



WEST PAPUA: ARFAK AND WAIGEO BIRDING EXPEDITION

**WITH NIMBOKRANG (PAPUA) AND
BIAK ISLAND & NUMFOR ISLAND (PAPUA) PRE-TOURS**

TRIP REPORT NOVEMBER 2017

By Andy Walker



This Wilson's Bird-of-paradise was a huge highlight of the tour.

New Guinea is a geographical rather than a political term that refers to the main island in the region. The western half of the island of New Guinea comprises the Indonesian provinces of West Papua (Papua Barat) and Papua, once called West Irian Jaya and Irian Jaya, respectively; the eastern half of the main island of New Guinea comprises the country of Papua New Guinea. This tour was based mainly in West Papua. Some parts of the main tour (e.g. the Arfak Mountains) and one of the pre-tours (Nimbokrang in the province of Papua) were based on the main island of New Guinea. Aside from the large landmass of New Guinea, the New Guinea region includes numerous small islands on the continental shelf or verges thereof (some part of Indonesia and others part of Papua New Guinea), and we visited two of these areas belonging to Indonesia. During the main tour we visited Waigeo, part of the Raja Ampat Islands in the province of West Papua (also known as the Northwestern Islands), and during one of the pre-tours we visited the Cenderawasih Bay (formerly Geelvink Bay) islands of Biak and Numfor in the province of Papua (also known as the 'Bay Islands').

The main tour and pre-tours connected with many exciting birds. A total of 324 bird species were recorded (300 seen), including 16 birds-of-paradise. The first of our pre-tours visited the Nimbokrang area in the northeast of Papua, close to the Papua New Guinea border, and here we found **Pale-billed Sicklebill**, **Shovel-billed Kookaburra**, **Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise**, **Lesser Bird-of-paradise**, **King Bird-of-paradise**, **Jobi Manucode**, **Fawn-breasted Bowerbird**, and **Pesquet's (New Guinea Vulturine) Parrot**. The second of our pre-tours focused on the endemic species of Numfor and Biak islands, where we found **Numfor Paradise Kingfisher**, **Biak Paradise Kingfisher**, **Biak Scops Owl**, **Biak Lorikeet**, **Geelvink Pygmy Parrot**, **Biak Scrubfowl**, and the *rosenbergii* endemic subspecies of **Hooded Pitta**, a very likely future split. Plenty of potential armchair ticks after a week on these islands!

Our West Papua Arfak and Waigeo main tour began in the town of Manokwari, situated on the north-eastern tip of New Guinea's Bird's Head, (or Vogelkop) Peninsula. From here we traveled to the nearby Arfak Mountains, where we found a fabulous series of birds such as **Vogelkop** and **Masked Bowerbirds**, **Grey-banded Mannikin**, **Western Parotia**, **Arfak Astrapia**, **Long-tailed Paradigalla**, **Black** and **Black-billed Sicklebills**, **Magnificent**, **Superb**, and **Lesser Birds-of-paradise**, **Spotted Jewel-babbler**, and **White-striped Forest Rail**. The second and final leg of our main tour took us to Sorong, on the opposite side of the Bird's Head Peninsula, and then over to one of the Raja Ampat Islands, Waigeo. In this region we found **Twelve-wired**, **King**, **Wilson's** (arguably one of the best-looking birds in the world), and **Red Birds-of-paradise**, **Magnificent Riflebird**, **Glossy-mantled Manucode**, **Red-breasted** and **Common Paradise Kingfishers**, **Blue-black** and **Hook-billed Kingfishers**, and **Western Crowned Pigeon** to our substantial list of top quality birds.

Pre-tour 1: Nimbokrang

1st November 2017: Arrival in West Papua

Andy arrived early in the morning after successfully scouting out Java (**Javan Banded Pitta**, **Javan Trogon**, **Javan Cochoa**, and many more endemics all seen well on an exciting 24-hour stopover in Jakarta – a great stopover destination for this tour). Clara arrived a few hours later after her overnight flight. Both met up with our local guide Benny and spent the remainder of the day relaxing at our comfortable hotel in Jayapura, the capital of Papua.

2nd November 2017: Travel to Nimbokrang and afternoon birding

After a late breakfast Clara and Andy transferred across to a homestay in a very hot and humid Nimbokrang, our base for the next four nights. A family of **Black Sunbirds** provided some entertainment over lunch, and a **Willie Wagtail** passed through the garden. A brief afternoon birdwatching session near the town gave good views of **Fawn-breasted Bowerbird**, **White-shouldered Fairywren**, **New Guinea Friarbird**, **Great-billed**, **Chestnut-breasted**, and **Hooded Mannikins**, **Crimson Finch**, **King Quail**, **Buff-banded Rail**, **Pacific Golden Plover**, **Greater Sandplover**, and several **Swinhoe's Snipes**.

3rd – 5th November 2017: Birding in the Nimbokrang area

We spent three full days at Nimbokrang, with birding sessions in the early morning and late afternoon, on either side of the heat of the middle of the day, and dodging the odd torrential shower. There were many highlights from our time birding here, with most excitement going to several of the remarkable birds-of-paradise that we found. Our views of **Pale-billed Sicklebill**, **Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise**, **Lesser Bird-of-paradise**, **King Bird-of-paradise**, and **Jobi Manucode** were excellent and allowed a close study of their fascinating plumage, incredible range of vocalizations, and extraordinary behavior.



© Andy Walker, Birding Ecotours 2017

The Lesser Bird-of-paradise is one of several 'plumed' birds-of-paradise, often considered the characteristic birds-of-paradise. This male bird has long yellow and white flank plumes, which extend way out from its body and beyond its tail. The species' songs can be heard ringing out

through the forest, and the sight of one of these birds flying across the valley is as spectacular as watching it display.



© Andy Walker/Birding Ecotours 2017

The male Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise has six modified flank plumes on each side of his body, which are used in display when trying to attract a female. The birds display on a vertical dead branch sticking out above the canopy, so they can be seen and heard well. It was incredible climbing a tower hide to get a bit closer to the level of this bird and watch and listen to his display, with the sound of Papuan Pitta calling from the ground below! Phone-scoped with iPhone 7 and Swarovski ATX-95

It wasn't just the birds-of-paradise, though, that got us excited; there was a whole host of other incredible birds. Parrots and pigeons/doves were particularly evident and spectacular, with one of the most unique being the vulture-like **Pesquet's Parrot**, (this species formerly being known as New Guinea Vulturine Parrot). Others included **Black-winged Lory**, **Brown Lory**, **Salvadori's** and **Double-eyed Fig Parrots**, **Eclectus** and **Red-cheeked Parrots**, **Palm** and **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos**, and **Coconut Lorikeet**. One additional parrot really stood out, too, for being incredibly tiny. The **Buff-faced Pygmy Parrot** stands at only eight centimeters, about the size of a kinglet! Pigeons/doves included the gorgeous **Wompoo**, **Coroneted**, and **Orange-bellied**

Fruit Doves, Zoe's and Pinon's Imperial Pigeons, and the huge **Great Cuckoo-Dove**, which looks a bit like a coucal with its long, wide tail.

Other high-quality birds found during our time in the area included **Grey-headed Goshawk**, **Golden** and **Yellow-faced Mynas**, **Hook-billed**, **Papuan Dwarf**, and **Yellow-billed Kingfishers**, **Shovel-billed** and **Rufous-bellied Kookaburras**, **Collared Brushturkey**, **Ivory-billed**, **Black-billed**, and **Pheasant Coucals**, **Papuan Hawk-Owl**, **Papuan Frogmouth**, **Moustached Treeswift**, **Papuan Pitta**, **White-shouldered** and **Emperor Fairywrens**, **New Guinea** and **Meyer's Friarbirds**, **Lowland Peltops**, **Golden Cuckooshrike**, **Grey Crow**, **Black-sided Robin**, and **White-eared Catbird**. Unfortunately, the **Victoria Crowned Pigeon** heard could not be tracked down, despite Benny's best efforts.

6th November 2017: Nimbokrang to Jayapura

We left our wonderful homestay in Nimbokrang, bidding fond farewells to our kind host family before we traveled back to the capital of Papua and our very comfortable hotel in time to relax for the afternoon and get our laundry all caught up, ready for our further travels.



© Andy Walker/Birding Ecotours 2017

This male King Bird-of-paradise was displaying high up in the shaded forest subcanopy, so it was difficult to get a photo (especially when you throw in the heat, humidity, and mosquitoes!). Apart from its distinctive body plumage, the male has two tail wires tipped with disk-shaped, green plumes that look a bit like snail shells. He flicks these tail plumes over his head during display (as well as flashing his flank feathers to the side) to the female bird, just awesome to watch. Phone-scoped with iPhone 7 and Swarovski ATX-95

Pre-tour 2: Biak Island and Numfor Island

7th November 2017: Arrival on Biak Island

Clara and Andy flew from Jayapura to the island of Biak, where they met Carole and local guide Shita, who had arrived on earlier flights. The rest of the day was spent at leisure.

8th - 10th November 2017: Birding on Biak Island.

We spent three full days exploring the beautiful island of Biak (again dodging plenty of rain showers). Our focus was on the several endemic species found on the island as well as numerous interesting subspecies that may warrant elevation to full-species status in the future. Aside from the 'listing' side of things there are some spectacular-looking birds on the island worth looking at in their own right, and we enjoyed **Biak Paradise Kingfisher**, **Biak Scops Owl**, **Long-tailed Starling**, **Biak Black Flycatcher**, **Black-winged Lory**, **Biak Lorikeet**, **Geelvink Pygmy Parrot**, **Biak Monarch**, **Biak Coucal**, and **Biak Gerygone**.



© Andy Walker/Birding Ecotours 2017

Biak Paradise Kingfisher was a spectacular endemic that we saw daily during our stay on the island of Biak. Phone-scoped with iPhone 7 and Swarovski ATX-95

Of the several interesting endemic subspecies (considered full species by some authorities [e.g. the BirdLife Handbook to the Birds of the World or the new Gregory field guide], but currently not recognized by IOC, which Birding Ecotours follow) we found the Biak forms of **Black-browed Triller** (known as Biak Triller), **Island Leaf Warbler** (known as Biak Leaf Warbler),

Spice Imperial Pigeon (known as Geelvink Imperial Pigeon), **Northern Fantail** (known as Biak Fantail), the gorgeous **Yellow-bibbed Fruit Dove** (known as Geelvink Fruit Dove), **Common Cicadabird** (known as Geelvink Cicadabird), and the equally stunning **Hooded Pitta** (known as Biak Hooded Pitta). We also had plenty of other interesting and impressive birds while on the island, including **Claret-breasted Fruit Dove**, **Large-tailed Nightjar**, **Golden Monarch**, **Moustached Treeswift**, **Papuan Frogmouth**, **Beach Kingfisher**, **Eclectus Parrot**, **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo**, **Little Bronze Cuckoo**, **Brush Cuckoo**, and **Emperor Fairywren**.

11th November 2017: Transfer between Biak Island and Numfor Island

We took our early morning chartered boat from Biak Island, arriving at Numfor Island, after a journey of approximately four hours and 120 kilometers, around lunchtime. During the crossing we had the impressive sight of a school of tuna jumping out of the water and attracting a large variety of birds, which included **Lesser** and **Greater Frigatebird**, **Brown Booby**, **Streaked Shearwater**, **Brown Noddy**, and, **Sooty**, **Bridled**, **Black-naped**, **Common**, **Greater Crested**, and **Lesser Crested Terns**. We also saw several Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins, some of which came very close to the boat. There was also a good scattering of **Red-necked Phalaropes** along the way, with singles of both **Pomarine** (Skua) **Jaeger** and **Bulwer's Petrel** noted close to the boat.

On arrival at Numfor Island we drove to our basic but comfortable homestay, stopping along the way for a few new birds. Here and during the remainder of the afternoon we enjoyed watching the gorgeous endemic **Numfor Paradise Kingfisher**, along with **Biak Scrubfowl** (much easier to see here than on Biak Island itself), **Geelvink Pygmy Parrot**, **Black-winged Lory**, and plenty more. We found the island-endemic subspecies of **Long-tailed Starling**, **Hooded Pitta** (this sub-species belonging to the 'Eastern Hooded Pitta' complex if split), and **Common Cicadabird** (a different sub-species to those already seen on Biak Island, this would be part of Geelvink Cicadabird, along with those birds if split). A **Gray's Grasshopper Warbler** was a nice, somewhat unexpected surprise, and as the sun disappeared **Papuan Frogmouth** flew into view, and some Geelvink Bay flying foxes flew overhead to end a great day in Papua.

12th November 2017: Birding on Numfor Island

We spent the day dodging rain showers, at time heavy ones, but managed to eke out our few remaining target birds on the island. The local form of **Island Leaf Warbler** (known as Numfor Leaf Warbler) eventually gave itself up but stayed high in the canopy. We also had further looks at many of the species mentioned above, with highlights including **Numfor Paradise Kingfisher**, **Hooded Pitta** (known as Eastern Hooded Pitta), **Channel-billed Cuckoo**, **Geelvink Pygmy Parrot**, **Spice Imperial Pigeon** (known as Geelvink Imperial Pigeon), **Yellow-bibbed Fruit Dove** (known as Geelvink Fruit Dove), **Claret-breasted Fruit Dove**, **Biak Black Flycatcher**, and **Island Monarch**.

13th November 2017: Transfer between Numfor Island and Biak Island

We left Numfor Island on our chartered boat early in the morning and arrived back on Biak Island at lunchtime. There was less bird activity during this boat journey compared to two days earlier, but we did see several **Wedge-tailed** and **Streaked Shearwaters** on the boat ride and a couple of **Grey-tailed Tattlers** on the beach. The afternoon was spent at leisure.



© Andy Walker/Birding Ecotours 2017

Endemic to the small island of Numfor, the Numfor Paradise Kingfisher is quite common in suitable habitat, and we saw quite a few during our time on the island. This was Carole's 89th kingfisher species, a very impressive count indeed (and she finished up with 91 kingfisher species by the end of the tour)! Phone-scoped with iPhone 7 and Swarovski ATX-95

14th November 2017: Birding on Biak Island

It was an incredibly hot day, and activity dropped off very early, but not before we had found our last remaining currently recognized IOC endemic, **Biak White-eye**, which finally showed well. **Geelvink Pygmy Parrot** again proved frustrating, with birds seen at a couple of locations but only briefly. **Claret-breasted Fruit Dove**, however, showed very well. We also enjoyed final looks at several other species/subspecies endemic to the Biak Numfor Regency.

An afternoon birding session at a tidal flood area (a result of a previous tsunami) gave us some very nice views of several new trip birds, such as the hulking **Great-billed Heron** along with **Great Egret**, **Intermediate Egret**, **Nankeen Night Heron**, **Striated Heron**, and a wide range of shorebirds, including **Common Greenshank**, **Marsh Sandpiper**, **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**, and **Grey-tailed Tattler**. A pair of **Spotted Whistling Ducks** showed very well at close range, and further we had good views of **Eastern Osprey**, **Torresian Imperial Pigeon**, and **Beach Kingfisher**. A nice way to end our birding on the islands!



© Andy Walker/Birding Ecotours 2017

The Claret-breasted Fruit Dove was one of two species of stunning fruit doves enjoyed in the Biak Numfor Regency, the other being Yellow-bibbed Fruit Dove. During the whole trip we ended up seeing over 20 species of doves and pigeons, the majority exhibiting an amazing array of spectacular, gaudy colors. Phone-scoped with iPhone 7 and Swarovski ATX-95

Main Tour: Arfak and Waigeo Birding Expedition

15th November 2017: Arrival in Manokwari ahead of tour commencing

All tour participants arrived in Manokwari, the capital of West Papua. Geoff, John, Kevin, and Peter arrived during the morning, meeting up with Carole, Clara, Andy, and Shita, who arrived from Biak Island. The afternoon was spent at leisure, and all got together for a welcome dinner in the evening.

16th November 2017: Main tour starts, birding near Manokwari and Arfak Mountains

We spent a couple of hours birding some forest near Manokwari in the morning, where we got our main tour list off to a good start with a fruiting tree that held **Lesser Bird-of-paradise**, **Black Butcherbird**, **Beautiful**, **Superb**, and **Wompoo Fruit Doves**, and **Northern Variable Pitohui**. Several small flocks of **Blyth's Hornbills** flew low overhead, their giant, loud wingbeats giving their impending presence away. In this beautiful patch of forest we also found **Frilled Monarch**, **Northern Fantail**, and a pair of colossal **Channel-billed Cuckoos**. **Hook-billed Kingfisher** was heard calling while it was still dark but could not be seen; we'd have to hope to see it at a later date.

After breakfast and a brief shower we took the bumpy drive by 4x4 up in to the Arfak Mountains for the week. It was very birdy around our homestay village on arrival, and we found **Golden Monarch**, **Island Leaf Warbler** (the mainland subspecies), **Capped White-eye**, **Large billed Gerygone**, **Perplexing Scrubwren**, and **Arfak Honeyeater**.



© Andy Walker/Birding Ecotours 2017

This male Magnificent Bird-of-paradise was observed displaying and vocalizing to a female, and a young male bird at his display site allowed the whole group to really study this well-named species.

In the afternoon we walked down a steep forest slope, where we hoped for and then shortly after arrival at a blind (bird hide) saw our first **Magnificent Bird-of-paradise**. We watched the bird attend to his display site and were even lucky enough to watch it displaying to a female and a young male bird. It also got rather agitated when a **Dimorphic Fantail** flew into his display site and made some rather interesting vocalizations. On walking back up the hill we found **Rusty Mouse-warbler**, **White-shouldered Fairywren**, **Black-capped White-eye**, **Long-billed Honeyeater**, and **Black-capped Lory**.

17th November 2017: Birding in the Arfak Mountains (low- to mid-elevation)

We spent an enjoyable day birding in the Arfak Mountains in some beautiful forest. We targeted two species of birds-of-paradise during the day. We split the group into two smaller groups in order to fit everyone into two blinds, both overlooking display areas of our target bird, and then

we all sat patiently and waited. Thankfully, both groups were successful, and all of us managed to see the rather chunky **Western Parotia**, a beautiful member of the birds-of-paradise family. One group was particularly lucky and managed to observe a male displaying to a female in his 'court'.



© Andy Walker/Birding Ecotours 2017

A rather chunky bird-of-paradise, the male Western Parotia has three bouncy, fairly long wire-like occipital plumes (with flags on the end) on each side of his rather flat head. The triangular silvery-white frontal crest and beady blue eyes really stand out against the black of the face, and when the light catches the dark-spotted, bronzed, emerald-green breast shield the bird is totally transformed. During his ballerina dancing display the male flashes his breast shield and looks like it has a skirt of feathers; he also flicks his plumes above his head.

After the excitement of the **Western Parotia** we took a long walk up and down several hills back to our homestay. Over the course of the next few hours we saw many exciting species. One of them, though not a 'looker', was certainly interesting from an engineering point of view, the **Vogelkop Bowerbird**. This bird constructs one of the most complex maypole bowers of any in its family. The bowers are decorated with a wide range of colors and materials (unfortunately lots of plastic bottles, bottle tops, drinks cans, and plastic bags, but there were several clumps of forest fruits and more 'natural' materials too). Birding was difficult, but occasionally we came across mixed flocks or openings, where we added some great birds, such as **Sclater's**, **Regent**, **Vogelkop**, and **Rufous-naped Whistlers**, **Spotted Jewel-babbler**, **Vogelkop Melidectes**, **Arfak Honeyeater**, **Red-collared Myzomela**, **Black-breasted Boatbill**, **Black**, **Friendly**, and **Dimorphic Fantails**, **Papuan Eagle**, **Black-mantled Goshawk**, **Pesquet's** (New Guinea Vulturine) **Parrot**, and **Papuan Treecreeper**.

Our afternoon birding yielded fewer species but allowed us to get visuals of our second main target of the day. Before we left the homestay we had a busy flock of **Red-breasted Pygmy Parrots** that showed nicely (for pygmy parrots). Our first stop in the forest gave us good looks at a day-roosting **Feline Owlet-nightjar**, a gorgeous and popular bird. We could hear **Black-billed Sicklebill** calling but never got close to seeing that individual. But we could also hear **Superb Bird-of-paradise** vocalizing, so we followed the sound down the hill. We eventually got into position where we needed to scan for it, but for quite a while it was not looking good. The light was fading, and the bird was calling but not coming close enough to see, and then just a few minutes before we needed to set off back up the hill a male **Superb Bird-of-paradise** (fantastically well-named) finally appeared into view. A fantastic end to the day, and we were all ecstatic with our sighting of this great bird.



A male Superb Bird-of-paradise was busily trying to attract a female high in the trees as dusk approached. His fixed, delta-shaped, iridescent, blue-green breast-shield (with elongated side feathers making it stick out way beyond its chest) and (not totally visible in this picture, but observed in the field) his expandable hind neck cape combined to give this bird a really-strange look, but one that you can't take your eyes off. It is mesmerizing!

The **Superb Bird-of-paradise** was high in a tree, but after the initial panic of getting everyone on the bird we could enjoy good views of this gorgeous species. He wasn't going anywhere, as a female was interested in his elaborate display and dancing, and he put on a nice show for her, and us. Prior to all of the bird-of-paradise excitement, as we walked along the trail, we found a couple of **Papuan Mountain Pigeons**, several **Sultan's Cuckoo-Doves**, and some loud **Black**

Monarchs (behaving and looking very similar to the Black Fantails we had seen earlier in the day – this species used to be called Fantail Monarch, and it's easy to see why). While we were waiting for the **Superb Bird-of-paradise** to appear we had a few minor distractions from a distantly-calling **Arfak Catbird** and **Moluccan King Parrot**, which helped prevent boredom setting in. But seeing the amazing **Superb Bird-of-paradise** displaying was a wonderful end to a long and tiring but rewarding day.



© Andy Walker/Birding Ecotours 2017

Partially hidden on its day roost, but amazing to see, this Feline Owlet-nightjar was a great find by our local villagers, and we were over the moon to see it. An even better, clear view was had by some of us later during the tour. Phone-scoped with iPhone 7 and Swarovski ATX-95

18th November 2017: Birding in the Arfak Mountains (low- to mid-elevation)

An early start had us heading into the forest while it was just getting light. We made our way to a set of blinds and again had to split the group in two to fit into them. After a short wait the target bird of the morning, **Black-billed Sicklebill**, a member of the birds-of-paradise family, flew in and showed well, but very briefly for one of the blinds, with the other half of the group also seeing the bird, but possibly an even briefer sighting. These birds can be very tricky to get prolonged views of, despite being very vocal. A **Green-backed Robin** was also seen hanging

around one of the blinds while we waited for the sicklebill. While we were trying to better our views of the sicklebill we found several large birds in flocks, such as **Ivory-billed Coucal**, **Stout-billed Cuckooshrike**, **White-eared Bronze Cuckoo**, **White-crowned Cuckoo**, **Dwarf Koel**, **Pacific Koel**, **Vogelkop Melidectes**, and **Drongo Fantail**. **Arfak Catbird** was calling distantly but didn't come close enough for views, unfortunately. A fruiting tree gave us some fantastic views of several feeding **Superb Birds-of-paradise**. A male bird, on seeing the female birds in the tree, started displaying, giving the females, and us, a great show. A female **Western Parotia** dropped in to feed too, and a juvenile male **Lesser Bird-of-paradise** was vocal but remained out of view to most. A couple of **Hooded Pitohui** also joined the fruiting tree and showed well. There were plenty of small birds moving through the forest, and over the course of the morning we connected with the stunning **Goldenface** and many other birds such as **Garnet** and **Slaty Robins**, **Black Monarch**, **White-shouldered Fairywren**, **Regent** and **Vogelkop Whistlers**, **Arfak Honeyeater**, **Brown-breasted Gerygone**, **Grey Thornbill**, **Grey-green, Vogelkop**, and **Large Scrubwrens**, and **Rusty Mouse-warbler**. By a lucky few at the front of the group a **Spotted Jewel-babbler** was seen. Another bonus sighting of the morning was a female **White-bibbed (Mountain) Fruit Dove**, incredibly found by our local guides sitting on a nest. How they spotted it a few feet off the ground remains a mystery! However, bird of the morning undoubtedly went to the simply staggering male **Masked Bowerbird** that appeared at the top of a tree at a forest opening. The gaudy colors of this bird need to be seen to be believed!



Simply put, this male Masked Bowerbird blew us away with its staggering colors and prolonged views. A remarkable bird! Phone-scoped with iPhone 7 and Swarovski ATX-95

We had some rain over lunch but noted a female **Western Parotia** and some **Red-breasted Pygmy Parrots** in the village gardens. During the afternoon we took a long and (at times very) rough drive from our village, eventually arriving at a patch of reeds and grasses. Fairly quickly we located our main target, the range-restricted endemic **Grey-banded Mannikin**; however, it took quite a while to get everyone on them as they were rather flighty. During the mannikin search we had some very good views of a pair of **Papuan Grassbirds** taking food to a nest, and **Pale-vented Bush-hen**, **Australian Reed Warbler**, and **Golden-headed Cisticola** were heard calling but were not accessible. Otherwise it was quite quiet, with lots of **Grey Wagtails** and several swifts the only other birds of note seen. It was clear that hunting and habitat destruction in this area has had a hugely detrimental effect on the region's avifauna. Luckily, the area we had been birding in for the last few days is well protected and was full of exciting and wonderful birds.

19th November 2017: Birding in the Arfak Mountains (mid- and high-elevation)

Andy headed to the high elevation of the Arfak Mountains with Geoff, John, Kevin, and Peter, with local guide Zeth. Carole and Clara remained at the middle elevation with Shita and were joined by local guide Benny, who had been birding with Clara and Andy in Nimbokrang earlier during the pre-tour and would remain with the group till the end of the tour.

Those heading up the mountain left early in the morning on a very tough and physically demanding uphill hike (this hike is only suitable for those with good fitness levels). Thankfully, the weather was kind, and we enjoyed a dry walk. The lower section of the hike held several birds we had seen the previous days, such as **Bar-tailed Cuckoo-Dove**, **Garnet Robin**, **Vogelkop Melidectes**, **Superb Bird-of-paradise**, **Western Parotia**, etc., but also a few new ones such as **Rufous-sided** and **Marbled Honeyeaters**, **Papuan White-eye**, and **Blue-faced Parrotfinch**. As we gained elevation more new birds came at us, like **Lesser Melampitta**, **Lesser Ground Robin**, and **Mountain Mouse-warbler**, and just before the toughest part of the hike Zeth found a **Long-tailed Paradigalla** on a nest! We were therefore treated to very nice looks at this rare bird-of-paradise, it certainly made a hard morning walk more bearable. In this zone we also got great views of several **Red-breasted Pygmy Parrots**. After a final (hard) push to our very basic campsite we enjoyed an hour's rest, listening to the sounds of **White-bibbed (Mountain) Fruit Dove**, **Papuan Mountain Pigeon**, **Papuan Lorikeets**, and a variety of robins. There was, however, little rest, since the afternoon involved another strenuous hike uphill (and later back down to the campsite), where we had great success in seeing at least three individuals of our main target bird, the stunning **Arfak Astrapia**, our second new bird-of-paradise of the day. The birds were busily feeding, and, astonishingly, we also found our third new bird-of-paradise of the day in the same tree a short while later, when a female **Black Sicklebill** dropped in to feed (we could also hear the distinctive sound of the male ringing out through the adjacent valley, what an incredible sound!). Five species of birds-of-paradise in a day is not to be sniffed at! We also had a bonus in the form of a day-roosting **Mountain Owlet-nightjar**, a beautiful bird and a great find by our porters. Unfortunately, the clouds came down as the afternoon progressed. But we still managed a few good birds although viewing conditions became difficult. We added **Regent** and **Slater's Whistlers**, **Mottled Berryhunter**, **Obscure**, **Fan-tailed**, and **Tit Berrypeckers**, **Cinnamon-browed Melidectes**, **Ashy**, **Smoky**, and **Black-throated Robins**, **Red-collared Myzomela**, and **Papuan Lorikeet**. When it started to rain we decided to head back to our campsite and have a nice dinner and an early night, thoroughly exhausted after a long, hard, but very rewarding day.



© Andy Walker/Birding Ecotours 2017
Long-tailed Paradigalla on a nest was a definite tour highlight. This rare bird-of-paradise still is a bit of a mystery and is probably the least-known in its family.



© Andy Walker/Birding Ecotours 2017
The tiny Mountain Owlet-nightjar was hiding very low down in some dense, dark vegetation but certainly made the hike up the mountain worthwhile.

It wasn't just the team that headed up the mountain that had a great day, though. Carole and Clara, with the help of Shita and Benny, found some very nice birds too, including several birds-of-paradise of their own, such as **Superb**, **Magnificent**, and **Lesser Birds-of-paradise**, **Western Parotia**, and **Black-billed Sicklebill**. Their other highlights during the day included **White-faced Robin**, **Moluccan King Parrot**, **White-bibbed (Mountain) Fruit Dove**, **Rusty Pitohui**, **Hooded Pitohui**, **Drongo Fantail**, **Black Monarch**, **Black-shouldered Cicadabird**, **Large Scrubwren**, and a dozen or so of the beautiful **Goldenface**.

20th November 2017: Birding in the Arfak Mountains (mid- and high-elevation)

Those on the top of the mountain had a very early start. After an early breakfast, serenaded by a **Papuan Boobook**, we headed into the forest, with our head torches guiding us along the way. After a bit of a hike we got in place and waited. Within a few minutes and in the half-light we were suddenly face to face with a giant male **Black Sicklebill** displaying at close quarters. Seriously spectacular, visually and vocally!



The male Black Sicklebill is the largest bird-of-paradise at over 1.1m, most of which is his long, pointed tail. Incredibly for a bird of its size, it is silent in flight, so it's a great surprise when one drops onto its display perch in the forest. A black bird with iridescent bluish highlights along the mantle to the rump, it has a phenomenal, far-carrying call that can be heard ringing through the forest. It has an incredible display, in which it waves its broad erectile breast fans (which look like small dinosaur wings) and lace-like flank plumes. A definite contender for 'bird of the trip'!

After we had soaked in our views of this amazing bird we spent the rest of the morning birding around the pretty, mossy, and wet forest. It was a hard morning with many birds heard, but seeing them was very difficult, although we did OK, finding nest-excavating **Red-breasted Pygmy Parrots**, **Palm Cockatoo**, **Rufous-naped**, **Slater's**, and **Regent's Whistlers**, **Brehm's Tiger Parrot**, **White-bibbed (Mountain) Fruit Dove**, **Rufous-sided**, **Arfak**, and **Marbled Honeyeaters**, **Cinnamon-browed Melidectes**, **Ashy**, **Smoky**, and **Black-throated Robins**, and **Papuan White-eye**. It was also great to see several incredible bowers belonging to the **Vogelkop Bowerbird** (and a baby bird in its nest too). What this bird lacks in beauty it certainly makes up for in brains and artistry!



© Andy Walker/Birding Ecotours 2017

The male Vogelkop Bowerbird attends his incredibly complex maypole tented bower, an intricate construction of twigs forming a conical hut, 1m high and up to 1.6m in diameter, and decorated in front of the entrance with discrete piles of flowers, leaves, fungi, stones, and beetle shell cases (and plastic, unfortunately). The bird itself is of a rather drab olive-brown coloration and not much to look at, in all honesty, but when the bower is considered this bird suddenly becomes pretty amazing and interesting to watch.

After an early lunch we started our descent back down to the start of the mountain trail, which was just as strenuous as the hike up in some ways, and the rain for the last hour was really not appreciated! During the walk, before the cloud came down and it started raining, we did find some interesting species such as **Modest Tiger Parrot**, **Tit** (our best looks at a stunning male), **Fan-tailed**, and **Spotted Berrypeckers**, **Bronze Ground Dove**, **Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo**, **Yellow-billed Lorikeet**, **Papuan Treecreeper**, **Orange-crowned Fairywren**, **Vogelkop**

Melidectes, Perplexing Scrubwren, Black-breasted Boatbill, Ashy Robin, and Canary Flyrobin.

Carole and Clara had another good few sessions of birding near the homestay, where they found many quality birds such as **Black-fronted White-eye**, **Green-backed Robin**, **Lesser Ground Robin** (on a nest!), **Vogelkop Whistler**, **Little Bronze Cuckoo**, **Black-breasted Boatbill**, **Black Cicadabird**, **Pesquet's (New Guinea Vulturine) Parrot**, **Blue-collared Parrot**, **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo**, **Red-collared Myzomela**, **Masked Bowerbird**, and the stunning **Feline Owlet-nightjar** (getting much better, unobstructed views than previously).

When the group from the mountain hike returned to our homestay there was much discussion about all the various birds and the hiking we had all been doing across (generally up and down!) the Arfak Mountains, and it was wonderful to hear about all the amazing birds everyone had seen over the past two days. We all agreed that we owed a huge debt of gratitude to all the wonderful local people in our village who had helped to support us (e.g. porters, cooks, local guides, etc.) in our endeavor to go birding in some remote and beautiful areas.

21st November 2017: Early-morning birding in the Arfak Mountains, transfer to Manokwari, flight to Sorong, and late-afternoon birding in Sorong mangroves

Most of the day was spent traveling from the Arfak Mountains to our next base in Sorong. We had an optional brief morning walk in the forest prior to our departure and were treated to excellent views (eventually) of the rare, localized, and secretive **White-striped Forest Rail**. We nearly saw the **Spotted Jewel-babbler**, in fact a couple of us did as it flew through our viewpoint, but it disappeared into the undergrowth never to be seen again, although we were all treated to its impressive call. A few other forest birds were seen, but, as is typical for this kind of habitat, views were often brief and not for everyone. But **Green-backed**, **Lesser Ground**, and **Slaty Robins** were all seen by some of us. Otherwise it was the final time for some of the birds we had become familiar with over the last few days, such as **Arfak Honeyeater**, **Vogelkop Melidectes**, **Vogelkop Bowerbird**, **Western Parotia**, **Superb Bird-of-paradise**, and **Black-billed Sicklebill**.

By midmorning we were driving away from our village, after bidding fond farewells to our gracious hosts, and headed to Manokwari, where we had lunch. We then took the very short flight to Sorong on the opposite side of the Bird's Head Peninsula. Here, after a very quick check-in at our new hotel, we took a drive to some nearby mangroves. Lots of new birds were flying around, and it was a bit overwhelming at times, with birds being called out left, right, and center. **Barred Rail** was very vocal, and eventually one showed briefly (we also saw **Buff-banded Rail** and heard **Pale-vented Bush-hen** later in the day). One of our targets for the afternoon was **Blue-black Kingfisher**. Several were calling, but getting a view was apparently impossible. But just as we were walking away from one bird it flew across the path behind us, allowing some of the group to get less than satisfactory flight views of this rare and difficult bird. Other species were more cooperative, however, and we enjoyed seeing **Rufous-bellied Kookaburra**, **Orange-fronted Fruit Dove**, **Collared Imperial Pigeon**, **Orange-breasted Fig Parrot**, **Little Bronze Cuckoo**, **Ruby-throated Myzomela**, **Brown-backed Honeyeater**, **New Guinea Friarbird**, **Variable Goshawk**, and **Black Bittern**. The surprise of the afternoon, though, was a female-type **Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise** that bounded across the area we were watching between two patches of forest!

22nd November 2017: Morning birding in Sorong, afternoon ferry to Waigeo Island

We had a very early start this morning in order to get to some really beautiful and productive forest near Sorong, and it was definitely worth it. As we headed through the forest road as it started to get light a huge flock of circa 50 **Blyth's Hornbills**, and circa 25 **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos** flew overhead, a spectacular sight. The valley we wanted to go birding in was quite misty at the beginning, but as this burned off we started to get some fantastic species, such as **Magnificent Riflebird** (yet another new bird-of-paradise for our rapidly expanding list), further looks at **Magnificent Bird-of-paradise**, **Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot**, **Double-eyed Fig Parrot**, a giant **Palm Cockatoo**, **Red-cheeked Parrot**, **Black-capped Lory**, **Coconut Lorikeet**, the pretty **Golden Cuckooshrike**, **Yellow-faced Myna**, **Brush Cuckoo**, **Brown Oriole** (its flute-like song is so easy on the ear), **Dwarf Fruit Dove**, **Great Cuckoo-Dove**, **Dwarf Koel** (giving excellent walk-away views), **Rusty Pitohui**, **Golden Monarch**, **Rufous-bellied Kookaburra**, and the huge **Moustached Treeswift**. Several other birds were also calling but hidden either in the thick forest or the mist, such as **Western Crowned Pigeon**, **Zoe's Imperial Pigeon**, **Yellow-billed Kingfisher**, **Black-sided Robin**, **Hooded Pitta**, and **Glossy-mantled Manucode**. When it was light enough we headed into the forest, where in no time at all we were enjoying fantastic close-range scope views of a male **King Bird-of-paradise** as it sat out in the open for all to enjoy at length. What a gorgeous bird, and it's great when a plan comes together!



This male King Bird-of-paradise gave us some fantastic views as it sat in full, unobstructed view, allowing everyone to really appreciate its beauty and finer details and even permitting Andy to take phone-scoped photos on a number of people's cell phones as a lasting reminder of this wonderful experience! Phone-scoped with iPhone 7 and Swarovski ATX-95

As if the staggering views of **King Bird-of-paradise** were not enough, a short while later we were watching the equally colorful and spectacular **Red-breasted Paradise Kingfisher**. Not many people actually get to see this uncommon and difficult species, so we were very, very happy when we got great views of a pair of birds. We were limited for time before we had to be back in Sorong for our ferry to Waigeo, so after a celebratory drink (watching some incredibly beautiful and varied butterflies) we headed back to the city, stopping briefly on the way to look at a **Long-tailed Honey Buzzard** getting mobbed by a **Brahminy Kite** and admire some very nice coastal and forest scenery.



© Andy Walker/Birding Ecotours 2017

This Red-breasted Paradise Kingfisher was another real highlight of the tour, This is an uncommon, localized endemic species, and we felt privileged to have good looks at a couple of birds. Such a beautiful kingfisher! Phone-scoped with iPhone 7 and Swarovski ATX-95

After some rest during the middle of the day we boarded the ferry to Waigeo in the early afternoon. The journey was uneventful, although the Shania Twain and Bryan Adams karaoke on board (a special request for our Canadian travelers) was entertaining in the rain showers and freezing cold air conditioning. Out at sea little was happening, with singles of **Lesser Frigatebird**, **Greater Crested Tern**, and **Bridled Tern** noted among the more numerous **Common Terns**. On arrival on Waigeo we saw **White-breasted Woodswallow** and **Singing Starling** from the boat dock, and as we drove to our homestay in the last hour or so of light we found many **Eclectus** and **Red-cheeked Parrots**, **Claret-breasted Fruit Dove** (a family with a

baby), **Pinon's Imperial Pigeon**, **Grey-streaked Flycatcher**, **Ruby-throated Myzomela**, **Pygmy Longbill**, **Black Sunbird**, **Oriental Dollarbird**, and many **New Guinea Friarbirds**. Most of the group even saw yet another new bird-of-paradise when two **Red Birds-of-paradise** flew overhead. Another long but enjoyable day ended with a lovely meal at our very nice beach-side homestay.

23rd November 2017: Birding on Waigeo Island

After an early breakfast we headed into the hot and humid forest in the hills near our homestay. The first target bird of the day was **Papuan Boobook**. Two birds were calling on our arrival in the forest, and after a short while views were had in the dawn light. We also enjoyed seeing our first Waigeo cuscus (an interesting arboreal marsupial). Finding our second target bird of the day involved a small hike to a viewpoint at the top of one of the nearby hills. We didn't have to wait long, in fact we could hear it calling as we got closer. In no time at all we were all enjoying great views of a beautiful male **Red Bird-of-paradise** as it called and danced in a tree right above our heads. A real treat to observe this behavior so well, and yet another gorgeous bird-of-paradise!



This male Red Bird-of-paradise gave us some fantastic views of itself and of its display (hanging upside down waving its wings around). Like the Lesser Bird-of-paradise this is a 'plumed' bird-of-paradise and is only found on Waigeo and a few of the other smaller Raja Ampat islands. The males have curved red flank plumes and a pair of prominent, long, curling, black tail-streamers. They have an iridescent green throat and a bump above the eye at the forehead, though in this photo these parts look black. Phone-scoped with iPhone 7 and Swarovski ATX-95

Several other birds were heard in the forest here, such as **Raja Ampat Pitohui**, **Brown Oriole**, **New Guinea Friarbird**, **Black-sided Robin**, **Hooded Pitta**, **Yellow-billed Kingfisher**, and **Wompoo Fruit Dove**.



© Andy Walker/Birding Ecotours 2017

Heard several times during the tour we eventually got some really nice views of the secretive Black-sided Robin

As time was getting on we continued for our third main target of the day. After another short walk we found ourselves in a large blind overlooking a small opening in the forest floor, and our third target bird of the day, and possibly our most eagerly anticipated bird of the trip, was found. Two male **Wilson's Birds-of-paradise** were attending the display area, but as there were no females present, they were generally keeping to the edge of it, hidden in the darkness of the vegetation. Briefly the two males came down to the ground in the open display area, but we didn't get to see any display, not that there were any complaints at seeing one of the most bizarre-looking and beautiful birds in the world a mere few meters away from us.

We decided to head out of the blind to look for some other birds and come back another day for better looks at the **Wilson's Bird-of-paradise**, since we had plenty of time scheduled for this bird. As we hiked out of the forest we found a family group of **Common Paradise Kingfishers**. They were quite flighty, sticking near to the canopy, but good views were had by some of us. The extremely localized **Brown-headed Crow** was heard but remained out of sight, but several other birds were seen, such as **Blyth's Hornbill**, **Moustached Treeswift**, **Black Berrypecker**, **Northern Fantail**, **Eclectus Parrot**, **Black Butcherbird**, **Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon**,

Tawny-breasted and **Green-backed Honeyeaters**, and **Grey-headed Goshawk**. By now it had started to get really hot (it had been just regular hot since 4 a.m.!), so we headed back to our homestay for lunch, another cuscus, this time the northern common cuscus in our garden (see picture at the end of the report), a swim around the reef stacked full of beautiful fish and coral, and a siesta before heading back out birding in the late afternoon.

During the afternoon we concentrated our efforts on finding a rather secretive and unpredictable bird, **Western Crowned Pigeon**. By driving on a forest track we hoped for a view. First we had a frustrating encounter on the side of the track, where one bird was seen walking into the forest in a really inaccessible area and was only seen by some of the group and for only a brief but unforgettable view. We decided to press further along the road, hoping we would get lucky (again), and we certainly did as our expert local guide Benny pulled out all the stops and found us another one, and this one sat in a tree, allowing us all to get incredible views of this huge bird. Needless to say, everyone was delighted.

Also during the afternoon a male **Papuan Pitta** showed for most of the group, but unfortunately some of us were blocked by vegetation and missed out this time. Everybody, however, got great views of a couple of **Hooded Butcherbirds** nearby, and some of the group got a flyover view of **Brown-headed Crow**.



© Andy Walker/Birding Ecotours 2017

Western Crowned Pigeon is one of the largest pigeons in the world. It is a huge (61-71cm), fan-crested, blue-grey, terrestrial pigeon. Easily flushed, it will often fly awkwardly onto a horizontal branch in the midstory, as this one had done. A contender for bird of the trip?

24th November 2017: Birding on Waigeo Island and offshore islets

We had another early start in order to get into the forest while it was still dark, as we had another nocturnal target in mind, **Marbled Frogmouth**. Very quickly we found ourselves looking at one of these incredible birds and got to listen to its very interesting calls. We continued to a blind, where we hoped that **Wilson's Bird-of-paradise** would put on more of a show than on the previous day, which it duly did, despite no obvious presence of any female birds. At least three males came down into the display area, one of them allowing phone-scoped videos to be made and photos to be taken for everyone as it sat facing us (see trip report front cover photo for one of these images).



© Andy Walker/Birding Ecotours 2017

The simply stunning Wilson's Bird-of-paradise is a standout bird even among the birds-of-paradise. This is a small bird-of-paradise, and is widely touted as 'the best-looking bird on the planet'. On inspection it is easy to see why this could be the case. The males' cobalt-blue crowns with black lines glow and look like 'brains' against a black face. The bright-yellow upper back fan and vivid, scarlet back fan and wing feathers clearly stand out even when the bird is perched in dark vegetation, as does the glossy-green breast shield. The male also has two elongated tail feathers that curl into almost full circles, and when the bird is perched on a horizontal branch they look almost like a Victorian style moustache hanging below the bird (as can be seen in the photo on the front cover of the report). The bright-blue legs complete this avian oddity. Yet another highlight bird, just a shame that they like the dark forest floor!

While in the hide we were also visited by a **Common Paradise Kingfisher**, but frustratingly it was only visible from a couple of windows, so most of us did not see this bird. After getting our fill of the indescribably beautiful **Wilson's Bird-of-paradise**, we decided to leave the blind and look for a few other species. This proved a good move, as we finally had great views (after hearing them a couple of times previously) of a **Hook-billed Kingfisher** that flew into view. We also enjoyed great looks at a perched **Brown-headed Crow**, which was mightily impressive when seen close up. A **Hooded Pitta** called as it moved up the valley, but we were otherwise occupied with the kingfisher at the time. A final stop for the morning's forest birding gave many interesting species such as **Papuan Pitta**, **Beautiful Fruit Dove**, **Raja Ampat Pitohui**, **Spot-winged Monarch**, **Friiled Monarch**, and **Black-sided Robin**. Another highlight of a great few hours in the forest was the finding of a 6-foot-long olive python (photo at end of report) and then see our local guide Benny running around the corner of the road to get away from the snake!



© Andy Walker/Birding Ecotours 2017

The male Hook-billed Kingfisher gave us great views. This is a mainly crepuscular and nocturnal forest-dwelling kingfisher that calls at dawn and dusk but is silent and inconspicuous during the day and therefore almost impossible to see at times. Thus it is always a big target bird, and we were certainly happy to see it, especially tour leader Andy, as it was his 3,000th species for the year, the vast majority of these seen while leading Birding Ecotours trips! Phone-scoped with iPhone 7 and Swarovski ATX-95

After enjoying the above birds we headed back to our homestay, where a boat was waiting to take us to some smaller islands for the remainder of the day. Our first islet gave us **Pied Imperial Pigeon**, **Metallic Pigeon**, **Beach Kingfisher**, and **Varied Honeyeater**. We continued

to our lunch-stop island, stopping to look at **Common, Black-naped, and Greater Crested Terns, Lesser Frigatebird, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Eastern Osprey, and Pacific Reef Heron**. However, the most exciting observation involved watching a grey reef shark attacking a shoal of fish that were jumping everywhere to try and get away from the attack!

Our lunch-stop island contained several new birds for us, and over the course of a couple of hours birding, mixed in with a wonderful lunch and a snorkel over the spectacular reef (full of beautiful tropical fish), we found **Dusky Megapode, Raja Shelduck, Spice Imperial Pigeon, Claret-breasted Fruit Dove, Violet-necked Lory, Moluccan and Singing Starlings, Arafura Fantail, Common Paradise Kingfisher** (our best looks yet for the whole group, and the best-looking of all the individuals of this species seen on the tour to date), nesting **Hooded Butcherbird, Shining Flycatcher, and Island Monarch**. But best of all were the fantastic close-up views of many **Glossy-mantled Manucodes**, yet another bird-of-paradise, in fact our 14th bird-of-paradise seen on the main tour and 16th seen for the entire trip. We left the island in the late afternoon, when we took a boat to some more small islets, where we watched several **Great-billed Parrots** flying in to roost, along with numerous **Spice Imperial Pigeons**. Another really enjoyable day came to an end with yet another tasty dinner.



© Andy Walker/Birding Ecotours 2017

The largest of the New Guinea paradise kingfishers, Common Paradise Kingfisher has a length of circa 43cm, and a lot of that is its tail. Commonly heard in the forest, it can take some work to get views of them, as they seem to spend a lot of time in the canopy, sitting patiently, but they can be heard all over the place. These are good-looking birds with a bright, white underside, a long tail with a spatula-like tip, and a bright blue crown with a darker face. They even rival some of the birds-of-paradise with their looks. This was the second paradise kingfisher for the participants of the main tour and fourth for those that had done the pre-tour to Biak and Numfor.

25th November 2017: Birding on Waigeo Island

After the successes of the last two mornings we allowed ourselves an extra hour in bed, arriving in the forest as the dawn chorus just got going. We had a fairly relaxed morning's birding, getting good looks at several interesting species such as **Red Bird-of-paradise**, **Glossy-mantled Manucode**, **Channel-billed Cuckoo**, **Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon**, **Yellow-faced Myna**, **Brown-headed Crow**, **Claret-breasted Fruit Dove**, **Raja Ampat Pitohui**, **Rusty Pitohui**, **Stephan's Emerald Dove**, **Brown Oriole**, **New Guinea Friarbird**, **Moluccan King Parrot**, **Great-billed**, **Red-cheeked**, and **Eclectus Parrots**, and **Pinon's Imperial Pigeon**. One of the highlights of the morning were the kingfishers we saw, with good perched looks at **Common Paradise Kingfisher**, **Rufous-bellied Kookaburra**, **Yellow-billed Kingfisher**, and the gorgeous **Papuan Dwarf Kingfisher**. We heard several **Papuan** and **Hooded Pittas**, but these were not overly forthcoming and were not seen well by anyone. **Golden** and **Frilled Monarchs** were seen, but **Spot-winged Monarch** unfortunately remained out of sight. Another two **Western Crowned Pigeons** were also seen; these really are spectacular birds.



The Glossy-mantled Manucode was the 14th species of bird-of-paradise seen during the main tour (16th for the whole trip). They have a very glossy, bluish-black plumage with a red eye and are the most crow-like of the birds-of-paradise. They eat figs and are important seed dispersers, and unlike many other birds-of-paradise they are monogamous. Although the manucodes lack the brightly-colored plumage and feathery plumes of the other birds-of-paradise, they do have an elongated trachea that loops beneath the breast skin, and, like a trumpet, serves to magnify their voice, a feature unique to this genus. When the light catches the bird's plumage it glows beautifully, and this branch of the family should not be underestimated for their beauty.

Over the course of lunch in our homestay several **Brahminy Kites**, **White-bellied Sea Eagle**, and a pair of **Gurney's Eagles** were seen overhead, with **Beach Kingfisher** and **Pied Imperial Pigeon** along the coast also. An afternoon drive around a different section of the island from our previous excursions presented us with the opportunity to get good views of several species, such as **Spotted Whistling Duck**, **Palm Cockatoo**, **Red-cheeked** and **Eclectus Parrots**, **Coconut Lorikeet**, **Brown Oriole**, **Red Bird-of-paradise**, **Pacific Baza**, **Variable Goshawk**, **Pinon's Imperial Pigeon**, **Whimbrel**, **Common Greenshank**, **Little Egret**, and a pair of very confiding **Rufous-bellied Kookaburras**. As the sun went down we had the impressive sight of a flock of 50 **Blyth's Hornbills** flying into some trees to roost.

26th November 2017: Ferry from Waigeo Island to Sorong, birding Sorong

The final full day of the tour was mainly a travel day between Waigeo Island and Sorong. Before leaving Waigeo we had a brief walk around our homestay, where we had nice looks at **Great-billed**, **Eclectus**, and **Red-cheeked Parrots**, **Palm Cockatoo**, and **Beach Kingfisher**. Our ferry was delayed for an hour as we waited for some dignitary to arrive, but, luckily, we were allowed on deck for birding, and the weather was better than on our previous crossing. It was fairly quiet, but we did see **Black Noddy**, **Brown Booby**, **Lesser Frigatebird**, **Pomarine** (Skua) **Jaeger**, and **Common**, **Greater Crested**, and **Black-naped Terns**.

When finally back in Sorong we had another walk through some mangroves, but it was incredibly hot and bird activity was much reduced compared to our previous visit, and **Blue-black Kingfisher** and **Barred Rail**, although vocal, failed to show. We did find a few good birds such as **Little Bronze Cuckoo**, **Orange-fronted Fruit Dove**, **Collared** and **Pinon's Imperial Pigeons**, **Shining Flycatcher**, **White-bellied Cuckooshrike**, and **Orange-breasted Fig Parrot**. We then enjoyed a final meal together at our very nice hotel in the city and reflected on all the great birds and moments we'd had on the tour. Everyone had a very interesting list of Top 5 species, and the stunning **Western Crowned Pigeon** was voted 'Bird of the Tour', with **Black Sicklebill**, **Wilson's Bird-of-paradise**, **Goldenface**, and **Pesquet's** (New Guinea Vulturine) **Parrot** all rated highly and closely following behind the pigeon.

27th November 2017: Tour concludes and international departures

After breakfast everyone transferred to the airport in Sorong, where the tour concluded.

Summary:

A huge thank you must go to our local ground agent Shita for all her incredible help before and throughout the tour, going well above and beyond her duties every day to ensure everything on the tour ran smoothly, which it did. A huge thank you must also go to all of the local guides (especially to Benny, who was with us for most of the time and who's help was essential), porters, cooks, drivers, etc., who helped make things run smoothly and safely for all. Finally, a massive thank you goes to Carole, Clara, Geoff, Kevin, John, and Peter for being great and fun travel companions. It was a pleasure birding with you all, and I really look forward to the next time.

A bird (and other identified animals) checklist follows. A taxonomic note follows the checklists. The following are the bird totals from the pre-tours and the main tour:

- Pre-tour 1 = 100 species recorded, 86 seen

- Pre-tour 2 = 96 species recorded, all seen
- Main tour = 251 species recorded, 229 seen
- Both pre-tours and main tour combined = 324 species recorded, 300 seen



© Andy Walker/Birding Ecotours 2017

The group birding during a misty sunrise near Sorong

Bird List¹:

Common Name (IOC 7.3)	Scientific Name (IOC 7.3)	PT 1	PT 2	Main Tour	Total Trip
	ANSERIFORMES				
<u>Ducks, Geese and Swans</u>	<u>Anatidae</u>				
Spotted Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna guttata</i>		1	1	1
Raja Shelduck	<i>Tadorna radjah</i>			1	1

¹ Species with 'H' are 'Heard Only', species with a '1' were seen. PT 1 = Pre-tour 1, PT 2 = Pre-tour 2, Main Tour = Main tour. **Bold** species names are endemic to Australasian Indonesia. CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened, and I = Introduced.

Common Name (IOC 7.3)	Scientific Name (IOC 7.3)	PT 1	PT 2	Main Tour	Total Trip
	GALLIFORMES				
Megapodes	Megapodiidae				
Wattled Brushturkey	<i>Aepypodius arfakianus</i>			H	H
Red-billed Brushturkey	<i>Talegalla cuvieri</i>			H	H
Collared Brushturkey	<i>Talegalla jobiensis</i>	H			H
Dusky Megapode	<i>Megapodius freycinet</i>			1	1
Biak Scrubfowl (VU)	<i>Megapodius geelvinkianus</i>		1		1
Pheasants and allies	Phasianidae				
King Quail	<i>Excalfactoria chinensis</i>	1			1
	PROCELLARIIFORMES				
Petrels, Shearwaters	Procellariidae				
Streaked Shearwater (NT)	<i>Calonectris leucomelas</i>		1		1
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	<i>Ardena pacifica</i>		1		1
Bulwer's Petrel	<i>Bulweria bulwerii</i>		1		1
	PELECANIFORMES				
Hérons, Bitterns	Ardeidae				
Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>	1			1
Black Bittern	<i>Dupetor flavicollis</i>			1	1
Nankeen Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>		1		1
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>		1	1	1
Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>	1	1		1
Great-billed Heron	<i>Ardea sumatrana</i>		1		1
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		1	1	1
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>		1	1	1
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			1	1
Pacific Reef Heron	<i>Egretta sacra</i>			1	1
	SULIFORMES				
Frigatebirds	Fregatidae				
Great Frigatebird	<i>Fregata minor</i>		1		1
Lesser Frigatebird	<i>Fregata ariel</i>		1	1	1
Gannets, Boobies	Sulidae				
Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>		1	1	1
Cormorants, Shags	Phalacrocoracidae				
Little Pied Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo melanoleucos</i>			1	1
	ACCIPITRIFORMES				
Ospreys	Pandionidae				
Eastern Osprey	<i>Pandion cristatus</i>		1	1	1
Kites, Hawks and Eagles	Accipitridae				
Pacific Baza	<i>Aviceda subcristata</i>			1	1
Long-tailed Honey Buzzard	<i>Henicopernis longicauda</i>			1	1
Papuan Eagle (VU)	<i>Harpyopsis novaeguineae</i>			1	1
Gurney's Eagle (NT)	<i>Aquila gurneyi</i>			1	1
Variable Goshawk	<i>Accipiter hiogaster</i>		1	1	1
Black-mantled Goshawk	<i>Accipiter melanochlamys</i>			H	H
Grey-headed Goshawk	<i>Accipiter poliocephalus</i>	1		1	1
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	1	1	1	1
White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>			1	1

Common Name (IOC 7.3)	Scientific Name (IOC 7.3)	PT 1	PT 2	Main Tour	Total Trip
	GRUIFORMES				
<u>Rails, Crakes and Coots</u>	<u>Rallidae</u>				
White-striped Forest Rail (NT)	<i>Rallidula leucospila</i>			1	1
Barred Rail	<i>Gallirallus torquatus</i>			1	1
Buff-banded Rail	<i>Gallirallus philippensis</i>	1		1	1
Pale-vented Bush-hen	<i>Amaurornis moluccana</i>	H		H	H
	CHARADRIIFORMES				
<u>Stone-curlews, Thick-knees</u>	<u>Burhinidae</u>				
Beach Stone-curlew (NT)	<i>Esacus magnirostris</i>			H	H
<u>Plovers</u>	<u>Charadriidae</u>				
Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	1	1		1
Greater Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	1			1
<u>Sandpipers, Snipes</u>	<u>Scolopacidae</u>				
Swinhoe's Snipe	<i>Gallinago megala</i>	1	1		1
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		1	1	1
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		1		1
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>		1		1
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		1	1	1
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		1		1
Grey-tailed Tattler (NT)	<i>Tringa brevipes</i>		1		1
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		1	1	1
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>		1		1
Long-toed Stint	<i>Calidris subminuta</i>		1		1
Red-necked Stint (NT)	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>		1		1
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>		1		1
<u>Gulls, Terns and Skimmers</u>	<u>Laridae</u>				
Brown Noddy	<i>Anous stolidus</i>		1		1
Black Noddy	<i>Anous minutus</i>			1	1
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>		1	1	1
Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>		1		1
Bridled Tern	<i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i>		1	1	1
Sooty Tern	<i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i>		1		1
Black-naped Tern	<i>Sterna sumatrana</i>		1	1	1
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		1	1	1
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>		1		1
<u>Skuas</u>	<u>Stercorariidae</u>				
Pomarine Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>		1	1	1
	COLUMBIFORMES				
<u>Pigeons, Doves</u>	<u>Columbidae</u>				
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	1	1	1	1
Metallic Pigeon	<i>Columba vitiensis</i>	1		1	1
Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	1	1	1	1
Amboyna Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia amboinensis</i>		1		1
Sultan's Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia doreya</i>			1	1
Bar-tailed Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia nigrirostris</i>			1	1
Great Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Reinwardtoena reinwardti</i>	1	1	1	1
Common Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>		1		1

Common Name (IOC 7.3)	Scientific Name (IOC 7.3)	PT 1	PT 2	Main Tour	Total Trip
Stephan's Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps stephani</i>			1	1
Cinnamon Ground Dove	<i>Gallicolumba rufigula</i>			1	1
Bronze Ground Dove	<i>Alopecoenas beccarii</i>			1	1
Western Crowned Pigeon (VU)	<i>Goura cristata</i>			1	1
Victoria Crowned Pigeon (NT)	<i>Goura victoria</i>	H			H
Wompoo Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus magnificus</i>	H		1	1
Ornate Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus ornatus</i>			H	H
Orange-fronted Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus aurantiifrons</i>			1	1
Superb Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus superbus</i>			1	1
Coroneted Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus coronulatus</i>	1			1
Beautiful Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus pulchellus</i>	H		1	1
White-bibbed Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus rivoli</i>			1	1
Yellow-bibbed Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus solomonensis</i>		1		1
Claret-breasted Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus viridis</i>		1	1	1
Orange-bellied Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus iozonus</i>	1			1
Dwarf Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus nainus</i>			1	1
Spice Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula myristicivora</i>		1	1	1
Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula rufigaster</i>			1	1
Pinon's Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula pinon</i>	1		1	1
Collared Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula mullerii</i>			1	1
Zoe's Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula zoeae</i>	1		1	1
Pied Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula bicolor</i>			1	1
Torresian Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula spilorrhoa</i>		1		1
Papuan Mountain Pigeon	<i>Gymnophaps albertisii</i>			1	1
	CUCULIFORMES				
Cuckoos	Cuculidae				
Ivory-billed Coucal	<i>Centropus menbeki</i>	1		1	1
Biak Coucal (NT)	<i>Centropus chalybeus</i>		1		1
Black-billed Coucal	<i>Centropus bernsteini</i>	1		1	1
Pheasant Coucal	<i>Centropus phasianinus</i>	1			1
Dwarf Koel	<i>Microdynamis parva</i>	H		1	1
Pacific Koel	<i>Eudynamis orientalis</i>	1		1	1
Channel-billed Cuckoo	<i>Scythrops novaehollandiae</i>		1	1	1
White-eared Bronze Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx meyerii</i>			H	H
Little Bronze Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx minutillus</i>		1	1	1
White-crowned Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis leucolophus</i>			1	1
Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis castaneiventris</i>			H	H
Brush Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis variolosus</i>	1	1	1	1
	STRIGIFORMES				
Owls	Strigidae				
Biak Scops Owl (VU)	<i>Otus beccarii</i>		1		1
Papuan Boobook	<i>Ninox theomacha</i>			1	1
Papuan Hawk-Owl	<i>Uroglaux dimorpha</i>	H			H
	CAPRIMULGIFORMES				
Frogmouths	Podargidae				
Marbled Frogmouth	<i>Podargus ocellatus</i>			1	1
Papuan Frogmouth	<i>Podargus papuensis</i>	1	1	1	1

Common Name (IOC 7.3)	Scientific Name (IOC 7.3)	PT 1	PT 2	Main Tour	Total Trip
Nightjars	Caprimulgidae				
Large-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>		1		1
	APODIFORMES				
Owlet-nightjars	Aegothelidae				
Feline Owlet-nightjar	<i>Aegotheles insignis</i>			1	1
Mountain Owlet-nightjar	<i>Aegotheles albertisi</i>			1	1
Treeswifts	Hemiprocnidae				
Moustached Treeswift	<i>Hemiproctus mystacea</i>	1	1	1	1
Swifts	Apodidae				
Glossy Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia esculenta</i>	1	1	1	1
Mountain Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus hirundinaceus</i>			1	1
Uniform Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus vanikorensis</i>	1	1	1	1
Papuan Spine-tailed Swift	<i>Mearnsia novaeguineae</i>	1		1	1
Pacific Swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	1			1
	CORACIIFORMES				
Rollers	Coraciidae				
Oriental Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>			1	1
Kingfishers	Alcedinidae				
Hook-billed Kingfisher	<i>Melidora macrorrhina</i>	H		1	1
Common Paradise Kingfisher	<i>Tanysiptera galatea</i>			1	1
Biak Paradise Kingfisher (NT)	<i>Tanysiptera riedelii</i>		1		1
Numfor Paradise Kingfisher (NT)	<i>Tanysiptera caroliniae</i>		1		1
Red-breasted Paradise Kingfisher	<i>Tanysiptera nympha</i>			1	1
Shovel-billed Kookaburra	<i>Clytoceyx rex</i>	H			H
Rufous-bellied Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo gaudichaud</i>	1		1	1
Blue-black Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus nigrocyaneus</i>			1	1
Beach Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus saurophagus</i>		1	1	1
Sacred Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus sanctus</i>		1		1
Yellow-billed Kingfisher	<i>Syma torotoro</i>	1		1	1
Papuan Dwarf Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx solitarius</i>	H		1	1
Azure Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx azureus</i>			H	H
	BUCEROTIFORMES				
Hornbills	Bucerotidae				
Blyth's Hornbill	<i>Rhyticeros plicatus</i>	1	1	1	1
	PSITTACIFORMES				
Cockatoos	Cacatuidae				
Palm Cockatoo	<i>Probosciger aterrimus</i>	1		1	1
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita</i>	1	1	1	1
Old World Parrots	Psittaculidae				
Pesquet's Parrot (VU)	<i>Psitttrichas fulgidus</i>	1		1	1
Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot	<i>Micropsitta keiensis</i>			1	1
Geelvink Pygmy Parrot (NT)	<i>Micropsitta geelvinkiana</i>		1		1
Buff-faced Pygmy Parrot	<i>Micropsitta pusio</i>	1			1
Red-breasted Pygmy Parrot	<i>Micropsitta bruijnii</i>			1	1
Moluccan King Parrot	<i>Alisterus amboinensis</i>			1	1
Eclectus Parrot	<i>Eclectus roratus</i>	1	1	1	1
Red-cheeked Parrot	<i>Geoffroyus geoffroyi</i>	1	1	1	1

Common Name (IOC 7.3)	Scientific Name (IOC 7.3)	PT 1	PT 2	Main Tour	Total Trip
Blue-collared Parrot	<i>Geoffroyus simplex</i>			1	1
Great-billed Parrot	<i>Tanygnathus megalorhynchus</i>			1	1
Brehm's Tiger Parrot	<i>Psittacella brehmii</i>			1	1
Modest Tiger Parrot	<i>Psittacella modesta</i>			H	H
Plum-faced Lorikeet	<i>Oreopsittacus arfaki</i>			1	1
Papuan Lorikeet	<i>Charmosyna papou</i>			1	1
Yellow-billed Lorikeet	<i>Neopsittacus musschenbroekii</i>			1	1
Black-capped Lory	<i>Lorius lory</i>	1		1	1
Brown Lory	<i>Chalcopsitta duivenbodei</i>	1			1
Violet-necked Lory	<i>Eos squamata</i>			1	1
Black-winged Lory (VU)	<i>Eos cyanogenia</i>		1		1
Coconut Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>	1		1	1
Biak Lorikeet (VU)	<i>Trichoglossus rosenbergii</i>		1		1
Salvadori's Fig Parrot	<i>Psittaculirostris salvadorii</i>	1			1
Orange-breasted Fig Parrot	<i>Cyclopsitta gulemitertii</i>			1	1
Double-eyed Fig Parrot	<i>Cyclopsitta diophthalma</i>	1		1	1
	PASSERIFORMES				
Pittas	Pittidae				
Papuan Pitta	<i>Erythropitta macklotii</i>	H		1	1
Hooded Pitta	<i>Pitta sordida</i>		1	1	1
Bowerbirds	Ptilonorhynchidae				
White-eared Catbird	<i>Ailuroedus buccoides</i>	1		H	1
Arfak Catbird	<i>Ailuroedus arfakianus</i>			H	H
Vogelkop Bowerbird	<i>Amblyornis inornata</i>			1	1
Masked Bowerbird	<i>Sericulus aureus</i>			1	1
Fawn-breasted Bowerbird	<i>Chlamydera cerviniventris</i>	1			1
Australasian Treecreepers	Climacteridae				
Papuan Treecreeper	<i>Cormobates placens</i>			1	1
Australasian Wrens	Maluridae				
Emperor Fairywren	<i>Malurus cyanocephalus</i>	1	1		1
White-shouldered Fairywren	<i>Malurus alboscapulatus</i>	1		1	1
Orange-crowned Fairywren	<i>Clytomyias insignis</i>			1	1
Honeyeaters	Meliphagidae				
Ruby-throated Myzomela	<i>Myzomela eques</i>			1	1
Red Myzomela	<i>Myzomela cruentata</i>			1	1
Red-collared Myzomela	<i>Myzomela rosenbergii</i>			1	1
Green-backed Honeyeater	<i>Glycichaera fallax</i>			1	1
Rufous-sided Honeyeater	<i>Ptiloprora erythropleura</i>			1	1
Plain Honeyeater	<i>Pycnopygius ixoides</i>			1	1
Marbled Honeyeater	<i>Pycnopygius cinereus</i>			1	1
Streak-headed Honeyeater	<i>Pycnopygius stictocephalus</i>	1			1
Tawny-breasted Honeyeater	<i>Xanthotis flaviventer</i>	1		1	1
Meyer's Friarbird	<i>Philemon meyeri</i>	1			1
New Guinea Friarbird	<i>Philemon novaeguineae</i>	1		1	1
Long-billed Honeyeater	<i>Melilestes megarhynchus</i>			1	1
Arfak Honeyeater	<i>Melipotes gymnops</i>			1	1
Brown-backed Honeyeater	<i>Ramsayornis modestus</i>			1	1

Common Name (IOC 7.3)	Scientific Name (IOC 7.3)	PT 1	PT 2	Main Tour	Total Trip
Cinnamon-browed Melidectes	<i>Melidectes ochromelas</i>			1	1
Vogelkop Melidectes	<i>Melidectes leucostephes</i>			1	1
Varied Honeyeater	<i>Gavicalis versicolor</i>			1	1
Mountain Honeyeater	<i>Meliphaga orientalis</i>			1	1
Scrub Honeyeater	<i>Meliphaga albonotata</i>			1	1
Mimic Honeyeater	<i>Meliphaga analoga</i>	1		1	1
Australasian Warblers	<i>Acanthizidae</i>				
Goldenface	<i>Pachycare flavogriseum</i>			1	1
Rusty Mouse-warbler	<i>Crateroscelis murina</i>	H		1	1
Mountain Mouse-warbler	<i>Crateroscelis robusta</i>			1	1
Perplexing Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis virgatus</i>			1	1
Large Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis nouhuysi</i>			1	1
Vogelkop Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis rufescens</i>			1	1
Grey-green Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis arfakianus</i>			1	1
Brown-breasted Gerygone	<i>Gerygone ruficollis</i>			1	1
Large-billed Gerygone	<i>Gerygone magnirostris</i>			1	1
Biak Gerygone (VU)	<i>Gerygone hypoxantha</i>		1		1
Green-backed Gerygone	<i>Gerygone chloronota</i>			H	H
Grey Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza cinerea</i>			1	1
Berrypeckers, Longbills	<i>Melanocharitidae</i>				
Obscure Berrypecker	<i>Melanocharis arfakiana</i>			1	1
Black Berrypecker	<i>Melanocharis nigra</i>			1	1
Mid-mountain Berrypecker	<i>Melanocharis longicauda</i>			1	1
Fan-tailed Berrypecker	<i>Melanocharis versteri</i>			1	1
Spotted Berrypecker	<i>Rhamphocharis crassirostris</i>			1	1
Dwarf Longbill	<i>Oedistoma iliolophus</i>			1	1
Pygmy Longbill	<i>Oedistoma pygmaeum</i>			1	1
Yellow-bellied Longbill	<i>Toxorhamphus novaeguineae</i>			1	1
Painted Berrypeckers	<i>Paramythiidae</i>				
Tit Berrypecker	<i>Oreocharis arfaki</i>			1	1
Jewel-babblers, Quail-thrushes	<i>Psophodidae</i>				
Spotted Jewel-babbler	<i>Ptilorrhoa leucosticta</i>			1	1
Boatbills	<i>Machaerirhynchidae</i>				
Yellow-breasted Boatbill	<i>Machaerirhynchus flaviventer</i>			H	H
Black-breasted Boatbill	<i>Machaerirhynchus nigripictus</i>			1	1
Woodswallows, Butcherbirds	<i>Artamidae</i>				
White-breasted Woodswallow	<i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>			1	1
Lowland Peltops	<i>Peltops blainvillii</i>	1			1
Black Butcherbird	<i>Melloria quoyi</i>	1		1	1
Hooded Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus cassicus</i>	1	1	1	1
Mottled Berryhunter	<i>Rhagologidae</i>				
Mottled Berryhunter	<i>Rhagologus leucostigma</i>			H	H
Cuckooshrikes	<i>Campephagidae</i>				
Stout-billed Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina caeruleogrisea</i>			1	1
Boyer's Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina boyeri</i>	1		1	1
White-bellied Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina papuensis</i>	1		1	1
Common Cicadabird	<i>Coracina tenuirostris</i>		1		1

Common Name (IOC 7.3)	Scientific Name (IOC 7.3)	PT 1	PT 2	Main Tour	Total Trip
Black-shouldered Cicadabird	<i>Coracina incerta</i>			1	1
Grey-headed Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina schisticeps</i>	1			1
Black Cicadabird	<i>Coracina melas</i>			1	1
Black-bellied Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina montana</i>			1	1
Golden Cuckooshrike	<i>Campochaera sloetii</i>	1		1	1
Black-browed Triller	<i>Lalage atrovirens</i>	1	1	1	1
<u>Australo-Papuan Bellbirds</u>	<u>Oreoicidae</u>				
Rufous-naped Whistler	<i>Aleadryas rufinucha</i>			1	1
<u>Whistlers and allies</u>	<u>Pachycephalidae</u>				
Black Pitohui	<i>Melanorectes nigrescens</i>			H	H
<u>Vogelkop Whistler</u>	<u>Pachycephala meyeri</u>			1	1
Sclater's Whistler	<i>Pachycephala soror</i>			1	1
Regent Whistler	<i>Pachycephala schlegelii</i>			1	1
Rusty Pitohui	<i>Pseudorectes ferrugineus</i>			1	1
Little Shrikethrush	<i>Colluricincla megarhyncha</i>	1		1	1
<u>Figbirds, Orioles</u>	<u>Oriolidae</u>				
Northern Variable Pitohui	<i>Pitohui kirhocephalus</i>	H		1	1
Raja Ampat Pitohui	<i>Pitohui cerviniventris</i>			1	1
Hooded Pitohui	<i>Pitohui dichrous</i>			1	1
Brown Oriole	<i>Oriolus szalayi</i>			1	1
<u>Drongos</u>	<u>Dicruridae</u>				
Spangled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus bracteatus</i>	1	1	1	1
<u>Fantails</u>	<u>Rhipiduridae</u>				
Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>	1	1	1	1
Northern Fantail	<i>Rhipidura rufiventris</i>	H	1	1	1
Black Fantail	<i>Rhipidura atra</i>			1	1
Friendly Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albolimbata</i>			1	1
Dimorphic Fantail	<i>Rhipidura brachyrhyncha</i>			1	1
Arafura Fantail	<i>Rhipidura dryas</i>			H	H
Drongo Fantail	<i>Chaetorhynchus papuensis</i>			1	1
<u>Monarchs</u>	<u>Monarchidae</u>				
Black Monarch	<i>Symposiachrus axillaris</i>			1	1
Spot-winged Monarch	<i>Symposiachrus guttula</i>			1	1
<u>Biak Monarch (EN)</u>	<u>Symposiachrus brehmii</u>		1		1
Island Monarch	<i>Monarcha cinerascens</i>		1	1	1
Golden Monarch	<i>Carterornis chrysomela</i>		1	1	1
Friilled Monarch	<i>Arses telescopthalmus</i>			1	1
<u>Biak Black Flycatcher (NT)</u>	<u>Myiagra atra</u>		1		1
Shining Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra alecto</i>	1	1	1	1
<u>Crows, Jays</u>	<u>Corvidae</u>				
<u>Brown-headed Crow (NT)</u>	<u>Corvus fuscicapillus</u>			1	1
Grey Crow	<i>Corvus tristis</i>	1			1
Torresian Crow	<i>Corvus orru</i>		1	1	1
<u>Melampittas</u>	<u>Melampittidae</u>				
Lesser Melampitta	<i>Melampitta lugubris</i>			1	1
<u>Birds-of-paradise</u>	<u>Paradisaeidae</u>				
Glossy-mantled Manucode	<i>Manucodia ater</i>			1	1

Common Name (IOC 7.3)	Scientific Name (IOC 7.3)	PT 1	PT 2	Main Tour	Total Trip
Jobi Manucode	<i>Manucodia jobiensis</i>	1			1
Long-tailed Paradigalla (NT)	<i>Paradigalla carunculata</i>			1	1
Arfak Astrapia	<i>Astrapia nigra</i>			1	1
Western Parotia	<i>Parotia sefilata</i>			1	1
Superb Bird-of-paradise	<i>Lophorina superba</i>			1	1
Magnificent Riflebird	<i>Ptiloris magnificus</i>			1	1
Black Sicklebill (VU)	<i>Epimachus fastosus</i>			1	1
Black-billed Sicklebill	<i>Drepanornis albertisi</i>			1	1
Pale-billed Sicklebill (NT)	<i>Drepanornis bruijnii</i>	1			1
Magnificent Bird-of-paradise	<i>Diphyllodes magnificus</i>			1	1
Wilson's Bird-of-paradise (NT)	<i>Diphyllodes respublica</i>			1	1
King Bird-of-paradise	<i>Cicinnurus regius</i>	1		1	1
Twelve-wired Bird-of-paradise	<i>Seleucidis melanoleucus</i>	1		1	1
Lesser Bird-of-paradise	<i>Paradisaea minor</i>	1		1	1
Red Bird-of-paradise (NT)	<i>Paradisaea rubra</i>			1	1
Australasian Robins	<u>Petroicidae</u>				
Ashy Robin	<i>Heteromyias albispecularis</i>			1	1
Black-sided Robin	<i>Poecilodryas hypoleuca</i>	1		1	1
Black-throated Robin	<i>Poecilodryas albonotata</i>			1	1
Smoky Robin	<i>Peneothello cryptoleuca</i>			H	H
Slaty Robin	<i>Peneothello cyanus</i>			1	1
White-faced Robin	<i>Tregellasia leucops</i>			1	1
Green-backed Robin	<i>Pachycephalopsis hattamensis</i>			1	1
Canary Flyrobin	<i>Microeca papuana</i>			1	1
Garnet Robin	<i>Eugerygone rubra</i>			1	1
Lesser Ground Robin	<i>Amalocichla incerta</i>			1	1
Bulbuls	<u>Pycnonotidae</u>				
Sooty-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus aurigaster</i>		1		1
Swallows, Martins	<u>Hirundinidae</u>				
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	1	1	1	1
Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>	1	1	1	1
Leaf Warblers and allies	<u>Phylloscopidae</u>				
Island Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus maforensis</i>		1	1	1
Reed Warblers and allies	<u>Acrocephalidae</u>				
Australian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus australis</i>			H	H
Grassbirds and allies	<u>Locustellidae</u>				
Gray's Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella fasciolata</i>		1		1
Papuan Grassbird	<i>Megalurus macrurus</i>			1	1
Cisticolas and allies	<u>Cisticolidae</u>				
Golden-headed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola exilis</i>	1		H	1
White-eyes	<u>Zosteropidae</u>				
Black-capped White-eye	<i>Zosterops atricapilla</i>			1	1
Black-fronted White-eye	<i>Zosterops minor</i>			1	1
Biak White-eye (NT)	<i>Zosterops mysorensis</i>		1		1
Capped White-eye	<i>Zosterops fuscicapilla</i>			1	1
Papuan White-eye	<i>Zosterops novaeguineae</i>			1	1
Starlings, Rhabdornis	<u>Sturnidae</u>				

Common Name (IOC 7.3)	Scientific Name (IOC 7.3)	PT 1	PT 2	Main Tour	Total Trip
Metallic Starling	<i>Aplonis metallica</i>	1	1	1	1
Singing Starling	<i>Aplonis cantoroides</i>	1		1	1
Long-tailed Starling	<i>Aplonis magna</i>		1		1
Moluccan Starling	<i>Aplonis mysolensis</i>			1	1
Yellow-faced Myna	<i>Mino dumontii</i>	1		1	1
Golden Myna	<i>Mino anais</i>	1			1
Chats, Old World Flycatchers	Muscicapidae				
Grey-streaked Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa griseisticta</i>			1	1
Flowerpeckers	Dicaeidae				
Olive-crowned Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum pectorale</i>			1	1
Red-capped Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum geelvinkianum</i>	1	1		1
Sunbirds	Nectariniidae				
Black Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma aspasia</i>	1	1	1	1
Olive-backed Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>	1	1	1	1
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches	Passeridae				
Eurasian Tree Sparrow (I)	<i>Passer montanus</i>	1	1	1	1
Waxbills, Munias and allies	Estrildidae				
Crimson Finch	<i>Neochmia phaeton</i>	1			1
Blue-faced Parrotfinch	<i>Erythrura trichroa</i>			H	H
Streak-headed Mannikin	<i>Lonchura tristissima</i>			H	H
Great-billed Mannikin	<i>Lonchura grandis</i>	1			1
Grey-banded Mannikin (VU)	<i>Lonchura vana</i>			1	1
Hooded Mannikin	<i>Lonchura spectabilis</i>	1			1
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin	<i>Lonchura castaneothorax</i>	1			1
Wagtails, Pipits	Motacillidae				
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla tschutschensis</i>	1			1
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			1	1
TOTAL RECORDED		100	96	251	324
TOTAL SEEN		86	96	229	300
TOTAL HEARD ONLY		14	0	22	24

Non-avian Species List:

Common Name	Scientific Name	PT 1	PT 2	Main Tour	Total Trip
MAMMALS					
	DIPROTODONTIA				
	Petauridae				
Biak glider	<i>Petaurus biacensis</i>		1		1
	Phalangeridae				
Northern common cuscus	<i>Phalanger orientalis</i>			1	1
Waigeo cuscus	<i>Spilocuscus papuensis</i>			1	1
	CHIROPTERA				
	Pteropodidae				
Great flying fox	<i>Pteropus neohibernicus</i>	1			1
Geelvink Bay flying fox	<i>Pteropus pohlei</i>		1		1

Common Name	Scientific Name	PT 1	PT 2	Main Tour	Total Trip
Spectacled flying fox	<i>Pteropus conspicillatus</i>			1	1
New Guinea naked-backed fruit bat	<i>Dobsonia magna</i>			1	1
Beaufort's bar-backed fruit bat	<i>Dobsonia beauforti</i>			1	1
	RODENTIA				
	Muridae				
Black rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>		1		1
	CERTIODACTYLA				
	Cervidae				
Javan deer	<i>Cervus timoriensis</i>			1	1
	Delphinidae				
Indo Pacific bottlenose dolphin	<i>Tursiops aduncus</i>		1	1	1
TOTAL		1	4	7	11
REPTILES					
	SQUAMATA				
	Varanidae				
Common water monitor	<i>Varanus salvator</i>			1	1
	Pythonidae				
Olive python	<i>Liasis olivaceus</i>			1	1
TOTAL		0	0	2	2
CARTILAGINOUS FISHES					
	CARCHARHINIFORMES				
	Carcharhinidae				
Grey reef shark	<i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i>			1	1
TOTAL		0	0	1	1

Taxonomic Notes:

At Birding Ecotours we use IOC taxonomy. Some other authorities (e.g. Handbook to the Birds of the World, and others, e.g. the new Gregory field guide) use a different taxonomy.

1. White-bibbed Fruit Dove – we saw the subspecies split by some and known as Mountain Fruit Dove.
2. Superb Fruit Dove – The subspecies seen is also known as Eastern Superb Fruit Dove.
3. Yellow-bibbed Fruit Dove – we saw the subspecies split by some and known as Geelvink Fruit Dove.
4. Spice Imperial Pigeon – we saw the subspecies split by some and known as Geelvink Imperial Pigeon while on Biak and Numfor Islands, and we also saw the nominate form (Spice Imperial Pigeon) on the main tour.
5. Blyth's Hornbill – also known as Papuan Hornbill by some.
6. Hooded Pitta – we saw the subspecies split by some and known as Biak Hooded Pitta while on Biak Island. The birds seen on Numfor Island and heard on the main tour are a different subspecies and also split by some as Eastern Hooded Pitta.
7. Common Cicadabird – we saw the two subspecies, split by some while on Biak and Numfor Islands; both are known as Biak Cicadabird.

8. Black-browed Triller – we saw the subspecies split by some and known as Biak Triller while on Biak Island. We saw the nominate subspecies (Black-browed Triller) elsewhere.
9. Rusty Pitohui – known to some as Rusty Shrike-thrush.
10. Northern Fantail – we saw the subspecies split by some and known as Biak Fantail while on Biak Island.
11. Spangled Drongo – we saw the Papuan subspecies split by some and known as Papuan Spangled Drongo. This refers to all sightings of this species.
12. Golden Monarch – the subspecies seen on Biak Island is a possible future split from those seen elsewhere.
13. Island Leaf Warbler – Possibly three species are involved in the area covered. We saw the subspecies split by some and known as Biak Leaf Warbler (while on Biak Island), Numfor Leaf Warbler (while on Numfor Island), with the one on the New Guinea landmass known as Island Leaf Warbler.
14. Long-tailed Starling – Endemic to Biak and Numfor Islands we saw both subspecies (one on each island), possible future splits.



© Andy Walker/Birding Ecotours 2017

Yellow-billed Kingfisher showed very well during pre-tour 1 and the main tour. Phone-scoped with iPhone 7 and Swarovski ATX-95



© Andy Walker/Birding Ecotours 2017

Olive python showed well on Waigeo.



© Andy Walker/Birding Ecotours 2017

We were very pleased to find this northern common cuscus in our homestay on Waigeo. We also saw a couple of Waigeo cuscus during the main tour.



© Andy Walker/Birding Ecotours 2017

Celebrating making it to the top of the Arfak Mountains



© Andy Walker/Birding Ecotours 2017

The group at Waigeo at the end of the tour