



The fabulous Spangled Kookaburra was one of the many highlights (Mark Van Beirs)

WEST PAPUA EXPEDITION

22/28 OCTOBER – 10 NOVEMBER 2019

LEADER: MARK VAN BEIRS



The cracking Kofiau Paradise Kingfisher posed ever so well (Mark Van Beirs)

This unusual trip was set up to fill in some of the remaining gaps in the Birdquest New Guinea lifelist, so the plan was to visit several hard to reach venues in West Papua. The pre-trip was aiming to climb to the top of

Mount Trikora in the Snow Mountains, but because of recent rioting and civil unrest (whereby several dozen people had been killed), access to the town of Wamena was totally denied to foreign visitors by the authorities. So, sadly, no Snow Mountain Robin... We did manage to visit the famous Wasur National Park, which produced the fantastic Spangled Kookaburra and Grey-crowned and Black Mannikins (all Birdquest lifers) and we reached the island of Kofiau, where the fabulous Kofiau Paradise Kingfisher and the modestly-plumaged Kofiau Monarch (two more Birdquest lifers) showed extremely well. The fabulous lowland rainforest site of Malagufuk gave us a long list of exquisite species amongst which a truly impressive Northern Cassowary, a cute Wallace's Owlet-nightjar, a sublime Papuan Hawk-Owl and a tremendous Red-breasted Paradise Kingfisher stood out. Kingfishers especially performed extremely well on this tour as we saw no fewer than 15 species, including marvels like Hook-billed, Common Paradise, Blue-black, Beach, Yellow-billed and Papuan Dwarf Kingfishers and Blue-winged and Rufous-bellied Kookaburras. Other noteworthy species included Southern Cassowary, Red-billed Brushturkey, Marbled Frogmouth, Papuan Nightjar, New Guinea Bronzewing, Western Crowned Pigeon, Rufous Owl, Blue-black Kingfisher, Palm Cockatoo, Great-billed Parrot, Black and Violet-necked Lories, Large Fig Parrot, Papuan and Hooded Pittas, Black-eared Catbird, Tawny Straightbill, Blue Jewel-babbler, Black Thicket Fantail, Magnificent Riflebird, King Bird-of-paradise and Lesser Bird-of-paradise. We recorded 261 species of birds and five mammals on this unusual trip.



This huge female Northern Cassowary was scarily impressive (Mark Van Beirs)

Because of severe unrest and rioting in the area of Wamena in the central mountains of West Papua, we were, sadly, forced to offer an alternative for the Snow Mountain Robin trip we had so carefully planned. We decided to visit the fairly-recently discovered, splendid forest site of Malagufuk, situated not too far from Sorong. It proved to be an excellent decision, as we really enjoyed the beautiful lowland forest and its high-quality avian inhabitants. We spent four days in this fairly untouched stretch of rather open rainforest. The mornings were always the more productive times, as we experienced rain on most afternoons. On one particular late afternoon the skies really opened, it rained like hell and the whole village got flooded... luckily

our accommodation had been built on stilts. The community took very good care of us and our local guides were both helpful and quite knowledgeable. A tame Blyth's Hornbill often followed us around in the village and became a bit of a terror when we were having our lunch. A youngish Northern Cassowary frequented the village and scared the hell out of us as it sometimes curiously investigated us at very close range. We had a terrific encounter with a truly wild, glorious adult male Northern Cassowary as it crossed the main track in front of us on our walk in. Red-billed Brushturkeys were often heard in the forest and we were lucky enough to get excellent looks at this shy denizen on two occasions. We know now what its eye colour is! A Papuan Nightjar showed very well around the village clearing on the only dry evening of our stay. We had two encounters with the rarely seen New Guinea Bronzewing and obtained splendid scope views of a fantastic Western Crowned Pigeon. A Long-tailed Honey Buzzard was found robbing a bee's nest, allowing excellent looks. Kingfishers definitely were a feature of these forests as we encountered a terrific selection



The male King Bird-of-paradise is a real jewel (Mark Van Beirs)



Papuan Pittas performed very well at Malagufuk (Mark Van Beirs)

including Hook-billed, Common Paradise, the restricted range Red-breasted Paradise, Yellow-billed, the tiny Papuan Dwarf and Azure Kingfishers, next to the hulking Rufous-bellied Kookaburra. Grotesque Palm Cockatoos showed now and then and the localized Black Lory was not uncommon. We found several smart Large Fig Parrots quietly foraging in the canopy. Both Papuan and Hooded Pittas were often heard and showed brilliantly in the fairly open forest. The very infrequently-encountered Tawny Straightbill was spotted a couple of times in a flock together with Arafura Shrikethrushes and Papuan Babblers. Hides had been set up at the display site of a Magnificent Riflebird, allowing exquisite looks at this gorgeous species. The incredibly handsome male King Bird-of-paradise also showed ever so well at a couple of display trees. Other species seen during our stay included Moustached Treeswift, Glossy and Uniform Swiftlets, Papuan Spine-tailed Swift, Ivory-billed Coucal, Dwarf Koel, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Sultan's and Great Cuckoo-Doves, Stephan's Emerald Dove, Wompoo, Ornate, Coroneted, Orange-bellied and Dwarf Fruit Doves, Purple-tailed and Pinon's Imperial Pigeons, Variable and Grey-headed Goshawks, Blyth's Hornbill, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot, Moluccan King, Eclectus and Red-cheeked Parrots, Black-capped Lory, Coconut Lorikeet, Plain Honeyeater, New Guinea Friarbird, Long-billed, Mimic and Puff-backed Honeyeaters, Large-billed, Green-backed and Fairy Gerygones, Papuan Babbler, Black Berrypecker, Dwarf, Pygmy and Yellow-bellied Longbills, Blue Jewel-babbler, Yellow-breasted Boatbill, Lowland Peltops, Black Butcherbird, Boyer's and Grey-headed Cuckooshrikes, Black Cicadabird, Black-browed Triller, Grey Whistler, Arafura Shrikethrush, Brown Oriole, Spangled Drongo, Northern Fantail, Golden and Frilled Monarchs, Shining Flycatcher, Grey Crow, Glossy-mantled Manucode, Lesser Bird-of-paradise, Black-sided Robin, Metallic Starling, Yellow-faced and Golden Mynas, a recently-arrived Grey-streaked Flycatcher, Olive-crowned Flowerpecker, Olive-backed Sunbird and Grey Wagtail. Several cute Common Forest Wallabies were seen on our wanderings.



The glorious, very localized Red-breasted Paradise Kingfisher gave outstanding views (Mark Van Beirs)

After this very enjoyable stay we returned to the ever-expanding town of Sorong for a major clean up. In late afternoon we explored a mangrove area near town where several smart Orange-fronted Fruit Doves, eight or so Cinnamon Bitterns and a cracking Beach Kingfisher showed well, next to more widespread species like Spotted Dove, Buff-banded Rail, Pacific Golden Plover, Whimbrel, Common and Wood Sandpipers, Great, Intermediate and Little Egrets, Pacific Reef Heron, Scrub Honeyeater, Willie Wagtail, Barn and Pacific Swallows, Singing Starling and Eurasian Tree Sparrow.



The Sorong mangroves produced good looks at this Beach Kingfisher (Mark Van Beirs)

The following day we flew to West Papua's capital Jayapura, where we met the two other participants and where the main part of the tour started with a flight to the southern town of Merauke.

Upon arrival at the growing city of Merauke we first had to deal with immigration administration – because of the proximity to the PNG border – and also had to obtain a “surat jalan” (travel pass) from the Wasur National Park headquarters. This obviously took a bit of time, but luckily, in late afternoon, we managed to explore a stretch of fallow ricefields near town where we soon connected with one of our main targets, the pretty Grey-crowned Mannikin. A flock of about 40 birds showed well as they were foraging on grass seeds. This localized species, which only occurs in extreme southern New Guinea on both sides of the border was a Birdquest lifer! Several attractive Crimson Finches were accompanying them. A Black Bittern allowed excellent scope views as it was feeding in a ditch. We also found Black-billed and Pheasant Coucals, Buff-banded Rail, Masked Lapwing, Brown Goshawk, Sacred Kingfisher and introduced Sooty-headed Bulbuls.



Grey-crowned Mannikins are restricted to the southern lowlands (Mark Van Beirs)



The Spangled Kookaburra was delightfully common in the open woodlands of the Wasur NP (Mark Van Beirs)

Our first morning at the edge of the Wasur National Park was great fun. On the drive in we already picked up quality species like recently arrived Pacific Swifts, several flocks of Torresian Imperial Pigeons and a couple of Black-backed Butcherbirds, next to more widespread birds like Bar-shouldered and Peaceful Doves, Little Pied and Little Black Cormorants, Eastern Cattle Egret, Oriental Dollarbird, White-shouldered Fairywren, White-breasted Woodswallow and Torresian Crow. We took a leisurely walk in a nice stretch of quite open melaleuca woodland interspersed with patches of dense monsoon forest. The bird of the day was without a doubt the much-wanted and very well performing Spangled Kookaburra. This very smart, localized New Guinea endemic showed brilliantly and was the second Birdquest lifer of the trip! We had good looks at a

pair of curious Pacific Bazas and at several lovely Orange-breasted Fig Parrots while a Black Thicket Fantail played hide and seek. More widespread species included Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Brush Cuckoo, Whistling Kite, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Rufous-bellied Kookaburra, Forest Kingfisher, Dusky Myzomela, Brown, Tawny-breasted, White-throated and Brown-backed Honeyeaters, Grey-crowned Babbler (nest building), Common Cicadabird, Lemon-bellied Flyrobin, Red-capped Flowerpecker and Black Sunbird. A partly dried out lake held a nice assortment of waterbirds like Raja Shelduck, Grey Teal, Pied Stilt, Black-tailed Godwit, Sharp-tailed and Marsh Sandpipers, Common Greenshank, Whiskered Tern, Australian White and Glossy Ibises, Royal Spoonbill and Nankeen Night and Pied Herons. We checked the extensive mudflats along the shore of the Arafura Sea where Striated Heron, Whimbrel, Far Eastern Curlew, Red-necked Stint, Terek Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler, Great Knot and Australian Gull-billed, Little and Greater Crested Terns foraged. In the afternoon we had another look in an area of fallow ricefields, where Crimson Finches and Grey-crowned Mannikins showed well again and a Golden-headed Cisticola briefly performed.



Pied Herons and Crimson Finches were commonly encountered in the Merauke area (Mark Van Beirs)

Early next morning we drove along a smooth road leading through beautiful woodland to the centre of the huge Wasur National Park. The second car was lucky enough to spot a male Southern Cassowary with a youngster walking just next to the road! We made a number of short stops and found interesting species like Collared Sparrowhawk, the colossal Blue-winged Kookaburra, the really nice Spangled Kookaburra (more looks at this localized goodie!), a gorgeous and very well behaved Little Kingfisher, Red-winged Parrot, Red-flanked Lorikeet, Fawn-breasted Bowerbird (and its bower) and Noisy Friarbird. Channel-billed Cuckoo, Australian Magpie, White-bellied Cuckooshrike, Grey Shrikethrush and Tree Martin also appeared on the checklist. In mid-morning we arrived at an outlying trailhead where we took a walk amongst open melaleuca woodland. A stylish Blue-faced Honeyeater showed well. The trail ended in a nice stretch of monsoon forest where we obtained good looks at several female Greater Birds-of-paradise. Sadly, we only glimpsed a male. Smart Orange-fronted Fruit Doves, a Zoe Imperial Pigeon, lots of Torresian Imperial Pigeons, a Black-eared Catbird (glimpsed only), Graceful Honeyeater and New Guinea White-eye were other additions to the tally.



The gorgeous Little Kingfisher posed so very well along a creek at the Wasur NP (Mark Van Beirs)

Most of the following morning was spent patrolling fallow fields and ripening ricefields to the north of Merauke. We initially found good numbers of Crimson Finches and perky Grey-crowned Mannikins and eventually also connected with the restricted range Black Mannikin. About a dozen of these rarely-seen, jetblack near endemics showed very well at the edge of a reedbed and in the neighbouring fields. Another Birdquest lifer! While searching for our quarry we also noted flocks of Magpie Geese, Australasian Swamphen, lots of Glossy Ibises and Pied Herons, a lovely Black-winged Kite, Horsfield's Bush Lark, Tawny Grassbird and Zitting Cisticola. After this success we made our way further north as we wanted to explore some distant forests and aimed to overnight in a small village, but the road had become a very muddy affair after the recent heavy rains. It was simply impassable to our vehicles, so we had to adapt our plans. Before turning back, we explored a stretch of paperbark woodland, but not much was moving in the middle of the day. A Rufous-banded Honeyeater and a sneaky Trumpet Manucode were new for the list. In the afternoon we had a look at some nice mangrove forest where Mangrove Gerygone and Red-headed Myzomela briefly showed. An unexpected Swamp Harrier was seen quartering over the nearby fields.



A smiling group of birders and soldiers near the Papua New Guinea border (Mark Van Beirs)

On our final day in the Merauke area, we explored a couple of new sites in the Wasur National Park. We lost quite a bit of time due to red tape, as we were literally birding on the border with Papua New Guinea. The military were friendly, but quite strict and after the official business was done, they all wanted their photos taken with the crazy “white” people that were visiting Wasur NP for birdwatching... The mixture of melaleuca/paperbark woodland and monsoon forest gave us new birds like Azure Kingfisher, Yellowish-streaked Lory, Little Friarbird and Olive-backed Oriole. We had more great looks at cracking Spangled Kookaburras and had to conclude that they are really common here. We also had a great encounter with an obliging Black-eared Catbird.

A day of travelling followed as we took flights from Merauke to Jayapura and, after a fair wait, onwards to Sorong, where we were greeted by the smiling face of Shita, our faithful Mrs fix-it.



Wasur National Park scenery (Mark Van Beirs)

Next morning we boarded a speedboat, armed with two very powerful 200 hp engines, which took us to the distant island of Kofiau. We first sailed between the islands of Batanta and Salawati and once we reached the open sea, we started to note some seabird activity. Several small flocks of Red-necked Phalaropes (in non-breedig plumage) showed well, as did Greater Crested, Black-naped and Bridled Terns, Brown Noddy, Brown Booby, a couple of Streaked Shearwaters and quite a few Lesser Frigatebirds. Upon arrival at Kofiau, we checked into our accommodation, which was much better than expected. After a break in the heat of the day – it was really hot and steamy there – we took a walk in a stretch of secondary woodland, where the first bird we found was the endemic Kofiau Monarch. This little-known species showed nicely as it darted about in some dense bushes. Our first speciality had already succumbed!! A bit further inland a splash of blue turned itself into our main target on Kofiau, the magnificent Kofiau Paradise Kingfisher. It posed ever so well and allowed perfect scope views. It behaved much friendlier than its close relative, the Common Paradise Kingfisher. In the course of the afternoon we bumped into two more of these very important birds. One bird showed a bit of blue colour on its tail shafts, while the others didn't... variation? We were all extremely happy with our success! We also found interesting species like the Moluccan form of White-bibbed Fruit Dove (Moluccan Fruit Dove), Claret-breasted Fruit Dove, Spectacled Imperial Pigeon, Beach Kingfisher and several glorious Great-billed Parrots. Tony spotted a Chinese Sparrowhawk and more widespread species included Glossy Swiftlet, Great Cuckoo-Dove and Black-browed Triller. A Northern Common Cuscus trying to hide in the top of a tall forest tree was a good find.



It takes some effort to get to the island of Kofiau, but once there its endemic Paradise Kingfisher is easy to observe (Mark Van Beirs)

We returned to the extensive patch of good forest the following morning and obtained more excellent views of several well-behaved, very smart-looking Kofiau Paradise Kingfishers and of subtly attractive Kofiau Monarchs. We encountered a couple of swift-moving Dusky Megapodes and found their large breeding mound. A pair of Eastern Ospreys showed well and we managed several nice studies of perched Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrots. After feeling very satisfied with our endemic experiences we returned to base. Several of us went snorkelling over the nearby reef and enjoyed the fantastically diverse underwater world of the Rajah Ampat. After a break in the extreme heat of the day we explored a forest-lined freshwater lake, where a male Moluccan Fruit Dove posed ever so well. We found several Tricoloured Grebes in breeding attire, a couple of White-winged Terns and scores of drinking and bathing Lesser Frigatebirds. The nearby shoreline held a lone Beach Thick-knee and we located a roosting Moluccan Flying Fox under a palm leaf.



The perky Kofiau Monarch inhabits the mid canopy of the Kofiau forests (Mark Van Beirs)

As we had scored so well on the specialities of Kofiau, we left the island a day earlier than planned. The return boat trip to Sorong produced more or less the same selection of seabirds as on the outward journey. We spotted more Red-necked Phalaropes and Brown Boobies and added Common Tern to the tally. In the afternoon we visited a mangrove area near Sorong, where we obtained cracking scope views of the magnificent Blue-black Kingfisher. Both male and female of the nominate race showed well. Yet another high-quality kingfisher was added to our list! Several Pied Imperial Pigeons flew over and we heard the distinctive call of a Barred Rail. We also had a quick look at a marshy meadow where Cinnamon Bittern obliged.



We found the gorgeous Blue-black Kingfisher at Sorong and at Malagufuk. This is a male of the nominate race (Mark Van Beirs)

Next morning we made our way to the splendid lowland rainforest site of Malagufuk, which some of us had already visited just ten days before. We spent an exciting three full days at this excellent venue and came away with terrific sightings of a number of much-wanted, high quality species. We won't quickly forget our amazing encounter with a huge, truly spectacular female Northern Cassowary deep in the forest. She stood taller than all of us and checked us out suspiciously, but, luckily, remained calm and soon went her own way. Next to her, the 'tame' rascal immature bird that wandered about the village causing all kinds of mischief looked small and slender. We saw the vociferous, but shy Red-billed Brushturkey twice on our wanderings. Our local guide had found a nest of the dainty Cinnamon Ground Dove, so we were able to admire this beauty from a distance. Tony was lucky enough to encounter a rare Thick-billed Ground Pigeon and a New Guinea Bronzewing on his solo wanderings. We heard several Pheasant Pigeons, before we finally bumped



We were able to admire the fascinating display of Lesser Birds-of-paradise at close range (Mark Van Beirs)

into one and several Western Crowned Pigeons were briefly seen. We obtained excellent scope views of the rare, very attractive Red-breasted Paradise Kingfisher and saw its near relative, the Common Paradise Kingfisher regularly. The magnificent Blue-black Kingfisher performed very well again, this time not far from a creek in primary forest. Localized Black Lories showed nicely on several occasions, as did colourful Large Fig Parrots. The extremely handsome Papuan Pitta gave excellent views, both by day and by night and several Hooded Pittas also obliged. We were extremely happy with our sighting of a male Blue Jewel-babbler as he walked along a mossy log, allowing for unusually long looks. A hide had been built at a display site of a Magnificent Riflebird, so we enjoyed the spectacle of a loud singing male on his display branch at length. A cracking male King Bird-of-paradise also gave the best of himself as he called and hopped about high in his display tree. One morning, we got up rather early, so we could be at the display tree of several male Lesser Birds-of-paradise just after dawn. At least five males could be admired at close range as they



The exquisite, rarely-observed Wallace's Owlet-nightjar posed ever so well (Mark Van Beirs)

danced like crazy and called loudly when a subtly-coloured female visited. A sight to behold! We regularly heard the explosive call of the Black-sided Robin in the forest and after a bit of effort, obtained good looks at this pied bird. We took several nightwalks, which resulted in observations of rarities like Rufous Owl (an immature bird) and a splendid Marbled Frogmouth, but best of all was the fantastic Papuan Hawk Owl, that obliged so very well, eventually. A couple of Papuan Nightjars flew around the camp at dusk and our man of the spot found a day roost of a cute Wallace's Owlet-nightjar. We also noted White-crowned Cuckoo, Great Cuckoo-Dove, Superb and Dwarf Fruit Doves, White-eared Catbird, Spotted Honeyeater, Rusty Pitohui, Sooty and Black Thicket Fantails, Spot-winged Monarch and Glossy-mantled and Trumpet Manucodes. Several Brown Forest Wallabies showed nicely. Malagufuk is a really special place, and although the

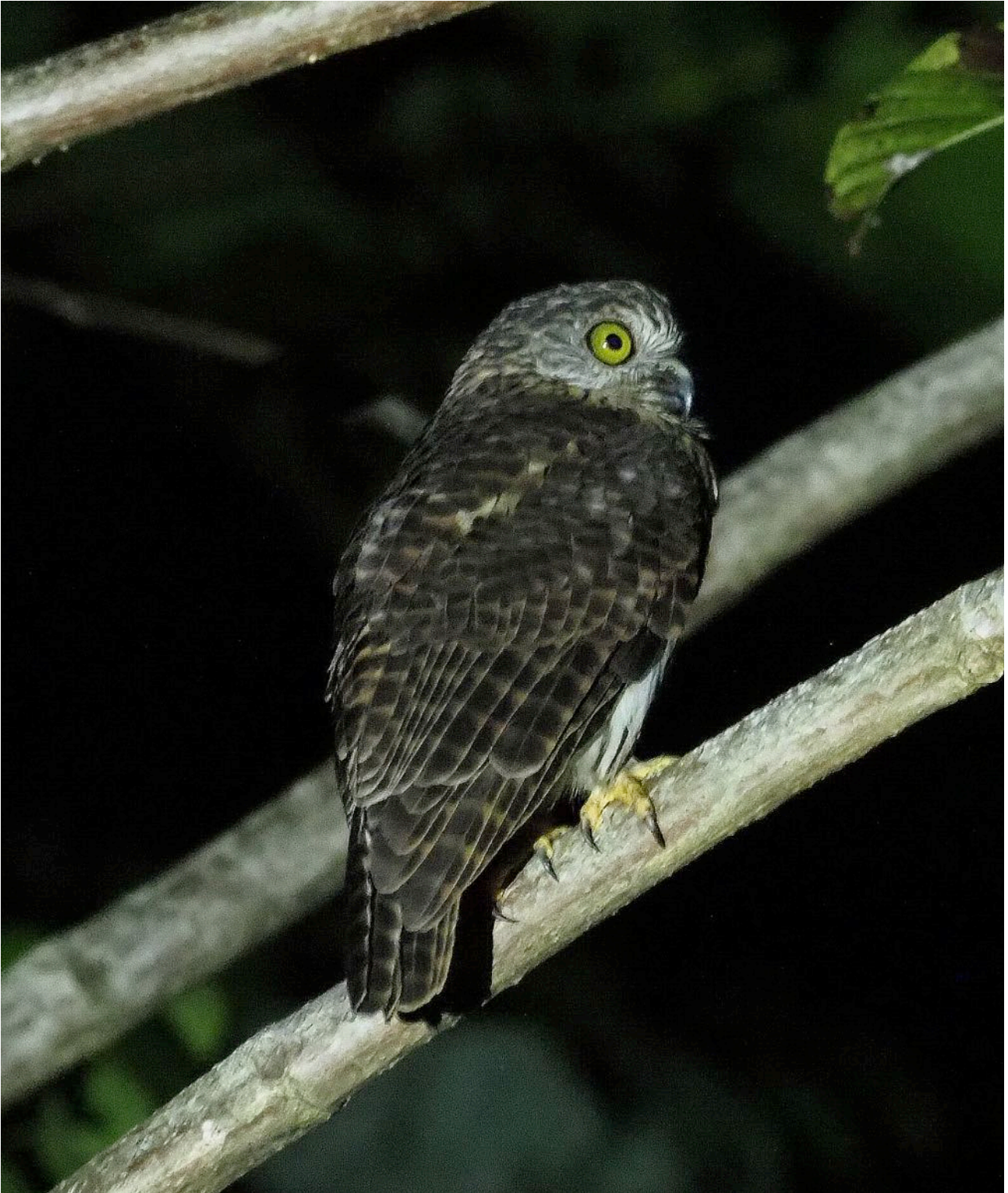


Hooded Pittas were marvelously common at Malagufuk (Mark Van Beirs)

accommodation is rather simple and the chiggers, leeches and toothpaste and hairbrush chewing rats can be a bit annoying, we really enjoyed this stretch of lowland rainforest immensely. It provided a fitting end to our rather different West Papuan adventure



The Western Crowned Pigeon is pure eye candy (Mark Van Beirs)



It took a fair amount of effort to get to grips with the rarely-seen Papuan Hawk Owl (Mark Van Beirs)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

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

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

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

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

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

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

EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened

Southern Cassowary ◊ *Casuarus casuarius* (NL)..An adult and a youngster were seen in the Wasur NP.

Northern Cassowary ◊ *Casuarus unappendiculatus* Fantastic looks at male and female at Malagufuk.

Red-billed Brushturkey ◊ *Talegalla cuvieri* Excellent views at Malagufuk.

Black-billed Brushturkey ◊ *Talegalla fuscirostris* (H) We heard the distinctive calls in the Wasur NP.

Dusky Megapode ◊ *Megapodius freycinet* Brief looks on Kofiau.

Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt* Several were seen in the Wasur NP.

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata* Flocks were noted in the Merauke ricefields.

Raja Shelduck *Radjah radjah* Regular in the Wasur NP and also on Kofiau.

Grey Teal *Anas gracilis* A few were seen at the Wasur NP.

Marbled Frogmouth *Podargus ocellatus* Terrific close up views at Malagufuk.

Papuan Nightjar ◊ *Eurostopodus papuensis* A nice performance at the Malagufuk clearing.

Wallace's Owlet-nightjar ◊ *Aegotheles wallacii* Splendid views at a day roost at Malagufuk.

Moustached Treeswift *Hemiprocne mystacea* A few were noted on our first visit to Malagufuk.

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta* Regular.

Uniform Swiftlet *Aerodramus vanikorensis* Small numbers only.

Papuan Spine-tailed Swift ◊ *Mearnsia novaeguineae* A few were seen over the Malagufuk clearing.

Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus* This migrant was fairly common at the Wasur NP.

Ivory-billed Coucal ◊ *Centropus menbeki* Regular encounters at Malagufuk.

Black-billed Coucal ◊ *Centropus bernsteini* Regularly seen at the Wasur NP.

Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus* Fairly common in the Merauke ricefields.

Dwarf Koel ◊ *Microdynamis parva* Nice scope views of one on our first visit to Malagufuk.

Pacific Koel *Eudynamis orientalis* (H) Regularly heard at Malagufuk.

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae* Several excellent observations.

Little Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus* (H) Regularly heard at several sites.

White-crowned Cuckoo ◊ *Cacomantis leucolophus* Fair looks at one at Malagufuk.

Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis castaneiventris* (H) A few were heard at Malagufuk.

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus* Regular encounters. More often heard.

Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis* A few in the Sorong area.

Sultan's Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia doreya* Regular in small numbers.

Great Cuckoo-Dove *Reinwardtoena reinwardti* Perfect scope views at Malagufuk.

Pacific Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps longirostris* (NL) One was seen at the Wasur NP.

Stephan's Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps stephani* A few encounters.

New Guinea Bronzewing ◊ *Henicophaps albifrons* Several were seen at Malagufuk on our first visit.

Thick-billed Ground Pigeon ◊ *Trugon terrestris* (NL) Tony saw one at Malagufuk.

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia placida* Regular near Merauke.

Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis* Regular in the Wasur NP.

Cinnamon Ground Dove ◊ *Gallicolumba rufigula* A bird sitting on its nest was seen at Malagufuk.

Pheasant Pigeon ◊ *Otidiphaps nobilis* Brief views were obtained at Malagufuk.

Western Crowned Pigeon ◊ *Goura cristata* VU Excellent looks at Malagufuk on our first visit.

Wompoo Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus magnificus* Regular at Malagufuk.

Ornate Fruit Dove ◊ *Ptilinopus ornatus* A couple were noted at Malagufuk.

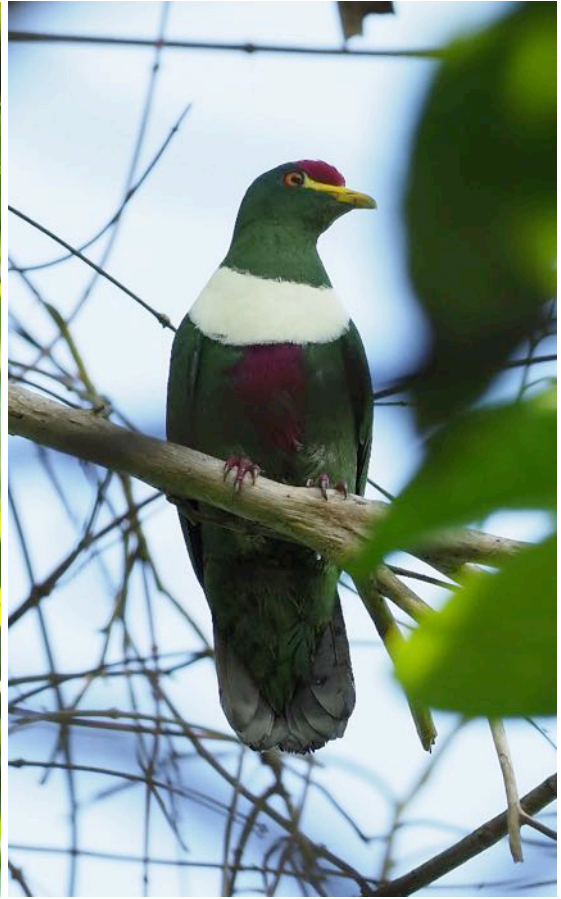
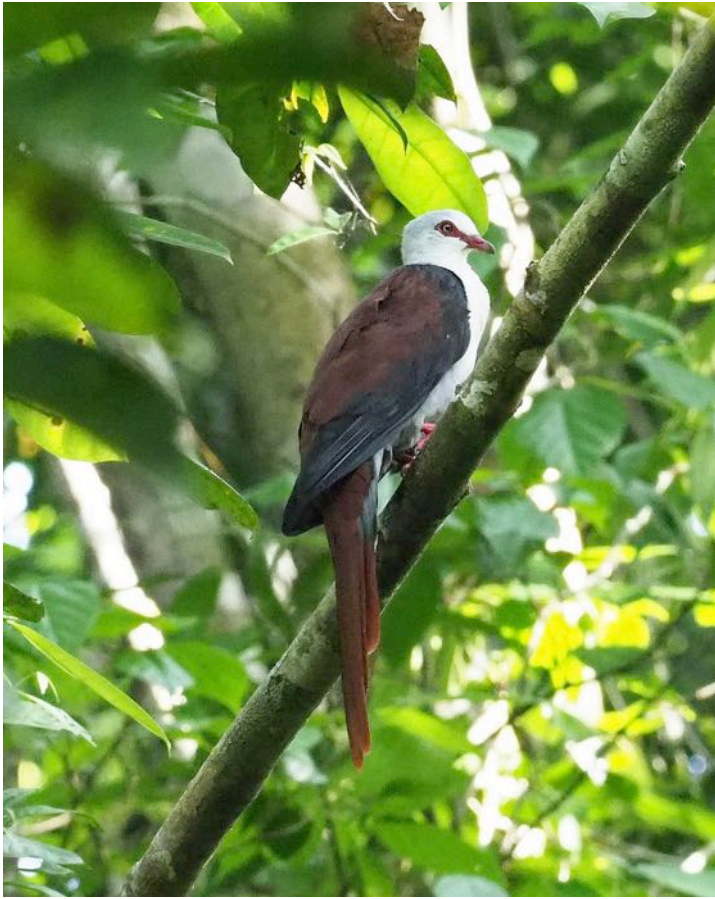
Orange-fronted Fruit Dove ◊ *Ptilinopus aurantiifrons* Terrific looks in the Sorong area.

Superb Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus superbus* A male was scoped at Malagufuk.

Coroneted Fruit Dove ◊ *Ptilinopus coronulatus* Seen at the Wasur NP

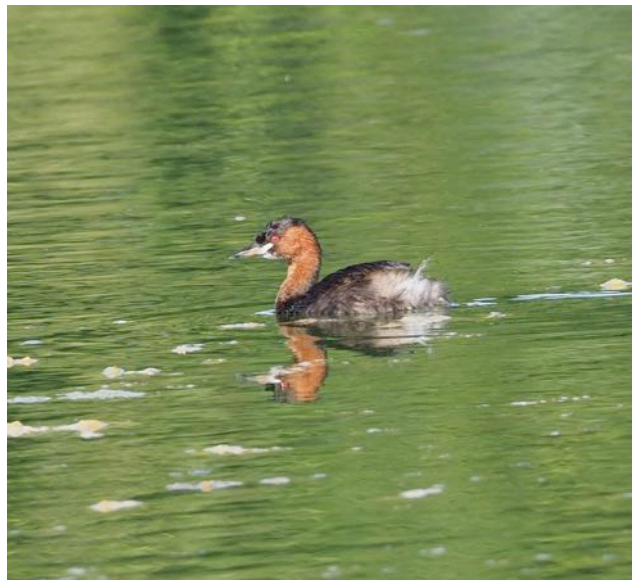
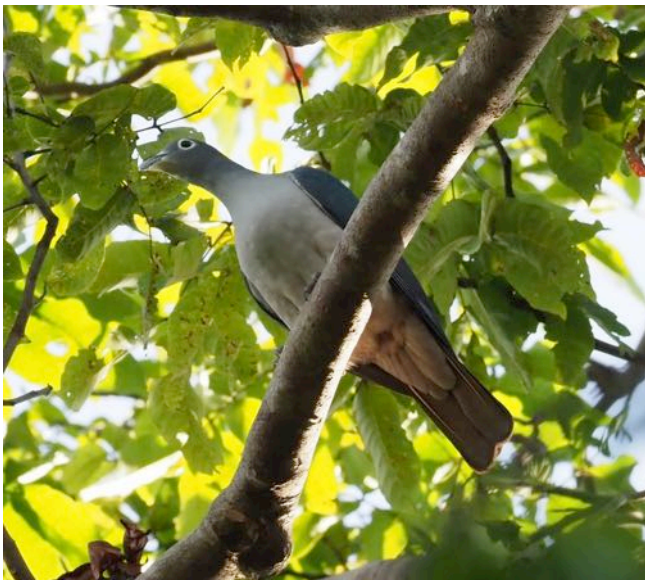


A female Northern Cassowary (Mark Van Beirs)



Great Cuckoo-Dove; a male White-bibbed Fruit Dove (Mark Van Beirs)

- White-bibbed Fruit Dove** ♦ *Ptilinopus rivoli* Very nice observations on Kofiau. See Note.
- Claret-breasted Fruit Dove** ♦ *Ptilinopus viridis* Regular on Kofiau.
- Orange-bellied Fruit Dove** ♦ *Ptilinopus iozonus* Fairly common.
- Dwarf Fruit Dove** ♦ *Ptilinopus nainus* Scope studies of a singing male at Malagufuk.



Spectacled Imperial Pigeon; Tricoloured Grebe (Mark Van Beirs)

- Spectacled Imperial Pigeon** ♦ *Ducula perspicillata* Regular on Kofiau.
- Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon** ♦ *Ducula rufigaster* Several nice sightings at Malagufuk.
- Pinon's Imperial Pigeon** ♦ *Ducula pinon* Common.

Zoe's Imperial Pigeon *Ducula zoeae* A few showed well at Malagufuk.
Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor* Several were seen in the Sorong mangroves.
Torresian Imperial Pigeon *Ducula spilorrhoa* Common in the Wasur NP.
Barred Rail *Gallirallus torquatus* (H) We heard it in the Sorong area.
Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis* Good looks at several in the Merauke area.
Pale-vented Bush-hen *Amaurornis moluccana* (H) Heard at Malagufuk.
Australasian Swamphen *Porphyrio melanotus* A few were seen near Merauke.
Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus magnirostris* NT Good looks at one on Kofiau.
Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas* NT Small numbers were noted on the boat trip to Kofiau.



Pacific Golden Plover; Eastern Osprey (Mark Van Beirs)

Tricolored Grebe *Tachybaptus tricolor* Several showed very well in breeding attire on Kofiau.
Pied Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus* Regular near Merauke.
Masked Lapwing *Vanellus miles* Fairly common in the Merauke area.
Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* Seen near Sorong and on Kofiau.
Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultia* A few were noted at the Wasur NP mudflats.
Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* Small numbers were at the Wasur NP mudflats. A few elsewhere.
Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* EN c20 were at the Wasur NP mudflats. Splendid.
Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* NT Small numbers were noted at the Wasur NP.
Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* EN Two showed quite well at the Wasur NP mudflats.
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* Fair numbers at the Wasur NP mudflats.
Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* NT Regular at the Wasur NP mudflats.
Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala* Two were found in a marshy field near Sorong.
Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* c30 at the Wasur NP mudflats.
Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* c50 at sea on our way to Kofiau.
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Regular.
Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes* NT A handful at the Wasur NP mudflats.
Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* Just a few in the Merauke area.
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* Seen near Sorong and near Merauke.
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* Just three were noted in the Wasur NP.
Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus* A few were identified at sea near Kofiau.
Australian Tern *Gelochelidon macrotarsa* Six were observed at the Wasur NP mudflats. See Note.
Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii* Small numbers near Sorong and at Kofiau.
Little Tern *Sternula albigrons* Two were seen at the Wasur NP mudflat



Red-necked Phalaropes (Mark Van Beirs)

- Bridled Tern** *Onychoprion anaethetus* A handful at sea near Kofiau.
- Black-naped Tern** *Sterna sumatrana* Six birds showed well at sea off Batanta.
- Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo* Two were identified off Batanta.
- Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida* Regular.
- White-winged Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus* Just a few at Kofiau.
- Lesser Frigatebird** *Fregata ariel* Regular at sea off Sorong and off Kofiau.
- Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster* Ten or so showed well at sea off Kofiau.
- Little Pied Cormorant** *Microcarbo melanoleucos* Several were noted in the Merauke area.
- Little Black Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* A single was seen near Merauke.
- Australian White Ibis** *Threskiornis molucca* Eight were observed near Merauke.
- Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* Very common in the ricefields near Merauke.
- Royal Spoonbill** *Platalea regia* c20 showed at a creek in the Wasur NP.
- Cinnamon Bittern** *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* Common in marshy habitat near Sorong.
- Black Bittern** *Dupetor flavicollis* Good looks at one in a ditch near Merauke.
- Nankeen Night Heron** *Nycticorax caledonicus* Two were noted at a creek in the Wasur NP.
- Striated Heron** *Butorides striata* Regular at the Wasur NP and on Kofiau.
- Eastern Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus coromandus* Fairly common in the Merauke ricefields.
- Great Egret** *Ardea alba* Common.
- Intermediate Egret** *Ardea intermedia* A few in the Wasur NP and near Merauke.
- Pied Heron** *Egretta picata* Quite regular in the Merauke ricefields.
- Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* Common.
- Pacific Reef Heron** *Egretta sacra* Just three observations. Both pale and dark morphs were seen.
- Eastern Osprey** *Pandion cristatus* Good looks at several on Kofiau and on Salawati.



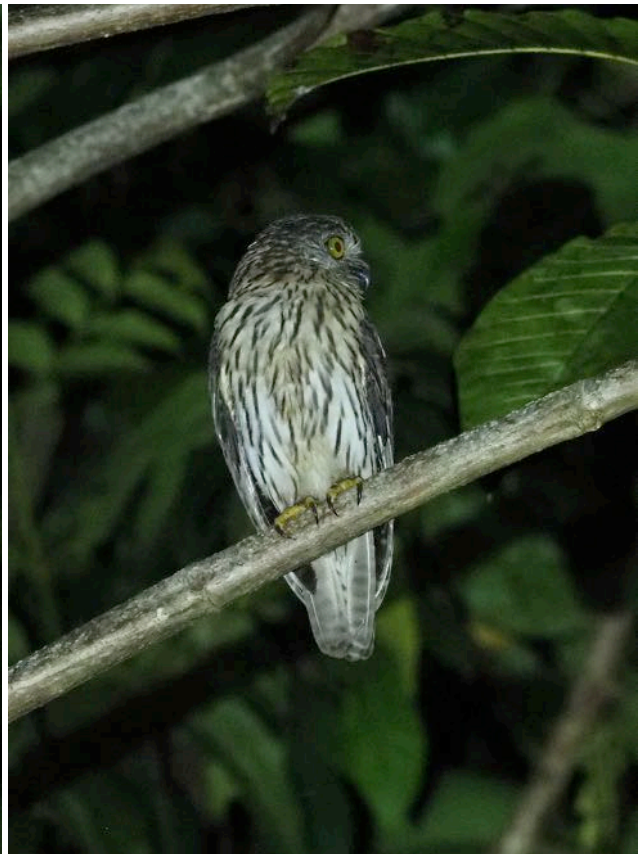
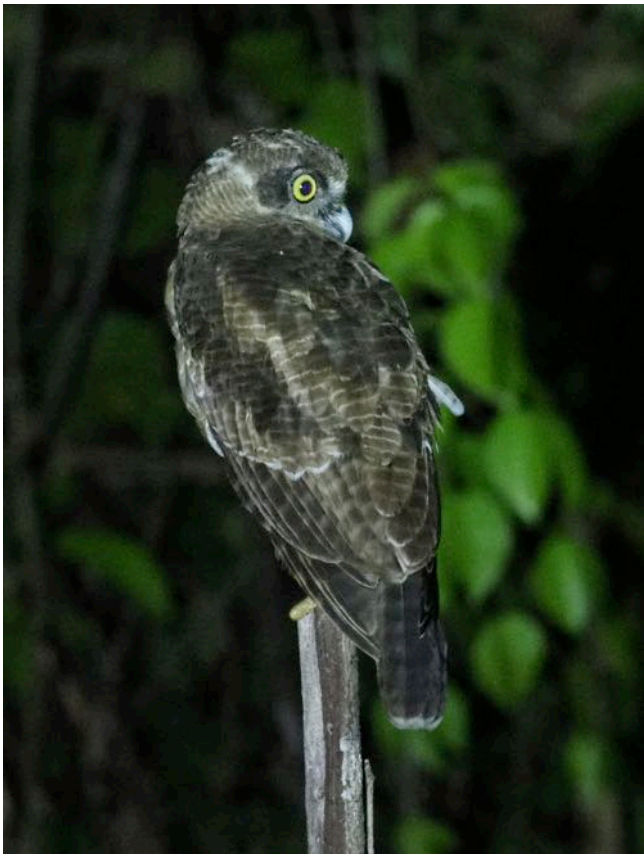
Brown Boobies (Mark Van Beirs)

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* A single bird was hovering over the Merauke ricefields.

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata* Seven observations of this attractive bird of prey.

Long-tailed Honey Buzzard ♦ ***Henicopernis longicauda*** Four observations of this impressive raptor.

Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis* (NL) Tony saw one of these migrants on Kofiau.

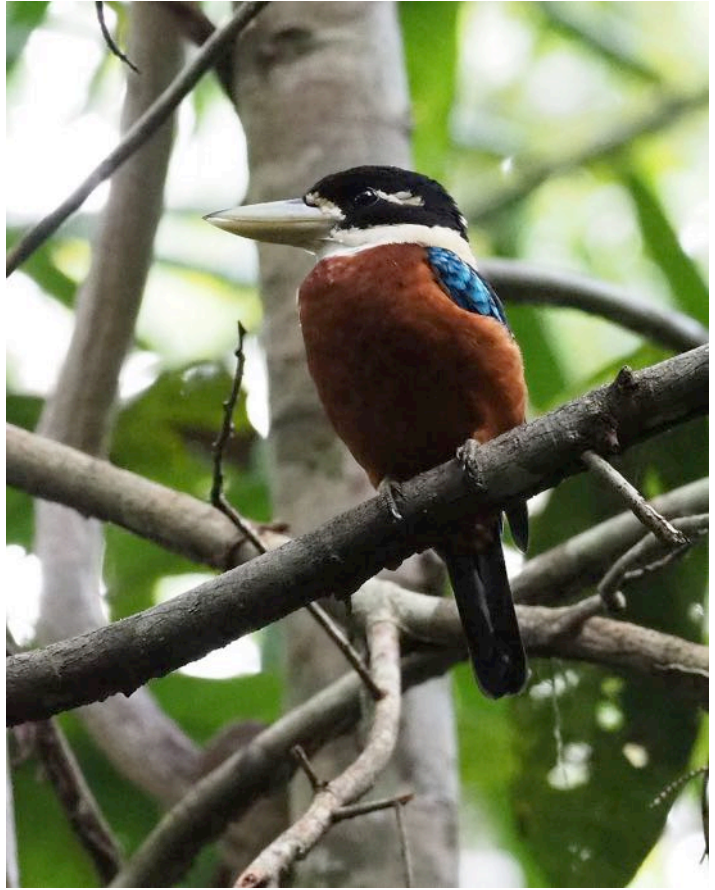


Rufous Owl (immature); Papuan Hawk Owl (Mark Van Beirs)

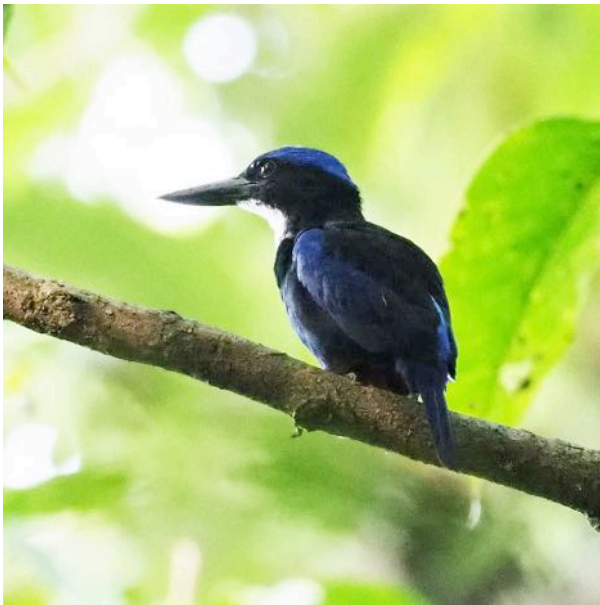


Long-tailed Honey Buzzard (Mark Van Beirs)

- Variable Goshawk** *Accipiter hiogaster* Six encounters at Malagufuk.
- Brown Goshawk** *Accipiter fasciatus* An immature bird showed well near Merauke.
- Grey-headed Goshawk** ◊ *Accipiter poliocephalus* Four observations of this clean-looking species.
- Collared Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter cirrocephalus* Good looks at one at the Wasur NP.
- Swamp Harrier** *Circus approximans* A single showed beautifully near Merauke.
- Whistling Kite** *Haliastur sphenurus* Common at the Wasur NP and near Merauke.
- Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus* Small numbers along our route.
- White-bellied Sea Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster* Regular at the Wasur NP and in the Kofiau area.
- Greater Sooty Owl** *Tyto tenebricosa* (H) We heard the “falling bomb” call at Malagufuk.
- Rufous Owl** *Ninox rufa* Excellent views of an immature bird at Malagufuk.
- Papuan Boobook** ◊ *Ninox theomacha* (H) We heard the distinctive call at night at Malagufuk.
- Papuan Hawk-Owl** ◊ *Uroglaux dimorpha* A perfect sighting of this splendid species at Malagufuk.
- Blyth's (Papuan) Hornbill** *Rhyticeros plicatus* Regular at Malagufuk. None were seen at the Wasur NP.
- Oriental Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis* Common at the Wasur NP. A few elsewhere.



Blyth's Hornbill; Rufous-bellied Kookaburra (Mark Van Beirs)



Blue-black Kingfisher; Yellow-billed Kingfisher (Mark Van Beirs)



Blue-winged Kookaburra (Mark Van Beirs)

Hook-billed Kingfisher ◊ *Melidora macrorrhina* A few heard at Malagufuk. One seen on our first visit.

Common Paradise Kingfisher *Tanysiptera galatea* A few showed well at Malagufuk.

Kofiau Paradise Kingfisher ◊ *Tanysiptera ellioti* VU Perfect studies of this Birdquest lifer on Kofiau.

Red-breasted Paradise Kingfisher ◊ *Tanysiptera nympha* Scope views of this cracker at Malagufuk.



Red-breasted Paradise Kingfisher (Mark Van Beirs)

Blue-winged Kookaburra *Dacelo leachii* A few were seen in the Wasur NP.

Spangled Kookaburra ◇ *Dacelo tyro* This Birdquest lifer performed very well at the Wasur NP.

Rufous-bellied Kookaburra ◇ *Dacelo gaudichaud* Regular at Malagufuk and at the Wasur NP.

Blue-black Kingfisher ◇ *Todiramphus nigrocyaneus* NT Perfect at Sorong and Malagufuk. See Note.

Forest Kingfisher *Todiramphus macleayii* Regular at the Wasur NP.

Beach Kingfisher *Todiramphus saurophagus* Seen well near Sorong and on Kofiau.

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus* A few encounters.

Yellow-billed Kingfisher *Syma torotoro* Common at Malagufuk and at the Wasur NP.

Papuan Dwarf Kingfisher ◇ *Ceyx solitarius* Several very nice sightings at Malagufuk.

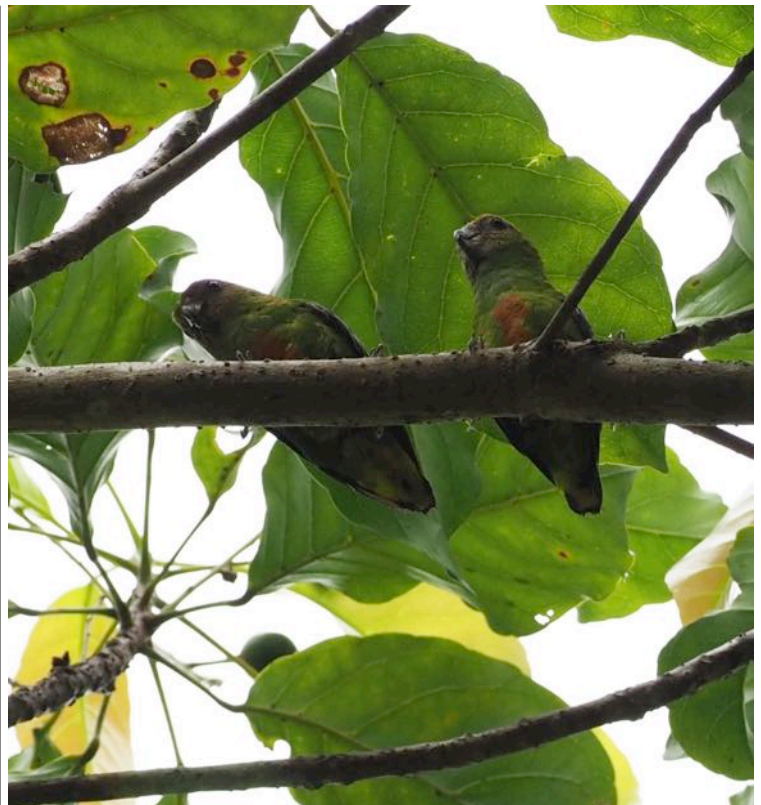


Papuan Dwarf Kingfisher; Azure Kingfisher (Mark Van Beirs)

Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azureus* Seen well at Malagufuk and at the Wasur NP.

Little Kingfisher *Ceyx pusillus* Marvelous encounters at the Wasur NP and on Kofiau. Tiny!

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus* Regular in the Wasur NP.



Palm Cockatoo; Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot (Mark Van Beirs)

Palm Cockatoo *Probosciger aterrimus* A few at Malagufuk and in the Wasur NP.

Little Corella *Cacatua sanguinea* (NL) Two were seen at the Wasur NP.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita* Common and vociferous.

Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot ♦ *Micropsitta keiensis* Good looks at Malagufuk and very nice on Kofiau.



Great-billed Parrot; Violet-necked Lorries (Mark Van Beirs)

- Moluccan King Parrot** ◊ *Alisterus amboinensis* Several were briefly seen at Malagufuk.
- Red-winged Parrot** *Aprosmictus erythropterus* Common at the Wasur NP.
- Eclectus Parrot** *Eclectus roratus* Small numbers only at Malagufuk and Wasur NP...trapping!
- Red-cheeked Parrot** *Geoffroyus geoffroyi* Common at Malagufuk and at the Wasur NP.
- Great-billed Parrot** ◊ *Tanygnathus megalorhynchus* Great looks at this cracker on Kofiau.
- Red-flanked Lorikeet** *Chamosyna placensis* A few were seen at Malagufuk.
- Black-capped Lory** ◊ *Lorius lory* Just a few were noted at Malagufuk.
- Black Lory** ◊ *Chalcopsitta atra* Good looks at Malagufuk. A speciality!
- Yellowish-streaked Lory** ◊ *Chalcopsitta scintillata* A pair in flight at the Wasur NP.
- Violet-necked Lory** ◊ *Eos squamata* Excellent views of several on Kofiau.
- Coconut Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus haematodus* Fairly common along our route.
- Large Fig Parrot** ◊ *Psittaculirostris desmarestii* Scope views of several at Malagufuk. See Note.
- Orange-breasted Fig Parrot** ◊ *Cyclopsitta guillemittii* Nice looks at the Wasur NP. See Note.
- Papuan Pitta** ◊ *Erythropitta macklotii* Fantastic encounters, by day and by night, at Malagufuk.
- Hooded Pitta** *Pitta sordida* Very nice views at Malagufuk.
- White-eared Catbird** ◊ *Ailuroedus buccoides* Recorded at Malagufuk.
- Black-eared Catbird** ◊ *Ailuroedus melanotis* Cracking views of one at the Wasur NP.
- Fawn-breasted Bowerbird** ◊ *Chlamydera cerviniventris* Regular, but shy, at the Wasur NP.
- Emperor Fairywren** ◊ *Malurus cyanocephalus* A great showing at Malagufuk.
- White-shouldered Fairywren** ◊ *Malurus alboscapulatus* Regular encounters.
- Dusky Myzomela** ◊ *Myzomela obscura* Fairly common at the Wasur NP.
- Red-headed Myzomela** *Myzomela erythrocephala* Seen briefly in the mangroves near Merauke.
- Plain Honeyeater** ◊ *Pycnopygius ixoides* A couple of observations at Malagufuk.
- Streak-headed Honeyeater** ◊ *Pycnopygius stictocephalus* (H) Heard at Malagufuk.
- Brown Honeyeater** *Lichmera indistincta* A few were seen in the Wasur NP.
- Spotted Honeyeater** ◊ *Xanthotis polygrammus* A single bird was seen bathing at Malagufuk.
- Tawny-breasted Honeyeater** *Xanthotis flaviventer* Regular in the Wasur NP.
- Little Friarbird** *Philemon citreogularis* A single bird showed well in the Wasur NP.
- New Guinea Friarbird** ◊ *Philemon novaeguineae* Common and very vocal.
- Noisy Friarbird** *Philemon corniculatus* Common at the Wasur NP.
- Blue-faced Honeyeater** *Entomyzon cyanotis* A few in the Wasur NP.
- White-throated Honeyeater** *Melithreptus albogularis* Just a few at the Wasur NP.



Papuan Pitta (Mark Van Beirs)

- Long-billed Honeyeater** ◊ *Melilestes mearghynchus* A few were noted at Malagufuk.
- Tawny Straightbill** ◊ *Timeliopsis griseigula* Two showed well on our first visit to Malagufuk.
- Rufous-banded Honeyeater** *Conopophila albogularis* A few sightings in the Wasur NP.
- Brown-backed Honeyeater** *Ramsayornis modestus* Quite common in the Wasur NP woodlands.
- Scrub Honeyeater** ◊ *Meliphaga albonotata* Seen well near Sorong.
- Mimic Honeyeater** ◊ *Meliphaga analoga* Regular observations.
- Graceful Honeyeater** *Meliphaga gracilis* Several encounters in the Wasur NP.
- Puff-backed Honeyeater** ◊ *Meliphaga aruensis* Good looks
- Rusty Mouse-Warbler** ◊ *Origma murina* Glimpsed and regularly heard at Malagufuk.
- Tropical Scrubwren** *Sericornis beccarii* (H) We heard one in the Wasur NP monsoon forest.
- Mangrove Gerygone** *Gerygone levigaster* A brief sighting in the Merauke mangroves.
- Large-billed Gerygone** ◊ *Gerygone magnirostris* Two encounters at Malagufuk and in the Wasur NP.
- Green-backed Gerygone** *Gerygone chloronota* Regularly heard and a few seen.
- Fairy Gerygone** *Gerygone palpebrosa* A couple of sightings in the Wasur NP.
- Papuan Babbler** ◊ *Garritornis isidorei* Several nice observations at Malagufuk.
- Grey-crowned Babbler** *Pomatostomus temporalis* Regular in the Wasur NP. Seen nestbuilding.
- Black Berrypecker** ◊ *Melanocharis nigra* A few encounters at Malagufuk on our first visit.
- Dwarf Longbill** ◊ *Oedistoma iliolophus* Several sightings at Malagufuk. Unobtrusive.
- Pygmy Longbill** ◊ *Oedistoma pygmaeum* A few were noted at Malagufuk.
- Yellow-bellied Longbill** ◊ *Toxorhamphus novaeguineae* Regular at Malagufuk.
- Blue Jewel-babbler** ◊ *Ptilorrhoa caerulescens* Fantastic looks at a showy male at Malagufuk.
- Yellow-breasted Boatbill** *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer* A few seen at Malagufuk and at the Wasur NP.
- White-breasted Woodswallow** *Artamus leucorhynchus* Regular in the Wasur NP.
- Lowland Peltops** ◊ *Peltops blainvillii* A few sightings at Malagufuk.
- Black Butcherbird** *Melloria quoyi* A couple of encounters at Malagufuk.



Kofiau Monarch; Frilled Monarch (male) (Mark Van Beirs)

- Australian Magpie** *Gymnorhina tibicen* Just a few in the Wasur NP. Much shyer than in Australia.
- Black-backed Butcherbird** ◇ *Cracticus mentalis* Common in the Wasur NP.
- Hooded Butcherbird** *Cracticus cassicus* A few were seen and heard at Malagufuk.
- Boyer's Cuckooshrike** ◇ *Coracina boyeri* Regularly recorded at Malagufuk.
- White-bellied Cuckooshrike** *Coracina papuensis* Fairly common in the Wasur NP.
- Grey-headed Cuckooshrike** ◇ *Edolisoma schisticeps* Two observations of females at Malagufuk.
- Common Cicadabird** *Edolisoma tenuirostre* A few at Malagufuk.
- Black Cicadabird** ◇ *Edolisoma melas* Only noted at Malagufuk on our first visit.
- Black-browed Triller** ◇ *Lalage atrovirens* Regular at Malagufuk.
- Grey Whistler** *Pachycephala simplex* A single was seen in the Merauke mangroves.
- Mangrove Golden Whistler** *Pachycephala melanura* (H) heard in the Wasur NP mangroves.
- Rusty Pitohui** ◇ *Pseudorectes ferrugineus* A few were seen at Malagufuk.
- Arafura Shrikethrush** ◇ *Colluricincla megarhyncha* A handful of sightings at Malagufuk. See Note.
- Grey Shrikethrush** *Colluricincla harmonica* Several were observed in the Wasur NP.
- Brown Oriole** ◇ *Oriolus szalayi* A few seen and often heard at Malagufuk.
- Olive-backed Oriole** *Oriolus sagittatus* We saw on at the Wasur NP.
- Spangled Drongo** *Dicrurus bracteatus* Common and obvious.
- Willie Wagtail** *Rhipidura leucophrys* Common and very obvious.
- Northern Fantail** *Rhipidura rufiventris* Regular at Wasur NP and at Malagufuk.
- Sooty Thicket Fantail** ◇ *Rhipidura threnothorax* (H) We heard it at Malagufuk, but it wouldn't budge.
- Black Thicket Fantail** ◇ *Rhipidura maculipectus* Good looks at Malagufuk. Also seen in the Wasur NP.
- Spot-winged Monarch** ◇ *Symposiachrus guttula* Two showed quite well at Malagufuk.
- Kofiau Monarch** ◇ *Symposiachrus julianae* VU Excellent encounters with this endemic on Kofiau.
- Golden Monarch** ◇ *Carterornis chrysomela* A few sightings at Malagufuk.
- Frilled Monarch** ◇ *Arses telescopthalmus* Terrific looks at this beauty at Wasur NP and at Malagufuk.
- Shining Flycatcher** *Myiagra alecto* Common, by voice, all along our route.
- Grey Crow** ◇ *Corvus tristis* A handful at Malagufuk.
- Torresian Crow** *Corvus orru* Regular at Wasur NP and on Kofiau.
- Glossy-mantled Manucode** ◇ *Manucodia ater* Good looks at Malagufuk and at Wasur NP.
- Crinkle-collared Manucode** ◇ *Manucodia chalybatus* (H) We heard the call at Malagufuk.
- Trumpet Manucode** *Phonygammus keraudrenii* A few were briefly seen at Malagufuk.
- Magnificent Riflebird** *Ptiloris magnificentus* Fantastic looks at an advertising male at Malagufuk.
- King Bird-of-paradise** ◇ *Cicinnurus regius* This gorgeous species showed very well at Malagufuk.



Magnificent Riflebird (male) (Mark Van Beirs)

Greater Bird-of-paradise ◊ *Paradisaea apoda* A few females and a male were noted at the Wasur NP.

Lesser Bird-of-paradise ◊ *Paradisaea minor* We witnessed some amazing display at Malagufuk.

Black-sided Robin ◊ *Poecilodryas hypoleuca* Often heard and a few seen at Malagufuk.

Lemon-bellied Flyrobin *Microeca flavigaster* Seen well at the Wasur NP.

Horsfield's Bush Lark *Mirafra javanica* Several were observed near Merauke.

Sooty-headed Bulbul (introduced) *Pycnonotus aurigaster* Common at Sorong and Merauke.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* We saw a few of these well-known migrants at Sorong.

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica* Regular.

Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans* A few were identified in the Wasur NP.

Tawny Grassbird *Cincloramphus timoriensis* Several showed well in the Merauke marshes.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* A single bird performed near Merauke.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis* Regular in the Merauke area.

Papuan (New Guinea) White-eye ◊ *Zosterops novaeguineae* Several showed well in the Wasur NP.



Black and Grey-crowned Mannikins (Mark Van Beirs)

Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica* Common.

Singing Starling *Aplonis cantoroides* Singles were noted near Sorong.

Yellow-faced Myna ♦ *Mino dumontii* Regular at Malagufuk and in the Wasur NP.

Golden Myna ♦ *Mino anais* A pair showed every evening at the Malagufuk clearing.

Grey-streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa griseisticta* Regular sightings of this northern migrant.

Olive-crowned Flowerpecker ♦ *Dicaeum pectorale* Regular at Malagufuk.

Red-capped Flowerpecker ♦ *Dicaeum geelvinkianum* A few were seen in the Wasur NP.

Black Sunbird *Leptocoma aspasia* Just a few observations.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis* Quite common along our route.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (introduced) *Passer montanus* Common in towns and villages. Also on Kofiau.

Crimson Finch *Neochmia phaeton* Delightfully common in the Merauke area.

Grey-crowned Mannikin ♦ *Lonchura nevermanni* This Birdquest lifer proved easy to find near Merauke.

Black Mannikin ♦ *Lonchura stygia* NT Excellent views of several in the Merauke area. A Birdquest lifer.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* A single bird was noted near Sorong.



Moluccan Flying Fox; Dragon sp (Mark Van Beirs)

MAMMALS

Brown Forest Wallaby *Dorcopsis muelleri* Several nice sightings at Malagufuk

Agile Wallaby *Noamacropus agilis* (NL) One was seen in the Wasur NP.

Northern Common Cuscus *Phalanger orientalis* This was the Cuscus we saw on Kofiau.

Moluccan Flying Fox *Pteropus chrysoproctus* One was found roosting under a palm leaf on Kofiau.

Spinner Dolphin *Stenella longirostris* A pod was encountered at sea near Kofiau.



The flooded clearing at Malagufuk (Mark Van Beirs)

TAXONOMIC NOTES

White-bibbed Fruit Dove ◊ *Ptilinopus rivoli*

This taxon is sometimes split into three forms: Mountain Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus bellus* (mountains of New Guinea), White-bibbed Fruit Dove *P. rivoli* and Moluccan Fruit Dove *P. prasinorrhous*. We saw the latter one on Kofiau.

Australian Tern ◊ *Gelocheidon macrotarsa*

This is a recent split from Gull-billed Tern *Gelocheidon nilotica*.

Blue-black Kingfisher ◊ *Todiramphus nigrocyaneus*

There are three distinctive races. We had excellent looks at the nominate race.

Large Fig Parrot ◊ *Psittaculirostris desmarestii*

This taxon is sometimes split into three distinctive forms: Red-faced Fig Parrot *Psittaculirostris cervicalis* (southeastern PNG), Yellow-naped Fig Parrot *P. godmani* (southern New Guinea) and Large Fig Parrot *P. desmarestii*. We obtained great views of the latter.

Orange-breasted Fig Parrot ◊ *Cyclopsitta guliemitertii*

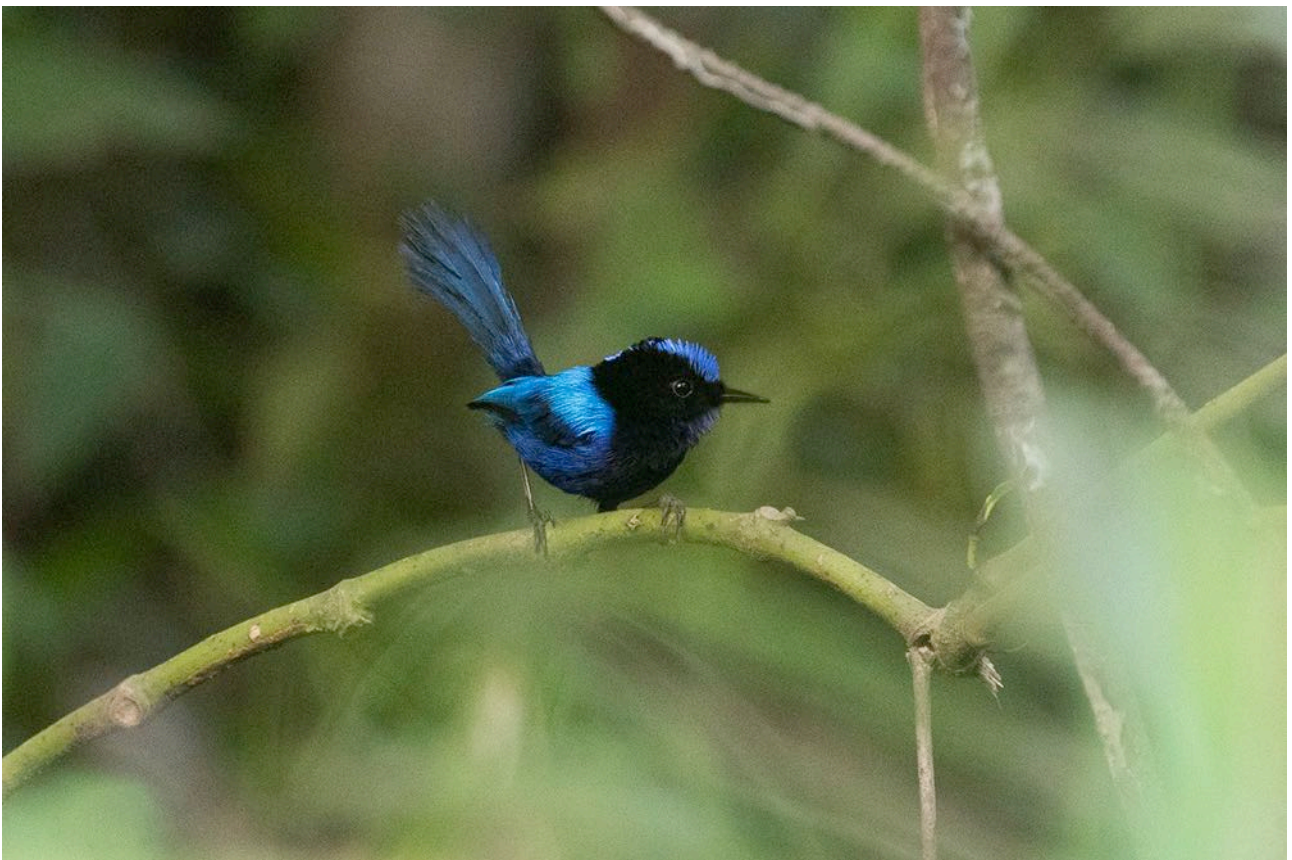
This taxon is sometimes split into four distinctive forms. The form we saw in the Wasur NP would then be called Dusky-cheeked Fig Parrot *Cyclopsitta melanogenia*.

Arafura Shrikethrush ◊ *Colluricincla megarhyncha*

The original Little (or Rufous) Shrikethrush has been split into seven closely related forms.



Kofiau Paradise Kingfisher (tour participant Tony Palliser)



Emperor Fairywren (tour participant Tony Palliser)



Lesser Bird-of-paradise (tour participant Tony Palliser)



Magnificent Riflebird (tour participant Tony Palliser)



Kofiau scenery (Mark Van Beirs)



Sunset on Kofiau (Mark Van Beirs)