



WEST PAPUA: ARFAK AND WAIGEO BIRDING EXPEDITION SET DEPARTURE TRIP REPORT

16 – 27 NOVEMBER 2018

By Andy Walker



This male Wilson's Bird-of-paradise gave some excellent views as he displayed in his court.

Overview

This West Papua set-departure tour commenced on the 16th of November 2018 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 birded the low- and middle-elevation forests¹. The second half of the tour took us to Sorong, on the opposite side of the Bird's Head Peninsula, and then to one of the Raja Ampat Islands, Waigeo. After our time on this beautiful bird-filled island we headed back to Sorong, where the tour concluded on the 27th of November 2018.

The main focus on this tour is always the stunning and highly-sought birds-of-paradise, and we managed to find eleven species of them: **Wilson's Bird-of-paradise**, **Lesser Bird-of-paradise**, **Red Bird-of-paradise**, **King Bird-of-paradise**, **Magnificent Bird-of-paradise**, **Western Parotia**, **Black-billed Sicklebill**, **Crescent-caped Lophorina** (formerly the Vogelkop sub-species of Superb Bird-of-paradise), **Trumpet Manucode**, **Glossy-mantled Manucode**, and **Magnificent Riflebird**. Other highlight birds seen were also plentiful and included **Western Crowned Pigeon**, **Spotted Jewel-babbler**, **Grey-banded Mannikin**, **Vogelkop Bowerbird**, **Masked Bowerbird**, **Arfak Catbird**, **Mountain Owlet-nightjar**, **Arfak Honeyeater**, **Lowland and Mountain Peltops**, **Common Paradise Kingfisher**, **Blyth's Hornbill**, **New Guinea Friarbird**, **Lesser Ground Robin**, **Vogelkop Scrubwren**, **Vogelkop Whistler**, **Ivory-billed Coucal**, and **Papuan Frogmouth**.



*This male **Magnificent Bird-of-paradise** was busy displaying for a nearby female.*

¹ Usually this tour would include a trip to the higher elevations of the Arfak Mountains for three bird-of-paradise species, Long-tailed Paradigalla, Arfak Astrapia, and Black Sicklebill, as well as other high-elevation species. However, based on client preferences we did not bird the higher elevation on this trip. Please see the 2017 trip report for an example of the birding at the higher elevation.

The region is well blessed in terms of pigeons and parrots, and we enjoyed many of them, such as **Ornate**, **Superb**, **White-bibbed** (Mountain), **Orange-fronted**, **Orange-bellied**, **Pink-spotted**, and **Claret-breasted Fruit Doves**, **Spice**, **Pied**, **Pinon's**, and **Collared Imperial Pigeons**, **Papuan Mountain Pigeon**, **Pesquet's** (New Guinea Vulturine) **Parrot**, **Palm Cockatoo**, **Eclectus Parrot**, **Papuan Lorikeet**, **Moluccan King Parrot**, **Red-breasted Pygmy Parrot**, **Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot**, and **Great-billed Parrot**. There was also a wide range of other interesting species, such as many kingfishers, robins, monarchs, and honeyeaters (**Ornate Melidectes** being one of the most spectacular of the latter family).



Palm Cockatoo is a seriously spectacular parrot, and we had a few giving prolonged views and showing very well during our time on Waigeo.

A total of 174 bird species were seen during this short tour, plus twelve species heard only. Full species lists are provided at the end of this report.

Detailed Report

Day 0, 15th November 2018. Pre-tour arrival into Manokwari

Shita, Andy, Michael, and Diana arrived in Manokwari the morning ahead of the tour starting, with the rest of the day spent at leisure. Michael and Diana had flown to Manokwari after taking part in our Sulawesi tour immediately before this tour (see [here](#) for the Sulawesi trip report) and Andy had flown here after leading the Australia east coast tour (see [here](#) for the Australia trip report).

Day 1, 16th November 2018. Birding around Manokwari

We had our first birding of the tour along a road cutting through some forest near Manokwari, which we visited at dawn for a few hours and again late in the afternoon for another couple of hours, sitting out the heat of the day at our comfortable hotel. The morning was overcast with light

showers until the sun came through and things really warmed up. Due to the overcast start birding was a bit slow to begin with, but once it got going we found some really exciting birds. On top of the list was the immature male **Lesser Bird-of-paradise** that was displaying to a female. Later in the day we had an amazing flyover of an adult male passing overhead across the road clearing, glowing against the intimidating dark skies. A very impressive bird!

Other exciting birds were found and included **Lowland Peltops** sitting on a dead snag, several **Blyth's Hornbills** flying about and occasionally perching and feeding in fruiting trees (these must be one of the loudest birds in flight!), and the beautiful **Golden Monarch** looking for all the world like a tiny New World oriole. Fruit doves were numerous but, as usual, often skittish or just very good at hiding. We heard **Wompoo**, saw **Superb** (briefly), and had good prolonged views of multiples of **Ornate** and **Claret-breasted Fruit Doves**. The most abundant bird was **Papuan Mountain Pigeon**, with multiple flocks flying over, some stopping for some nice scope views. **Pinon's Imperial Pigeon** showed very well both in the morning and evening, allowing careful study. One of the nice surprises of the morning was a single **Black Cicadabird** seen well. We also had great looks at perched and in-flight **Moustached Treeswifts**, **Yellow-billed Kingfisher**, **Northern Variable Pitohui**, **Brown Oriole**, many **New Guinea Friarbirds**, several **Black Sunbirds**, and a pair of **Yellow-faced Mynas**. **Hooded** and **Black Butcherbirds** gave us the runaround with lots of calling from deep in vegetation and no proper looks given, and a few **Red-billed Brushturkeys** were very vocal but not giving us a chance of seeing them. We had brief flythroughs from **Long-tailed Honey Buzzard** and **Variable Goshawk**. **Pesquet's** (New Guinea Vulturine) **Parrot**, **Moluccan King Parrot**, **Red-cheeked Parrot**, and the minuscule **Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot** were all seen too. A very nice set of birds from a few hours' birding to get the tour going!

Day 2, 17th November 2018. Manokwari to Arfak Mountains

After breakfast at our hotel in Manokwari we started our journey into the Arfak Mountains. We stopped two times along the way to our new accommodation. The first brief stop yielded **Sultan's Cuckoo-Dove**, **Blyth's Hornbill**, and **Northern Variable Pitohui**. A distant **Magnificent Bird-of-paradise** could be heard but was a long way off.

The second, longer stop gave us several species to look at. We had some perched views of a very smart **Grey-headed Goshawk**, a real treat being able to look down on it and study all of its ID features, and several stunning **Superb Fruit Doves** gave much better views than we had had the previous day. The interesting **Hooded Pitohui** was also seen, interesting because this species is poisonous to eat due to a small beetle that it eats. A toxin is taken from the beetle and accumulated in the bird's tissues and feathers! Other birds enjoyed at this second stop included great views of **Mountain Peltops**, a small family group of **White-shouldered Fairywrens**, **Grey Wagtail**, and more **Papuan Mountain Pigeons**.

We arrived at our homestay village at lunchtime, at which time the weather deteriorated and the majority of the afternoon was, unfortunately, a washout. **Rusty Mouse-warbler**, **Brown-breasted Gerygone**, **Green-backed Robin**, **Arfak Catbird**, and a few other species were heard, and **Dimorphic Fantail** and **Long-billed Honeyeater** were both seen all too briefly. We'd have to wait and hope for better weather in the morning.

Day 3, 18th November 2018. Arfak Mountains

We awoke early after a wet and windy night for breakfast before heading into the forest at dawn. Thankfully the rain had stopped, but the wind was still quite high, therefore far from ideal. The dawn chorus was loud with the songs of **Regent Whistler**, **Rusty Mouse-warbler**, and **Slaty Robin** ringing out. After hiking down a trail for some way we entered a small hide (blind) and waited. While we waited for our main target to arrive (which was calling some way off to the side) we saw **Lesser Ground Robin**, and **Ashy Robin** come through. After a while the main event happened when a **Western Parotia** came into view and, after a couple of attempts at coming in, eventually dropped onto his display area. He cleaned some of the debris up and had a bit of a half-hearted attempt at displaying. This was a young male, so it lacked the six wiry plumes that full adults have, but it still looked rather impressive as its plumaged transitioned into something even more spectacular. His eye was a beautiful piercing blue, and his white forehead glowed in the dark, early morning of the forest. A real treat to see this bird so well!



*This young male **Western Parotia** was practicing his display and maintaining his display area. He was just molting into adult plumage, which will include the six wiry plumes extending from his head. This species used to be called Arfak Six-wired Bird-of-paradise.*

After seeing the parotia we started to look for **Vogelkop Bowerbird**. We had no trouble finding its huge, incredibly impressive and intricately decorated tent bower; however, despite waiting for quite a while in another hide, we only got a very brief glimpse as it flew through after calling, seemingly not interested in checking on his bower this morning. While awaiting the bowerbird's arrival we noted several species in the vicinity of the hide, including **Rufous-naped Bellbird**, **Black Fantail**, **Dwarf Longbill**, **Vogelkop Scrubwren**, **Black Monarch**, **Blyth's Hornbill**, and **Slaty Robin**. The wind was again picking up, and the activity was waning, so we headed back to the homestay for lunch.

In the early afternoon, after a brief siesta, we again headed into the forest, but this time along a newly-created trail. After a short hike down a hill we found ourselves at another hide. After waiting patiently for a short while, hearing our target bird calling from an unseen location behind the hide,

we were duly rewarded when a stunning adult male **Magnificent Bird-of-paradise** hopped onto his display court. We enjoyed watching this bird clean his area and then do some display to a female that had also come into the area (image of the male bird in tour overview section). It was great to be able to soak in all the finer details of this bird and really study it closely. Also coming into view (maybe attracted to all the commotion from the male bird-of-paradise?) was a big bonus bird in the form of the very attractively-marked (and often secretive) **Arfak Catbird**. The catbird continued to show well for quite some time, and after a while we left the two species to get on with their afternoons as we hiked back up the hill, feeling rather satisfied with our sightings.



*While watching the Magnificent Bird-of-paradise our attention was also drawn to the usually secretive **Arfak Catbird** that showed remarkably well at close range.*

On returning to our homestay village we birded a little on the entrance road and found several new species, such as **Vogelkop Whistler**, **Sclater's Whistler**, **Red-collared Myzomela**, **Mountain Myzomela**, **Northern Fantail**, **Friendly Fantail**, and the mainland form of **Island Leaf Warbler**. As the wind picked up and the temperature dropped we headed back to the village for an early dinner and an early night, ready for the following morning's early start.

Day 4, 19th November 2018. Arfak Mountains

Another windy morning was spent in the forest near our village. We went into the forest targeting one bird-of-paradise and hoping for another. Our target was **Black-billed Sicklebill**. Hearing it was not a problem, for its loud call was ringing out as soon as we got into its territory. Seeing it, however, proved a lot more difficult, but after quite a while we finally had perched views as it sat high up in a huge tree opposite our viewpoint. While trying to locate the calling sicklebill we bumped into a pair of our other hoped-for target, **Crescent-caped Lophorina** (a very recent split from Superb Bird-of-paradise and also known as Vogelkop Bird-of-paradise or Vogelkop Lophorina – the new English name is apparently somewhat up for debate.). This new species was briefly visiting a fruiting tree, which also contained a female **Western Parotia**. Although our

attention during the morning was firmly focused on trying to see the birds-of-paradise we also saw several other species in the area, such as **Arfak Honeyeater**, **Green-backed Robin**, **Capped White-eye**, **Regent Whistler**, **Black Fantail**, **Blyth's Hornbill**, and **Stout-billed Cuckooshrike**, while a distant **White-striped Forest Rail** and **Grey Crow** were heard calling. As we were leaving the forest in the midmorning we had one final treat in store in the form of the stunning **Spotted Jewel-babbler**, a tricky bird to see; but after a short while all of us had some nice views of this highly-sought and tough species. We came back to the village for an early lunch, where we had the nice surprise of a day-roosting **Mountain Owlet-nightjar** in one of the buildings, and we also had good looks at a nesting **Glossy Swiftlet**.



*This stunning **Spotted Jewel-babbler** was not sitting still, but with patience we all had nice views of it. A very quick record shot of one of those very special birds that shows most of the key identification features and also gives a hint at how beautiful it is!*

After our early lunch we took a drive along a very rough road/track to search for a very local endemic species, **Grey-banded Mannikin**, whose global population is only found in a very small area a couple of hours from our village. As we entered its range we quickly found a flock of thirty birds, which gave some really great views as they fed on seed heads. A really beautiful bird, and great to be able to get such prolonged and close-range views! It definitely made the bumpy drive worthwhile. Here we also enjoyed the added bonus of **Great Woodswallow**, a brute of a bird with its huge, white, shoulder 'landing lights' standing out even at long range before they flew closer and gave nice views! Our drive back was fairly uneventful (apart from a small landslide), and we managed a quick bit of birding between rain showers near the village, where we found our first **Ornate Melidectes** and improved our views of **Slaty Robin** and **Red-collared Myzomela**. Plenty of other birds were moving through too, such as **Friendly Fantail**, **Sclater's Whistler**, and **Island Leaf Warbler**.



*An endemic to a very small wetland and grassland area of the Bird's Head Peninsula at an elevation of between 1,800-2,100m, this **Grey-banded Mannikin's** conservation status is classified as *Vulnerable* by BirdLife International.*

Day 5, 20th November 2018. Arfak Mountains

A slightly earlier start this morning saw us setting off on the trails in darkness in order to get into place before it was light. As we walked along the trail a distant **Greater Sooty Owl** could be heard calling. In the dawn light birds started to call, one of these was the **Black-billed Sicklebill** that flew across in front of us and vanished into the undergrowth. We heard him calling for quite a while but he never showed again, although a female did briefly perch up in full view. Also in this area we again saw a pair of **Crescent-caped Lophorinas**, and these showed much better than those on the previous day. Here we also got another new bird-of-paradise, **Trumpet Manucode**, which flew into a fruiting tree, grabbed some fruit, and then flew off again. Among all of this activity there were also plenty of other birds around, such as the gorgeous **Goldenface**, **Regent Whistler**, **Hooded Pitohui**, **Bar-tailed Cuckoo-Dove**, **Black-bellied Cicadabird**, **Rusty Mouse-warbler**, **Green-backed Robin**, **Arfak Honeyeater**, **Ornate Melidectes**, and more, with flyovers from **Great Cuckoo-Dove**, **Papuan Mountain Pigeon**, **Pesquet's (New Guinea Vulturine) Parrot**, **Mountain Swiftlet**, **Glossy Swiftlet**, **Blyth's Hornbill**, and **White-bibbed (Mountain) Fruit Dove**. A little past an hour after it all got going there suddenly was silence as the dawn chorus was over.

In the midmorning we headed to another rather steep forest trail. Eventually we reached our hide, where we sat and looked at a **Masked Bowerbird** avenue-bower. We waited for quite a while, but the bird didn't drop down to the bower, despite calling near to it. While here we could also hear **Lesser Bird-of-paradise**, **Magnificent Bird-of-paradise**, **Crescent-caped Lophorina**, and several other species. The **Lesser Bird-of-paradise** was seen on our way back up the hill, along with **Mid-mountain Berrypecker**, **Olive-crowned Flowerpecker**, **Drongo Fantail**, **Black Monarch**, **Regent Whistler**, **Black Fantail**, and **Slaty Robin**. A surprise was the **Red-billed**

Brushturkey that we flushed off the trail. We also had an excellent sighting of **Northern Common Cuscus** (see photo at end of report).

Over lunch there was a bit of activity around the village with the following species noted: **Garnet Robin**, **Regent Whistler**, **Sclater's Whistler**, **Vogelkop Scrubwren**, **Ruby-throated Myzomela**, **Red-collared Myzomela**, **Black Berrypecker**, **Grey Thornbill**, **Dwarf Longbill**, **Black-breasted Boatbill**, **Capped White-eye**, **Slaty Robin**, and **Friendly Fantail**.

Unfortunately, the afternoon birding was curtailed a little by a period of heavy rain and an approaching thunderstorm. Before the rain hit, and during a brief break, we all had good views of stunning **Papuan Lorikeets** feeding in a flowering tree, along with **Vogelkop Bowerbird**, **Ornate Melidectes**, and **Black-breasted Boatbill**. A pair of **Lesser Ground Robins** were nearby too.



Papuan Lorikeet is a stunning endemic to the Bird's Head Peninsula. This was one of a half dozen birds that were visiting a flowering tree near our accommodation.

Day 6, 21st November 2018. Arfak Mountains and travel to Manokwari

We awoke early after an incredibly wet and windy night, but thankfully both stopped before it was time to hit the trails. Our plan was to head into the forest, where on the previous two mornings we had seen so much. Full of anticipation we made the walk into the forest in darkness, arriving at our spot just in time for the dawn chorus to start. However, the dawn chorus simply didn't really happen this morning for some reason or other, presumably because of yesterday's rain and the overnight conditions. **Black-billed Sicklebill** and **Crescent-caped Lophorina** called just once each, the latter showing briefly. It was a really disappointing end to our time in the forest here. **Regent Whistler** called but didn't show, and a pair of **Green-backed Robins** gave great views to some of us and none to others. Frustrating indeed! **Arfak Honeyeater**, **Moluccan King Parrot**, **Papuan Mountain Pigeon**, and our first **White-bibbed** (Mountain) **Fruit Dove** did show, though. The latter was found as we were following the call of a **Masked Bowerbird** that could be heard calling for a brief spell but could not be located.

We decided to leave the forest and try our luck on the road. We were very quickly successful in locating our main target for the drive, the until-now-elusive **Masked Bowerbird**! The bird was sitting on some bare branches at the top of the tree, glowing in the murky skies. Luckily it perched long enough for all of us to get good scope views – at times like these it's nice having the Swarovski ATX-95 to really allow us to see the staggering colors of this species. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that this bird rivals the beauty of many of the birds-of-paradise. You really do need to see this bird!



*The **Masked Bowerbird** has to be one of the brightest and most staggering birds on the planet, glowing even in the gloomiest of skies! We even had the rare treat of seeing this species' rather basic bower hidden deep in the dense forest.*

We then decided to go to a viewpoint overlooking a huge swathe of forest. We could hear and see **Blyth's Hornbills** and **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos** and could hear **Pesquet's** (New Guinea Vulturine) **Parrot**. In our pursuit to better our views from earlier in the tour Michael took a tumble on the road and, ironically, where he ended up turned out to be the best place to view the parrots. However, that tumble resulted in the premature end to the birding for the day and unfortunately impacted on the birding over the coming days too. We went back to the village to have lunch and pack up and, as planned, headed back to Manokwari after lunch.

Day 7, 22nd November 2018. Travel from Manokwari to Sorong, birding the Sorong Area

We took a morning flight between Manokwari and Sorong, where we arrived at our new hotel in time for lunch. We sat out the heat of the day and late in the afternoon headed to an area of mangroves near the city, where we found many new birds, including **Orange-fronted Fruit Dove**, **Collared Imperial Pigeon**, **Little Kingfisher**, **Little Bronze Cuckoo**, **Pacific Baza**, **Peregrine Falcon**, **Black Bittern**, **Little Egret**, **Eastern Cattle Egret**, **Brown-backed Honeyeater**, **Torresian Crow**, **Willie Wagtail**, **Barn Swallow**, and **Metallic Starling**. Unfortunately the **Blue-black Kingfisher** was calling in the mangroves but not from a position that we could see.

Day 8, 23rd November 2018. Morning birding near Sorong, afternoon ferry to Waigeo

After breakfast we drove to a forest block near Sorong where we targeted one special bird. After arriving at the site we followed the sound, and quite quickly we were watching a gorgeous male **King Bird-of-paradise** as it sat high in the trees calling, giving us all excellent views. After enjoying watching him (we also found a female too) we had a quick look around the area, where we found **Pink-spotted, Superb, Orange-bellied, and Wompoo Fruit Doves, Brush Cuckoo, Coconut Lorikeet, Black-capped Lory, Black Lory, and Magnificent Riflebird**. At least three riflebirds were calling within earshot, but all were too far away to get there, although one did fly across the road, allowing brief views. A few other species around the area included **Hooded and Papuan Pittas, Blyth's Hornbill, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Red-billed Brushturkey, Golden Cuckooshrike, Spangled Drongo, and Frilled Monarch**.



*The male **King Bird-of-paradise** is a stunning bird; here he is taking a break from displaying and preening his fancy snail-like tail streamers.*

After lunch back in Sorong we caught the afternoon ferry to the island of Waigeo for the next few nights at a very picturesque resort right on the beach. As we made the short journey across the island in the late afternoon we found a few good birds, such as a perched **Long-tailed Honey Buzzard** and **Variable Goshawk, Rufous-bellied Kookaburra, Moluccan Starling, Oriental Dollarbird, Grey-streaked Flycatcher, Pinion's Imperial Pigeon, Grey-tailed Tattler, Far Eastern Curlew, and Lesser Frigatebird**, with brief views of **Eclectus Parrot, Red-cheeked Parrot, and Golden-headed Cisticola**. **Red Bird-of-paradise** was heard calling but remained out of range on the wrong side of the slope; we'd have to wait to see that one...

Day 9, 24th November 2018. Waigeo

There were three main targets for our morning birding session, two birds-of-paradise and a pigeon. We knew we had a good chance of the first two birds, but the third bird would take some luck. We gingerly made our way up the hills behind our beach resort via a combination of walking and

driving a 4x4. We entered the forest to the sound of **Rusty Pitohui**, **Raja Ampat Pitohui**, **Common Paradise Kingfisher**, and **Black-sided Robin**. We hiked up a short trail, and when we got closer we could hear what we wanted to hear, the sound of a male **Red Bird-of-paradise** announcing his presence. In a short amount of time we found ourselves enjoying great views as he called and displayed, throwing himself upside down, and generally showing off! We were certainly appreciative of the views. While watching this, we could hear the huge **Channel-billed Cuckoo** calling.



*This male **Red Bird-of-paradise** was the first bird we saw during the morning, not a bad start, and it would continue on this great streak all morning.*

After making our way back down the hill a little we jumped in the 4x4 and started driving to our next spot; however, along the way something hoped-for but not expected happened when a pair of the magnificent, huge **Western Crowned Pigeons** were found walking along our track! We couldn't believe our luck to have seen these major target birds so easily! Full of excitement we continued on our way to the next bird we were targeting, and arguably one of the most-sought species in the world, **Wilson's Bird-of-paradise**. We didn't have to wait long. We could hear the bird calling, and after a short while a male flew into our view from the hide and proceeded to give us some really excellent views. First he was slightly hidden at the back, but then he came out into the open and started to display. A **Long-billed Honeyeater** flew in, and that seemed to set him off! We all thoroughly enjoyed the sighting (also see the photo on front cover of this report). After this excitement we glimpsed **Rusty Pitohui**, had great looks at a pair of **Black-sided Robins** and a couple of **Northern Fantails**, and then started our drive back to our beach resort. Along the way we picked up a couple of new species, including our eleventh and final bird-of-paradise of the trip, **Glossy-mantled Manucode**, although the views were not too prolonged, so this was one to try and improve on over the next couple of days. Other highlights here included **Yellow-faced Myna**, **Great-billed Parrot**, **Coconut Lorikeet**, **Eclectus Parrot**, **New Guinea Friarbird**, **Spangled Drongo**, **Eastern Osprey**, and **Hooded Butcherbird**. When we returned to the resort

we enjoyed watching a **Papuan Frogmouth** on its nest with a young bird right outside our cabins, and another **Glossy-mantled Manucode** flew in, giving further brief (but much closer) views!



*Just a **Western Crowned Pigeon** walking along the road! These huge pigeons are some of the largest in the world. They are usually very shy.*



*The male **Wilson's Bird-of-paradise** gave some excellent views at ground level from the hide (see trip report cover image), but also showed well above the hide with its chest shield turning from green to purple. This really is one spectacular bird!*

The afternoon was spent relaxing around the resort, having a swim, and watching the **Palm Cockatoos** destroying the almond trees! It was great to be able to watch these magnificent, huge, and rather attractive cockatoos for so long and at close range. We sat on the pier and watched several species come through, such as **Beach Kingfisher**, **Pied Imperial Pigeon**, **Great Cuckoo-Dove**, **Claret-breasted Fruit Dove**, **Grey-headed Goshawk**, **Variable Goshawk**, **Lesser Frigatebird**, almost three hundred **Great Frigatebirds**, **Greater Crested Tern**, **Eclectus Parrot**, **Red-cheeked Parrot**, and several other species. We then enjoyed a beautiful sunset over the adjacent Raja Ampat Islands.

Day 10, 25th November 2018. Waigeo and Raja Ampat Islands

Papuan Frogmouth was sitting on its nest as we went to breakfast, allowing a nice photo opportunity.



*The nesting **Papuan Frogmouth** was present near the resort dining room and provided a daily distraction as we passed through.*

We then jumped into a small boat and headed to a couple of small islets, landing on one briefly for some exploration. We added quite a few new birds during this trip, with highlights including proper views of **Glossy-mantled Manucode**, a nest building **Dusky Megapode**, the stunning **Common Paradise Kingfisher**, and **Beach Kingfisher**, along with **Spice Imperial Pigeon**, **Metallic Pigeon**, **Varied** and **Mimic Honeyeaters**, **White-bellied Sea Eagle**, **Eastern Osprey**, and **Shining Flycatcher**. We also found **Waigeo (Spotted) Cuscus** (see photo at end of report) and **Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphin**. An interesting interaction involved watching the dolphins fishing, with fish leaping out of the water to escape them. While the fish were leaping out of the water a flock of **Greater** and **Lesser Frigatebirds** were diving down, trying to catch the escaping fish. Great fun to watch!

Our afternoon was spent back at the resort relaxing. Some of us ventured out snorkeling right in front of the resort, which was incredible, with a plethora of kaleidoscopic fish and corals on view.

It is definitely worth spending some time in the water out here, the rewards are very high. The diving in this area is rightly considered to be some of the best in the world.



Glossy-mantled Manucode is a rather crow-like bird-of-paradise with an elongated trachea, which serves to magnify their voice – a feature which is unique to the genus. When seen in good light this species is rather attractive too.



Common Paradise Kingfisher is a rather spectacular species and one that we saw incredibly well as it fed on the ground quite close to us for a while, then sat at eye-level in the forest.

Day 11, 26th November 2018. By boat from Waigeo back to Sorong, the rest of day at leisure
We took a speedboat from our resort on Waigeo back to Sorong where we arrived late in the morning. The sea was flat and calm, and the bird activity was low, but we did note **Red-necked Phalarope, Brown Booby, Great Frigatebird, and White-naped, Greater Crested, and Common Terns**. The rest of the day was spent at leisure at our very comfortable hotel.

Day 12, 27th November 2018. Departure from Sorong and tour concludes

We all departed on early-morning flights out of Sorong to make our international departures, and this enjoyable bird-of-paradise-packed tour concluded. **Wilson's Bird-of-paradise** was voted "Bird of the Trip", which was not surprising given the amazing close views we had had of this stunning bird, with **Red and King Birds-of-paradise** and **Masked Bowerbird** coming closely behind.

Bird List - Following IOC (8.2)

Birds 'heard only' are marked with (H) after the common name, all other species were seen. The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following BirdLife International: EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near-threatened. Indonesia-endemic birds are marked with (Endemic) after the common name and West-Papua-endemic birds are bolded.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Megapodes (Megapodiidae)	
Red-billed Brushturkey (Endemic)	<i>Talegalla cuvieri</i>
Dusky Megapode	<i>Megapodius freycinet</i>
Heron, Bitterns (Ardeidae)	
Black Bittern	<i>Dupetor flavicollis</i>
Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Pacific Reef Heron	<i>Egretta sacra</i>
Frigatebirds (Fregatidae)	
Great Frigatebird	<i>Fregata minor</i>
Lesser Frigatebird	<i>Fregata ariel</i>
Gannets, Boobies (Sulidae)	
Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>
Ospreys (Pandionidae)	

Common Name	Scientific Name
Eastern Osprey	<i>Pandion cristatus</i>
Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae)	
Pacific Baza	<i>Aviceda subcristata</i>
Long-tailed Honey Buzzard	<i>Henicopernis longicauda</i>
Variable Goshawk	<i>Accipiter hiogaster</i>
Grey-headed Goshawk	<i>Accipiter poliocephalus</i>
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
Rails, Crakes and Coots (Rallidae)	
White-striped Forest Rail (Endemic) (H)	<i>Rallicula leucospila</i>
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)	
Far Eastern Curlew - EN	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Grey-tailed Tattler - NT	<i>Tringa brevipes</i>
Gulls, Terns and Skimmers (Laridae)	
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>
Black-naped Tern	<i>Sterna sumatrana</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Metallic Pigeon	<i>Columba vitiensis</i>
Sultan's Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia doreya</i>
Bar-tailed Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia nigrirostris</i>
Great Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Reinwardtoena reinwardti</i>
Stephan's Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps stephani</i>
Western Crowned Pigeon - VU	<i>Goura cristata</i>
Wompoo Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus magnificus</i>
Pink-spotted Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus perlatus</i>
Ornate Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus ornatus</i>
Orange-fronted Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus aurantiifrons</i>
Superb Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus superbus</i>
White-bibbed Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus rivoli</i>
Claret-breasted Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus viridis</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Orange-bellied Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus iozonus</i>
Spice Imperial Pigeon (Endemic)	<i>Ducula myristicivora</i>
Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon (H)	<i>Ducula rufigaster</i>
Pinon's Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula pinon</i>
Collared Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula mullerii</i>
Zoe's Imperial Pigeon (H)	<i>Ducula zoeae</i>
Pied Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula bicolor</i>
Papuan Mountain Pigeon	<i>Gymnophaps albertisii</i>
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)	
Ivory-billed Coucal	<i>Centropus menbeki</i>
Dwarf Koel (H)	<i>Microdynamis parva</i>
Pacific Koel (H)	<i>Eudynamis orientalis</i>
Channel-billed Cuckoo	<i>Scythrops novaehollandiae</i>
Shining Bronze Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx lucidus</i>
Little Bronze Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx minutillus</i>
Brush Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis variolosus</i>
Barn Owls (Tytonidae)	
Greater Sooty Owl (H)	<i>Tyto tenebricosa</i>
Frogmouths (Podargidae)	
Papuan Frogmouth	<i>Podargus papuensis</i>
Owlet-nightjars (Aegothelidae)	
Mountain Owlet-nightjar	<i>Aegotheles albertisi</i>
Treeswifts (Hemiprocnidae)	
Moustached Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne mystacea</i>
Swifts (Apodidae)	
Glossy Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia esculenta</i>
Mountain Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus hirundinaceus</i>
Uniform Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus vanikorensis</i>
Rollers (Coraciidae)	
Oriental Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	
Hook-billed Kingfisher (H)	<i>Melidora macrorrhina</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Common Paradise Kingfisher	<i>Tanysiptera galatea</i>
Rufous-bellied Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo gaudichaud</i>
Blue-black Kingfisher (H) - NT	<i>Todiramphus nigrocyaneus</i>
Beach Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus saurophagus</i>
Yellow-billed Kingfisher	<i>Syma torotoro</i>
Little Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx pusillus</i>
Hornbills (Bucerotidae)	
Blyth's Hornbill	<i>Rhyticeros plicatus</i>
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Cockatoos (Cacatuidae)	
Palm Cockatoo	<i>Probosciger aterrimus</i>
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita</i>
Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)	
Pesquet's Parrot - VU	<i>Psitttrichas fulgidus</i>
Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot	<i>Micropsitta keiensis</i>
Red-breasted Pygmy Parrot	<i>Micropsitta bruijnii</i>
Moluccan King Parrot (Endemic)	<i>Alisterus amboinensis</i>
Eclectus Parrot	<i>Eclectus roratus</i>
Red-cheeked Parrot	<i>Geoffroyus geoffroyi</i>
Blue-collared Parrot (H)	<i>Geoffroyus simplex</i>
Great-billed Parrot	<i>Tanygnathus megalorhynchus</i>
Plum-faced Lorikeet	<i>Oreopsittacus arfaki</i>
Papuan Lorikeet	<i>Charmosyna papou</i>
Black-capped Lory	<i>Lorius lory</i>
Black Lory	<i>Chalcopsitta atra</i>
Coconut Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>
Pittas (Pittidae)	
Papuan Pitta (H)	<i>Erythropitta macklotii</i>
Hooded Pitta (H)	<i>Pitta sordida</i>
Bowerbirds (Ptilonorhynchidae)	
Arfak Catbird	<i>Ailuroedus arfakianus</i>
Vogelkop Bowerbird (Endemic)	<i>Amblyornis inornata</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Masked Bowerbird	<i>Sericulus aureus</i>
Australasian Wrens (Maluridae)	
White-shouldered Fairywren	<i>Malurus alboscapulatus</i>
Honeyeaters (Meliphagidae)	
Ruby-throated Myzomela	<i>Myzomela eques</i>
Mountain Myzomela	<i>Myzomela adolphinae</i>
Red-collared Myzomela	<i>Myzomela rosenbergii</i>
New Guinea Friarbird	<i>Philemon novaeguineae</i>
Long-billed Honeyeater	<i>Melilestes megarrhynchus</i>
Arfak Honeyeater (Endemic)	<i>Melipotes gymnops</i>
Brown-backed Honeyeater	<i>Ramsayornis modestus</i>
Ornate Melidectes	<i>Melidectes torquatus</i>
Varied Honeyeater	<i>Gavicalis versicolor</i>
Mountain Honeyeater	<i>Meliphaga orientalis</i>
Mimic Honeyeater	<i>Meliphaga analoga</i>
Australasian Warblers (Acanthizidae)	
Goldenface	<i>Pachycare flavogriseum</i>
Rusty Mouse-warbler	<i>Crateroscelis murina</i>
Pale-billed Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis spilodera</i>
Perplexing Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis virgatus</i>
Vogelkop Scrubwren (Endemic)	<i>Sericornis rufescens</i>
Brown-breasted Gerygone	<i>Gerygone ruficollis</i>
Mangrove Gerygone	<i>Gerygone levigaster</i>
Large-billed Gerygone	<i>Gerygone magnirostris</i>
Green-backed Gerygone	<i>Gerygone chloronota</i>
Grey Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza cinerea</i>
Berrypeckers, Longbills (Melanocharitidae)	
Black Berrypecker	<i>Melanocharis nigra</i>
Mid-mountain Berrypecker	<i>Melanocharis longicauda</i>
Dwarf Longbill	<i>Oedistoma iliolophus</i>
Yellow-bellied Longbill	<i>Toxorhamphus novaeguineae</i>
Whipbirds, Jewel-babblers, Quail-thrushes (Psophodidae)	
Spotted Jewel-babbler	<i>Ptilorrhoa leucosticta</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Boatbills (Machaerirhynchidae)	
Black-breasted Boatbill	<i>Machaerirhynchus nigripectus</i>
Woodswallows, Butcherbirds and Allies (Artamidae)	
White-breasted Woodswallow	<i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>
Great Woodswallow	<i>Artamus maximus</i>
Lowland Peltops	<i>Peltops blainvillii</i>
Mountain Peltops	<i>Peltops montanus</i>
Black Butcherbird	<i>Melloria quoyi</i>
Hooded Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus cassicus</i>
Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)	
Stout-billed Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina caeruleogrisea</i>
White-bellied Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina papuensis</i>
Golden Cuckooshrike	<i>Campochaera sloetii</i>
Black-bellied Cuckooshrike	<i>Edolisoma montanum</i>
Black Cicadabird	<i>Edolisoma melas</i>
Australo-Papuan Bellbirds (Oreoicidae)	
Rufous-naped Bellbird	<i>Aleadryas rufinucha</i>
Whistlers and allies (Pachycephalidae)	
Vogelkop Whistler (Endemic)	<i>Pachycephala meyeri</i>
Grey Whistler	<i>Pachycephala simplex</i>
Sclater's Whistler	<i>Pachycephala soror</i>
Regent Whistler	<i>Pachycephala schlegelii</i>
Rusty Pitohui	<i>Pseudorectes ferrugineus</i>
Little Shrikethrush	<i>Colluricincla megarhyncha</i>
Figbirds, Orioles & Turnagra (Oriolidae)	
Northern Variable Pitohui	<i>Pitohui kirhocephalus</i>
Raja Ampat Pitohui (Endemic)	<i>Pitohui cerviniventris</i>
Hooded Pitohui	<i>Pitohui dichrous</i>
Brown Oriole	<i>Oriolus szalayi</i>
Drongos (Dicruridae)	
Spangled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus bracteatus</i>
Fantails (Rhipiduridae)	
Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Northern Fantail	<i>Rhipidura rufiventris</i>
Black Fantail	<i>Rhipidura atra</i>
Friendly Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albolimbata</i>
Dimorphic Fantail	<i>Rhipidura brachyrhyncha</i>
Drongo Fantail	<i>Chaetorhynchus papuensis</i>
Monarchs (Monarchidae)	
Black Monarch	<i>Symposiachrus axillaris</i>
Golden Monarch	<i>Carterornis chrysomela</i>
Frilled Monarch	<i>Arses telescopthalmus</i>
Shining Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra alecto</i>
Crows, Jays (Corvidae)	
Grey Crow (H)	<i>Corvus tristis</i>
Torresian Crow	<i>Corvus orru</i>
Birds-of-paradise (Paradisaeidae)	
Glossy-mantled Manucode	<i>Manucodia ater</i>
Trumpet Manucode	<i>Phonygammus keraudrenii</i>
Western Parotia (Endemic)	<i>Parotia sefilata</i>
Crescent-caped Lophorina (Endemic)	<i>Lophorina niedda</i>
Magnificent Riflebird	<i>Ptiloris magnificus</i>
Black-billed Sickbill	<i>Drepanornis albertisi</i>
Magnificent Bird-of-paradise	<i>Diphyllodes magnificus</i>
Wilson's Bird-of-paradise (Endemic) - NT	<i>Diphyllodes respublica</i>
King Bird-of-paradise	<i>Cicinnurus regius</i>
Lesser Bird-of-paradise	<i>Paradisaea minor</i>
Red Bird-of-paradise (Endemic) - NT	<i>Paradisaea rubra</i>
Australasian Robins (Petroicidae)	
Ashy Robin	<i>Heteromyias albispecularis</i>
Black-sided Robin	<i>Poecilodryas hypoleuca</i>
Slaty Robin	<i>Peneothello cyanus</i>
Green-backed Robin	<i>Pachycephalopsis hattamensis</i>
Garnet Robin	<i>Eugerygone rubra</i>
Lesser Ground Robin	<i>Amalocichla incerta</i>
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)	

Common Name	Scientific Name
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>
Leaf Warblers and Allies (Phylloscopidae)	
Island Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus maforensis</i>
Cisticolas and Allies (Cisticolidae)	
Golden-headed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola exilis</i>
White-eyes (Zosteropidae)	
Capped White-eye	<i>Zosterops fuscicapilla</i>
Starlings, Rhabdornis (Sturnidae)	
Metallic Starling	<i>Aplonis metallica</i>
Moluccan Starling (Endemic)	<i>Aplonis mysolensis</i>
Yellow-faced Myna	<i>Mino dumontii</i>
Chats, Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)	
Grey-streaked Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa griseisticta</i>
Flowerpeckers (Dicaeidae)	
Olive-crowned Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum pectorale</i>
Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)	
Black Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma aspasia</i>
Olive-backed Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)	
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
Waxbills, Munias and Allies (Estrildidae)	
Grey-banded Mannikin (Endemic) - VU	<i>Lonchura vana</i>
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)	
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
Total seen	174
Total heard only	12
Total recorded	186

Mammal List

Common Name	Scientific Name
Dolphins (Delphinidae)	
Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops aduncus</i>
Old World Fruit Bats (Pteropodidae)	
Great Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus neohibernicus</i>
Brushtail Possums and Cuscuses (Phalangeridae)	
Northern Common Cuscus	<i>Phalanger orientalis</i>
Waigeo (Spotted) Cuscus	<i>Spilocuscus papuensis</i>
Total seen	4

Reptile List

Common Name	Scientific Name
Geckos (Gekkonidae)	
Asian House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>
Lined Gecko	<i>Gekko vitatus</i>
Skinks (Scincidae)	
Emerald Tree Skink	<i>Lamprolepis smaragdina</i>
Total seen	3



Northern Common Cuscus was found while we were in the Arfak mountains.



Waigeo (Spotted) Cuscus was found while we were on the island of Waigeo.