunter (the only member of its family!), Raja Ampat Pitohui, Drongo Fantail (what used to be called Papuan Drongo), the rare Brown-headed Crow, Green-backed, Smoky and Garnet Robins and the very localized Grey-banded Munia. This fairly short tour focused on seeing the specialities of the Vogelkop (Birdshead) Peninsula and the Raja Ampat Islands and we succeeded rather well. From the misty mountains of the Arfaks to the steaming lowlands and azure blue seas of Waigeo, we enjoyed the unbounded variety of New Guinea birding at its very best. Although we had to stay in sometimes rather simple accommodation, the situation is much better than it used to be and the physical effort involved to get to some of the sites is now so much easier.



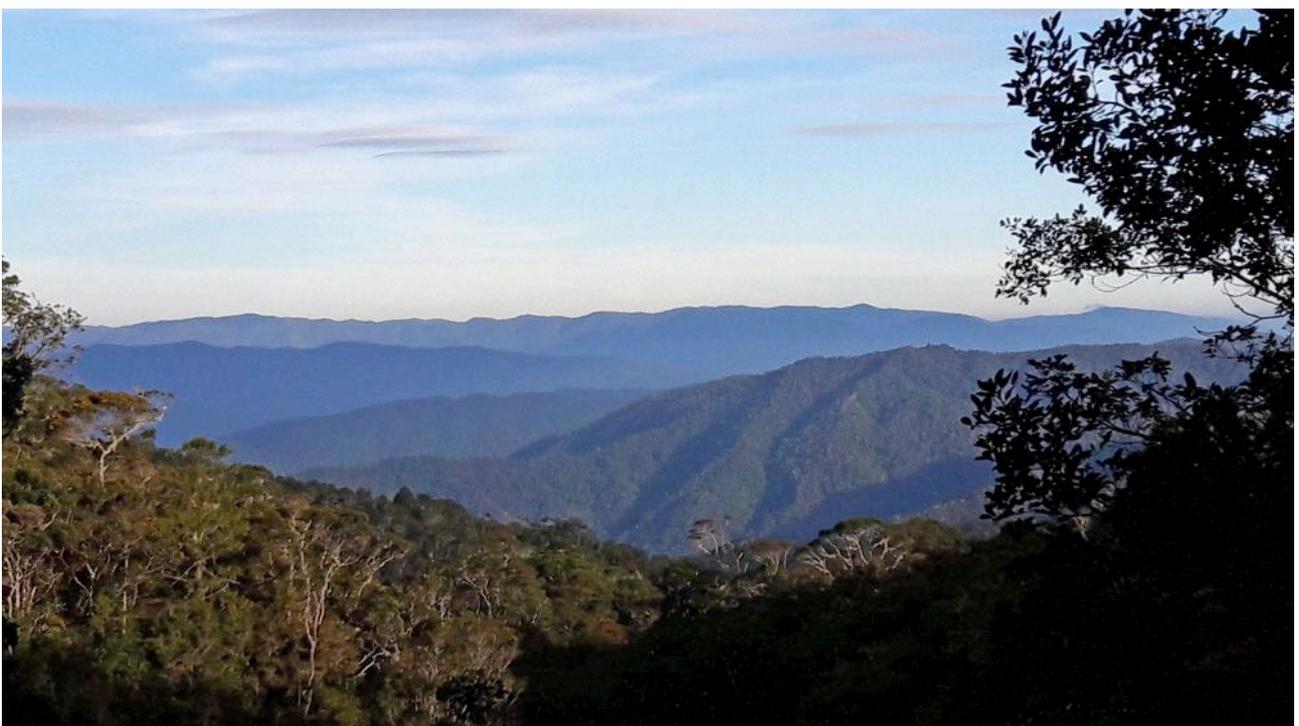
Blyth's Hornbills are always impressive (tour participant Marcel Holyoak)

The town of Manokwari is situated on the northwest corner of the famous Vogelkop (or Birdshead) peninsula and here the group gathered after some very long distance travelling for most participants. We were welcomed by our smiling local agent Shita and checked into a nice hotel at the edge of town. In the afternoon we did a bout of introductory birding in a lowland rainforest patch not too far away. At first, in the heat of the day, the forest was dead quiet, but soon we started picking up our first birds. A Great Cuckoo-Dove granted excellent scope views and a party of four Papuan Mountain Pigeons flew swiftly overhead on their way to the roost high up in the mountains. Several noisy, but smart Blyth's Hornbills lumbered past and a couple of humble Uniform Swiftlets flitted over. A party of cooperative Papuan Babblers gave great views in the understorey, as did two Long-billed Honeyeaters. Several Northern Variable Pitohuis performed quite well. This is one of those species that have become infamous due to their unusual toxicity. Tiny Olive-crowned Flowerpeckers played hide and seek in the treetops, a Black Butcherbird showed very well in the scope, but a female King Bird-of-paradise disappeared all too quickly. A female Lesser Bird-of-paradise crossed the valley allowing decent looks at her distinctive plumage. In town Eurasian Tree Sparrows and Pacific Swallows were noted.



Goldenface and Papuan Mountain Pigeon showed well in the Arfak foothills (tour participant Marcel Holyoak)

Dawn found us in the foothills of the Arfak Mountains where we explored a couple of birdy areas along the track leading up. We met the legendary local birdguide Zeth and had a terrific time with goodies like Long-tailed Honey Buzzard, Variable Goshawk, White-bibbed Fruit Dove (now sometimes called Mountain Fruit Dove due to splitting), Papuan Mountain Pigeon, Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo, Glossy and Mountain Swiftlets, a glorious Palm Cockatoo, lots of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, a couple of shy Moluccan King Parrots, Eclectus Parrot, Black-capped Lory, quite a few Red Myzomelas, Mountain Honeyeater, Black-bellied Cuckooshrike, Vogelkop and Sclater's Whistlers, Little Shrikethrush, Black Fantail, Grey Crow, White-faced Robin and Capped White-eye. We encountered a couple of mid storey flocks that held Green-backed Honeyeater, splendidly smart Goldenfaces, Mid-mountain Berrypecker, a tiny Pygmy Longbill, Chestnut-bellied Fantail, Drongo Fantail (previously called Pygmy or Papuan Drongo and now proven to be closely related to the Silktails of Fiji), an attractive Black-winged Monarch, a female Frilled Monarch, a shy female Superb Bird-of-paradise, Yellow-legged Flyrobin and Island Leaf Warbler. In late morning we transferred to our lodgings (much better than expected!), where we settled in and had a bit of a rest. In the afternoon we drove down to the village of Syoubri and walked to two different hides that overlooked display courts of



Arfak Mountains scenery (Mark Van Beirs)

Magnificent Birds-of-paradise. Josh's group was immediately successful and obtained excellent views of a fantastic male and a modestly-plumaged female. They even witnessed a bit of display. Mark's group totally failed, so they soon translocated to the other hide and after a downpour had cracking looks at a male cleaning up his display area and showing himself very nicely. After this superb observation we birded along a narrow trail where the only bird of note was a delightful Green-backed Robin.



The male Western Parotia is a truly exquisite creature (tour participant Marcel Holyoak)

One of the most important and charismatic birds of the Arfak mountains is the fabled Western Parotia and to be able to witness its amazing display at its dance court is always one of the highlights of our West Papua trips. So, before dawn we were already sitting in our two hides with great expectations of things to come. Just after dawn we all saw a young male that inspected the court, but it soon disappeared and then it started to rain. Nothing else happened for the rest of the morning, sadly, except for visits of a Lesser Ground Robin at both hides and a Bronze Ground Dove and a Green-backed Robin for one group. We were quite disappointed, but we would return. We waited in vain for the rain to abate and after an early lunch we drove along an atrocious track to the distant Anggi Lakes. There were several interesting muddy stretches and one river crossing in particular was quite breathtaking! After a couple of hours we stopped at the edge of a reedy marsh, where we soon found several Grey-banded Mannikins. This very restricted endemic only occurs in a tiny area centered on these lakes in the higher reaches of the Arfaks. We obtained excellent views and later found several substantial flocks that allowed in depth scrutiny. Great stuff! Two male White-shouldered Fairywrens, a Brown-breasted Gerygone, a Papuan Grassbird and a heard only Spotless Crake were also recorded here. The lake and the surrounding reeds gave us several Yellow Bitterns. This species is a known northern migrant in New Guinea, but seeing four birds within 20 minutes in August surely indicates more than just migration! We also had good looks at Tricoloured Grebe, Pacific Black Duck, Glossy and Mountain Swiftlets, a Sacred Kingfisher and an Australian Reed Warbler. A stop on the return drive produced a big flock of Capped White-eyes, Mountain Myzomela, Rufous-naped Whistler (or Bellbird), Friendly Fantail and a Slaty Robin.



Grey-banded Mannikins are endemic to the Arfak Mountains (Josh Bergmark)

We spent another early morning in the Parotia hides and Josh's group hit the jackpot with a splendidly performing male that danced at length for two visiting females. The elaborate display included the magnificent ballerina dance and the ostentatious head and neck wagging with the six wires moving up and down while the silvery frontal shield (in fact a naral tuft) glittered like a beacon. Mark's group had to do with a 15 seconds look at the male and an obliging Lesser Ground Robin. Just after leaving the hides a Black-billed Sicklebill showed quite well. Upon reaching the road we got brief looks at a Black-mantled Goshawk. In mid-morning we drove down to the village of Syoubri and started hiking up to the higher reaches of the Arfak Mountains. On the way we stopped a few times and picked up a cute Bronze Ground Dove on its nest, Plum-faced and Yellow-billed Lorikeets, a nice Papuan Treecreeper, several eye-catching Red-collared Myzomelas, Rufous-sided and Arfak Honeyeaters, Vogelkop Scrubwren, Dimorphic Fantail and Ashy Robin. We obtained all too brief looks at a couple of Long-tailed Paradigallas, but these Vogelkop endemics didn't want to cooperate (yet). Three Black Sicklebills were found feeding in fruiting trees and a pair of Mottled Berryhunters gave pretty good views. As this species is now placed in its own family, one or two group members were particularly pleased with this sighting. We followed a couple of shy Black Pitohuis into the forest and managed to add them to our list. In late afternoon we reached a high ridge where we could admire the magnificent bower of a Vogelkop Bowerbird. As there was still time we went into the adjoining hides and soon had superb views of this unpretentiously-plumaged Vogelkop endemic. His bower in contrast is probably the most beautiful and complicated structure built by any bird! At dusk we finally arrived at our well established camp and got organized. After a tasty dinner we did a short nightbirding session and soon had fantastic looks at an obliging, truly stunning Feline Owlet-Nightjar only metres from our beds. Several Papuan Boobooks were calling, but they remained high in the canopy. Our first night under canvas (tarpaulin really) went without a hitch.

The following morning we walked even higher up into the mountains and spent most of our time in a favourite foraging area of Arfak Astrapias. This Vogelkop endemic only occurs in the higher reaches of these mountains. While waiting about we found adorable Mountain Fruit Doves (split from White-bibbed), a brief Red-breasted Pygmy Parrot, fly-by Fairy and Papuan Lorikeets, splendidly showy Papuan Treecreepers, a couple of retiring Cinnamon-browed Melidectes, Mountain Mouse-Warbler, Large Scrubwren, Fan-tailed Berrypecker, several lovely Tit Berrypeckers, smart Regent Whistlers, a cracking Black-throated Robin and a charming Smoky Robin. Some lucky souls had brief looks at a Brehm's Tiger Parrot. In mid-morning a young male Arfak Astrapia came past and allowed good views as he was feeding in the mid canopy. In the afternoon we explored the surroundings of the camp. Several participants revisited the Vogelkop Bowerbird hides and admired this proficient colour connoisseur at length and in depth. Our local man found us a day

roosting Mountain Owlet-Nightjar which performed ever so well and just before dusk a pair of tiny Garnet Robins played hide and seek in the gloom of the forest. In the middle of the night Marcel needed to get up and got quite a shock as he stumbled upon a Feline Owlet-Nightjar perched only a meter high just outside our tent.



We saw the fabulous Feline Owlet-Nightjar both at night and during the day (tour participant Marcel Holyoak)

Before dawn we were already sitting in a hide overlooking the display post of a male Black Sicklebill. It has only recently become possible to admire the amazing parade of this large Bird-of-paradise at close range. While it was still dark we heard his powerful, distinctive double call in the canopy above us and just after sunrise the impressive male appeared and inspected his display stump. He preened a bit at first and then displayed at length showing off his fantastic horizontal “barndoor” posture. He disappeared for a short time and came back as the light was gradually getting better and better. We were lucky enough to be able to watch him display and expose his strange-shaped feather tracts for more than 25 minutes in all his glory. Much cherished moments!! The rest of the morning we birded the surrounding montane forest and added Black-mantled Goshawk, Rufescent Imperial Pigeon, an Ashy Robin on its nest, Garnet Robin and a glimpsed only Papuan Logrunner to the tally. We admired two more mind-blowing bowers of the Vogelkop Bowerbird and had a lovely encounter with a gorgeous, but shy Spotted Jewel-babbler. We then packed our gear, had lunch and started to walk down to our base camp. Halfway down we paused for quite a while and observed Orange-crowned Fairywren, Vogelkop Melidectes and a Black-billed Sicklebill, while hoping for the much wanted Long-tailed Paradigalla. The latter only showed ever so briefly, but luckily, on our way further

down we bumped into this splendid species as it was foraging in a fruiting tree. We had great looks as it was picking off berries and inspected some moss-covered boughs. It was being mobbed by a couple of Arfak Honeyeaters and showed off its black finery and yellow and blue facial wattles as it was clambering about. Upon arrival at the trailhead, we were told that our man on the spot had located a Feline Owlet-Nightjar on its day roost, so off we went again and soon we were jostling for room in a dense thicket where we could admire this remarkable, peculiar nightbird at very close range. What a day it had been!



A perky Ashy Robin (Mark Van Beirs); the extraordinary Feline Owlet-Nightjar (Josh Bergmark)

The following day Mark's group tried again for the Western Parotia (third attempt) and although the male showed well several times and cleaned his display court, no dancing was witnessed. A real pity! A bit disappointed they left the hide and birded the nearby forest where a Spotted Jewel-babbler performed again. Meanwhile Josh's group had the honour to be the first organised birding tour to attend the full display of a Superb Bird-of-paradise. They were able to admire the amazing dance of the male as he transformed himself into a huge black oval mask looking like a giant smiley with glistening blue eyepatches and mouth. An out of this world birding experience! After this golden moment they birded the surroundings and picked up goodies like Pygmy Eagle and Ashy Gerygone. When Mark's group heard about this resounding success they moved quickly to the Superb Bird-of-paradise hide and enjoyed a bit of dancing, but never the full display as no female visited the hard working male. The spectacular fluorescent yellow mouth and the blue green breast shield showed beautifully as he was advertising his presence and he turned himself inside out, but to no avail. Brehm's Tiger Parrot, Ashy Robin and Arfak Honeyeater were also noted here. In the afternoon part of the group drove down to try again for the White-striped Forest Rail and were rewarded with fairly nice looks of this often difficult Birdshead endemic. They also added White-eared Bronze Cuckoo, Grey-green Scrubwren and a glimpsed only Chestnut-backed Jewel-babbler to the ever growing list. The others revisited the Superb Bird-of-paradise hide and enjoyed a most spectacular afternoon as a curious female paid several visits to the eager, excited male. He danced so very magnificently trying to impress her with his spectacular plumage. Everyone really felt humbled by this most wonderful, dumbfounding birding experience. Definitely one of the most impressive birding events of my birding career!



The cracking male Masked Bowerbird that posed so very well (tour participant Marcel Holyoak); a male Superb Bird-of-paradise on his display log (Mark Van Beirs)

Our last morning in the Arfak Mountains was spent at a lower altitude viewpoint overlooking a wide forest-clad valley, where we were hoping to catch up with the stunning Masked Bowerbird. Not to long after arriving a female was spotted on top of the canopy of a distant forest giant. The scope looks were satisfactory, but we were obviously hungry for more. After a bit of a wait a magnificent, orange, yellow and black male was located on top of a distant dead snag. Through the scope we could discern his exquisite finery and white eyes. While scanning the surrounding valley we also found a couple of elegant Grey-headed Goshawks, lots of Papuan Mountain Pigeons, two prehistoric-looking Channel-billed Cuckoos, a Mountain Peltops, two Boyer's Cuckooshrikes and a red-eyed Trumpet Manucode. In mid-morning it started to rain, so we returned to camp, packed up and at midday drove down towards Manokwari. Another stop at the same viewpoint gave us much closer looks at the fabulous male Masked Bowerbird and lower down we also added Black Sunbird to the list. The hot showers and the wifi at the hotel and the icecream at the restaurant in Manokwari were much appreciated.



A pair of Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrots at their nest; a subtly-attired Brown Oriole (tour participant Marcel Holyoak)

We had a few hours in the early morning at a patch of nice lowland rainforest not too far from Manokwari. New Guinea Friarbirds were making a lot of noise and were briefly seen. Best of all was the pair of Yellow-

capped Pygmy Parrots that we could study in detail at close range as they were busy at their nest in an arboreal termite mound. As we walked slowly along the wide track we found Claret-breasted Fruit Doves, a fly over Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon, several Pinon Imperial Pigeons, Little Bronze Cuckoo (of the *gouldi* form), vociferous Red-cheeked Parrots, Yellow-bellied Longbill, a female Golden Cuckooshrike, Black Cicadabird (or Black Cuckooshrike), Black-browed Triller, Brown Oriole, Spangled Drongo, a lovely male Golden Monarch, a pair of gorgeous Frilled Monarchs and a Black-sided Robin for a lucky soul. In mid-morning we drove to Manokwari airport and took the flight to the town of Sorong, at the western side of the Vogelkop peninsula. A ferry took us then across a very calm sea to the large island of Waigeo. The captain graciously allowed us to use the foredeck and although it was quite windy we managed to identify several nice seabirds including Wedge-tailed Shearwater, two very obliging Wilson's Storm Petrels, a most probable Swinhoe's Storm Petrel, Lesser Frigatebirds and Black-naped and Common Terns. Several pods of Long-beaked Common Dolphins were noted and some distant large dolphins were almost certainly Risso's. Upon arrival at Waigeo we transferred to our beach resort. A couple of stops on the drive gave us nice looks at Brahminy Kite, Whimbrel, Common Sandpiper, Rainbow Bee-eater, good numbers of gaudy Eclectus Parrots, White-breasted Woodswallow, Willie Wagtail, Singing Starling and Yellow-faced Myna.



The male Wilson's Bird-of-paradise is pure eye-candy (tour participant Marcel Holyoak)

The luminescent Wilson's Bird-of-paradise is endemic to the islands of Batanta and Waigeo and was obviously one of the most wanted birds of this tour. While the sun was still below the horizon we were already waiting in a large hide overlooking the display court of this flamboyant species. After a bit of anxious waiting the male descended to the court and was soon joined by a modestly-plumaged female. For most of an hour we enjoyed fabulous looks at this stunning species as it was cleaning the court, just sitting around or displaying to his lady friend. To be able to observe this improbable bird at close range was a truly out of the world experience. Wilson's BoP is definitely one of the best birds on our planet! While standing in the hide we also obtained great looks at a nervous Dusky Megapode. On our walk back we observed a tremendous Common Paradise Kingfisher in the canopy and also found Pale-billed Scrubwren, Raja Ampat Pitohui, Northern Fantail and Spot-winged Monarch. We then returned to our guesthouse where a well camouflaged Papuan Frogmouth was waiting on its nest. A majestic Gurney's Eagle sailed over the nearby ridge accompanied by several elegant Moustached Treeswifts. In late morning we boarded a speedboat and at

sea located a feeding party containing Great Crested, Common and several obliging Bridled Terns. We continued to a really nice dive resort on an offshore island where some of us snorkelled over an extremely rich coral reef and the others strolled through the open forest picking up species like Oriental Dollarbird, Rufous-bellied Kookaburra, Mimic Honeyeater, Yellow-bellied Gerygone, Hooded Butcherbird, Island Monarch, Shining Flycatcher, Torresian Crow and Olive-backed Sunbird. We obtained excellent scope views of an outstanding Common Paradise Kingfisher and saw several tame and very approachable Glossy-mantled Manucodes! An endearing Waigeo Cuscus was foraging in the canopy of a fruiting tree. The relaxed splendid lunch was much appreciated and in mid-afternoon we boarded our speedboat again for a leisurely cruise around islet-dotted Kabui Bay. We enjoyed the superb scenery of this delightful area and as we slowly followed the coast found nice birds like Great-billed Heron, Little Egret, Little Pied Cormorant, Eastern Osprey, White-bellied Sea Eagle, superbly elegant Black-naped Terns, Beach Kingfisher and New Guinea Friarbird. Just before dusk we sailed close to a small, but high, forested islet where several Spice Imperial Pigeons were gathered. When it was getting quite dark suddenly several dozen Great-billed Parrots appeared and landed on the tree-lined summit. A great ending of a special day!



The delightful Common Paradise Kingfisher (Mark Van Beirs); the Glossy-mantled Manucode is one of the more modestly-clad BoPs (Josh Bergmark)

The other bird-of-paradise that is endemic to the Raja Ampat islands of Batanta and Waigeo is the Red Bird-of-paradise, which belongs with the classic *Paradisaea* BoPs. Our local guides were a bit sceptical about our chances to connect with a male, as they had been rather elusive lately, but after a steep pre-dawn hike we reached a display tree. We waited and waited and only heard a male call a few times not too far away. Our eagle-eyed man on the spot soon found his perch and we had great scope views of this speciality. The male then moved to a nearby fruiting tree where we obtained much better views of his marvellous finery complete with red flank plumes, green face and two long, curled tail streamers. The fruiting tree also held a fine Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon, a Wompoo Fruit Dove, Superb and several Claret-breasted Fruit Doves and a hard to see White-eared (Tan-capped) Catbird. It then started to rain, so we returned to the road, but were luckily distracted by a pair of well-behaved and rarely seen Brown-headed Crows. In the afternoon we patrolled a logging track where a splendid Western Crowned Pigeon was discovered walking along. Good binocular views were had, but then the bird disappeared. After a bit of searching it flushed with loud wing flaps from the nearby forest landing on a bough of a forest giant. The scope views were out of this world as we could study the plumage details, the magnificent crest and bright scarlet eye for more than 20 minutes. A Papuan Pitta (split from Red-bellied) was calling nearby, but refused to show. A couple of perched, impressive Gurney's Eagles posed beautifully and Tawny-breasted Honeyeater, Fairy Gerygone and Raja Ampat Pitohui were identified in a mixed species flock. In late afternoon a cute-looking Waigeo Cuscus was found in the open canopy of a large forest tree.



It took a bit of effort to get to grips with the very smart male Red Bird-of-paradise (tour participant Marcel Holyoak)

Pre-dawn along the logging road we were listening and trying for nightbirds. After a while a Papuan Boobook came right in and, although he was sitting high in the canopy, we managed pretty good scope views. A Marbled Frogmouth remained a voice only, alas. As the light levels were getting better, a Hook-billed Kingfisher started calling and after some judicious use of the tape, this usually retiring species allowed excellent views as it was perched partly concealed in the mid canopy. The first-rate scope studies were very much appreciated. We heard several Papuan Pittas call in the course of the morning, but none wanted to oblige. Rusty Pitohuis also called, but kept their distance. Two Black-sided Robins perched up for very nice looks and a Northern Common (or Grey) Cuscus looked like a furry ball in the canopy. During the midday break a Yellow-billed Kingfisher finally gave itself up just next to our rooms and Beach Kingfisher and Striated Heron patrolled the coastline. Several people went snorkelling over the nearby coral reef, where hundreds of colourful fish were swimming over beautifully shaped corals and sponges. The Raja Ampat seas are well known to hold the highest biodiversity of marine creatures in the world! After a bit of a rest in the hotter hours we returned to the forest where we found a very nice female Rufous-bellied Kookaburra and an eye-catching Yellow-breasted Boatbill. Just after dusk a fabulous Marbled Frogmouth gave prolonged cracking views. Upon returning to our accommodation we were able to admire a tree crown full of simultaneously twinkling fireflies. A sight to behold!



This Marbled Frogmouth gave excellent views (Josh Bergmark)

On our last morning on Waigeo most of us returned to the logging track, while some aficionados opted to have another go at the Wilson's Bird-of-paradise hide. The male BoP showed very well, but as no ladies visited, no display was witnessed. He cleaned his display court in earnest and his resplendent attire could be admired in detail. The logging track yielded a Beautiful Fruit Dove and a cooperative Dusky Megapode. Rain then sabotaged our efforts, so we returned to our lodgings. Nice views were had of a couple of Papuan Frogmouths, a Palm Cockatoo and a Channel-billed Cuckoo. After lunch we boarded the fast ferry which



This Papuan Frogmouth was nesting in the hotel grounds on Waigeo (tour participant Marcel Holyoak); Bar-tailed Cuckoo-Doves were regularly noted (Josh Bergmark)

took us over a smooth sea back to Sorong. A couple of Matsudaira's Storm Petrels showed all too briefly and a distant Long-tailed Jaeger (Skua) for a dedicated spotter were the only birds of note.



Raja Ampat scenery (Mark Van Beirs)

The lowland rainforest near Sorong was our birding venue for the following day. We arrived long before dawn and listened to the loud resounding calls of an Ivory-billed (or Greater Black) Coucal. Just at sunrise we heard two Red-breasted Paradise Kingfishers vocalise deep in a forested valley. We scrambled closer across very steep, muddy terrain and heard a bird fairly close up, but to no avail. We tried to follow the enticing trills for a while, but the bird kept its distance. We returned to the track and enjoyed the comings and goings of a variety of lowland species like Bar-tailed Cuckoo-Dove, Orange-bellied and Dwarf Fruit Doves, Brush Cuckoo, Green-backed Gerygone, Grey-headed Cuckooshrike (or Grey-headed Cicadabird) and Metallic Starling. As the sun started to warm up several species of bird of prey took to the air including Pacific Baza, Long-tailed Honey Buzzard and Grey-headed Goshawk. A trio of showy Dwarf Koels allowed for perfect scope views in the canopy of an isolated tree and two Papuan Spine-tailed Swifts gave cracking views as they flew low overhead and even landed on a dead protruding branch. A decidedly rarely seen event! Several very smart Double-eyed Fig Parrots posed beautifully and flowering trees held very handsome Spotted Honeyeaters and an adorable male Black Sunbird. In the afternoon we returned to the same track, but as soon as we arrived it started raining cats and dogs. We waited for quite a while, but in the end we had to give up.

On the last morning of the tour we returned to the same track. The Red-breasted Paradise Kingfisher was calling quite close, but, sadly, didn't want to divulge its perch. The final birds of note were a Ruby-throated Myzomela and a Plain Honeyeater, both of which were scoped well. And then it was time for packing and travelling to different distant corners of our marvellous planet. It had truly been a brilliant tour blessed with outstanding observations of some of the most stunning birds of this world!



A splendid male Black Sunbird (Josh Bergmark); this Papuan Spine-tailed Swift performed very well (tour participant Marcel Holyoak)



This Western Crowned Pigeon was one of the highlights of our stay on Waigeo (Josh Bergmark)



The displaying male Black Sicklebill gave a sterling performance (Josh Bergmark)



The extraordinary, full display of the Superb Bird-of-paradise had never been seen by a birding tour before! (Mark Van Beirs)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **IOC World Bird Names**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>.

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

Conservation threat categories and information are taken from *Threatened Birds of the World*, BirdLife International's magnificent book on the sad status of the rarest 10% of the world's avifauna, and updates on the BirdLife website: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home>

E = Endangered, **V** = Vulnerable, **NT** = Near Threatened, **DD** = Data Deficient.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa* A couple were seen at the Anggi Lakes, in the Arfaks.

Red-billed Brushturkey ◊ *Talegalla cuvieri* (H) Several were heard in the lowlands.

Dusky Megapode ◊ (D Scrubfowl) *Megapodius freycinet* Great looks at several on Waigeo.

Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt* (H) We heard its call near Manokwari.

Wilson's Storm Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* Two showed well from the ferry to Waigeo.

Matsudaira's Storm Petrel *Oceanodroma matsudairae* V Distant views of two in the same area.



Wilson's Storm Petrel & Great-billed Heron (tour participant Marcel Holyoak)

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Ardena pacifica* A single distant bird from the same ferry.
Tricoloured Grebe *Tachybaptus tricolor* Several showed quite well at the Anggi Lakes.
Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis* Several were noted at the Anggi Lakes. Breeding?
Nankeen Night Heron (Rufous N H) *Nycticorax caledonicus* (NL) One was seen on Waigeo.
Striated Heron (Little H) *Butorides striata* Several observations on Waigeo.
Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana* A single bird was observed on Waigeo.
Great Egret *Ardea alba* A single observation at Sorong.
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* Several were seen at Sorong.
Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel* Regular observations in the Raja Ampat.
Little Pied Cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleucos* A single bird was found on Waigeo.
Eastern Osprey *Pandion cristatus* Four observations of this piscivore.
Pacific Baza (Crested Hawk) *Aviceda subcristata* Two displaying birds were near Sorong.
Long-tailed Honey Buzzard \diamond *Henicopernis longicauda* Several very nice sightings.
Papuan Eagle \diamond (New Guinea Harpy E) *Harpyopsis novaeguineae* (H) V Heard near Sorong.
Pygmy Eagle \diamond (Little Eagle) *Hieraaetus weiskei* Seen on Waigeo and near Sorong.
Gurney's Eagle \diamond *Aquila gurneyi* NT Fantastic looks in flight and perched on Waigeo.
Variable Goshawk \diamond (Varied G) *Accipiter hiogaster* A few observations only.
Black-mantled Goshawk \diamond *Accipiter melanochlamys* Fair looks at several in the Arfaks.
Grey-headed Goshawk \diamond *Accipiter poliocephalus* Several very nice encounters.
Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* A handful of sightings of this widespread bird of prey. See Note.
White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* A couple of encounters on Waigeo.
White-striped Forest Rail \diamond *Rallricula leucospila* NT Fair views, eventually for some in the Arfaks.
Spotless Crake *Porzana tabuensis* (H)(NL) One was heard at the Anggi Lakes.
Whimbrel (Eurasian W) *Numenius [phaeopus] phaeopus* A single bird was noted on Waigeo.
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Three of these widespread migrants were on Waigeo.
Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii* Regular sightings at sea.
Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus* Very nice views of several off Waigeo.
Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana* Great looks at several of these smart birds off Waigeo.
Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* Small numbers were spotted at sea.



A pair of magnificent Gurney's Eagles (tour participant Marcel Holyoak)

- Long-tailed Jaeger (L-t Skua) *Stercorarius longicaudus* (NL)** One was photographed at sea.
- Amboyna Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis*** A handful of records only.
- Bar-tailed Cuckoo-Dove** ♦ *Macropygia nigrirostris* Regular, mainly in the hills.
- Great Cuckoo-Dove** ♦ *Reinwardtoena reinwardtii* Excellent views of this cracker. Also display.
- Stephan's Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps stephani*** Just a few were noted. See Note.
- New Guinea Bronzewing *Henicophaps albifrons*** Flight views for some of us on Waigeo.
- Bronze Ground Dove** ♦ *Gallicolumba beccarii* Excellent looks at a brooding bird in the Arfaks.
- Western Crowned Pigeon** ♦ *Goura cristata* V Perfect scope studies of this speciality on Waigeo.
- Wompoo Fruit Dove** ♦ *Ptilinopus magnificus* Several very nice looks at this beauty.
- Superb Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*** Regular encounters. More often heard than seen.
- Coroneted Fruit Dove** ♦ *Ptilinopus coronulatus* (LO) A single bird showed briefly near Sorong.
- Beautiful Fruit Dove** ♦ *Ptilinopus pulchellus* One showed well on Waigeo.
- White-bibbed Fruit Dove** ♦ (White-breasted F D) *Ptilinopus rivoli* Regularly seen. See Note.
- Claret-breasted Fruit Dove** ♦ *Ptilinopus viridis* This attractive species was fairly common.
- Orange-bellied Fruit Dove** ♦ *Ptilinopus iozonus* Several showed well near Sorong.
- Dwarf Fruit Dove** ♦ *Ptilinopus nainus* Scope views of a male near Sorong.
- Spice Imperial Pigeon** ♦ *Ducula myristicivora* Nice looks on islets off Waigeo.
- Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon** ♦ *Ducula rufigaster* Scope studies of a couple on Waigeo.
- Rufescent Imperial Pigeon** ♦ *Ducula chalconota* Several were found high up in the Arfaks.
- Pinon's Imperial Pigeon** ♦ *Ducula pinon* Small numbers were noted in the lowlands. See Note.
- Papuan Mountain Pigeon** ♦ *Gymnophaps albertisii* Regular. Scope views in the Arfaks.
- Ivory-billed Coucal** ♦ (Greater Black C) *Centropus menbeki* (H) We heard its loud voice.



Bronze Ground Dove (Mark Van Beirs); Wompoo Fruit Dove (tour participant Marcel Holyoak)

- Dwarf Koel** ◊ (Black-capped K) *Microdynamis parva* Perfect looks near Sorong.
Pacific Koel *Eudynamis orientalis* (H) Regularly heard, often at night.
Channel-billed Cuckoo ◊ *Scythrops novaehollandiae* A handful of sightings of this migrant.
White-eared Bronze Cuckoo ◊ *Chrysococcyx meyerii* Two were found in the Arfaks.
Little Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus* Nice looks at the race ...near Manokwari.
White-crowned Cuckoo ◊ (W-c Koel) *Cacomantis leucolophus* (H) We heard it in the Arfaks.
Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo ◊ *Cacomantis castaneiventris* Several great encounters.
Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus* Often heard, and eventually seen well.
Papuan Boobook ◊ *Ninox theomacha* Scope views of one high up in the canopy on Waigeo.
Marbled Frogmouth ◊ *Podargus ocellatus* A magnificent experience on Waigeo.
Papuan Frogmouth ◊ *Podargus papuensis* Several showed well on Waigeo. Also on its nest.
Feline Owlet-Nightjar ◊ *Aegotheles insignis* Perfect views of this marvel by day and by night.



Mountain Owlet-Nightjar & Hook-billed Kingfisher (tour participant Marcel Holyoak)

- Mountain Owlet-Nightjar** ◊ *Aegotheles albertisi* A roosting bird allowed excellent looks.
Moustached Treeswift ◊ *Hemiprocne mystacea* Regular. A splendidly elegant creature.

Glossy Swiftlet (White-bellied S) *Collocalia esculenta* Quite common. See Note.
Mountain Swiftlet ◊ *Aerodramus hirundinaceus* Regular in the Arfak Mountains.
Uniform Swiftlet *Aerodramus vanikorensis* Fairly common in the lowlands.
Papuan Spine-tailed Swift ◊ (P Needletail) *Mearnsia novaeguineae* Amazing looks!
Oriental Dollarbird (Common D) *Eurystomus orientalis* Common and showy.
Hook-billed Kingfisher ◊ *Melidora macrorrhina* Great scope views of this inveterate skulker!
Common Paradise Kingfisher *Tanysiptera galatea* Several fantastic encounters. So beautiful!
Red-breasted Paradise Kingfisher ◊ *Tanysiptera nympha* (H) Heard closeby. Frustrating!



A female Rufous-bellied Kookaburra (Josh Bergmark)

Rufous-bellied Kookaburra ◊ *Dacelo gaudichaud* Several excellent encounters. Impressive.
Beach Kingfisher ◊ *Todiramphus saurophagus* Several very nice observations on Waigeo.
Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus* A regularly encountered southern migrant.
Yellow-billed Kingfisher ◊ *Syma torotoro* Superb scope looks, eventually, on Waigeo.
Papuan Dwarf Kingfisher ◊ *Ceyx solitarius* Several all too brief sightings.
Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azureus* (LO) Josh saw two in flight near Sorong.
Rainbow Bee-Eater *Merops ornatus* Nice looks at a party of 50+ on Waigeo.
Blyth's Hornbill ◊ (Papuan H) *Rhyticeros plicatus* Fairly common. Always a delight to see. See Note.
Palm Cockatoo ◊ *Probosciger aterrimus* Several nice encounters. Impressive!
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita* Fairly common and quite vociferous.
Pesquet's Parrot ◊ (Vulturine P) *Psittichas fulgidus* (H) V We heard it in the Arfak foothills. See Note.
Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot ◊ *Micropsitta keiensis* Fantastic looks at a pair at its nest.
Red-breasted Pygmy Parrot ◊ *Micropsitta bruijnii* Brief looks only in the high Arfak mountains.
Moluccan King Parrot ◊ *Alisterus amboinensis* Several enjoyable observations.
Eclectus Parrot ◊ *Eclectus roratus* Common, especially on Waigeo. Truly spectacular!
Red-cheeked Parrot ◊ *Geoffroyus geoffroyi* Regular and noisy.
Blue-collared Parrot ◊ *Geoffroyus simplex* Several were heard and one glimpsed.
Great-billed Parrot ◊ *Tanygnathus megalorhynchus* 30+ came to roost on an islet off Waigeo.
Brehm's Tiger Parrot ◊ *Psittacella brehmii* A couple of observations in the Arfaks.



Beach Kingfisher (Mark Van Beirs); Yellow-billed Kingfisher (tour participant Marcel Holyoak)

- Plum-faced Lorikeet** ◊ (Whiskered L) *Oreopsittacus arfaki* Fair views of several in the Arfaks.
Fairy Lorikeet ◊ (Little Red L) *Charmosyna pulchella* A single was seen in flight in the Arfaks.
Papuan Lorikeet ◊ *Charmosyna papou* An all too brief encounter in the Arfaks.
Yellow-billed Lorikeet ◊ *Neopsittacus musschenbroekii* Regular observations in the Arfaks.
Black-capped Lory ◊ (Western B-c L) *Lorius lory* Fairly common and very colourful.



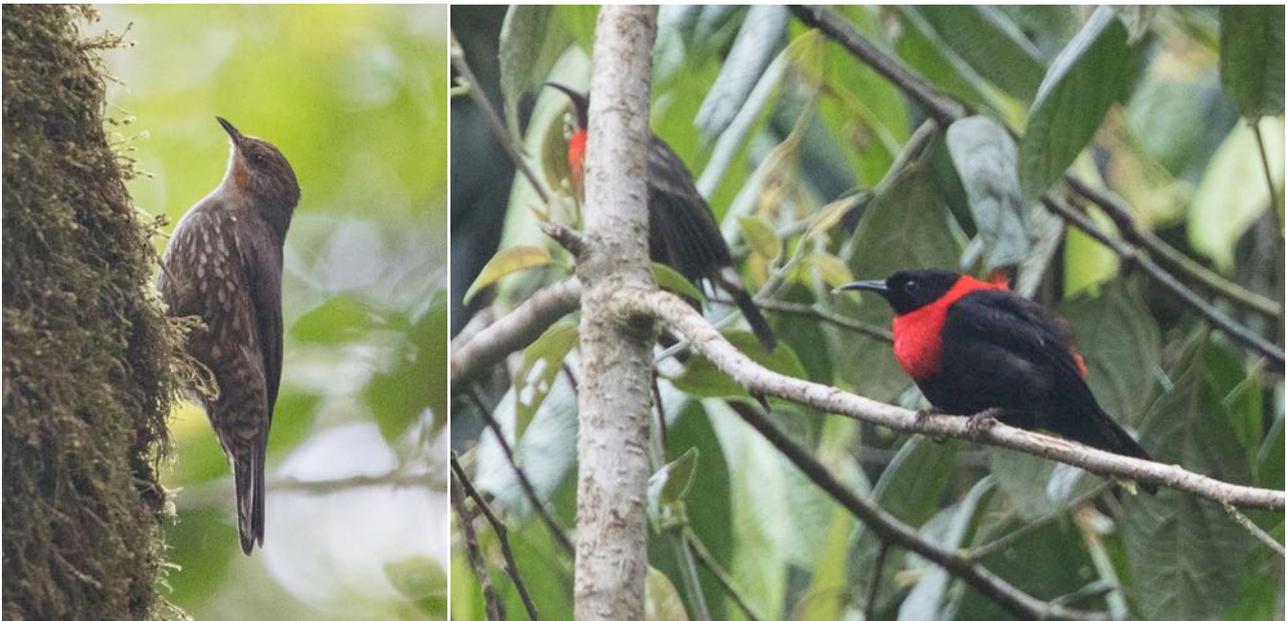
Great-billed Parrots & Violet-necked Lory (tour participant Marcel Holyoak)

- Violet-necked Lory** ◊ *Eos squamata* Brief looks at one on an islet off Waigeo.
Coconut Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus* A handful of sightings only.
Double-eyed Fig Parrot ◊ *Cyclopsitta diophthalma* Excellent scope looks near Sorong.
Papuan Pitta ◊ *Erythropitta macklottii* Regularly heard and briefly seen on Waigeo.
White-eared Catbird ◊ *Ailuroedus buccoides* Nice looks in a fruiting tree on Waigeo.
Arfak Catbird ◊ *Ailuroedus arfakianus* (H) A few were heard in the Arfak Mountains.
Vogelkop Bowerbird ◊ *Amblyornis inornata* Great looks and spectacular bowers!
Masked Bowerbird ◊ *Sericulus aureus* Great looks at a glorious male in the Arfaks.
Papuan Treecreeper ◊ *Cormobates placens* Several very nice sightings in the Arfaks.
White-shouldered Fairywren ◊ *Malurus alboscapulatus* Nice looks at this lovely species.
Orange-crowned Fairywren ◊ *Clytomyias insignis* A lovely showing in the Arfaks.



Vogelkop Bowerbird at its bower (Mark Van Beirs)

- Ruby-throated Myzomela** ◊ (Red-throated M) *Myzomela eques* The final bird of the tour.
- Red Myzomela** ◊ *Myzomela cruentata* Quite common in the Arfak foothills.
- Mountain Myzomela** ◊ (Mountain Red-headed M) *Myzomela adolphinae* A single sighting.
- Red-collared Myzomela** ◊ *Myzomela rosenbergii* Regular and showy in the higher Arfaks.
- Green-backed Honeyeater** ◊ *Glycichaera fallax* Unobtrusive in the Arfak foothills.
- Rufous-sided Honeyeater** ◊ *Ptiloprora erythropleura* Quite common in the higher Arfaks.
- Plain Honeyeater** ◊ *Pycnopygius ixoides* Nice scope views in the Sorong forests.
- Marbled Honeyeater** ◊ *Pycnopygius cinereus* (H) We heard it in the Arfak foothills.
- Spotted Honeyeater** ◊ *Xanthotis polygrammus* Excellent views near Sorong.
- Tawny-breasted Honeyeater** ◊ *Xanthotis flaviventer* Fair looks in the lowlands.
- New Guinea Friarbird** ◊ *Philemon novaeguineae* Regularly recorded in the lowlands.
- Long-billed Honeyeater** ◊ *Epthianura megarhynchus* Several very nice encounters.



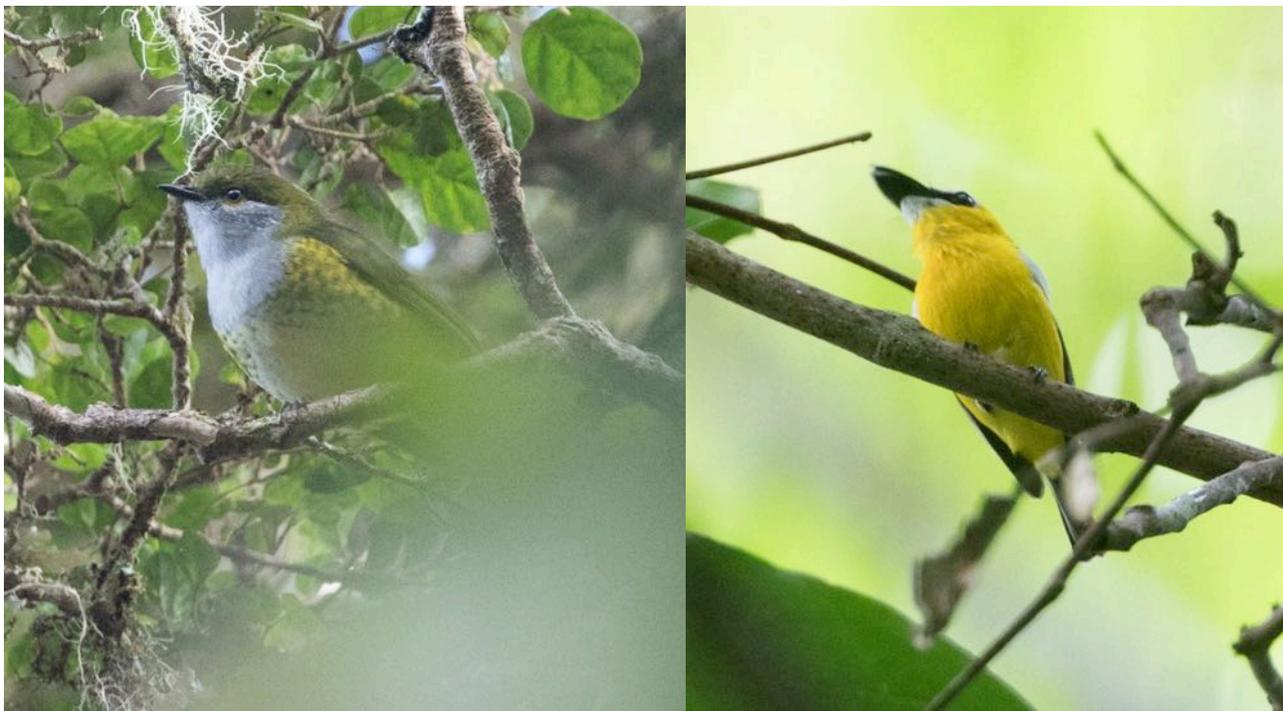
Papuan Treecreeper & a pair of Red-collared Myzomelas (tour participant Marcel Holyoak)



Arfak Honeyeater (Mark Van Beirs); Mimic Honeyeater (Josh Bergmark)

- Arfak Honeyeater** ◇ (Western Smoky H) *Melipotes gymnops* Regular in the higher Arfaks.
- Cinnamon-browed Melidectes** ◇ *Melidectes ochromelas* Quite nice in the higher Arfaks.
- Vogelkop Melidectes** ◇ *Melidectes leucostephes* Often heard and also quite well seen.
- Mountain Honeyeater** ◇ (M Meliphaga) *Meliphaga orientalis* A few observations.
- Mimic Honeyeater** ◇ (Mimic Meliphaga) *Meliphaga analoga* Regular.
- Puff-backed Honeyeater** ◇ (P-b Meliphaga) *Meliphaga aruensis* (NL) A single on Waigeo.
- Goldenface** ◇ (Dwarf Whistler, Pachycare) *Pachycare flavogriseum* Very nice in the Arfaks.
- Rusty Mouse-warbler** ◇ *Crateroscelis murina* A distinctive voice. Also seen a few times.
- Mountain Mouse-warbler** ◇ *Crateroscelis robusta* Recorded several times in the Arfaks.
- Pale-billed Scrubwren** ◇ *Sericornis spilodera* Excellent views on Waigeo.
- Large Scrubwren** ◇ *Sericornis nouhuysi* A few encounters in the higher Arfaks.
- Vogelkop Scrubwren** ◇ *Sericornis rufescens* Regular in the Arfak forests.
- Grey-green Scrubwren** ◇ *Sericornis arfakianus* A single encounter in the Arfaks.
- Brown-breasted Gerygone** ◇ *Gerygone ruficollis* Regular at higher altitudes in the Arfaks.
- Yellow-bellied Gerygone** ◇ *Gerygone chrysogaster* Regular in the lowland forests.
- Green-backed Gerygone** ◇ *Gerygone chloronota* Regularly heard and eventually seen well.
- Fairy Gerygone** ◇ *Gerygone palpebrosa* Two showed well on Waigeo.

Grey Thornbill ◊ (Ashy/Mountain Gerygone) *Acanthiza cinerea* A single, high in the Arfaks.
Papuan Babbler ◊ (Rufous B) *Garritornis isidorei* Great looks near Manokwari.
Papuan Logrunner ◊ *Orthonyx novaeguineae* Glimpses only in the higher Arfaks.
Mid-mountain Berrypecker ◊ *Melanocharis longicauda* Regular sightings in the Arfaks.
Fan-tailed Berrypecker ◊ *Melanocharis versteri* Regular observations in the Arfaks.
Dwarf Longbill ◊ *Oedistoma iliolophus* A handful of observations. Unpretentious.
Pygmy Longbill ◊ (P Honeyeater) *Oedistoma pygmaeum* Just a few sightings. Unobtrusive.
Yellow-bellied Longbill ◊ *Toxorhamphus novaeguineae* Two nice observations.



A female Tit Berrypecker & a Yellow-breasted Boatbill (tour participant Marcel Holyoak)

Tit Berrypecker ◊ *Oreocharis arfaki* Very nice looks at male and female in the Arfaks.
Spotted Jewel-babbler ◊ *Ptilorrhoa leucosticta* Cracking views of this jewel in the Arfaks.
Chestnut-backed Jewel-babbler ◊ *Ptilorrhoa castanota* (LO) One flushed in the lower Arfaks.
Yellow-breasted Boatbill ◊ *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer* Very nice looks at one on Waigeo.
White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus* A few in the Sorong area.
Mountain Peltops ◊ *Peltops montanus* A single bird showed rather briefly in the Arfaks.
Black Butcherbird ◊ *Melloria quoyi* Scope views near Manokwari. Regularly heard.
Hooded Butcherbird ◊ *Cracticus cassicus* Fairly common in the lowlands.
Mottled Berryhunter ◊ *Rhagologus leucostigma* Good looks in the Arfaks. See Note.
Barred Cuckooshrike (Yellow-eyed C) *Coracina lineata* Fairly common in the lowlands.
Boyer's Cuckooshrike ◊ *Coracina boyeri* Several nice observations. See Note.
Grey-headed Cuckooshrike ◊ *Coracina schisticeps* A pair showed well near Sorong.
Black Cicadabird ◊ (Black Cuckooshrike/New Guinea C) *Coracina melas* Nice views.
Black-bellied Cuckooshrike ◊ *Coracina montana* Several were seen in the Arfaks.
Golden Cuckooshrike ◊ *Campochaera sloetii* Good looks near Manokwari and near Sorong.
Black-browed Triller ◊ *Lalage atrovirens* Several encounters in the lowlands.
Papuan Sittella ◊ *Daphoenositta papuensis* (H) We heard one in the Arfaks.
Rufous-naped Whistler ◊ (R-n Bellbird) *Aleadryas rufinucha* Several excellent observations.
Black Pitohui ◊ *Melanorectes nigrescens* Good looks at a pair quite high in the Arfaks.



Hooded Butcherbird (Josh Bergmark)

Vogelkop Whistler ◇ *Pachycephala meyeri* Often heard and regularly seen.

Grey Whistler ◇ *Pachycephala simplex* (H) Several were heard on Waigeo and near Sorong.

Sclater's Whistler ◇ (Hill Golden W) *Pachycephala soror* Several observations in the Arfaks.

Regent Whistler ◇ *Pachycephala schlegelii* Excellent sightings in the higher Arfaks.

Rusty Pitohui ◇ *Pseudorectes ferrugineus* (H) We heard several in the Waigeo forests.

Little Shrikethrush ◇ *Colluricincla megarhyncha* A few records only.



Northern Variable Pitohui & Willie Wagtail (tour participant Marcel Holyoak)

Northern Variable Pitohui ◇ *Pitohui kirhocephalus* Several very nice observations.

Raja Ampat Pitohui ◇ *Pitohui cerviniventris* Often heard and seen well on Waigeo.

Hooded Pitohui ◇ *Pitohui dichrous* Several were recorded in the Arfak foothills. See Note.

Brown Oriole ◇ *Oriolus szalayi* Scope views of this unobtrusive species near Manokwari.
Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus* Regular observations of this vocal species.
Willie Wagtail (White-browed Fantail) *Rhipidura leucophrys* Common and full of character.



Northern Fantail & Chestnut-bellied Fantail (tour participant Marcel Holyoak)

Northern Fantail ◇ *Rhipidura rufiventris* Regular encounters.
Sooty Thicket Fantail ◇ *Rhipidura threnothorax* (H) We heard it in the lowland forests.
Black Fantail ◇ *Rhipidura atra* Fairly common in the higher Arfaks.
Chestnut-bellied Fantail ◇ *Rhipidura hyperythra* Nice views in the Arfak foothills.
Friendly Fantail ◇ *Rhipidura albolimbata* Regular and endearing in the Arfaks.
Dimorphic Fantail ◇ *Rhipidura brachyrhyncha* A couple of encounters in the Arfaks.
Drongo Fantail ◇ (Mountain Drongo) *Chaetorhynchus papuensis* Excellent looks. See Note.
Spot-winged Monarch ◇ *Symposiachrus guttula* Regularly seen in the lowlands.



Island Monarch & a male Frilled Monarch (tour participant Marcel Holyoak)

Island Monarch (Islet M) *Monarcha cinerascens* Great looks on an islet off Waigeo.
Black-winged Monarch ◇ *Monarcha frater* This beauty showed well in the Arfak foothills.
Golden Monarch ◇ *Carterornis chrysomela* Very nice scope views near Manokwari.
Frilled Monarch ◇ *Arses telescopthalmus* Splendid looks at male and female near Manokwari.
Shining Flycatcher (S Monarch) *Myiagra alecto* Male and female showed well on Waigeo.



Male and female Shining Flycatcher (tour participant Marcel Holyoak)

Brown-headed Crow ◇ *Corvus fuscicapillus* NT This rarity performed well on Waigeo.

Grey Crow ◇ (Bare-eyed C) *Corvus tristis* Good views in the Arfak foothills.

Torresian Crow (Australian C) *Corvus orru* A few were noted in coastal areas.

Lesser Melampitta ◇ *Melampitta lugubris* (H) No luck with this one, although it was close !

Glossy-mantled Manucode ◇ *Manucodia ater* Repeated, fantastic looks on Waigeo. See Note.



Brown-headed Crow & Long-tailed Paradigalla (tour participant Marcel Holyoak)



Crossing a torrent in the Arfaks (Josh Bergmark)

Trumpet Manucode ◊ *Phonygammus keraudrenii* Distant scope views in the Arfak foothills.
Long-tailed Paradigalla ◊ *Paradigalla carunculata* NT Great looks at this speciality in the Arfaks.



Arfak Astrapia (Josh Bergmark)

Arfak Astrapia ◊ *Astrapia nigra* Excellent looks at a young male in the higher Arfaks. See Note.



Male Black Sicklebill (Josh Bergmark)



Male Magnificent Bird-of-paradise and a displaying pair of Wilson's BoPs (Josh Bergmark)

Western Parotia ◇ *Parotia sefilata* Good looks for all. The display only for the lucky ones. See Note.
Superb Bird-of-paradise ◇ *Lophorina superba* The glorious display was a real highlight.
Magnificent Riflebird ◇ *Ptiloris magnificus* (H) We heard it in the lowlands and foothills.
Black Sickbill ◇ *Epimachus fastosus* V Stunning views of a displaying male!
Black-billed Sickbill ◇ (Buff-tailed S) *Drepanornis albertisi* Fair looks in the Arfaks.
Magnificent Bird-of-paradise ◇ *Diphyllodes magnificus* Fabulous views of a splendid male.
Wilson's Bird-of-Paradise ◇ *Diphyllodes respublica* NT Cracking studies of a displaying male.
King Bird-of-paradise ◇ *Cicinnurus regius* Glimpses of a female near Manokwari.
Lesser Bird-of-paradise ◇ *Paradisaea minor* Fair looks at females in the lowlands.
Red Bird-of-paradise ◇ *Paradisaea rubra* NT A splendid male showed well on Waigeo.
Ashy Robin ◇ *Heteromyias albispecularis* Several excellent encounters. Also on the nest.



Black-sided Robin (Josh Bergmark); Black-throated Robin (tour participant Marcel Holyoak)

Black-sided Robin ◇ *Poecilodryas hypoleuca* Nice looks at two on Waigeo.
Black-throated Robin ◇ *Poecilodryas albonotata* Scope views of a singing male in the Arfaks.



Smoky Robin (tour participant Marcel Holyoak); Slaty Robin (Mark Van Beirs)

Smoky Robin ◇ *Peneothello cryptoleuca* First-rate views of a cooperative bird in the Arfaks.
Slaty Robin ◇ (Blue-grey R) *Peneothello cyanus* Regular encounters in the Arfaks.



Green-backed Robin (Josh Bergmark)

- White-faced Robin** ◊ *Tregellasia leucops* A couple of fine observations in the Arfak foothills.
- Green-backed Robin** ◊ *Pachycephalopsis hattamensis* Perfect studies in the Arfaks. See Note.
- Canary Flyrobin** ◊ (C Flycatcher/Papuan F) *Microeca papuana* A handful in the Arfaks.
- Yellow-legged Flyrobin** ◊ (Y-I Flycatcher) *Microeca griseoiceps* A single in the Arfaks.
- Garnet Robin** ◊ *Eugerygone rubra* Male and female performed very well in the Arfaks.
- Lesser Ground Robin** ◊ *Amalocichla incerta* Terrific looks in the higher Arfaks.
- Sooty-headed Bulbul** *Pycnonotus aurigaster* (LO) Noted in Manokwari.
- Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* A dozen or so were seen near Sorong.
- Pacific Swallow** *Hirundo tahitica* Regular observations.
- Island Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus maforensis* Fairly common in the mountains.
- Australian Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus australis* Nice looks at the Anggi Lakes.
- Papuan Grassbird** ◊ (P Grass Warbler) *Megalurus macrurus* Good views in the Arfaks.
- Black-fronted White-eye** ◊ *Zosterops minor* A few in the mid Arfak Mountains.
- Capped White-eye** ◊ (Western Mountain W-e) *Zosterops fuscicapilla* Quite common.
- Metallic Starling** (Shining S) *Aplonis metallica* A few were noted near Sorong.
- Singing Starling** ◊ *Aplonis cantoroides* Several were found on Waigeo.
- Olive-crowned Flowerpecker** ◊ *Dicaeum pectorale* Tiny and regular.
- Black Sunbird** ◊ *Leptocoma sericea* Small numbers. A gorgeous bird when seen well.
- Olive-backed Sunbird** (Yellow-bellied S) *Cinnyris jugularis* Regular.
- Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus* Common in towns.
- Streak-headed Mannikin** ◊ *Lonchura tristissima* Just a few.
- Grey-banded Mannikin** ◊ *Lonchura vana* V 100+ at the Anggi Lakes. A bird with a tiny range.



Lesser Ground Robin (tour participant Marcel Holyoak)

MAMMALS

Red-bellied Marsupial-Shrew *Phascolosorex doriae* A couple of observations in the Arfaks.

Waigeo Cuscus *Spilocuscus papuensis* Several showed very well on Waigeo. Attractive!

Northern Common Cuscus (Grey C) *Phalanger orientalis* One was seen on Waigeo.

Great Flying Fox (Bismarck F F) *Pteropus neohibernicus* Regular in the lowlands.

Long-beaked Common Dolphin *Delphinus capensis* A distant pod was seen from the ferry.

Indo-Pacific Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Tursiops aduncus* A few were noted off Waigeo.

Risso's Dolphin *Grampus griseus* A distant pod of what must have been this species from the ferry.



Waigeo Cuscus (tour participant Marcel Holyoak)

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

The name refers to Brahman the most absolute, abstract form of God in the Hindu religion.

Stephan's Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps stephani*

Honoré Jacquinet (1815-87) was a French surgeon serving onboard expeditions on the *Coquille* and the *Astrolabe* led by his brother, the explorer Vice-Admiral Charles Hector Jacquinet. Honoré collected the bird and he is believed to have asked Jacques Pucheran who described it in 1853 to name it after their father Étienne Stephan Jacquinet.

Pinon's Imperial Pigeon *Ducula pinon*

L. Pinon was the wife of French explorer Captain Louis Freycinet.

Blyth's Hornbill (Papuan H) *Rhyticeros plicatus*

Edward Blyth (1810-73) was an English zoologist and Curator of the Museum of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

Pesquet's Parrot (Vulturine P) *Psittrichas fulgidus*

It is not known who Pesquet was but John Gould perhaps attributed the name to him. It is probably better to use the name Pesquet's Parrot, as Vulturine Parrot *Pionopsitta vulturina* is a Neotropical species of Eastern Amazonian Brazil.



The group at the Anggi Lakes (Mark Van Beirs)

Boyer's Cuckooshrike *Coracina boyeri*

Joseph Emmanuel P. Boyer (1815-?) was a French sea captain who explored in the area with Dumont d'Urville.

Hooded Pitohui *Pitohui dichrous*

This is one of those famous poisonous birds, whose feathers and skin contain homobatrachotoxin, a powerful poison of the batrachotoxin group. These poisons were previously considered to be restricted to neotropical poison-dart frogs of the genus *Phyllobates*. However it seems that not all individuals or indeed populations of pitohuis are poisonous. The toxin is derived from a small beetle that forms part of the bird's diet. It is thought that other black and rufous New Guinea birds mimic their plumage for protection.

Glossy-mantled Manucode *Manucodia atra*

Manucode is derived from an old Javanese name, *Manuk dewata* meaning "birds of the gods".

Arfak Astrapia *Astrapia nigra* and **Splendid Astrapia** *Astrapia splendidissima*

Astrapia is derived from the Greek meaning a flash of lightning.

Western Parotia *Parotia sefilata*

Parotia is derived from the Greek meaning a curl of hair by the ear.

Green-backed Robin *Pachycephalopsis hattamensis*

It is endemic to the mountains of West Papua. The scientific epithet refers to the Hattam language, one of the four spoken languages in the Arfak Mountains.



Arfak Cannibal Frog (Mark Van Beirs)



Great Crested, Bridled and Common Terns (Mark Van Beirs)



The amazing bower of the Vogelkop Bowerbird (Josh Bergmark)



Sunset in the Arfaks (Mark Van Beirs)

BIRD OF THE TOUR

1. Wilson's Bird-of-paradise	28
2. Superb Bird-of-paradise	25
3. Black Sicklebill	11
Western Parotia	11
5. Vogelkop Bowerbird	9
Western Crowned Pigeon	9



The group with porters, guides and cooks at the camp high in the Arfaks (Mark Van Beirs)



Arfak Mountains scenery (Josh Bergmark)