



Wonderfully displaying Emperor Birds-of-paradise (Lars Petersson)

REMOTE PAPUA NEW GUINEA

5 – 28 JULY 2014

LEADER: MARK VAN BEIRS

On our fifth visit to the rarely birded islands and out of the way mountain ranges of Papua New Guinea, we explored the remote islands of Manus and Tong in the Admiralties, New Ireland and Tench in the Bismarcks, the isolated Adelbert range and the fabled Huon peninsula on the northern watershed of mainland New

Guinea and secluded Fergusson Island in the D'Entrecasteaux Archipelago. The breath-taking, displaying Emperor Birds-of-paradise of the Huon won our hearts by a large margin, although the intriguing Goldie's Birds-of-paradise of the eastern islands were also much beloved. We obtained great views of the exquisite Wahnes's Parotia, gaped in awe at a day-roosting Marbled Frogmouth, enjoyed jaw-dropping studies of magnificent Fire-maned Bowerbirds, admired awkward Pesquet's Parrots, looked mesmerized at a Greater Sooty Owl, were totally enthralled by dainty Louisiade White-eyes (a new bird for the Birdquest lifelist!) and were charmed by cooperative Yellow-billed and Mountain Kingfishers. The seabird island of Tench was a staunch favourite with everyone, as the bizarre Nicobar Pigeons and the brilliant seabird spectacle was truly out of this world. Mammals were not very obvious on this tour, but we had some enchanting encounters with Indo-Pacific Bottle-nosed Dolphins and Spinner Dolphins. The logistics worked quite well on this trip, Air Niugini did a fair job, the seas were smooth, the boats were comfortable and we only experienced a few minor hiccups. This is an ideal trip to take after having tasted the goodies of New Guinea on our regular Papua New Guinea tour, as this is an avian adventure which provides quality rather than quantity, as only a handful of rare and very localized birds-of-paradise, bowerbirds, kingfishers and pigeons make it to the final birdlist.



The vociferous Manus Friarbird and a Manus Cuckooshrike (Lars Petersson)

The tour started at Port Moresby airport where our Swedish/British contingent had convened to catch the flight to the distant, isolated island of Manus. A short stop at Madang gave us Black Kite and Masked Lapwing and the extensive grasslands lining Manus's Momote airport held Eurasian Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, Lesser Sand Plover and Pacific Golden Plover. We were welcomed by our local crew and transferred to our hotel in Lorengau town. In the afternoon we explored the trans island road. The people on Manus are very religious, so no one is allowed in the forest on Saturday, the day of the Sabbath. Along the little travelled road leading through patches of secondary forest and gardens, we saw our first specialities: the noisy Manus Friarbird, locally called Chauka, offered good looks, several Meek's Pygmy Parrots were doing their thing on the trunk of a tall tree, a Manus Cuckooshrike allowed scope views, a Bismarck Whistler posed nicely and several Bismarck White-eyes flitted about. We also found a dark morph Pacific Reef Heron, Eastern Osprey, Variable Goshawk, four Nicobar Pigeons that gave brief looks, Island Imperial Pigeon, Coconut Lorikeet, Brush Cuckoo, some very smart Moustached Treeswifts, Glossy, Uniform and White-rumped Swiftlets, Oriental Dollarbird, Northern Fantail, Olive-backed Sunbird and Metallic and Singing Starlings. At dusk we heard the enticing calls of a Manus Boobook and saw Admiralty and Great Flying Foxes plying the skies.

Early next morning found us in ideal pitta habitat deep in the forests of Manus and although we heard our quarry briefly just after dawn, it wouldn't respond. We spent the whole day visiting several known territories of the fabled Superb Pitta, but we never heard another squeak. Extremely frustrating, but... Our local expert explained that the pittas had started breeding two months earlier than usual this year, resulting in low hormone levels during our visit. Birding was exciting anyway as Pacific Baza, White-bellied Sea Eagle, a

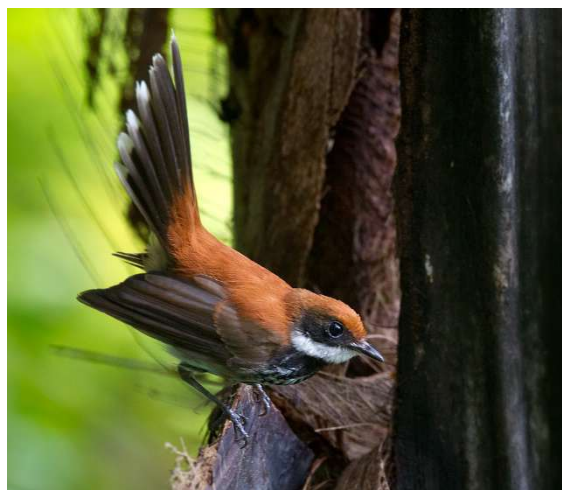
male Superb Fruit Dove, Eclectus Parrot, a male Common Cicadabird, Bismarck Whistler and a terrific Manus Monarch showed particularly well. The bird of the day was the outstanding Manus Boobook that offered smashing looks after we had first heard it at dusk.



The cooperative Manus Boobook (Lars Petersson)

The small island of Tong is situated off the extreme eastern end of Manus and is one of the few islets where the attractive Manus Fantail can be seen, so next morning a banana boat took us across fairly calm seas to this coconut palm covered little paradise. Black Noddies, Greater Crested Terns and a surprise Masked Booby enlivened our journey. We arrived via the beautiful turquoise-coloured lagoon at the western end of this lovely island, paid our respects to the local chief and soon laid eyes on several comely Manus Fantails, that were foraging in low shrubbery amongst the palms. While studying this cutie, we wondered why it does not occur on the mainland of Manus anymore, although it used to be common there till the early 20th century. While slowly wandering along the trails through secondary growth we also observed several attractive Manus (or Admiralty Pied) Monarchs of the much whiter race *coultasi*. Bismarck Black Myzomelas were by far the most common species. Several stylish Yellow-bibbed Fruit Doves were scoped and

MacKinlay's Cuckoo Doves were regularly encountered. A few Island Monarchs kept a low profile and we heard the distinctive mourning call of Melanesian Megapode. A striking Beach Kingfisher posed as we boarded our boat for the homebound journey. It had been a splendid visit.

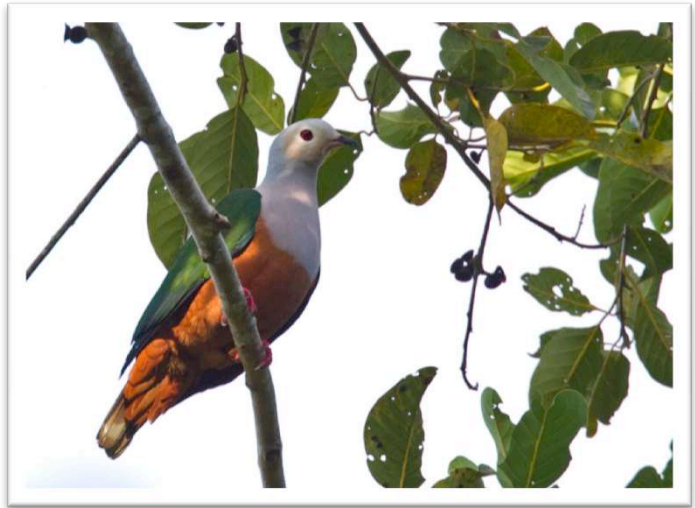


The coultasi race of Manus Monarch and a lovely Manus Fantail (Lars Petersson)

Upon our return we explored the grassy expanses of the huge Momote airport, which was built by American troops in WWII. Pacific Golden Plover, Eurasian Whimbrel and Lesser Sand Plover were noted and in the afternoon we tried a different patch of forest where the pitta had been heard recently. Sadly, not a sniff was heard. At dusk one of us had good looks at a Manus Boobook.

Next day, before dawn, we were standing at the edge of the same patch of forest and listened ever so carefully to the dawn chorus. Manus Friarbird, Northern Fantail, Bismarck Whistler and some pigeons and doves were singing away, but of the pitta not a squeak. Rather disappointed we packed up and made our way to the airport, where we were told that Kavieng airport had been closed because of landowner issues. A gingerplant had been placed at the entrance of the airport, a sure sign that the landowners meant business. In Papua New Guinea, local landowners frequently resort to the use of a customary dispute handling instrument, or taboo marker, to signal disputes. Instead we flew to Port Moresby, where we booked into a hotel and prayed that the landowner issue at Kavieng would be settled soon. Frustration galore..

The issue was luckily solved fairly quickly and next morning we were able to fly to Kavieng, the capital of New Ireland. While waiting for our luggage we watched endemic Hunstein's Mannikins and a Buff-banded Rail. We got swiftly organized, bought provisions and soon drove along the smooth, sealed and famous Boluminski Highway (named after Franz Boluminski, the German District Officer from 1910 until the First World War) to our favourite guesthouse at Dalom, beautifully situated on the coast next to a freshwater stream. In the afternoon we made our way into the forested foothills where we got our first taste of New Ireland's avifauna. The pigeon guild was well represented as we noted Slender-billed and Pied Cuckoo-Doves next to Red-knobbed and Finsch's Imperial Pigeons. The much wanted Paradise Drongo soon put in an appearance, although our first looks at this New Ireland endemic were a bit brief. On our walk we also added Variable Goshawk, Bismarck Hanging Parrot, Red-chinned Lorikeet, Red Myzomela, Barred Cuckooshrike, Golden Monarch, Varied Triller, Bismarck Crow and Black Sunbird to the list. At dusk we heard the distinctive frog-like calls of the New Ireland Boobook and soon got excellent views of this cooperative nightbird.



The showy New Ireland Boobook and a Finsch's Imperial Pigeon (Lars Petersson)

The following morning we were standing guard at a viewpoint in a stretch of lovely hill forest, where the trees were adorned with strange antplants of the genus *Myrmecodia* and where screw palms (*Pandanus*) and casuarinas abounded. There was no traffic and there were no people about, so we had a splendid time observing the avian gems of the New Ireland hills. Knob-billed Fruit Dove, Black Imperial Pigeon and Papuan Mountain Pigeon perched up in the treetops, while Bar-tailed Cuckoo-Doves flew past and a Pied Cuckoo-Dove displayed overhead. We managed better looks at the shy Paradise Drongo. A flowering tree held scores of Red Myzomelas and Red-banded Flowerpeckers, a White-necked Coucal was clambering in vines, a Shining Bronze Cuckoo uttered its repetitive song from the canopy, lumbering Blyth's Hornbills 'wooshed' past and we also observed Grey-capped Cicadabird, a nice Black-tailed Monarch, Golden Monarch, Bismarck Crow, Golden-headed Cisticola and Long-tailed Myna. During the midday break we admired Purple-bellied Lory and Red-chinned and Red-flanked Lorikeets foraging in the flowering coconut palms in the gardens of our guesthouse. In the afternoon we scanned a grassy area which held a flock of Buff-bellied Mannikins and eventually also found a few New Ireland endemic Forbes's Mannikins. At dusk we returned to the forest and again had great looks at a New Ireland Boobook. Meanwhile a group of adventurous young Australian cyclists had arrived at our guesthouse creating a lively holiday atmosphere.



A pair of Red-flanked Lorikeets and a Black Imperial Pigeon (Lars Petersson)

Our final morning in the hills was rather quiet. A female White-bibbed Fruit Dove posed well and two Finsch's Pygmy Parrots showed off. We had superb looks at feeding Red-flanked Lorikeets, heard a distant Red-bellied Pitta, admired a smart-looking White-backed Woodswallow and watched a party of Bismarck White-eyes. John identified a single New Ireland Myzomela and then it was time to return to base. In the heat of the

day we found time for snorkeling or dipping in the freshwater stream while Common Kingfisher, Lesser Frigatebird and a roosting Andersen's Bare-backed Fruit Bat added to the fun. Our afternoon return drive to Kavieng produced a couple of Pale-vented Bush-hens crossing the road and the hot showers and the seafood buffet at the hotel were very much appreciated.



White-backed Woodswallow and an Andersen's Bare-backed Fruit Bat (Lars Petersson)

The swampy lowland rainforest and the edge of a patch of mangroves not far from Kavieng were our venue for the following morning. At dawn we were overlooking a river mouth where four species of kingfisher showed. We had great looks at a smashing Beach Kingfisher, next to more modestly-behaved Common, Sacred and Collared. An imposing White-bellied Sea Eagle flew past and lots of Finsch's Pygmy Parrots were terrorizing treetrunks. Colourful Purple-bellied Lories shot through, a Brush Cuckoo was singing away and Black-tailed and Golden Monarchs obliged. A sneaky Velvet Flycatcher was only seen by a few of us. We admired a large roost of Great Flying Foxes and in mid-afternoon boarded the "PNG Explorer", a well-run live aboard that was taking us overnight to the distant island of Tench. A pod of Indo-Pacific Bottle-nosed Dolphins played around the boat in the harbour and we also observed Eastern Osprey and Common Tern. Hosts Judy and Andrew provided



Purple-bellied Lory and a male Golden Monarch (Lars Petersson)

We arrived at dawn and had to wait a while on board, as the locals were discussing the landing and landowners fees. Tench holds about 50 people and was deserted several years ago because a tsunami had ruined the freshwater supply. But the hamlet is thriving again and while waiting we saw clouds of Black Noddies and lots of Red-footed Boobies (both white and white-tailed brown morphs) streaming away from the island to go foraging. We finally got permission to land and after a warm welcome from old friends, we soon scoped the most special bird on the island, the rare and very localized Atoll Starling. It showed off its

orange eyes and modest plumage at length. We made sure we first got to grips with the landbirds, as most of the seabirds are so easily seen. We walked around under the Pisonia trees and coconut palms and found lots of Bismarck Black Myzomelas. Good numbers of much wanted, eccentric-looking Nicobar Pigeons allowed intimate views and eventually we all got excellent looks at skittish Melanesian Megapodes. Just a few Pacific Imperial Pigeons were located and small numbers of Island Monarchs were seen. The coastline held a single Beach Kingfisher. Seabirds were all over the place and by far the most common species was Black Noddy. They were just starting to make nests and every tree on the island held several of these elegant birds. Small numbers of Brown Noddies could be identified amongst the Blacks by careful scrutiny. Dozens of beautiful, ethereal White Terns flitted through the canopy or perched on boughs in the forest. Lots of Red-footed Boobies and just a few Brown Boobies made a living here. Kleptoparasitic Great Frigatebirds kept an eye on things from high up. A single displaying male tried to seduce females with his bright red inflated pouch and a lone Lesser Frigatebird was picked out from amongst the throng. It took a while to find the White-tailed Tropicbirds as they were circling very high overhead. The return boat trip was extremely quiet.



Melanesian Megapode and White Tern (Lars Petersson)



White-tailed brown morph Red-footed Booby and the rare Atoll Starling (Lars Petersson)

Early next morning we flew to Port Moresby and as we had some time to kill till our next flight we had organized a visit to the Pacific Adventist University grounds. The ponds held a good selection of waterbirds including a single Magpie Goose, Plumed and Wandering Whistling Ducks, Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal, Australasian Grebe, Australian White Ibis, Nankeen Night Heron, Pied Heron, Little Egret, Little Pied and Little Black Cormorants, awkward Purple Swamphens, Dusky Moorhen, a pair of Masked Lapwings with cute chicks and eye-catching Comb-crested Jacanas. Black and Whistling Kites circled overhead and two well-camouflaged Papuan Frogmouths looked like lumps of wood. A Fawn-breasted Bowerbird performed near its bower and we also saw Peaceful and Bar-shouldered Doves, Rufous-banded Honeyeater, Black-backed

Butcherbird, White-breasted Woodswallow, Torresian Crow, Yellow-faced Myna and a party of Grey-headed Mannikins. A short visit to the smelly Moitaka sewage ponds produced lots of Pied Herons, an Australasian Darter, several Whiskered Terns and a bunch of White-headed Stilts. In late afternoon we boarded the plane to Madang and settled into a lovely resort on the scenic coast.



Adorable Comb-crested Jacanas and a Whistling Kite (Lars Petersson)



Great Egret (Lars Petersson)

Our pre breakfast walk in the gardens of our hotel gave us hundreds of Great Flying Foxes, Torresian Imperial Pigeon, a displaying pair of Forest Kingfishers, several noisy Varied Honeyeaters and a couple of unappealing New Guinea Friarbirds. After a yummy breakfast – a rare occurrence on this tour – we were picked up by our man on the spot and drove into the Adelbert Mountains. The road was quite smooth and most of the uphill track posed no problem for the 4x4 vehicle, but we had to walk the final three kilometres, as the conditions were too much even for a Toyota. We checked into lovely, simple Keki Lodge and spent the afternoon in the clearing, checking nearby fruiting trees and distant treetops. The highlight was a female Fire-maned Bowerbird that visited the big fig tree. Although modestly-clad, we were very happy with this sighting, as the observation of this Adelbert endemic held a promise for better things... A very good start! A

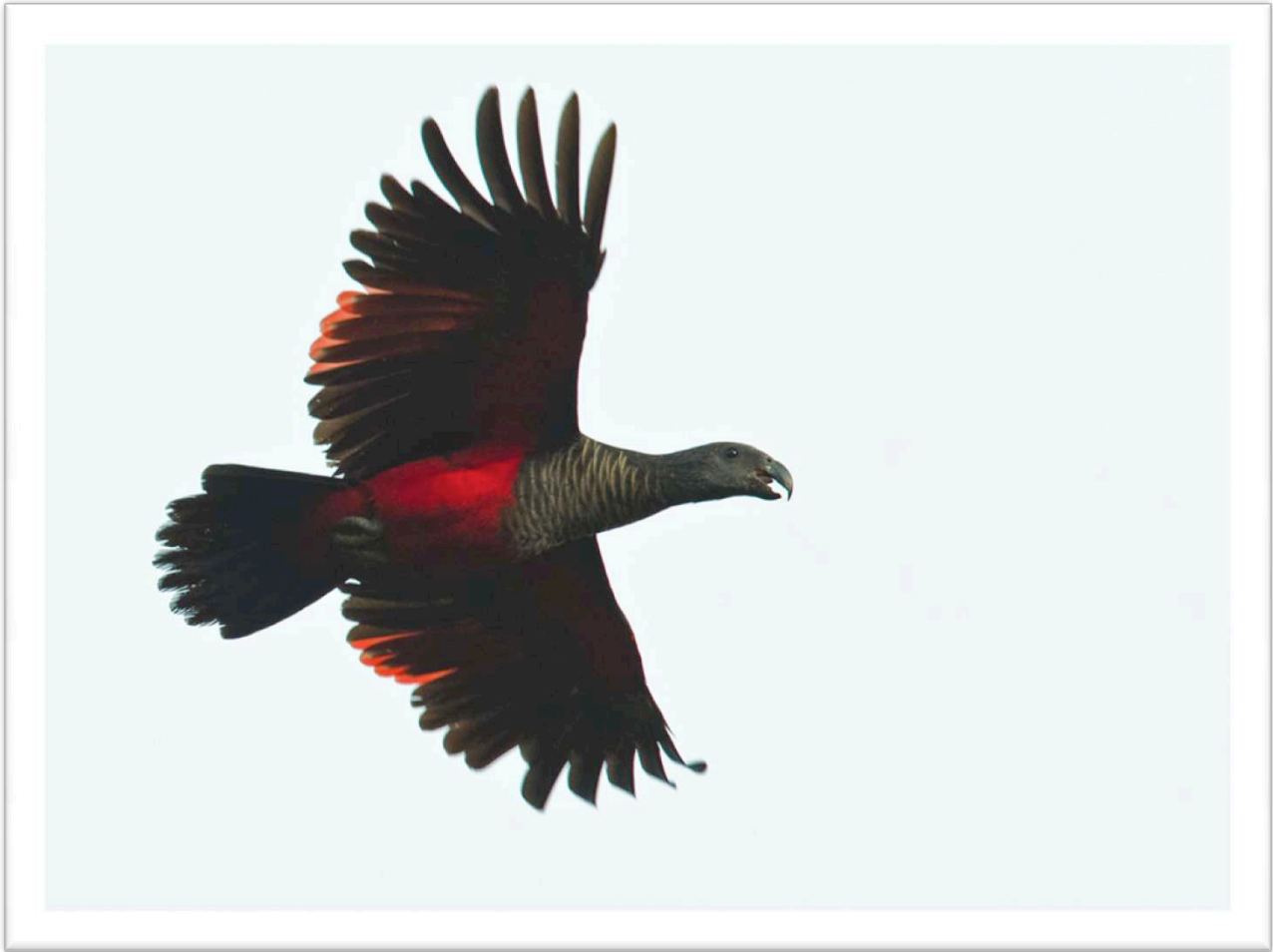
Pygmy Eagle flew overhead and Pink-spotted and Orange-bellied Fruit Doves were scoped. Raucous Sulphur-crested Cockatoos played about, Red-cheeked Parrots flew past in their distinctive wavering flight and Eclectus Parrots painted bright patches in the sky. Two, usually very hard to see White-eared Catbirds showed for quite a while in the fig tree. Mimic Honeyeater, Grey Crow and Red-capped Flowerpecker also showed and we heard several Lesser Birds-of-paradise call from the nearby forest. On our nightwalk we heard the crazy calls of a Marbled Frogmouth and the double hoot of Papuan Boobook and had all too brief looks at a Ground Cuscus.



Female Fire-maned Bowerbird and displaying Forest Kingfishers (Lars Petersson)

We spent the whole of the next day in the clearing at the lodge and in the nearby forest. During the first hours of the day we kept a sharp eye on the big fig tree, as our main goal was to get good views of a male Fire-maned Bowerbird. After a fair wait both male and female showed well and repeatedly and we had an even better performance in the afternoon when we managed scope studies of both sexes. This jewel is very localized, quite rare and so incredibly attractive. Few birders have ever seen this fabulous species as it takes a fair amount of effort to get into the Adelbert Mountains. Another highlight was the magnificent Pesquet's (or Vulturine) Parrot of which we managed fantastic scope views. A truly strange bird! While hanging about we also observed Dwarf Fruit Dove, a new species for the lodge area according to owner Moyang. We scoped this diminutive species and also added Pinon's and Zoe's Imperial Pigeons, Black-capped Lory, Rufous-bellied Kookaburra, Yellow-billed Kingfisher (scope studies), Papuan Black Myzomela, Plain, Spotted and Long-billed Honeyeaters, Mountain Peltops, Boyer's Cuckooshrike, Black-browed Triller, Hooded Pitohui and tremendous males and more subtle females Lesser Birds-of-paradise to the tally. A short walk in the forest produced Chestnut-bellied Fantail and a Banded Yellow Robin for some. After a short midday break half of the group spent time in the hide overlooking the display court of a Magnificent Bird-of-paradise and had great looks at a male and a female, while the others kept on checking the clearing. On our nightwalk we again heard a Marbled Frogmouth, but, sadly, it stayed too high in the forest giants.

On our final morning at Keki we decided to concentrate on getting good looks at the ace skulking Banded Yellow Robin in the primary forest. It took a fair amount of effort, but eventually everyone obtained great looks at this attractive and very localized species. A good sized mid storey flock held goodies like Fairy Gerygone, Black Berrypecker, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Grey Whistler, Little Shrikethrush and Hooded, Black-faced and Ochre-collared Monarchs. Some people sat in the Magnificent Bird-of-paradise hide and had good views of a male, but sadly no display was seen. After lunch, we packed up and walked down to the rendezvous spot, but no vehicle was waiting for us. We had to wait several hours till the driver deigned to show up. Time concept is obviously very different in Papua New Guinea... While waiting a Long-tailed Buzzard glided over and several Scrub Honeyeaters visited a fruiting tree. The drive to Madang was uneventful and the hot showers and the great dinner at the hotel were wonderful.



The unique Pesquet's (or Vulturine) Parrot (Lars Petersson)



Male Fire-maned Bowerbird and White-eared Catbird (Lars Petersson)

Next morning we visited uninhabited, palm-covered Tabb island, which is just a short boat ride away from Madang. Soon after landing we found a hidden mound of New Guinea Scrubfowl and flushed one of these chicken-like birds. It then took a while before everyone had good looks at this infrequently encountered species as they scurried about in the fairly open undergrowth of this small island. We also recorded Coroneted Fruit Dove, Pacific Koel, Varied Honeyeater and Mangrove Golden Whistler. After an early lunch we transferred to the airport where we had to wait a while for our charter flight. In the grasslands lining the apron we found stonking Great-billed and Chestnut-breasted Mannikins and some Brown Quail while a Brown Falcon perched on the radio tower. A New Zealand built PAC 750 XL plane, piloted by a Canadian took us along the scenic coast of the Huon Peninsula and not too long after we landed at the grassy airstrip

of the village of Wasu. Our man on the spot organized the transport and soon we were on our way up to the village of Gatop, situated at an altitude of 850m altitude. We were given a room at the local school for young ladies and got organized. Nearby we heard Pheasant Coucal and Emperor Birds-of-paradise and saw a Hooded Butcherbird.



New Guinea Scrubfowl and Great-billed Mannikin (Lars Petersson)

On our first full day in the Huon Mountains, which are named after the French explorer Jean-Michel Huon de Kermadec, we birded along a track through lush montane forest between 1,800 and 1,950m altitude. Regular encounters with gorgeous, endemic Huon *Astrapias* resulted in excellent views and the long-tailed males especially were very much appreciated. In fruiting bushes we found a couple of rarely-seen Streaked Berrypeckers and although this is not the most charismatic species, we admired it at length. A Gurney's Eagle with a flying fox in its talons glided over and a Black-mantled Goshawk showed very nicely. A pair of calling Brown Falcons drew our attention and Great Cuckoo-Dove, Ornate Fruit Dove and Rufescent Imperial Pigeon represented the pigeon family. A Red-breasted Pygmy Parrot and several Papuan Lorikeets zoomed past and a Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo behaved very well. Mountain Swiftlets foraged amongst the tree crowns and flowering trees held gaudy Red-collared Myzomelas and Rufous-backed Honeyeaters. The bubbling song of Black-throated Honeyeaters dominated the dawn chorus and mixed parties held Buff-faced Scrubwrens, Brown-breasted Gerygones and Friendly Fantails. Berrypeckers (of two different families endemic to New Guinea) visited fruiting trees as modestly-hued Mid-mountain and Fan-tailed and more flashy Tit Berrypeckers obliged. A Black-breasted Boatbill showed off its rich finery, several Great Woodswallows were catching flying insects around a dead tree and a party of vociferous Hooded Cuckooshrikes travelled from canopy to canopy. We got reasonable views of a Mottled Whistler, which is an important species now as it has been placed in its own family. Brown-backed, Sclater's and Regent Whistlers also appeared on the list and a dainty Canary Flyrobin was found at its nest. One person saw a Wahnes's Parotia and we all heard the raucous calls of a Superb Bird-of-paradise. There was some rather heated discussion with local landowners which resulted in some shouting, but hey, we were in New Guinea... Our local guide took good care of the problem and nobody disturbed us after that.



Spangled Honeyeater and Black-breasted Boatbill (Lars Petersson)



A rarely encountered Streaked Berrypecker (Lars Petersson)

Mercury and Venus showed beautifully before dawn and this augured well for a great day's birding in the Huon mountains. We spent most of the morning at the best altitude for Wahnes's Parotia. A male was heard displaying, we glimpsed him and several females, but the views were not really satisfactory. To compensate, a wonderful Mountain Kingfisher showed ever so well and we had glorious views of Pesquet's Parrots. The Huon endemic Spangled Honeyeater performed extremely well and Streaked Berrypeckers and Huon *Astrapias* appeared again in front of our binoculars. Other interesting species seen included Cinnamon-browed *Melidectes*, Black-bellied Cuckooshrike, Island Leaf Warbler and White-shouldered and Orange-crowned Fairywrens. In the afternoon we explored a stretch of lower foothill forest, where we stood under a display tree of Emperor Bird-of-paradise, but only fleeting views were obtained. Later we found a strategic spot at the forest edge from where we managed to get fantastic looks at several displaying and foraging males and females. A truly magnificent experience that resulted in this species being voted Bird of the Trip! Papuan Black Myzomela and Brown Oriole were also noted and at dusk we heard the distinctive plaintive liquid whistles of Hook-billed Kingfisher, but... no play. On the walk back to base our man on the spot explained about certain customs in Papua New Guinea, about the 700+ languages, about Pidgin being the lingua franca and we stood in awe when we heard about bridal prices! He got married last year and had to pay a very large sum of money (10,000s of \$), 28 pigs and 7 cassowaries to his family in law!! Wow...

While munching our predawn breakfast, we heard a White-crowned Cuckoo call from the nearby valley. On our final morning in the Huon, we concentrated on trying to get good looks at Wahnes's Parotia and indeed soon after dawn we managed to obtain great scope views of a male of this decidedly attractive bird-of-paradise. The male showed off his six head wires, his orange frontal shield, his piercing light blue eyes and bronzy coloured 'pompom'. We also had nice looks at Black-mantled Goshawk, several Pesquet's Parrots, Yellow-billed Lorikeet, Papuan King Parrot, Mountain Kingfisher, Mountain Myzomela, Spangled Honeyeater (with cheeks flushed red in excitement) and Slaty (or Blue-grey) Robin. We ventured into the mossy forest, where leeches favoured our tasty legs and a heavy shower got us soaked to the skin. But, a Greater Sooty Owl showed extremely well and a party of flamboyant Tit Berrypeckers gave great views in a fruiting tree. A Papuan Eagle (New Guinea Harpy Eagle) called at close range, but didn't want to show and we also heard a Spotted Jewel-babbler. While waiting for our transport back to base our local man talked about warfare in the highlands of New Guinea (very medieval, an eye for an eye etc, but still ongoing)... Quite an eye-opener



Gurney's Eagle holding a Flying Fox and a male Blyth's Hornbill (Lars Petersson)

In the afternoon we returned to the lookout near the Emperor Bird-of-paradise display tree. A pity the sky was overcast, but we witnessed some amazing display of this localized bird-of-paradise. Several adult males and subadult males were playing about and females were visiting on a regular basis prompting the males into frenzied action. Truly wonderful! Buff-faced Pygmy Parrot, Double-eyed Fig Parrot, Brown Oriole and a heard only Growling Riflebird provided more entertainment.



A glorious Huon Astrapia (Lars Petersson)

The following day started with an early drive down to Wasu airstrip, where we boarded the flight to Lae. From the plane we admired the splendid scenery of untouched forests festooning the mountain slopes as we crossed the Huon mountains. At Lae airport we noted a Papuan Harrier and singing Horsfield's Bush Larks while waiting for our transport into town. We thanked our man on the spot and drove in a "grilled" minibus of Guard Dog security to our rather plush hotel in Lae, where we enjoyed the hot showers and the tasty pizza. An early flight took us to Port Moresby and onward to Alotau, near the extreme eastern tip of New Guinea. We arrived at our hotel in this clean, Australian-looking town, had a quick lunch and got out in the field. A birdy area of pandanus savanna and forest edge produced Oriental Hobby, Orange-fronted Fruit Dove, showy Buff-faced Pygmy Parrots, Rainbow Bee-eater, a heard only Hooded Pitta, Streak-headed, Silver-eared, Tawny-breasted and Brown-backed Honeyeaters and Spangled Drongo. At dusk we heard several Hook-billed Kingfishers and managed glimpses of one.



Orange-fronted Fruit Doves and Orange-fronted Pygmy Parrot (Lars Petersson)

As our chartered live aboard experienced some minor problems that had to be fixed, we decided to revisit the pandanus savanna and surrounding forest, where Pygmy Eagle, smart Orange-fronted Fruit Doves, an all too brief Palm Cockatoo, a posing Pheasant Coucal, several female Raggiana Birds-of-paradise and a couple of singing Grey Shrikethrushes were observed. In the afternoon we boarded the MV Chertan, got organized and started sailing to distant Fergusson Island in the D'Entrecasteaux Archipelago. We had an first-rate dinner and sailed overnight across the calm, but deep Goshen Strait.

At dawn we found ourselves between the islands of Normanby and Fergusson in very calm seas. Only when we sailed past the extinct volcano of Dobu Island the water got slightly agitated. We sailed into Sebutaia Bay and in late morning we were walking in nice lowland forest guided by our able man on the spot. The lovely calls of the endemic (to the D'Entrecasteaux Archipelago) Curl-crested Manucode were emanating throughout the forest and soon we obtained good looks at this subtly-hued bird-of-paradise with its curious tail. For the Goldie's Bird-of-paradise (also endemic to the D'Entrecasteaux Archipelago) we had to wait till late afternoon when several males were located feeding in a fruiting tree. Great scope studies followed and we also found a dozen, prehistoric-looking Channel-billed Cuckoos, Azure Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Gerygone, Black-faced Monarch and a male Satin Flycatcher.

Next morning we paid another visit to the lowland rainforest of Fergusson, trying to get more views of Goldie's Bird-of-paradise. We sure succeeded, but no display was witnessed. We had more nice looks at Curl-crested Manucodes and a Marbled Frogmouth was flushed and showed exceedingly well in the scope. Great stuff! In late morning we sailed to nearby Normanby Island across calm seas that yielded Bridled Terns and a pod of Indo-Pacific Bottle-nosed Dolphins. We anchored at a small offshore island and from the deck, with a sundowner in one hand observed White-bellied Sea Eagle and Nicobar and Island Imperial Pigeons.



Marbled Frogmouth (Lars Petersson)

In the early hours of our last day we visited the islet where Peregrine Falcon, Torresian Imperial Pigeons, Mangrove Golden Whistler and Rufous Fantail were seen, but best of all were the dozen or so Louisiade White-eyes that performed so well. This new bird for the Birdquest lifelist ekes out a living here, quite distant from its regular area of distribution in the more eastern Louisiades Archipelago. After our successful visit some of us went snorkelling over the spectacular nearby reef and all too soon we had to return to Alotau, escorted by Black-naped Terns, some playful Spinner Dolphins and several flocks of Black Noddies. And so ended our New Guinea adventure!



Goldie's Bird-of-paradise and Louisiade White-eye (Lars Petersson)



The stunning Nicobar Pigeon (Lars Petersson)

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).

Maggie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata* A single bird was seen at the PAU. Obviously a migrant from Australia.

Plumed Whistling Duck ◊ *Dendrocygna eytoni* 60 at the PAU. Formerly a rare species in the Port Moresby area.

Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata* A single bird at the PAU.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa* Common at the PAU (Pacific Adventist University).

Grey Teal *Anas gracilis* A single bird at the PAU.

Collared Brushturkey ◊ (**Brown-collared B**) *Talegalla jobiensis* (H) We heard the distinctive barking at Keki Lodge.

Melanesian Megapode ◊ (**M Scrubfowl/Volcano S**) *Megapodius eremite* Great looks on Tench Island.

New Guinea Scrubfowl ◊ (**N G Megapode**) *Megapodius decollatus* Very nice looks on an island near Madang.

Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt* A single showed well on Fergusson.

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora* Four birds were found at Madang airport.

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae* Good looks at several at the PAU.

White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus* Two circled overhead on Tench Island.

Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis moluccus* Three were foraging on the PAU grasslands.

Nankeen Night Heron (Rufous N H) *Nycticorax caledonicus* Several were roosting in a large tree at the PAU.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus* Small numbers.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* Just a couple of encounters.
Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia* Regular in small numbers.
Pied Heron ◊ *Egretta picata* Excellent studies of adults and immatures at Moitaka, near Port Moresby.
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* A single bird showed well at the PAU.
Pacific Reef Heron (P R Egret/Eastern R Egret) *Egretta sacra* Regular in small numbers. Mainly dark morphs.
Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor* Common on Tench, where a couple of males showed off their red pouches.
Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel* A few encounters.
Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra* A single bird showed well on our boat trip to Tong Island, off Manus.
Red-footed Booby *Sula sula* Common on Tench, where both white and white-tailed brown morphs showed.



Brown Booby and Long-tailed Honey Buzzard (Lars Petersson)

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* Small numbers were seen on Tench.
Little Pied Cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleucos* Two were found at the PAU.
Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* Regular on the PAU ponds.
Australasian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae* A single bird showed well at the PAU.
Eastern Osprey *Pandion cristatus* 15 observations of this well-known piscivore.
Pacific Baza (Crested Hawk) *Aviceda subcristata* Four encounters with this attractive bird of prey.
Long-tailed Honey Buzzard ◊ (L-t Buzzard) *Henicopernis longicauda* A couple of sightings only.
Papuan Eagle ◊ (New Guinea Harpy Eagle) *Harpyopsis novaeguineae* (H) We heard the distinctive call in the Huon.
Pygmy Eagle ◊ *Hieraaetus weiskei* Very nice sightings at Keki Lodge. A recent split from Little Eagle.
Gurney's Eagle ◊ *Aquila gurneyi* A single bird carrying a flying fox flew overhead in the Huon.
Variable Goshawk ◊ (Varied G) *Accipiter hiogaster* Six observations.
Black-mantled Goshawk ◊ *Accipiter melanochlamys* Cracking views of this very attractive species in the Huon.
Papuan Harrier ◊ *Circus spilothorax* A female was seen at Lae airport.
Black Kite *Milvus migrans* Regular encounters all along our itinerary.
Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus* A few at Port Moresby and at Madang.
Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* New Guinea's most regularly seen bird of prey.
White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* Eight sightings of this impressive raptor.
Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis* A single bird was noted at Kavieng airport.
Pale-vented Bush-hen ◊ (Rufous-tailed B-h) *Amaurornis moluccana* A couple of sightings. More often heard!
Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio* Regular encounters.
Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa* We only saw this species at the PAU ponds.
White-headed Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus* Eight showed well at the Moitaka sewage ponds.
Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles* Regular. We also saw the cute downy chicks.
Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* Just a few, as we were a bit early.
Lesser Sand Plover (Mongolian P) *Charadrius mongolus* Four were seen at the Momote airport on Manus.
Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacea* Terrific looks at several at the PAU ponds.



Masked Lapwing and Black Noddies (Lars Petersson)

- Eurasian Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* Just a few were seen on Manus.
- Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* Two were at Manus airport.
- Brown Noddy** *Anous stolidus* A handful showed well on Tench.
- Black Noddy** *Anous minutus* The most common seabird on Tench. Many great looks.
- White Tern (Common W T)** *Gygis alba* Many eye-ball to eye-ball encounters on Tench. So very attractive.
- Greater Crested Tern (Crested T)** *Thalasseus bergii* Small numbers were seen on all our boat trips.
- Bridled Tern** *Onychoprion anaethetus* Good looks at 15 on our return boat trip from Fergusson.
- Black-naped Tern** *Sterna sumatrana* Just two off New Guinea's eastern cape.
- Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo* A few showed along the Kavieng waterfront.
- Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida* Four showed well at the Moitaka sewage works.
- Rock Dove (R Pigeon)** *Columba livia*



Slender-billed Cuckoo Dove and Pink-spotted Fruit Dove (Lars Petersson)

- Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove** *Macropygia amboinensis* Regular encounters.
- Bar-tailed Cuckoo-Dove** ◊ (Black-billed C-D) *Macropygia nigrirostris* Regular. Together with previous species.
- Mackinlay's Cuckoo-Dove** ◊ (Spot-breasted C-D) *Macropygia mackinlayi* Excellent views of several on Tong.
- Great Cuckoo-Dove** ◊ *Reinwardtoena reinwardti* Several nice sightings in the Huon.
- Pied Cuckoo-Dove** ◊ *Reinwardtoena browni* Nice display in the New Ireland highlands.
- Stephan's Emerald Dove (S Ground Dove)** *Chalcophaps stephani* Regular encounters. Unobtrusive.
- Peaceful Dove** *Geopelia placida* A few in the Port Moresby area.
- Bar-shouldered Dove** *Geopelia humeralis* A few in the Port Moresby area.
- Nicobar Pigeon** ◊ *Caloenas nicobarica* Many fabulous encounters on Tench. A truly glorious species!
- Wompoo Fruit Dove (Magnificent F D)** *Ptilinopus magnificus* (H) Regularly heard at Keki Lodge.
- Pink-spotted Fruit Dove** ◊ *Ptilinopus perlatus* A few here and there.



Yellow-bibbed Fruit Dove and Pacific Imperial Pigeon (Lars Petersson)

- Ornate Fruit Dove** ◊ *Ptilinopus ornatus* Regular in the Huon highlands.
- Orange-fronted Fruit Dove** ◊ *Ptilinopus aurantiifrons* Good looks at this smart species in the Alotau area.
- Superb Fruit Dove** *Ptilinopus superbus* A male showed very well on Manus.
- Coroneted Fruit Dove** ◊ *Ptilinopus coronulatus* A single bird was scoped near Madang.
- White-bibbed Fruit Dove** ◊ (White-breasted F D) *Ptilinopus rivoli* A female showed ell in the New Ireland highlands.
- Yellow-bibbed Fruit Dove** ◊ *Ptilinopus solomonensis* Very nice looks on Tong and on Tench.
- Claret-breasted Fruit Dove** ◊ *Ptilinopus viridis* (H) We heard the distinctive song on Manus.
- Orange-bellied Fruit Dove** ◊ *Ptilinopus iozonus* Regular on the mainland of New Guinea.
- Knob-billed Fruit Dove** ◊ (Red-knobbed F D) *Ptilinopus insolitus* Cracking looks on New Ireland.
- Dwarf Fruit Dove** ◊ *Ptilinopus nainus* Eight showed very well at Keki Lodge.
- Pacific Imperial Pigeon** ◊ *Ducula pacifica* Great looks at several on Tench.
- Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeon** ◊ *Ducula rubricera* Regular and attractive on New Ireland.
- Finsch's Imperial Pigeon** ◊ *Ducula finschii* Perfect scope studies of this beauty on New Ireland.
- Rufescent Imperial Pigeon** ◊ *Ducula chalconota* Great looks in the Huon highlands.
- Island Imperial Pigeon** ◊ (Grey I P) *Ducula pistrinaria* Regular on Manus.
- Pinon's Imperial Pigeon** ◊ *Ducula pinon* Just a few on the mainland.
- Black Imperial Pigeon** ◊ (Bismarck I P) *Ducula melanochroa* Several showed well in the New Ireland highlands.
- Zoe's Imperial Pigeon** ◊ *Ducula zoeae* Seen at Keki Lodge and heard on Fergusson.
- Torresian Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula spilorrhoea* Especially common on Fergusson.
- Papuan Mountain Pigeon** ◊ *Gymnophaps albertisii* Common on New Ireland and in the Huon. A few at Keki Lodge.
- White-necked Coucal** ◊ (Pied C) *Centropus ateralbus* A couple of sightings on New Ireland.
- Pheasant Coucal** *Centropus phasianinus* A couple of observations of this widespread species.
- Dwarf Koel** ◊ (Black-capped K) *Microdynamis parva* (H) We heard it at Keki Lodge, but the bird did not budge.
- Pacific Koel** ◊ *Eudynamis orientalis* Regularly heard and finally seen near Madang.
- Channel-billed Cuckoo** *Scythrops novaehollandiae* A dozen of these bizarre birds performed well on Fergusson.
- Shining Bronze Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx lucidus* Nice looks on New Ireland.
- White-crowned Cuckoo** ◊ (W-c Koel) *Cacomantis leucolophus* (H) We heard the distinctive voice in the Huon.
- Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo** ◊ *Cacomantis castaneiventris* Scope looks in the Huon. Often heard.
- Brush Cuckoo** *Cacomantis variolosus* Regularly seen and heard.
- Greater Sooty Owl** (Sooty O) *Tyto tenebricosa* Cracking views of a flushed bird in the Huon. So very smart!
- Papuan Boobook** ◊ *Ninox theomacha* (H) We heard it at Keki Lodge, but no response.
- Manus Boobook** ◊ (M Hawk Owl) *Ninox meeki* Splendid looks at dusk on Manus. So very nice!
- New Ireland Boobook** ◊ (Bismarck Hawk Owl) *Ninox variegata* Cracking looks at a well performing bird.
- Marbled Frogmouth** ◊ *Podargus ocellatus* Only heard at Keki Lodge and perfect daytime looks on Fergusson.
- Papuan Frogmouth** ◊ *Podargus papuensis* Two were at their regular haunt at the PAU.



Greater Sooty Owl (Lars Petersson)

- Moustached Treeswift** *Hemiprocne mystacea* Many marvellous looks at this beauty.
- Glossy Swiftlet** *Collocalia esculenta* Common all along our route.
- Mountain Swiftlet** ◊ *Aerodramus hirundinaceus* Regular in the Huon.
- White-rumped Swiftlet** *Aerodramus spodiopygius* Regular observations on Manus and on New Ireland.
- Uniform Swiftlet** *Aerodramus vanikorensis* Regular in the lowlands.
- Oriental Dollarbird (Common D)** *Eurystomus orientalis* Just a handful of observations.
- Hook-billed Kingfisher** ◊ *Melidora macrorrhina* Heard on several occasions and seen near Alotau.
- Rufous-bellied Kookaburra** ◊ *Dacelo gaudichaud* Very nice looks at this stunner at Keki Lodge.
- Forest Kingfisher** *Todiramphus macleayii* Great looks at displaying birds in Madang.



Beach Kingfisher and Mountain Kingfisher (Lars Petersson)

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris* Regular observations.
Beach Kingfisher ◇ *Todiramphus saurophagus* A handful of fine sightings.
Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus* Several close up observations of this migrant.
Yellow-billed Kingfisher ◇ *Syma torotoro* Perfect scope studies of this canopy inhabitant at Keki Lodge.
Mountain Kingfisher ◇ *Syma megarhyncha* Smashing studies of this infrequently seen species in the Huon.
Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* Two encounters on New Ireland (*hispidoides*).
Variable Dwarf Kingfisher ◇ (Dwarf K) *Ceyx lepidus* (H) We heard the piercing call at Keki Lodge.
Azure Kingfisher* *Ceyx azureus* We saw a couple on Fergusson.
Rainbow Bee-Eater *Merops ornatus* Regular, but our best sightings were in the Alotau area.
Blyth's Hornbill ◇ (Papuan H) *Rhyticeros plicatus* Regular encounters with this impressive creature.
Oriental Hobby *Falco severus* A single bird was seen near Alotau.
Brown Falcon *Falco berigora* Four nice encounters with this often dishevelled looking bird.
Peregrine Falcon (Peregrine) *Falco peregrinus* Great looks at one on the Louisiade White-eye islet (*ernesti*).
Palm Cockatoo ◇ *Probosciger aterrimus* Two all too brief sightings only.
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita* Regular on the mainland and on Fergusson.
Pesquet's Parrot ◇ (Vulturine P) *Psitttrichas fulgidus* Fantastic views at Keki Lodge and in the Huon. What a bird!
Orange-fronted Hanging Parrot ◇ (Papuan H P) *Loriculus aurantiifrons* Nice looks at several near Alotau.
Bismarck Hanging Parrot ◇ *Loriculus tener* A couple were seen well on New Ireland.
Buff-faced Pygmy Parrot ◇ *Micropsitta pusio* Great looks at several doing their trunk climbing near Alotau.
Meek's Pygmy Parrot ◇ *Micropsitta meeki* Several perfect encounters on Manus.
Finsch's Pygmy Parrot ◇ (Green P P) *Micropsitta finschii* Repeated excellent looks on New Ireland.
Red-breasted Pygmy Parrot ◇ *Micropsitta bruijnii* A single sighting in the higher reaches of the Huon.
Coconut Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus* Regular and colourful.
Black-capped Lory ◇ (Western B-c L) *Lorius lory* Very nice looks at Keki Lodge.
Purple-bellied Lory ◇ (Eastern Black-capped L) *Lorius hypoinochrous* We saw these well on New Ireland.
Red-chinned Lorikeet ◇ *Charmosyna rubrigularis* Excellent views of foraging birds on New Ireland.
Red-flanked Lorikeet ◇ *Charmosyna placentis* Repeated cracking looks at these cuties on New Ireland.
Papuan Lorikeet ◇ *Charmosyna papou* A few were noted in the Huon.
Plum-faced Lorikeet ◇ (Whiskered L) *Oreopsittacus arfaki* Just two were seen in the Huon.
Yellow-billed Lorikeet ◇ *Neopsittacus musschenbroekii* A few were observed in the Huon.
Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi* Regular at Keki Lodge and near Alotau.
Song Parrot ◇ (Singing P) *Geoffroyus heteroclitus* Great looks at several on New Ireland.
Eclectus Parrot ◇ *Eclectus roratus* Fair numbers were noted all along our route. Always a splendid sight!
Papuan King Parrot ◇ *Alisterus chloropterus* Marvelous looks at several in the Huon. So graceful!
Double-eyed Fig Parrot *Cyclopsitta diophthalma* A couple were briefly seen in the lower reaches of the Huon.
Red-bellied Pitta (Blue-breasted P) *Erythropitta erythrogaster* (H) We heard it on New Ireland and on Fergusson.
Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida* (H) We heard the characteristic call near Alotau.
Superb Pitta ◇ *Pitta superba* (H) The great frustration of the tour! Only heard briefly on Manus.
White-eared Catbird ◇ *Ailuroedus buccoides* Splendid looks at two birds foraging in a fig tree at Keki Lodge.
Spotted Catbird ◇ *Ailuroedus melanotis* (H) We heard the cat-like call in the Huon.
Fire-maned Bowerbird ◇ *Sericulus bakeri* Several very nice observations of male and female at Keki Lodge!
Fawn-breasted Bowerbird ◇ *Chlamydera cerviniventris* Great looks at several near their bower at the PAU.
White-shouldered Fairywren ◇ *Malurus alboscapulatus* This cutie showed well in the Huon.
Orange-crowned Fairywren *Clytomyias insignis* We encountered a party in the higher reaches of the Huon.
Red Myzomela ◇ (Red-tinted Honeyeater) *Myzomela cruentata* Common on New Ireland (*erythrina*).
Papuan Black Myzomela ◇ *Myzomela nigrita* A couple of encounters.
New Ireland Myzomela ◇ (Olive-yellow M) *Myzomela pulchella* (NL) One was seen on New Ireland.
Mountain Myzomela ◇ *Myzomela adolphinae* A single was found in the Huon.



Bismarck Black Myzomela and Long-billed Honeyeater (Lars Petersson)

- Bismarck Black Myzomela** ◊ (Ebony M) *Myzomela pammelaena* We saw many on Tong and Tench.
- Red-collared Myzomela** ◊ *Myzomela rosenbergii* Common and colourful in the higher Huon.
- Rufous-backed Honeyeater** ◊ *Ptiloprora guisei* Regular in the Huon.
- Plain Honeyeater** ◊ *Pycnopygius ixoides* Several showed well at Keki Lodge.
- Streak-headed Honeyeater** ◊ *Pycnopygius stictocephalus* Good looks in the Alotau area.
- Silver-eared Honeyeater** ◊ *Lichmera alboauricularis* Nice views in flowering bushes in Alotau.
- Spotted Honeyeater** ◊ *Xanthotis polygrammus* One or two showed well in flowering trees at Keki Lodge.
- Tawny-breasted Honeyeater** ◊ *Xanthotis flaviventer* A few were seen in the Alotau area.
- New Guinea Friarbird** ◊ *Philemon novaeguineae* Regular encounters on the mainland.
- Manus Friarbird** ◊ (White-naped F) *Philemon albitorques* Regular observations of the “Chauka” on Manus.
- Long-billed Honeyeater** ◊ *Melilestes megarhynchus* Several nice sightings at Keki Lodge.
- Spangled Honeyeater** ◊ *Melipotés ater* This Huon endemic showed very well. We also saw it flush its cheeks!
- Rufous-banded Honeyeater** ◊ *Conopophila albogularis* A few were noted in Port Moresby.
- Brown-backed Honeyeater** ◊ *Ramsayornis modestus* A single bird was seen near Alotau.
- Black-throated Honeyeater** ◊ *Caligavis subfrenata* This very vocal species showed well in the Huon.
- Cinnamon-browed Melidectes** ◊ *Melidectes ochromelas* A few of these shy birds showed well in the Huon.
- Varied Honeyeater** *Gavicalis versicolor* Several showed well in Madang.
- Scrub Honeyeater** ◊ (S White-eared Meliphaga) *Meliphaga albonotata* A few were identified in the Adelberts.
- Mimic Honeyeater** ◊ (M Meliphaga/Mimetic M) *Meliphaga analoga* Small numbers were noted at the mainland sites.
- Rusty Mouse-warbler** ◊ *Crateroscelis murina* Nice looks for most at Keki Lodge.
- Pale-billed Scrubwren** ◊ *Sericornis spilodera* (NL) Lars photographed one at Keki Lodge.
- Buff-faced Scrubwren** ◊ *Sericornis perspicillatus* A few were seen in the Huon forests.
- Brown-breasted Gerygone** ◊ *Gerygone ruficollis* Regular in the higher reaches of the Huon.
- Yellow-bellied Gerygone** ◊ *Gerygone chrysogaster* We encountered a couple on Fergusson.
- Green-backed Gerygone** ◊ *Gerygone chloronota* (H) Heard at Keki Lodge.
- Fairy Gerygone** ◊ *Gerygone palpebrosa* Seen and heard at Keki Lodge and in the Huon.
- Papuan Logrunner (New Guinea L)** *Orthonyx novaeguineae* (H) Heard at close range in the Huon, but no response.
- Black Berrypecker** ◊ *Melanocharis nigra* A single bird was seen at Keki lodge.
- Mid-mountain Berrypecker** ◊ *Melanocharis longicauda* Regular in the Huon forests.
- Fan-tailed Berrypecker** ◊ *Melanocharis versteri* Regular in the Huon forests.
- Streaked Berrypecker** ◊ *Melanocharis striativentris* Several excellent observations in the Huon. Unobtrusive!
- Spotted Berrypecker** ◊ *Rhamphocharis crassirostris* Excellent encounters in the Huon. Always a good one!
- Tit Berrypecker** ◊ *Oreocharis arfaki* Glorious looks at this very smart species in the Huon.
- Spotted Jewel-babbler** ◊ *Ptilorrhoea leucosticte* (H) We heard the characteristic call in the Huon moss forest.
- Yellow-breasted Boatbill** ◊ *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer* A single was with a mid storey flock at Keki Lodge.



Chestnut-bellied Fantail and Black-backed Butcherbird (Lars Petersson)

- Black-breasted Boatbill** ◊ *Machaerirhynchus nigripectus* Fabulous looks at close range in the Huon.
- White-breasted Woodswallow** *Artamus leucorhynchus* Regular encounters.
- Great Woodswallow** ◊ (New Guinea W) *Artamus maximus* Very nice observations in the Huon.
- White-backed Woodswallow** ◊ (Bismarck W) *Artamus insignis* A single bird showed very well on New Ireland.
- Mountain Peltops** ◊ *Peltops montanus* Several lovely sightings of this special species.
- Black-backed Butcherbird** ◊ *Cracticus mentalis* Regular in the Port Moresby savanna.
- Hooded Butcherbird** ◊ *Cracticus cassicus* Regular. A great song!
- Mottled Whistler** ◊ *Rhagologus leucostigma* A few showed well in the Huon. Now in its own family!!
- Barred Cuckooshrike (Yellow-eyed C)** *Coracina lineata* Regular encounters.
- Boyer's Cuckooshrike** ◊ *Coracina boyeri* Nice looks at males and females at Keki.
- White-bellied Cuckooshrike** *Coracina papuensis* Regular along our route.
- Manus Cuckooshrike** ◊ *Coracina ingens* Two showed very well on Manus. Endemic to Manus!
- Hooded Cuckooshrike** ◊ *Coracina longicauda* Great encounters in the mountains of the Huon.
- Common Cicadabird** *Coracina tenuirostris* A male was seen well on Manus.
- Grey-capped Cicadabird** ◊ *Coracina remota* Several performed well on New Ireland.
- Black Cicadabird** ◊ (B Cuckooshrike/New Guinea C) *Coracina melas* (H) We heard the calls near Alotau.
- Black-bellied Cuckooshrike** ◊ *Coracina montana* Cracking looks at family parties in the Huon.
- Black-browed Triller** ◊ *Lalage atrovirens* Obvious and vocal at Keki Lodge.
- Varied Triller** *Lalage leucomela* Common on New Ireland.
- Rufous-naped Whistler** ◊ *Aleadryas rufinucha* (H) We heard the distinctive calls in the Huon.



Dinner at Dalom and dinner on board (John Reilly)

- Brown-backed Whistler** ◊ *Pachycephala modesta* A single showed well in the Huon.
- Grey Whistler** ◊ *Pachycephala simplex* A single was noted in a flock at Keki.
- Sclater's Whistler** ◊ (Hill Golden W) *Pachycephala soror* Nice looks in the Huon montane forest.

Bismarck Whistler ◇ *Pachycephala citreogaster* Regular on Manus and on New Ireland.
Mangrove Golden Whistler ◇ (Black-tailed W) *Pachycephala melanura* Two performed well on an islet near Alotau.
Regent Whistler ◇ *Pachycephala schlegelii* Good looks at several in the Huon.
Little Shrikethrush *Colluricincla megarhyncha* Nice views in the Keki Lodge forest.
Grey Shrikethrush *Colluricincla harmonica* The gardens of Alotau held several of these fine songsters.
Hooded Pitohui ◇ *Pitohui dichrous* A couple showed well at Keki Lodge.
Brown Oriole ◇ *Oriolus szalayi* Nice looks in the lower Huon.
Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus* Seen well near Alotau and on Fergusson.
Paradise Drongo ◇ (Ribbon-tailed/New Ireland D) *Dicrurus megarhynchus* Several excellent observations.
Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys* Common and full of character.
Northern Fantail ◇ *Rhipidura rufiventris* Regular.
Sooty Thicket Fantail ◇ *Rhipidura threnothorax* (H) We heard it at Keki Lodge.
White-bellied Thicket Fantail ◇ *Rhipidura leucothorax* (H) We heard it near Madang.
Black Fantail ◇ *Rhipidura atra* A few were noted in the Huon.
Chestnut-bellied Fantail ◇ *Rhipidura hyperythra* A few were with mid storey flocks at Keki Lodge.
Friendly Fantail ◇ *Rhipidura albolimbata* Regular in the montane forests of the Huon.
Manus Fantail ◇ (Admiralty Rufous F) *Rhipidura semirubra* Fantastic looks at several on Tong island, off Manus.
Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons* We saw several on an islet off Normanby.
Black Monarch ◇ *Symposiachrus axillaris* (H) We heard the rasping voice in the Huon.
Spot-winged Monarch ◇ *Symposiachrus guttula* We saw on in the lowland forest on Fergusson.
Hooded Monarch ◇ *Symposiachrus manadensis* A couple were seen in a mid storey at Keki Lodge.
Manus Monarch ◇ (Admiralty Pied M) *Symposiachrus infelix* Regular sightings on Manus and on Tong. Smart!
Black-tailed Monarch ◇ (Bismarck Pied M) *Symposiachrus verticalis* A few observations on New Ireland.
Island Monarch ◇ *Monarcha cinerascens* We found this super tramp on Tong and on Tench.
Black-faced Monarch *Monarcha melanopsis* Seen at Keki Lodge and on Fergusson.
Golden Monarch ◇ *Carterornis chrysomela* Regular on New Ireland (nominated) and also on Fergusson (*nitida*).
Ochre-collared Monarch ◇ (Rufous-collared M) *Arses insularis* Nice looks at Keki Lodge.
Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca* A male showed well on Fergusson.
Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto* Regular observations along our route.
Velvet Flycatcher ◇ (Dull/Lesser Shining F) *Myiagra hebetior* Briefly seen on New Ireland.
Grey Crow ◇ (Bare-eyed C) *Corvus tristis* Great looks at Keki Lodge, in the Alotau area and on Fergusson.
Torresian Crow *Corvus orru* Regular.
Bismarck Crow ◇ (Island C) *Corvus insularis* Common on New Ireland.
Curl-crested Manucode ◇ *Manucodia comrii* Great looks at this localized speciality on Fergusson.
Huon Astrapia ◇ *Astrapia rothschildi* Many excellent observations in the Huon. The male is a real cracker.
Wahnes's Parotia ◇ *Parotia wahnesi* It took a while, but then we all had perfect views of this beauty in the Huon.
Superb Bird-of-paradise ◇ *Lophorina superba* Brief looks at a female and often heard in the Huon.



Curl-crested Manucode (Lars Petersson)

- Growling Riflebird** ◊ (Eastern R) *Ptiloris intercedens* (H) We heard it in the lower reaches of the Huon.
- Magnificent Bird-of-paradise** ◊ *Diphyllodes magnificus* Glorious looks for those that visited the hide at Keki.
- Raggiana Bird-of-paradise** ◊ *Paradisaea raggiana* Two females showed well near Alotau.
- Lesser Bird-of-paradise** ◊ *Paradisaea minor* Many excellent views at Keki Lodge.
- Goldie's Bird-of-paradise** ◊ *Paradisaea decora* Good looks in the lowland forests of Fergusson.
- Emperor Bird-of-paradise** ◊ *Paradisaea guilielmi* Fabulous looks at males and females in the Huon. A real jewel.
- Banded Yellow Robin** ◊ (Olive Yellow R) *Poecilodryas placens* This skulker performed very well at Keki Lodge.
- Slaty Robin** ◊ (Blue-grey R) *Peneothello cyanus* Nice looks in the Huon.
- Canary Flyrobin** ◊ *Microeca papuana* A regularly encountered bird of montane forest in the Huon.
- Horsfield's Bush Lark (Australasian B L)** *Mirafra javanica* Common at Lae airport.
- Pacific Swallow** *Hirundo tahitica* Regular.
- Island Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus maforensis* A few in the Huon highland forests.
- Clamorous Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus stentoreus* (H) We heard it on New Ireland.
- Golden-headed Cisticola (Bright-capped C)** *Cisticola exilis* A couple of sightings.
- Bismarck White-eye** ◊ (Black-headed W-e) *Zosterops hypoxanthus* Nice looks on Manus and on New Ireland.
- Papuan White-eye** ◊ (New Guinea W-e) *Zosterops novaeguineae* We only saw it below Keki Lodge.
- Louisiane White-eye** ◊ *Zosterops griseotinctus* Several on an islet off Normanby. A Birdquest lifer!
- Metallic Starling** *Aplonis metallica* Common.
- Singing Starling** ◊ *Aplonis cantoroides* Regular.
- Atoll Starling** ◊ *Aplonis feadensis* The speciality of Tench. A small island species. Great looks!
- Yellow-faced Myna** ◊ *Mino dumontii* Small numbers were seen on the mainland.
- Long-tailed Myna** ◊ (Melanesian M) *Mino kreffti* Small numbers were seen on New Ireland.
- Pied Bush Chat (Pied Chat)** *Saxicola caprata* A single bird was noted at Madang airport.
- Red-capped Flowerpecker** ◊ *Dicaeum geelvinkianum* Regular on mainland New Guinea.
- Red-banded Flowerpecker** ◊ (Bismarck F) *Dicaeum eximium* Fairly common on New Ireland.



The group after *Louisiade White-eye* success and the group guarding the fig tree at Keki (John Reilly)

- Black Sunbird** ◊ *Leptocoma sericea* Many excellent sightings of this attractive species.
- Olive-backed Sunbird (Yellow-bellied S)** *Cinnyris jugularis* Small numbers were noted all along our route.
- House Sparrow (introduced)** *Passer domesticus* Small numbers in towns and villages.
- Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus* A bit more widespread than previous species.
- Great-billed Mannikin** ◊ (Grand M) *Lonchura grandis* Scope studies of this lovely species at Madang airport.
- Grey-headed Mannikin** ◊ *Lonchura caniceps* A flock performed well at the PAU.
- Forbes's Mannikin** ◊ (New Ireland M) *Lonchura forbesi* A few were found in a grassy glade on New Ireland.
- Hunstein's Mannikin** ◊ (Mottled Munia) *Lonchura hunsteini* Great looks at several at Kavieng airport.
- Chestnut-breasted Mannikin** *Lonchura castaneothorax* A handful showed well at different locations.
- Buff-bellied Mannikin** ◊ (Bismarck M) *Lonchura melaena* More common than Forbes's at the same glade.



Off to the Huon and crossing a stream in the Huon (John Reilly)

MAMMALS

- Ground Cuscus** *Phalanger gymnotis* One was seen by some of us at Keki Lodge.
- Admiralty Flying Fox** *Pteropus admiralitatum* Three showed well on Manus.
- Great Flying Fox (Bismarck F F)** *Pteropus neohibernicus* A common sight all along our route.
- Andersen's Bare-backed Fruit Bat** *Dobsonia anderseni* One was identified at Dalom on New Ireland.
- Indo-Pacific Bottle-nosed Dolphin** *Tursiops aduncus* Several pods were seen. Always a delight to observe.
- Spinner Dolphin** *Stenella longirostris* 15 performed their acrobatics in the Goshen Strait, off Normanby.