

# Secrets of Melanesia

## 20 – 31 October 2017

### Annotated List of species recorded

**Note:** Number in brackets ( ) indicate number of days on the tour the species was recorded.

List powered through the report generator of our partner iGoTerra.

**Visited locations** Ambrym Island, Mt. Austen, San Jorge Island, Malaita Island Road, Makira I, Nendo, Taumako Duff Islands, Vanikoro Island, Sola, Vanua Lava, Torba Province, Vatthe Conservation Area.

### Birds (118 in total: 113 seen, 5 heard)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2017. IOC World Bird List (v 7.3).

**Status codes:** **E** = Endemic, **NE** = Near-endemic, **I** = Introduced

**IUCN codes:** **CR** = Critically endangered, **EN** = Endangered, **VU** = Vulnerable, **EW** = Extinct in the Wild, **NT** = Near Threatened, **DD** = Data Deficient

#### Megapodes *Megapodiidae*

**Melanesian Megapode** *Megapodius eremita*

(2) 2 heard Mt. Austen 21.10 and 2 heard Makira I 24.10.

Heard only along the road at Mt. Austen and distantly on Makira Island.

**Vanuatu Megapode (VU)** *Megapodius layardi*

(1) 1 heard Vatthe Conservation Area 29.10.

Heard only, but we saw a nest mound in the Vatthe Conservation Area on Santo.

#### Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies *Phasianidae*

**Red Junglefowl** *Gallus gallus*

(1) 10 heard Vatthe Conservation Area 29.10.

This introduced species seems to be doing well in the Vatthe Conservation Area on Santo where we heard many.

#### Austral Storm Petrels *Oceanitidae*

**Wilson's Storm Petrel** *Oceanites oceanicus*

(1) 1 en route 24.10.

Only one seen as it came alongside the ship.

## Shearwaters and Petrels *Procellariidae*

**Tahiti Petrel (NT)** *Pseudobulweria rostrata trouessarti*

(1) 1 en route 24.10.

Late in the evening one flew right in front of the ship for great close views.

**Wedge-tailed Shearwater** *Ardenna pacifica*

(4) 4 en route 30.10, 2 en route 23.10, 15 en route 24.10 and 10 en route 28.10.

The most common tubenose of the trip. The most common tubenose at sea.

**Short-tailed Shearwater** *Ardenna tenuirostris*

(4) 2 en route 24.10 and up to 15 en route 27-29.10.

Seen regularly during the second half of the trip. A few small flocks noted at sea.

## Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns *Ardeidae*

**Pacific Reef Heron** *Egretta sacra sacra*

(1) 1 Makira I 24.10.

Low count.

## Frigatebirds *Fregatidae*

**Lesser Frigatebird** *Fregata ariel ariel*

(2) 2 San Jorge Island 22.10 and 20 en route 24.10.

At sea.

## Boobies and Gannets *Sulidae*

**Red-footed Booby** *Sula sula rubripes*

(1) 4 en route 28.10.

At sea.

**Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster plotus*

(2) 1 Taumako Duff Islands 26.10 and 4 en route 28.10.

Just a few at sea.

## Hawks, Eagles, and Kites *Accipitridae*

**Variable Goshawk** *Accipiter hiogaster*

(1) 2 San Jorge Island 22.10.

A pair seen very well near an active nest.

*malaitae:*

(1) 1 Malaita Island Road 23.10.

**Pied Goshawk** *Accipiter albogularis woodfordi*

(1) 1 Mt. Austen 21.10.

Brief flight views for some as it zipped across the trail.

**Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus flavirostris*

(3) 2 Mt. Austen 21.10, 6 Malaita Island Road 23.10 and 2 Makira I 24.10.

Widespread and common.

**Sanford's Sea Eagle (VU)** *Haliaeetus sanfordi*

(1) 1 Malaita Island Road 23.10.

Seen distantly on main road of Malaita.

## Rails, Gallinules, and Coots *Rallidae*

**Woodford's Rail (NT)** *Nesoclopeus woodfordi woodfordi*

(1) 2 Mt. Austen 21.10.

Great views as a pair crossed the road.

**Buff-banded Rail** *Gallirallus philippensis sethsmithi*

(1) 1 heard Sola, Vanua Lava, Torba Province 28.10.

Heard only in tall grass on Vanua Lava.

**Australasian Swamphen** *Porphyrio melanotus samoensis*

(1) 1 Vanikoro Island 27.10.

Excellent views in swampy area on Vanikoro.

## Plovers and Lapwings *Charadriidae*

**Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*

(2) 2 Nendo 25.10 and 1 Vanikoro Island 27.10.

Occasional wintering birds noted.

## Sandpipers and Allies *Scolopacidae*

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus variegatus*

(2) 1 Taumako Duff Islands 26.10 and 15 Vanikoro Island 27.10.

Many at La Perouse's Monument off Vanikoro.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres interpres*

(2) 3 Taumako Duff Islands 26.10 and 6 Vanikoro Island 27.10.

Widespread.

**Wandering Tattler** *Tringa incana*

(2) 1 Taumako Duff Islands 26.10 and 2 Vanikoro Island 27.10.

A vocal bird on the beach at Tamauko in the Duff Islands and heard among the shorebird roost at La Perouse's Monument.

**Grey-tailed Tattler (NT)** *Tringa brevipes*

(1) 8 Vanikoro Island 27.10.

Many at La Perouse's Monument.

## Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers *Laridae*

**Brown Noddy** *Anous stolidus pileatus*

(2) 100 en route 22.10 and 50 en route 23.10.

Common at sea with good concentrations noted.

**Black Noddy** *Anous minutus minutus*

(2) 50 en route 22.10 and 10 en route 23.10.

Fairly common at sea.

**Greater Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bergii cristatus*

(5) 1 Ambrym Island 30.10, 10 en route 22.10, 1 en route 23.10, 4 en route 25.10 and 1 Taumako Duff Islands 26.10.

Widespread.

**Bridled Tern** *Onychoprion anaethetus anaethetus*

(3) 5 en route 22.10, 1 en route 23.10 and 2 en route 25.10.

Widespread at sea.

**Sooty Tern** *Onychoprion fuscatus serratus*

(2) 6 en route 22.10 and 10 en route 25.10.

Fairly widespread at sea.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo longipennis*

(2) 5 en route 22.10 and 6 en route 25.10.

Widespread.

## Skuas and Jaegers *Stercorariidae*

### **Pomarine Jaeger**

*Stercorarius pomarinus*

(1) 1 San Jorge Island 22.10.

One at sea.

## **Pigeons and Doves *Columbidae***

### **Metallic Pigeon**

*Columba vitiensis*

(1) 2 San Jorge Island 22.10.

Flight views on San Jorge Island and many perched on Vanua Lava for extended scope studies.

*leopoldi*:

(1) 6 Sola, Vanua Lava, Torba Province 28.10.

### **MacKinlay's Cuckoo-Dove**

*Macropygia mackinlayi mackinlayi*

(3) 1 Nendo 25.10, 2 Sola, Vanua Lava, Torba Province 28.10 and 2 Vatthe Conservation Area 29.10.

In flight and briefly perched, surprisingly low counts.

### **Pacific Emerald Dove**

*Chalcophaps longirostris sandwichensis*

(4) 1 Ambrym Island 30.10, 2 Vanikoro Island 27.10, 4 Sola, Vanua Lava, Torba Province 28.10 and 5 Vatthe Conservation Area 29.10.

Best seen on Vanua Lava where they foraged on the paths.

### **Stephan's Emerald Dove**

*Chalcophaps stephani mortoni*

(2) 1 Malaita Island Road 23.10 and 1 Makira I 24.10.

Flight views.

### **Tanna Fruit Dove**

*Ptilinopus tannensis*

(1) 5 Ambrym Island 30.10.

### **Red-bellied Fruit Dove**

*Ptilinopus greyi*

(5) 2 Ambrym Island 30.10, 2 Nendo 25.10, 2 Vanikoro Island 27.10, 5 Sola, Vanua Lava, Torba Province 28.10 and 8 Vatthe Conservation Area 29.10.

Excellent scope studies on Vanua Lava and seen well at the Zodiac landing on Santo where some perched at eye level.

### **Yellow-bibbed Fruit Dove**

*Ptilinopus solomonensis solomonensis*

(1) 2 Makira I 24.10.

Obscured perched views and flight views at the farthest point during the walk on Makira Island.

### **Claret-breasted Fruit Dove**

*Ptilinopus viridis lewisii*

(3) 2 Mt. Austen 21.10, 2 San Jorge Island 22.10 and 2 Malaita Island Road 23.10.

Many excellent views of this stunning fruit-dove.

### **White-headed Fruit Dove (NT)**

*Ptilinopus eugeniae*

(1) 3 Makira I 24.10.

This rare endemic was one of the trip highlights with a pair scoped at length.

### **Pacific Imperial Pigeon**

*Ducula pacifica pacifica*

(5) 4 Ambrym Island 30.10, 10 Nendo 25.10, 8 Vanikoro Island 27.10, 2 Sola, Vanua Lava, Torba Province 28.10 and 6 Vatthe Conservation Area 29.10.

Common.

**Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeon (NT)***Ducula rubricera rufigula*

(3) 2 Mt. Austen 21.10, 10 San Jorge Island 22.10 and 2 Makira I 24.10.

Fairly common in the Solomon Islands.

**Island Imperial Pigeon***Ducula pistrinaria pistrinaria*

(1) 4 Makira I 24.10.

Seen well in fruiting tree on Makira.

**Chestnut-bellied Imperial Pigeon (VU)***Ducula brenchleyi*

(1) 2 Makira I 24.10.

One heard very well and two seen briefly in flight on Makira.

**Vanuatu Imperial Pigeon (VU)***Ducula bakeri*

(1) 1 Sola, Vanua Lava, Torba Province 28.10.

An excellent bird to find at sea level on Vanua Lava where we found one for close views in a fruiting tree.

**Cuckoos *Cuculidae*****Buff-headed Coucal***Centropus milo milo*

(1) 4+2 heard Mt. Austen 21.10.

Two calling pairs scoped at Mt. Austen and only heard on Kolombangara.

**Pacific Koel***Eudynamys orientalis alberti*

(1) 1 San Jorge Island 22.10.

Brief views of female plumaged birds.

**Shining Bronze Cuckoo***Chrysococcyx lucidus layardi*

(1) 1 Ambrym Island 30.10.

Heard by all and seen briefly on Vanua Lava.

**Treeswifts *Hemiprocnidae*****Moustached Treeswift***Hemiprocne mystacea woodfordiana*

(1) 1 Malaita Island Road 23.10.

Excellent studies in the scope.

**Swifts *Apodidae*****Glossy Swiftlet***Collocalia esculenta*

(4) 2 Mt. Austen 21.10, 2 Malaita Island Road 23.10, 1 Taumako Duff Islands 26.10 and 2 Vanikoro Island 27.10.

Widespread with several subspecies noted.

*makirensis:*

(1) 2 Makira I 24.10.

**Satin Swiftlet***Collocalia uropygialis uropygialis*

(3) 4 Ambrym Island 30.10, 4 Sola, Vanua Lava, Torba Province 28.10 and 4 Vatthe Conservation Area 29.10.

Common.

**White-rumped Swiftlet***Aerodramus spodiopygius*

(1) 4 Taumako Duff Islands 26.10.

Widespread with several subspecies noted.

**White-rumped Swiftlet***Aerodramus spodiopygius desolatus*

(1) 8 Nendo 25.10.

**Uniform Swiftlet***Aerodramus vanikorensis*

(1) 20 Mt. Austen 21.10.

Widespread.

*vanikorensis:*

(2) 2 Sola, Vanua Lava, Torba Province 28.10 and 10 Vatthe Conservation Area 29.10.

## Rollers *Coraciidae*

### **Oriental Dollarbird**

*Eurystomus orientalis solomonensis*

(2) 1 San Jorge Island 22.10 and 2 Malaita Island Road 23.10.

Common.

## Kingfishers *Alcedinidae*

### **Ultramarine Kingfisher**

*Todiramphus leucopygius*

(1) 2 Mt. Austen 21.10.

Excellent views of a responsive pair.

### **Vanuatu Kingfisher (NT)**

*Todiramphus farquhari*

(1) 2 Vatthe Conservation Area 29.10.

Scope views of one high in the canopy in the Vatthe Conservation Area on Santo.

### **Pacific Kingfisher**

*Todiramphus sacer*

(1) 2 Ambrym Island 30.10.

*santoensis:*

(2) 2 Sola, Vanua Lava, Torba Province 28.10 and 1 Vatthe Conservation Area 29.10.

*mala:*

(1) 2 Malaita Island Road 23.10.

Widespread with several subspecies noted.

*solomonis:*

(1) 2 Makira I 24.10.

*vicina:*

(1) 4 Taumako Duff Islands 26.10.

*ornatus:*

(1) 2 Nendo 25.10.

*melanodera:*

(1) 4 Vanikoro Island 27.10.

## Hornbills *Bucerotidae*

### **Blyth's Hornbill**

*Rhyticeros plicatus*

(1) 2 Mt. Austen 21.10.

Good flight views.

## Cockatoos *Cacatuidae*

### **Solomons Cockatoo**

*Cacatua ducorpsii*

(3) 4 Mt. Austen 21.10, 16 San Jorge Island 22.10 and 2 Malaita Island Road 23.10.

Widespread with many sightings.

## Old World Parrots *Psittaculidae*

### **Finsch's Pygmy Parrot**

*Micropsitta finschii nanina*

(1) 1 San Jorge Island 22.10.

Brief flight views.

### **Eclectus Parrot**

*Eclectus roratus solomonensis*

(1) 2 Mt. Austen 21.10.

Good views at Mt. Austen.

### **Song Parrot**

*Geoffroyus heteroclitus heteroclitus*

(1) 2 Malaita Island Road 23.10.

Excellent close studies in the village during our afternoon visit on Malaita.

### **Palm Lorikeet (VU)**

*Charmosyna palmarum*

(1) 12 Taumako Duff Islands 26.10.

This species can be difficult to find except in the Duff Islands where it was common around the village with many excellent, close views.

**Duchess Lorikeet (NT)** *Charmosyna margarethae*

(2) 2 Malaita Island Road 23.10 and 1 Makira I 24.10.

Flight views on Malaita.

**Yellow-bibbed Lory** *Lorius chlorocercus*

(3) 4 Mt. Austen 21.10, 6 Malaita Island Road 23.10 and 4 Makira I 24.10.

Great scope views of this wonderful, endemic parrot at Mt. Austen with more seen later in the trip.

**Cardinal Lory** *Pseudeos cardinalis*

(2) 12 San Jorge Island 22.10 and 10 Malaita Island Road 23.10.

Common.

**Coconut Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus haematodus massena*

(6) 8 Ambrym Island 30.10, 4 Malaita Island Road 23.10, 6 Nendo 25.10, 4 Vanikoro Island 27.10, 2 Sola, Vanua Lava, Torba Province 28.10 and 4 Vatthe Conservation Area 29.10.

Common.

### Honeyeaters *Meliphagidae*

**Cardinal Myzomela** *Myzomela cardinalis*

(2) 10 Taumako Duff Islands 26.10 and 15 Vanikoro Island 27.10.

Common and widespread with several subspecies noted. This species is used to make the famous red feather money in the Santa Cruz Islands.

*pulcherrima:*

(1) 1 Makira I 24.10.

*sanctaecrucis:*

(1) 1 Nendo 25.10.

*tenuis:*

(2) 4 Sola, Vanua Lava, Torba Province 28.10 and 6 Vatthe Conservation Area 29.10.

**Red-capped Myzomela** *Myzomela lafargei*

(1) 1 San Jorge Island 22.10.

Brief views on San Jorge.

**Red-vested Myzomela (NT)** *Myzomela malaitae*

(1) 3 Malaita Island Road 23.10.

One of the rarest finds of the trip was this uncommon Malaita endemic and we enjoyed views of a pair followed by scope studies of a juvenile.

**Black-headed Myzomela** *Myzomela melanocephala*

(1) 1 Mt. Austen 21.10.

Brief but good views at Mt. Austen of this Guadalcanal endemic.

**Sooty Myzomela** *Myzomela tristrami*

(1) 10 Makira I 24.10.

Common on Makira where it is an island endemic.

**Grey-eared Honeyeater** *Lichmera incana griseoviridis*

(1) 8 Ambrym Island 30.10.

Common on Ambrym, also called Dark-brown Honeyeater.

**Makira Honeyeater** *Meliarchus sclateri*

(1) 2 Makira I 24.10.

Finally they started to call and show themselves as the morning warmed after a night of heavy rain, this is an endemic genus.

**White-bellied Honeyeater** *Glycifohia notabilis superciliaris*

(1) 8 Sola, Vanua Lava, Torba Province 28.10.

This species is usually found at higher elevations, except on Vanua Lava where it occurs commonly at sea level and can be found throughout the village of Sola where we enjoyed many close views.

## Thornbills and Allies *Acanthizidae*

### Fan-tailed Gerygone

*Gerygone flavolateralis correia*

(1) 1 Ambrym Island 30.10.

A calling bird seen on Vanua Lava.

## Woodswallows, butcherbirds and allies *Artamidae*

### White-breasted Woodswallow

*Artamus leucorhynchus tenuis*

(1) 6 Sola, Vanua Lava, Torba Province 28.10.

Seen perched in the casuarina trees on Vanua Lava.

## Cuckoo-shrikes *Campephagidae*

### South Melanesian Cuckooshrike

*Coracina caledonica thilenii*

(1) 2 Vatthe Conservation Area 29.10.

Brief views of a bird flying through tall forest in the Vatthe Conservation Area on Santo.

### North Melanesian Cuckooshrike

*Coracina welchmani welchmani*

(1) 2 San Jorge Island 22.10.

One of the surprises of the trip was recording this uncommon species at low elevation on San Jorge, but with the excellent views we enjoyed it was a welcome addition.

### Barred Cuckooshrike

*Coracina lineata*

(1) 2 Mt. Austen 21.10.

Widespread.

*malaitae:*

(1) 2 Malaita Island Road 23.10.

### White-bellied Cuckooshrike

*Coracina papuensis elegans*

(3) 2 Mt. Austen 21.10, 1 San Jorge Island 22.10 and 4 Malaita Island Road 23.10.

Widespread.

### Grey-capped Cicadabird

*Coracina remota saturator*

(1) 1 San Jorge Island 22.10.

Great scope views of a vocal bird on San Jorge.

### Solomons Cuckooshrike (NT)

*Coracina holopolia holopolia*

(1) 1 San Jorge Island 22.10.

After searching for this species on many other islands we saw it finally well when a responsive bird flew into the tree right next to us.

### Polynesian Triller

*Lalage maculosa vanikorensis*

(1) 1 Vanikoro Island 27.10.

Only brief views on Vanikoro.

### Long-tailed Triller

*Lalage leucopyga albiloris*

(2) 4 Sola, Vanua Lava, Torba Province 28.10 and 2 Vatthe Conservation Area 29.10.

## Whistlers and Allies *Pachycephalidae*

### Melanesian Whistler

*Pachycephala chlorura intacta*

(2) 6 Vanikoro Island 27.10 and 2+28 heard Vatthe Conservation Area 29.10.

Numerous, especially on Santo.

### Temotu Whistler

*Pachycephala vanikorensis vanikorensis*

(1) 2 Nendo 25.10.

Good views of a pair as we worked our way through some good forest the morning on Nendo.



## Fantails *Rhipiduridae*

### Willie Wagtail

*Rhipidura leucophrys melaleuca*

(2) 1 Malaita Island Road 23.10 and 2 Makira I 24.10.

Common and widespread.

### Grey Fantail

*Rhipidura albiscapa brenchleyi*

(2) 1 Ambrym Island 30.10 and 2 Sola, Vanua Lava, Torba Province 28.10.

Good views on Vanua Lava.

### Streaked Fantail

*Rhipidura verreauxi spilodera*

(2) 2 Ambrym Island 30.10 and 2 Vatthe Conservation Area 29.10.

Excellent views of this active fantail in the Vatthe Conservation Area on Santo.

## Monarch Flycatchers *Monarchidae*

### Vanikoro Monarch (NT)

*Mayrornis schistaceus*

(1) 2 Vanikoro Island 27.10.

It took some effort, including the crossing of a small swamp, before we found decent forest and finally a pair of these distinctive, canopy-loving monarchs, well worth the sweat.

### Buff-bellied Monarch

*Neolalage banksiana*

(1) 2 Vatthe Conservation Area 29.10.

One of the highlights of our visit to the Vatthe Conservation Area on Santo was this distinctive endemic and we all ended up with good views.

### Southern Shrikebill

*Clytorhynchus pachycephaloides grisescens*

(1) 1 Vatthe Conservation Area 29.10.

A vocal bird came close in the Vatthe Conservation Area on Santo for point blank views.

### Solomons Monarch

*Symposiachrus barbatus malaitae*

(1) 2 Malaita Island Road 23.10.

Good views.

### Chestnut-bellied Monarch

*Monarcha castaneiventris*

(2) 1 San Jorge Island 22.10 and 2 Malaita Island Road 23.10.

Widespread.

*megarhynchus:*

(1) 2 Makira I 24.10.

### Steel-blue Flycatcher

*Myiagra ferrocyanea*

(2) 4 Mt. Austen 21.10 and 2 San Jorge Island 22.10.

Excellent views in several locations.

*malaitae:*

(1) 1 Malaita Island Road 23.10.

### Melanesian Flycatcher

*Myiagra caledonica marinae*

(1) 2 Vatthe Conservation Area 29.10.

High in the canopy in the Vatthe Conservation Area on Santo.

### Vanikoro Flycatcher

*Myiagra vanikorensis vanikorensis*

(1) 4 Vanikoro Island 27.10.

Common on Vanikoro where we enjoyed a displaying pair in the mangroves.

## Crows, Jays, and Magpies *Corvidae*

### White-billed Crow

*Corvus woodfordi*

(1) 5 San Jorge Island 22.10.

Fairly common on San Jorge where we obtained several scope studies of this unmistakable corvid.

## Swallows *Hirundinidae*

### **Pacific Swallow**

*Hirundo tahitica subfusca*

(3) 4 Makira I 24.10, 1 Nendo 25.10 and 1 Vatthe Conservation Area 29.10.

Common.

## **Yuhinas, White-eyes, and Allies *Zosteropidae***

### **Sanford's White-eye (NT)**

*Woodfordia lacertosa*

(1) 1 Nendo 25.10.

One of these strange looking white-eyes passed through the fruiting tree we staked out in a small clearing during our morning on Nendo.

### **Yellow-throated White-eye**

*Zosterops metcalfei*

(1) 10 San Jorge Island 22.10.

Common.

### **Malaita White-eye**

*Zosterops stresemanni*

(1) 4 Malaita Island Road 23.10.

We first heard the very musical song and then tracked down a few along the side road on Malaita.

### **Santa Cruz White-eye**

*Zosterops sanctaecrucis*

(1) 3 Nendo 25.10.

First we found a singing bird in the morning in the small clearing we had staked out and in the afternoon found a pair which appeared to be carrying food to an unseen nest.

### **Vanikoro White-eye**

*Zosterops gibbsi*

(1) 1 heard Vanikoro Island 27.10.

Heard only although seen briefly by other expedition participants.

### **Vanuatu White-eye**

*Zosterops flavifrons*

(3) 4 Ambrym Island 30.10, 15 Sola, Vanua Lava, Torba Province 28.10 and 6 Vatthe Conservation Area 29.10.

Common.

### **Silvereye**

*Zosterops lateralis*

(2) 4 Ambrym Island 30.10 and 4 Vatthe Conservation Area 29.10.

Fairly common.

## **Starlings *Sturnidae***

### **Metallic Starling**

*Aplonis metallica nitida*

(2) 25 Malaita Island Road 23.10 and 5 Makira I 24.10.

Common and widespread.

### **Singing Starling**

*Aplonis cantoroides*

(1) 2 San Jorge Island 22.10.

### **Brown-winged Starling**

*Aplonis grandis*

(1) 2 Malaita Island Road 23.10.

We enjoyed excellent views of the Malaita subspecies with the distinctive white eyes right in the village during our afternoon excursion.

*macrura:*

(1) 10 Mt. Austen 21.10.

Common.

### **Rusty-winged Starling (NT)**

*Aplonis zelandica maxwellii*

(1) 1 Nendo 25.10.

This rarity was scoped distantly on Nendo right as we were down to the final minute of birding, an excellent find!

### **Long-tailed Myna**

*Mino kreffti sanfordi*

(3) 4 Mt. Austen 21.10, 8 San Jorge Island 22.10 and 8 Malaita Island Road 23.10.

Common and widespread.

**Common Myna***Acridotheres tristis tristis*

(3) 4 Mt. Austen 21.10 and 4 en route 29.10.

We noted this introduced species on Santo and in Port Vila on Efate.

**Thrushes and Allies *Turdidae*****Island Thrush***Turdus poliocephalus vanikorensis*

(1) 3 Vatthe Conservation Area 29.10.

This skulker showed to a few of us in the Vatthe Conservation Area on Santo.

**Flowerpeckers *Dicaeidae*****Midget Flowerpecker***Dicaeum aeneum*

(1) 10 Malaita Island Road 23.10.

A colorful endemic that was pleasantly common.

*becki:*

(2) 2 Mt. Austen 21.10 and 2 San Jorge Island 22.10.

**Mottled Flowerpecker***Dicaeum tristrami*

(1) 2 Makira I 24.10.

It took a bit of time and patience, but eventually we found two and everyone ended up with excellent views of this endemic.

**Sunbirds and Spiderhunters *Nectariniidae*****Olive-backed Sunbird***Cinnyris jugularis flavigastra*

(3) 2 Mt. Austen 21.10, 2 San Jorge Island 22.10 and 4 Malaita Island Road 23.10.

Widespread and common.

**Old World Sparrows *Passeridae*****House Sparrow***Passer domesticus*

Observed 1 day in total.

Port Vila.

**Waxbills and Allies *Estrildidae*****Chestnut Munia***Lonchura atricapilla*

(1) 2 en route 29.10.

A few of this introduced species seen along the roadside en route to the Blue Hole during the afternoon on Santo.

**Visited locations** Ambrym Island, Mt. Austen, San Jorge Island, Malaita Island Road, Makira I, Nendo, Taumako Duff Islands, Vanikoro Island, Sola, Vanua Lava, Torba Province, Vatthe Conservation Area.

## **Mammals (6 in total: 6 seen)**

**Status codes:** **E** = Endemic, **NE** = Near-endemic, **I** = Introduced

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### **Dugong, Stellar Sea Cow *Dugongidae***

#### **Dugong**

*Dugong dugon*

(1) 2 Ambrym Island 30.10.

Some saw this species while snorkeling off Ambrym.

### **Whale sp (Cetacea)**

1 unidentified species seen blowing

### **Oceanic Dolphins *Delphinidae***

#### **Spinner Dolphin**

*Stenella longirostris*

Observed 1 day in total.

### **Old World Fruit Bats *Pteropodidae***

#### **Vanuatu Flying Fox**

*Pteropus anetianus*

(1) 2 Vatthe Conservation Area 29.10.

#### **Temotu Flying Fox**

*Pteropus nitendiensis*

(1) 1 Nendo 25.10.

#### **Pacific Flying Fox**

*Pteropus tonganus*

Observed 4 days in total.

#### **Vanikoro Flying Fox**

*Pteropus tuberculatus*

(1) 1 Vanikoro Island 27.10.

### **Bent-winged Bats *Miniopterus***

#### **Large Melanesian Bent-wing Bat**

*Miniopterus propitristis*

A colony of 30+ in a small cave on Santa Cruz, Nendo.

## MONTH REPORT: High Count

## Report Details

<b>Date range:</b>	Oct 1, 2017 - Oct 31, 2017	<b>Total # of Species:</b>	119
		<b>Total # of Checklists:</b>	12

Location(s): Ambrym Island; Duff Islands, SB (-9.804, 167.102); Makira-Ulawa, SB (-10.304, 161.576); Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal; Nendo Island, Temotu Province, SB (-10.72, 165.948); Port Vila waterfront; San Jorge Island; Unnamed Road, Atori, Malaita Province, SB (-8.737, 160.931); Unnamed Road, Kwaimbaambaala, Malaita Province, SB (-8.917, 161.07); Vanikoro Islands, Temotu Province, SB (-11.634, 166.972); Vanua Lava, Sola, Torba Province, VU (-13.873, 167.548); Vatthe

## Summary

	Oct 1-5	Oct 6-10	Oct 11-15	Oct 16-20	Oct 21-25	Oct 26-31
Number of Species	--	--	--	--	81	55
Number of Individuals	--	--	--	--	681	426
Number of Checklists	--	--	--	--	6	6

## Highest Count for a Species (sample size)

<b>Species Name</b>	Oct 1-5	Oct 6-10	Oct 11-15	Oct 16-20	Oct 21-25	Oct 26-31
Melanesian Scrubfowl ( <i>Megapodius eremita</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (2)	--
Vanuatu Scrubfowl ( <i>Megapodius layardi</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	1 (1)
Red Junglefowl ( <i>Gallus gallus</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	10 (1)
Tahiti Petrel ( <i>Pseudobulweria rostrata</i> )	--	--	--	--	1 (1)	--
Wedge-tailed Shearwater ( <i>Ardenna pacifica</i> )	--	--	--	--	15 (2)	10 (2)
Short-tailed Shearwater ( <i>Ardenna tenuirostris</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (1)	15 (3)
Wilson's Storm-Petrel ( <i>Oceanites oceanicus</i> )	--	--	--	--	1 (1)	--
Lesser Frigatebird ( <i>Fregata ariel</i> )	--	--	--	--	20 (2)	--
Brown Booby ( <i>Sula leucogaster</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	4 (2)
Red-footed Booby ( <i>Sula sula</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	4 (1)
Pacific Reef-Heron ( <i>Egretta sacra</i> )	--	--	--	--	1 (1)	--
Variable Goshawk ( <i>Accipiter hiogaster</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (2)	--
Pied Goshawk ( <i>Accipiter</i> )	--	--	--	--	1	--

<i>albogularis</i> )					(1)	
Brahminy Kite ( <i>Haliastur indus</i> )	--	--	--	--	6 (3)	--
Sanford's Sea-Eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus sanfordi</i> )	--	--	--	--	1 (1)	--
Woodford's Rail ( <i>Nesoclopeus woodfordi</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (1)	--
Buff-banded Rail ( <i>Gallirallus philippensis</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	1 (1)
Australasian Swamphen ( <i>Porphyrio melanotus</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	1 (1)
Pacific Golden-Plover ( <i>Pluvialis fulva</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (1)	1 (1)
Whimbrel ( <i>Numenius phaeopus</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	15 (2)
Ruddy Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	6 (2)
Gray-tailed Tattler ( <i>Tringa brevipes</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	8 (1)
Wandering Tattler ( <i>Tringa incana</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	2 (2)
Gray-tailed/Wandering Tattler ( <i>Tringa brevipes/incana</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	4 (1)
Pomarine Jaeger ( <i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i> )	--	--	--	--	1 (1)	--
Brown Noddy ( <i>Anous stolidus</i> )	--	--	--	--	100 (2)	--
Black Noddy ( <i>Anous minutus</i> )	--	--	--	--	50 (2)	--
Sooty Tern ( <i>Onychoprion fuscatus</i> )	--	--	--	--	10 (2)	--
Bridled Tern ( <i>Onychoprion anaethetus</i> )	--	--	--	--	5 (3)	--
Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> )	--	--	--	--	6 (2)	--
Great Crested Tern ( <i>Thalasseus bergii</i> )	--	--	--	--	10 (3)	1 (2)
Metallic Pigeon ( <i>Columba vitiensis</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (1)	6 (1)
Mackinlay's Cuckoo-Dove ( <i>Macropygia mackinlayi</i> )	--	--	--	--	1 (1)	2 (2)
Pacific Emerald Dove ( <i>Chalcophaps longirostris</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	5 (4)
Stephan's Dove ( <i>Chalcophaps stephani</i> )	--	--	--	--	1 (2)	--
Tanna Fruit-Dove ( <i>Ptilinopus tannensis</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	5 (1)
Red-bellied Fruit-Dove ( <i>Ptilinopus greyi</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (1)	8 (4)
Yellow-bibbed Fruit-Dove ( <i>Ptilinopus solomonensis</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (1)	--

Claret-breasted Fruit-Dove ( <i>Ptilinopus viridis</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (3)	--
White-headed Fruit-Dove ( <i>Ptilinopus eugeniae</i> )	--	--	--	--	3 (1)	--
Pacific Imperial-Pigeon ( <i>Ducula pacifica</i> )	--	--	--	--	10 (1)	8 (4)
Red-knobbed Imperial-Pigeon ( <i>Ducula rubricera</i> )	--	--	--	--	10 (3)	--
Island Imperial-Pigeon ( <i>Ducula pistrinaria</i> )	--	--	--	--	4 (1)	--
Chestnut-bellied Imperial- Pigeon ( <i>Ducula brenchleyi</i> )	--	--	--	--	1 (1)	--
Baker's Imperial-Pigeon ( <i>Ducula bakeri</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	1 (1)
Buff-headed Coucal ( <i>Centropus milo</i> )	--	--	--	--	6 (1)	--
Pacific Koel ( <i>Eudynamys orientalis</i> )	--	--	--	--	1 (1)	--
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo ( <i>Chrysococcyx lucidus</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	1 (1)
Glossy Swiftlet ( <i>Collocalia esculenta</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (3)	2 (2)
Satin Swiftlet ( <i>Collocalia uropygialis</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	4 (3)
White-rumped Swiftlet ( <i>Aerodramus spodiopygius</i> )	--	--	--	--	8 (1)	4 (1)
Uniform Swiftlet ( <i>Aerodramus vanikorensis</i> )	--	--	--	--	20 (1)	10 (2)
Moustached Treeswift ( <i>Hemiprocne mystacea</i> )	--	--	--	--	1 (1)	--
Blyth's Hornbill ( <i>Rhyticeros plicatus</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (1)	--
Ultramarine Kingfisher ( <i>Todiramphus leucopygius</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (1)	--
Vanuatu Kingfisher ( <i>Todiramphus farquhari</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	2 (1)
Pacific Kingfisher ( <i>Todiramphus sacer</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (1)	2 (3)
Melanesian Kingfisher ( <i>Todiramphus tristrami</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (3)	4 (2)
Dollarbird ( <i>Eurystomus orientalis</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (2)	--
Ducorps's Cockatoo ( <i>Cacatua ducorsii</i> )	--	--	--	--	16 (4)	--
Finsch's Pygmy-Parrot ( <i>Micropsitta finschii</i> )	--	--	--	--	1 (1)	--
Eclectus Parrot ( <i>Eclectus roratus</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (1)	--
Singing Parrot ( <i>Geoffroyus heteroclitus</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (1)	--
Palm Lorikeet ( <i>Charmosyna</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	20

<i>palmarum</i>						(1)
Duchess Lorikeet ( <i>Charmosyna margarethae</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (2)	--
Cardinal Lory ( <i>Chalcopsitta cardinalis</i> )	--	--	--	--	12 (3)	--
Yellow-bibbed Lory ( <i>Lorius chlorocercus</i> )	--	--	--	--	6 (3)	--
Rainbow Lorikeet ( <i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i> )	--	--	--	--	6 (3)	8 (4)
Cardinal Myzomela ( <i>Myzomela cardinalis</i> )	--	--	--	--	1 (2)	15 (4)
Scarlet-naped Myzomela ( <i>Myzomela lafargei</i> )	--	--	--	--	1 (1)	--
Red-bellied Myzomela ( <i>Myzomela malaitae</i> )	--	--	--	--	3 (1)	--
Black-headed Myzomela ( <i>Myzomela melanocephala</i> )	--	--	--	--	1 (1)	--
Sooty Myzomela ( <i>Myzomela tristrami</i> )	--	--	--	--	10 (1)	--
Vanuatu Honeyeater ( <i>Gliciphila notabilis</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	8 (1)
Dark-brown Honeyeater ( <i>Lichmera incana</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	8 (1)
Makira Honeyeater ( <i>Meliarchus sclateri</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (1)	--
Fan-tailed Gerygone ( <i>Gerygone flavolateralis</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	1 (1)
White-breasted Woodswallow ( <i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	6 (1)
Barred Cuckooshrike ( <i>Coracina lineata</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (2)	--
North Melanesian Cuckooshrike ( <i>Coracina welchmani</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (1)	--
White-bellied Cuckooshrike ( <i>Coracina papuensis</i> )	--	--	--	--	4 (4)	--
South Melanesian Cuckooshrike ( <i>Coracina caledonica</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	2 (1)
Polynesian Triller ( <i>Lalage maculosa</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	1 (1)
Long-tailed Triller ( <i>Lalage leucopyga</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	4 (2)
Solomons Cuckooshrike ( <i>Edolisoma holopolium</i> )	--	--	--	--	1 (1)	--
Common Cicadabird ( <i>Edolisoma tenuirostre</i> )	--	--	--	--	1 (1)	--
Vanuatu Whistler ( <i>Pachycephala chlorura</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	30 (2)
Temotu Whistler ( <i>Pachycephala utupuae</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (1)	--



Willie-wagtail ( <i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (2)	--
Streaked Fantail ( <i>Rhipidura verreauxi</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	2 (2)
Gray Fantail ( <i>Rhipidura albiscapa</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	2 (2)
Vanikoro Monarch ( <i>Mayrornis schistaceus</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	2 (1)
Buff-bellied Monarch ( <i>Neolalage banksiana</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	2 (1)
Southern Shrikebill ( <i>Clytorhynchus pachycephaloides</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	1 (1)
Chestnut-bellied Monarch ( <i>Monarcha castaneiventris</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (3)	--
Black-and-white Monarch ( <i>Symposiachrus barbatus</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (1)	--
Steel-blue Flycatcher ( <i>Myiagra ferrocyanea</i> )	--	--	--	--	4 (3)	--
Melanesian Flycatcher ( <i>Myiagra caledonica</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	2 (1)
Vanikoro Flycatcher ( <i>Myiagra vanikorensis</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	4 (1)
Guadalcanal Crow ( <i>Corvus woodfordi</i> )	--	--	--	--	5 (1)	--
Pacific Swallow ( <i>Hirundo tahitica</i> )	--	--	--	--	4 (2)	1 (1)
Sanford's White-eye ( <i>Woodfordia lacertosa</i> )	--	--	--	--	1 (1)	--
Yellow-throated White-eye ( <i>Zosterops metcalfeii</i> )	--	--	--	--	10 (1)	--
Malaita White-eye ( <i>Zosterops stresemanni</i> )	--	--	--	--	4 (1)	--
Santa Cruz White-eye ( <i>Zosterops sanctaecrucis</i> )	--	--	--	--	3 (1)	--
Silver-eye ( <i>Zosterops lateralis</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	4 (2)
Yellow-fronted White-eye ( <i>Zosterops flavifrons</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	15 (3)
Island Thrush ( <i>Turdus poliocephalus</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	3 (1)
Metallic Starling ( <i>Aplonis metallica</i> )	--	--	--	--	25 (2)	--
Brown-winged Starling ( <i>Aplonis grandis</i> )	--	--	--	--	10 (2)	--
Rusty-winged Starling ( <i>Aplonis zelandica</i> )	--	--	--	--	1 (1)	--
Singing Starling ( <i>Aplonis cantoroides</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (1)	--
Long-tailed Myna ( <i>Mino kreffti</i> )	--	--	--	--	8 (3)	--

Common Myna ( <i>Acridotheres tristis</i> )	--	--	--	--	4 (1)	4 (2)
Midget Flowerpecker ( <i>Dicaeum aeneum</i> )	--	--	--	--	10 (2)	--
Mottled Flowerpecker ( <i>Dicaeum tristrami</i> )	--	--	--	--	2 (1)	--
Olive-backed Sunbird ( <i>Cinnyris jugularis</i> )	--	--	--	--	4 (3)	--
House Sparrow ( <i>Passer domesticus</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	X (1)
Chestnut Munia ( <i>Lonchura atricapilla</i> )	--	--	--	--	--	2 (1)