

Phil Gregory saw two probable Mayr's Swiftlet *Collocalia mayri* hawking low over the main road north outside Namatanai Aug. 25 1999. They were clearly none of the regular species, being larger and much darker with glossy black upperparts, no pale rump and paler but still dusky underparts. Mayr's Swiftlet seems a distinct possibility. Similar birds have now also been seen up on the Lelet Plateau near Limbin in June 2007 (PG).

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### **The birds of Djaul Island, New Ireland**

By Guy Dutson

(Taxonomy, nomenclature and distribution follow Coates (1985, 1990) unless otherwise stated.)

The birds of the small islands around New Ireland are relatively poorly known. In July 1997, I spent between three and five days on each of Lavongai (=New

Hanover), Djaul, Tabar, Lihir and Tanga. I recorded new species for each island; the 15 new species for Djaul are listed below, those for the other islands are documented in Dutson (in prep.) (Lavongai: Finsch's Imperial-Pigeon; Tabar group: Sacred Kingfisher, Rainbow Bee-eater; Tanga group: Claret-breasted Fruit-Dove, Shining Bronze-cuckoo, Uniform Swiftlet, Dollarbird, Rainbow Bee-eater, Terek Sandpiper *Tringa cinerea*, Mangrove Golden Whistler; Maledok, Tanga: Northern Fantail).

The only collection to have been made on Djaul was that of the *Noona Dan* expedition, from which Salomonsen (1964) lists the passerines but not the non-passerines. The specimens are in the Copenhagen museum and have been catalogued by J. Diamond (unpubl. 1985). I visited Djaul from 7 and 11 July 1997; the only other documented visit was by C. Eastwood who spent about an hour on the island in 1996 (Eastwood 1996). I saw 15 species previously unrecorded on Djaul of which seven were seabirds and waders. Of the other eight, Rainbow Bee-eater and possibly Nicobar Pigeon are non-breeders, leaving six presumably resident species that were missed by the *Noona Dan* expedition: Nankeen Night-Heron, Pacific Baza, Brahminy Kite, Variable Goshawk, Island Imperial-Pigeon and Moustached Tree-swift. Many of these were likely to have been present and seen but not collected. Shorebirds and seabirds remain under-recorded.

### List of birds recorded from Djaul

ND = Specimens in the *Noona Dan* collection (J. Diamond unpubl. 1985)

D = the author's 1997 records

E = reported by Eastwood (1996)

S = reported by Salomonsen (1964)

Distribution of land species on other islands of New Ireland:

Ni = New Ireland

La = Lavongai (=New Hanover)

Tb = Tabar

Li = Lihir

Tg = Tanga

F = Feni

	ND	D	E	S	Ni	Tb	Tg	La	Li	F
Greater Frigatebird <i>Fregeta minor</i>	x	x								
Lesser Frigatebird <i>F. ariel</i>		x								
Audubon's Shearwater <i>Puffinus lherminieri</i>		x								
Pacific Reef Egret <i>Egretta sacra</i>	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Nankeen Night-Heron <i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>		x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Black Bittern <i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>	x	x			x	x			x	x
Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Crested Hawk <i>Aviceda subcristata</i>		x			x	x		x		
Brahminy Kite <i>Haliastur indus</i>		x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Variable Goshawk <i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>		x			x	x	x	x	x	
Red-necked Crake <i>Rallina tricolor</i>		?			x			x		
Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		x								
Wandering Tattler <i>Tringa incana</i>		x								
Melanesian Scrubfowl <i>Megapodius eremita</i>	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Crested Tern <i>Sterna bergii</i>		x								
Black-naped Tern <i>S. sumatrana</i>	x	x								
Bridled Tern <i>S. anaethetus</i>		x								
Black Noddy <i>Anous minutus</i>		x								
Brown Noddy <i>A. tenuirostris</i>	x									
Red-knobbed Imperial-Pigeon <i>Ducula rubricera</i>	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Island (Grey) Imperial-Pigeon <i>D. pistrinaria</i>		x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Finsch's Imperial-Pigeon <i>D. finschii</i>	x				x			x		
White-bibbed Fruit-Dove <i>Ptilinopus rivoli</i>	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	
Knob-billed Fruit-Dove <i>P. insolitus</i>	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x
Pied Cuckoo-Dove <i>Reinwardtoena browni</i>	x	x			x	x		x	x	
Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove <i>Macropygia amboinensis</i>	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Stephan's Dove <i>Chalcophaps stephani</i>	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Nicobar Pigeon <i>Caloenas nicobarica</i>		x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Green Pygmy-Parrot <i>Micropsitta finschii</i>	x	x			x	x		x	x	
Song Parrot <i>Geoffroyus heteroclitus</i>	x	x			x	x		x	x	
Eclectus Parrot <i>Eclectus roratus</i>	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Rainbow Lorikeet <i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Eastern Black-capped (Purple-bellied) Lory <i>Lorius hypoinchrous</i>	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	
Red-flanked Lorikeet <i>Charmosyna placensis</i>	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x

	ND	D	E	S	Ni	Tb	Tg	La	Li	F
Brush Cuckoo <i>Cacomantis variolosus</i>	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	
Channel-billed Cuckoo <i>Scythrops novaehollandiae</i>	x				x	x	x	x	x	x
White-necked Coucal <i>Centropus ateralbus</i>	x	x			x					
Glossy Swiftlet <i>Collocalia esculenta</i>	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Uniform Swiftlet <i>Aerodramus vanikorensis</i>	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Moustached Tree-swift <i>Hemiprocne mystacea</i>		x			x	x	x	x	x	x
River Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	x				x	x	x	x	x	x
Little Kingfisher <i>Alcedo pusilla</i>	x	x			x	x		x		
Dwarf Kingfisher <i>Alcedo lepidus</i>	x	x			x	x		x	x	
Collared Kingfisher <i>Todiramphus chloris</i>	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Beach Kingfisher <i>T. saurophaga</i>	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Rainbow Bee-eater <i>Merops ornatus</i>		x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Blue-breasted Pitta <i>Pitta erythrogaster</i>		x		x	x	x		x		
Red-tinted Myzomela <i>Myzomela cruentata</i>		x	x	x	x	x		x		
Golden Whistler <i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i>		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Willie-wagtail <i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>		x		x	x	x		x	x	
Northern Fantail <i>Rhipidura rufiventris</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Island Monarch <i>Monarcha cinerascens</i>		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Bismarck Pied Monarch <i>Monarcha verticalis ateralba</i>		x	x	x	x			x		
Golden Monarch <i>Monarcha chrysomela</i>			x	x	x	x		x	x	
Shining Flycatcher <i>Myiagra alecto</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x
Lesser Shining Flycatcher <i>Myiagra hebetior</i>		x	x	x	x			x		
Common Cicadabird <i>Coracina tenuirostris</i>				x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Varied Triller <i>Lalage leucomela</i>		x		x	x	x		x	x	
Singing Starling <i>Aplonis cantoroides</i>		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Metallic Starling <i>Aplonis metallica</i>		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Bismarck Flowerpecker <i>Dicaeum eximium</i>		x		x	x			x	x	
Black Sunbird <i>Nectarinia aspasia</i>		x		x	x	x		x	x	x
Olive-backed Sunbird <i>Nectarinia jugularis</i>		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Bismarck Crow <i>Corvus (orru) insularis</i>					x			x		

This Djaul list totals 63 species, of which 10 are seabirds or waders and two are definitely non-breeding migrants. All of these species except White-necked Coucal occur on some of the other satellite islands off New Ireland. White-necked Coucal is restricted to New Ireland, Djaul, New Britain and the small island of Lolobau off New Britain. Future observers should elucidate the status of Finsch's Imperial-Pigeon, which is known from Djaul by just one specimen and is only found on one other satellite island off New Ireland, Lavongai.

Salomonsen (1964) described five new taxa from Djaul and noted that it is separated from New Ireland by a deep-water trench, which might indicate that there has never been a land-bridge between these islands. Although Salomonsen (1964) described the monarch as a separate species, Djaul Monarch *Monarcha ateralba*, this taxon is very similar to the Bismarck Pied Monarch *M. verticalis* found on New Ireland, and J. Diamond (*in litt.* 1998) and I consider it to be a subspecies of the latter. The major discriminating factor is prominent white tips to the outer rectrices of *ateralba*; very small white tips were noted on one recently moulted *verticalis* on Lavongai. It was also noted that *ateralba* on Djaul and also *verticalis* on Lavongai fluttered and hovered much less than birds on New Ireland and New Britain. This may indicate a niche displacement, perhaps through the absence of Bismarck Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura dahli*. Although more common in the mountains, this fantail also occurs locally in the lowlands of New Britain and New Ireland (Coates 1990, Eastwood 1996; pers. obs.)

The other four endemic taxa are variably distinct subspecies: Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela sumunae*, Red-tinted (Red) Myzomela *Myzomela cruentata vinacea*, Golden Monarch *Monarcha chrysomela pulcherrimus*, Lesser Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra hebetior cervinicolor* and Bismarck Flowerpecker *Dicaeum eximium phaeopygium*. Where these species occur on other satellite islands, they are also represented by endemic subspecies, except for Lavongai where only the Varied Triller and Red-tinted Myzomela are endemic subspecies. The other exception is the Bismarck Flowerpecker on Lihir, which has not been seen there since Meyer (1934): future observers on Lihir should search for this species. Golden Whistlers on Djaul are slightly different to those on New Ireland and may represent a new subspecies (J. Diamond unpubl. 1985). Another candidate for subspecific separation is Blue-breasted Pitta, of which there is just one specimen from Djaul.

New species most likely to be discovered breeding on Djaul are those which also occur on the other satellite islands, as listed in the table below:

Species which may breed on Djaul	Ni	Tb	Tg	La	Li	F
Pacific Black Duck <i>Anas superciliosa</i>	x	x		x	x	x
Striated (Mangrove) Heron <i>Butorides striatus</i>	x			x	x	
White-breasted Sea-Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x
Pied Goshawk <i>Accipiter albogularis</i>						x
Oriental Hobby <i>Falco severus</i>	x		x			
Peregrine Falcon <i>F. peregrinus</i>					x	x
King (Blue-breasted) Quail <i>Coturnix chinensis</i> ,	x	x	x	x	x	
Banded Rail <i>Gallirallus philippensis</i>	x	x	x	x		
White-browed Crake <i>Porzana cinerea</i>	x			x	x	
Bush-hen <i>Amaurornis olivaceous</i>	x	x	x	x	x	
Purple Swamphen <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>		x		x		
Bar-tailed Cuckoo-Dove <i>Macropygia nigrirostris</i>	x	x		x		
White-breasted Ground-Dove <i>Gallicolumba jobiensis</i>	x	x		x	x	
Bronze (Beccari's) Ground-Dove <i>G. beccarii</i>	x		x	x	x	x
Superb Fruit-Dove <i>Ptilinopus superbus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x
Yellow-bibbed Fruit-Dove <i>P. solomonensis</i>				x		
Claret-breasted Fruit-Dove <i>P. viridis</i>			x		x	
Yellowish Imperial-Pigeon <i>Ducula subflavescens</i>	x			x		
Cardinal Lory <i>Chalcopsitta cardinalis</i>		x	x	?	x	x
Red-chinned Lorikeet <i>Charmosyna rubrigularis</i>	x			x		
Bismarck Hanging-Parrot <i>Loriculus tener</i>	x			x		
Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>			x			
New Ireland Boobook Owl <i>Ninox variegata</i>	x			x		
Large-tailed Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>	x	x		x	x	
White-rumped Swiftlet <i>Collocalia spodiopygia</i>	x	x		x	x	
Dollarbird <i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x
Bismarck Kingfisher <i>Alcedo websteri</i>	x			x	x	
Blyth's Hornbill <i>Aceros plicatus</i>	x			x		
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike <i>Coracina papuensis</i>	x			x		
Island (Long-tailed) Myna <i>Mino kreffti</i>	x		x	x		
Pacific Swallow <i>Hirundo tahitica</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x
Mangrove Golden Whistler <i>Pachycephala melanura</i>			x		x	
Black-headed White-eye <i>Zosterops hypoxantha</i>	x			x		
Golden-headed Cisticola <i>Cisticola exilis</i>	x	x		x	x	
Tawny Grassbird <i>Megalurus timoriensis</i>	x			x		
Hunstein's Mannikin <i>Lonchura hunsteini</i>	x			x		
Blue-faced Parrot-finch <i>Erythrura trichroa</i>	x					x

A further 23 species breed on New Ireland but not its satellites. A few require habitats that are not adequately represented on the satellite islands, i.e. wetland species (Red-throated Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*) and grassland species (Pied Chat *Saxicola caprata*, Clamorous/Australian Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus/australis*, and Forbes' Mannikin *Lonchura forbesi*). The others are either poor colonists, require a larger area of forest to sustain a population and/or are montane.

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### **Bulwer's Petrel (*Bulweria bulwerii*) New to Papua New Guinea and Melanesia**

by Guy Dutson

During numerous boat trips in 1997-8, I observed Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii* on three dates around Mussau in Papua New Guinean seas and another two dates in the Solomon Islands (Dutson in prep.). On 1 July 1997, I saw single birds on three occasions between Kavieng (New Ireland) and Tench; on 3 July, I saw two singles between Tench and Mussau; and on 6 July, I saw one between Mussau and Kavieng. All were seen with binoculars at 30-100m range from