

Red-Knobbed Fruit-Dove	<i>Ptilinopus insolitus</i>
Common. Looks and sounds very like the mainland <i>P. iozonus</i> , apart from red knob on cere.	
Pied Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula bicolor</i>
One or two seen flying. Quite a number of other unidentified <i>Ducula</i> species with white underparts were seen.	
Eastern Black-capped Lory	<i>Lorius hypoinochrous</i>
Common and vocal.	
Red-flanked Lorikeet	<i>Charmosyna placentis</i>
Many small parties feeding.	
Blue-eyed Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua ophthalmica</i>
One or two observed.	
Song Parrot	<i>Geoffroyus heteroclitus</i>
One pair seen in typical <i>Geoffroyus</i> pose in the topmost branch of a tree.	
? Oriental Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus saturatus</i>
A large cuckoo being mobbed in flight by a Willie Wagtail.	
Brush Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis variolosus</i>
Commonly heard.	
Common Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>
Manic "kooee" call heard frequently, and one seen flying into scrub.	
White-necked Coucal	<i>Centropus ateralbus</i>
Several pairs of these attractive birds were observed - a real treat for a first-time observer. One common call by duetting pairs was rather like large bubbles breaking the surface of water. One posed upright for some time on a sunlit branch with wings and tail fully outstretched and head to one side. It appeared to be a passable impression of an <i>Archaeopteryx</i> , but its real purpose was unknown.	
Sacred Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon sancta</i>
Common and conspicuous. All birds seen had immaculately neat plumage.	
Rainbow Bee-eater	<i>Merops ornatus</i>
Several small flocks.	
White-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike	<i>Coracina papuensis</i>
One or two observed.	
Varied Triller	<i>Lalage leucomela</i>
Common in urban gardens as well as secondary growth.	
Golden-headed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola exilis</i>
One in a grassy area cleared for a garden.	
Northern Fantail	<i>Rhipidura rufiventris</i>
Quite common.	
Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>
Common.	
Bismarck Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum eximium</i>
A delightful small bird frequently encountered.	
Black Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia aspasia</i>
Both sunbirds were observed in a tree at Rabaul market, as well as in other locations.	
Yellow-bellied Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia jugularis</i>
Common.	
? Black-headed White-Eye	<i>Zosterops hypoxantha</i>
Small flock presumably of this species.	
New Britain Red-headed Myzomela	<i>Myzomela erythromelas</i>
Seen in trees adjacent to a teak plantation.	
New Britain Friarbird	<i>Philemon cockerelli</i>
Common. Calls much less harsh and obtrusive than <i>P. novaeguineae</i> .	

New Britain Honeyeater	<i>Vosea whitemanensis</i>
Observed in urban gardens as well as scrub.	
Mannikin sp.	<i>Lonchura</i> sp.
Small flock observed.	
Singing Starling	<i>Aplonis cantoroides</i>
At Keravat National High School.	
Metallic Starling	<i>Aplonis metallica</i>
Abundant.	

Finch, B.W. & J. McKean. 1987. Some Notes on the Birds of the Bismarks.  
Muruk 2: 3-28.

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## NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF NEW BRITAIN

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We provide an annotated list of species encountered on a seven-day expedition to Walindi in West New Britain and Rabaul in East New Britain. The list includes notes on some aspects of the endemic species, frequency encountered and comparison with mainland populations.

On 8 November 1988 we left Port Moresby in the morning for Hoskins (via Lae) on a scheduled flight. We hired a vehicle for the hour's drive to Walindi, which is located to the north-west of Hoskins across Stettin Bay and c. 10 km west of Kimbe. In the afternoon we walked to a lookout at the edge of hill forest about 2 km inland from the lodge at Walindi. The area around the lodge contained various natural and planted trees and shrubs and was surrounded on three sides by large oil palm and copra plantations and on the fourth side by the Bismarck Sea. The next three days were spent birding along the Numundo Plantation road which runs inland from the Kimbe-Walindi coast road. The Numundo Plantation road passed through plantations and areas of secondary growth. There was very little accessible primary forest, but a few small pockets remained alongside this road.

On the afternoon of 11 November 1988 we flew by a scheduled flight to Rabaul. Over the next few days we explored the areas beyond Keravat and around Rabaul and Kokopo. The Gazelle peninsula is extensively planted with oil palm and coconut with no primary forest left within 30 km of Rabaul. Beyond Keravat large tracts of forest could be seen in the distance but appeared inaccessible to ordinary vehicles. The main road passes through numerous villages surrounded by extensive cultivation and secondary growth.

## ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED IN WEST AND EAST NEW BRITAIN, 8 - 15 NOVEMBER 1988

Abbreviations used: WNB = West New Britain; ENB = East New Britain

- Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*  
 ENB Occasionally seen along the coast at Rabaul.
- Eastern Reef-Egret *Egretta sacra*  
 WNB One along the beach at Walindi.  
 ENB One pair (one white-phase bird and one dark-phase bird) on Matupit Island.
- Crested Hawk *Aviceda subcristata*  
 WNB Fairly common raptor in forest, secondary growth and gardens in the Walindi area.  
 ENB One on road beyond Keravat.
- Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*  
 WNB Very common in all habitats at Walindi, including the grounds of the lodge and in the plantations.  
 ENB Fairly common in secondary forest and forest edge.
- New-Britain Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brachyurus*  
 WNB One immature, presumably this species, in an overgrown garden 1 km inland from Walindi.
- Accipiter sp.  
 A small raptor - less than 30 cm; the head, back and wings were pale grey with darker tips to the primaries; indistinct chestnut hindcollar. The cere and legs were yellow, the iris red and the bill black. Several other small raptors were also seen but were not identified.
- Lesser Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*  
 WNB Numerous at Hoskins Airport and on open grassland in front of Hoskins Hotel.  
 ENB 13 Nov, 100+ & 14 Nov, 250+ at Rabaul Airport.
- Mongolian Plover *Charadrius mongolus*  
 WNB A few present at Walindi beach.  
 ENB 13 Nov, 10+ on Matupit Island.
- Large Sand-Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*  
 ENB 14 Nov, 2 on Matupit Island.
- Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*  
 ENB 14 Nov, 1, Matupit Island.
- Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*  
 ENB 13 Nov, 1, Matupit Island.
- Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*  
 ENB Singles on Matupit Island and at Rabaul Airport.
- Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*  
 WNB Fairly common along beach at Walindi.
- Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos*  
 WNB 2 or 3, Walindi beach.  
 ENB Singles on Matupit Island and at Rabaul Airport.
- Terek Sandpiper *Tringaterk*  
 ENB 13 Nov, 10+, Matupit Island.
- Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala*  
 WNB Common at Hoskins Airport.  
 ENB Common (50+) at Rabaul Airport.  
 Note: positive identification was not made.

- Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*  
 ENB 2, Rabaul Airport.
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*  
 WNB Common at Hoskins Airport.  
 ENB 50+ at Rabaul Airport.
- Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*  
 WNB Seen occasionally offshore at Walindi.  
 ENB 1, flying over Simpson Harbour, Rabaul and common off Matupit Island.
- Brown Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis*  
 WNB Fairly common in forest on Numundo plantation road.
- Spot-breasted Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia mackinlayi*  
 WNB 2 or 3 in forest on Numundo plantation road.  
 Slightly smaller than *M. amboinensis* but with faintly mottled breast.
- Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*  
 WNB 2, in forest along Numundo plantation road.
- Red-knobbed Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus insolitus*  
 WNB 1, in canopy of forest along Numundo plantation road. Often seen at dawn in small groups perched in large trees.  
 ENB Singles on road beyond Keravat.
- Finsch's Imperial Pigeon *Ducula finschii*  
 WNB 1, inside forest edge along Numundo plantation road tentatively identified as this species.
- Black Imperial Pigeon *Ducula melanochroa*  
 WNB 1, seen with a party of *D. rubricera* along the Numundo plantation road, at c. 150 m.
- Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor*  
 WNB Groups flying along the coast.
- Papuan Mountain Pigeon *Gymnophaps albertisii*  
 WNB Fairly common in forest, secondary growth and gardens.
- Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*  
 WNB Common in forests and gardens.
- Eastern Black-capped Lory *Lorius hypoinochrous*  
 WNB Common in most habitats, particularly coconut plantations.
- Red-flanked Lorikeet *Charmosyna placensis*  
 WNB Very common at flowering trees including coconuts.  
 ENB Fairly common in and around Rabaul.
- Blue-eyed Cockatoo *Cacatua ophthalmica*  
 WNB Common and conspicuous in forest and forest edge.  
 ENB Several beyond Keravat.  
 Similar to *C. galerita* but with blue eye-patch and less harsh call.
- Ecliptus Parrot *Ecliptus roratus*  
 WNB Very common in forest and forest edge.  
 ENB Common beyond Keravat in secondary growth and forest.
- Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*  
 WNB Heard near the lodge at Walindi.  
 ENB Heard in most habitats around Rabaul.
- Common Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea*  
 WNB One male, Numundo plantation.
- Violaceous Coucal *Centropus violaceus*  
 WNB One along the Numundo road. A very large coucal with a brown-purple sheen and conspicuous bare white patch around eye. First seen on a bare branch but once disturbed it quickly scrambled into a tangle of epiphytes where it made its booming call. This was the only sighting although it was often heard.

- White-necked Coucal *Centropus aleribus*  
WNB Common in forest canopy and secondary growth. More visible and vocal than *C. violaceus*.
- Moustached Tree-Swift *Hemiprocne mystacea*  
WNB Common in forest, secondary growth and gardens.  
ENB Fairly common beyond Keravat and in the Kokopo area.
- Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*  
WNB Seen near the coast; we found it to be the least common of the three *Collocalia* species in the area.
- Uniform Swiftlet *Collocalia vanikorensis*  
WNB Very common in all areas visited.
- White-rumped Swiftlet *Collocalia spodiopygia*  
WNB Common, especially along streams and rivers.  
ENB Fairly common in gardens, clearings and forest edge.
- Black-headed Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanyptera nigriceps*  
WNB One glimpsed in flight inside forest along the Numundo road.
- Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sancta*  
WNB Fairly common in gardens, clearings and forest edge.  
ENB Fairly common in gardens and forest edge beyond Keravat.  
[I think these sightings may refer to Collared Kingfisher *H. chloris* as Sacred Kingfisher is migratory. By the end of October there are very few to be seen in the Port Moresby area, most having departed to breed in Australia. I would expect the same to be true on New Britain and for them not to be still fairly common. I have also recorded Collared Kingfisher commonly in secondary growth near Walindi. ed].
- Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*  
ENB 1, along a river beyond Keravat.
- Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*  
ENB Several at Rabaul Airport and around sandy cliffs between Rabaul and Kokopo.
- Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*  
WNB 1, along the Numundo road.
- Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus*  
WNB Fairly common, including one party of 5 over forest surrounding Numundo plantation.
- Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*  
WNB Common in and around towns.  
ENB Common around Rabaul Airport.
- Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina lineata*  
WNB 1, along the Numundo road.
- Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*  
WNB 1, male along the Numundo road.
- Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*  
WNB Common in secondary growth and forest. A pair was resident in the grounds of Walindi Lodge.
- Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*  
ENB Common in scrub and grassland around Rabaul, especially at Matupit.
- Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris*  
WNB Common in forest along the Numundo road.
- Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*  
WNB Very common in disturbed habitats. An aggressive bird was seen chasing a group of *Corvus meeki* from a tiny islet just offshore from Walindi Lodge. It rode on the back of one of the escaping crows, pecking at it furiously.  
ENB Common in disturbed habitats.

- Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*  
WNB Fairly common in forest along the Numundo road.
- Lesser Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra hebetior*  
WNB 1 female, in scrub along the Numundo road. Distinguished from *M. alecto* by grey head, brown upperparts and white underparts. A very active bird keeping inside the mid-storey and sub-canopy.
- Bismarck Flowerpecker *Dicaeum eximium*  
WNB Common in forested areas.  
ENB Fairly common in clearings, forest and forest edge.
- Black Sunbird *Nectarinia aspasia*  
WNB One of the commonest passerines found in nearly all habitats.  
ENB Common in all habitats including the town of Rabaul. One fully fledged juvenile was seen being fed by pair of adults on Matupit Island.
- Yellow-bellied Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis*  
WNB Common in most habitats.
- New Britain Dusky Myzomela *Myzomela cineracea*  
WNB Common in most habitats.
- Red-headed Black Myzomela *Myzomela erythromelas*  
WNB Fairly common in forests, clearings and gardens. Visited flowering trees around the lodge.
- New Britain Friarbird *Philemon cockerelli*  
WNB Common in most wooded habitats.  
ENB Occasionally beyond Keravat and on the Gazelle Peninsula.
- Buff-bellied Mannikin *Lonchura melaena*  
WNB Flock of 30+ at Hoskins Airport feeding on ground amongst short grass. The one or two males appeared all black with rufous rumps.
- Hooded Mannikin *Lonchura spectabilis*  
ENB Common in grassland.
- Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica*  
WNB Abundant and vociferous. By far the most common bird in all habitats where there were trees. Several nesting colonies contained between 50-100 pendant nests.  
ENB Common in gardens, secondary growth and forest.
- Yellow-faced Myna *Mino dumontii*  
WNB We presume this species rather than Long-tailed Myna *M. krefftii*. The birds did not appear to be any different from the mainland form with the exception of their calls which were more similar to *Dicrurus hottentottus*. They were fairly common in secondary growth and forest.
- Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*  
WNB Very common in secondary growth and forest.
- White-backed Wood-Swallow *Artamus insignis*  
ENB 2, hawking for insects from some tall trees in an old garden. A strikingly handsome black and white wood-swallow recalling Great Wood-Swallow *A. maximus* but with a prominent white back.
- Bougainville Crow *Corvus meeki*  
WNB Very common in gardens, towns, secondary growth and forest.  
We tentatively identify the crows as this species since the birds were quite different from the familiar *C. orru* on the mainland. Its flight sometimes appeared more like that of a raptor than that of a crow. The call is higher pitched than that of *C. orru* and comprises several notes descending in pitch. The birds were frequently seen in small flocks rather than as individuals.

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