



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## **Southwest Pacific Islands**

### **New Caledonia, Fiji, Vanuatu and Samoa**

*10<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July 2017 (19 Days)*

## **Trip Report**



Golden Fruit Dove by Rich Lindie

**Trip report compiled by Tour Leaders, Erik Forsyth & Rich Lindie**

## Tour Summary

*This year's tour to the south-west Pacific proved, yet again, that not only is the region a birding hotspot, but things are rapidly improving in the tourism and travel sector. Indeed, we experienced very little of the once notorious flight delays that plagued the region, dined in several fine restaurants, and lived it up in some truly wonderful accommodations. The birds, of course, were as spectacular as always, and our exploits secured us great sightings of no less than 78 of the region's endemics, including such megas as Kagu, Horned Parakeet, Orange Fruit Dove and Mao!*



**Kagu by Rich Lindie**

It all began early in the morning in Sydney, where, for the first time as a complete group, we met up in the lobby of our hotel, and transferred to the airport to board our short flight to Noumea, New Caledonia. Arriving a little before lunchtime, we boarded our incredibly long bus and wheeled our way directly to our accommodation on the outskirts of the city. From there, we walked a couple of the streets nearby, gathering lunch and our first bird sightings of the trip, before another short drive carried us to the first official birding outing.

The venue this time, of course, was the Oumea mangroves, on the edge of town. A few hours later, and we had already bagged our first endemic of the tour, not to mention a few other goodies. Highlights included Rufous Whistler, Green-backed White-eye, Grey-eared Honeyeater, Fan-tailed Gerygone and Long-tailed Triller; whilst non-avian diversions included a closer look at Noumea's rapidly modernising streets, all in a pretty attractive setting. Dinner was also a new experience for some – *I'm just glad nobody burnt themselves on the hot rock!*

The next day was to be spent almost entirely within the confines of Blue River National Park – New Caledonia's flagship conservation story. Our main target, of course, was the ever-popular and all

important (well, to family collectors anyway) Kagu. Needless to say, we had what can only be described as a wonderful encounter with a pair of these bizarre birds, though they weren't the first and only new birds we encountered that day.

Beginning with a little birding around the entrance gate to the park, we enjoyed our first of two great sightings of Horned Parakeet, Barred Honeyeater and a smart New Caledonian Friarbird to top it off. Then, after a short drive and a quick vehicle change, we had great views of a handsome Cloven-feathered Dove and a South Melanesian Cuckooshrike, before the Kagus stole the show. Things didn't slow down after the Kagu encounter either, as we pretty much picked up new birds throughout the morning, until lunchtime. A couple of New Caledonian Cuckooshrikes, several New Caledonian Myzomelas, a few (seriously impressive) Goliath Imperial Pigeons, several New Caledonian Whistlers, a Southern Shrikebill, furtive Streaked Fantails, a couple of Melanesian Flycatchers and several Yellow-bellied Flyrobins all put in appearances, followed by our only sighting of Red-throated Parrotfinch, just before we sat down to eat.



**Buff-bellied Monarch by Margarita Riera Aguirre**

Post-lunch, we spent a short while looking for our remaining targets for the day, but abandoned the core of the park a little earlier than usual, in favour of a visit to another site, for great looks at New Caledonian Crow, and our first Striated Starlings as a bonus. On the way out of the park, however, we did finally catch up with New Caledonian Parakeet, though Crow Honeyeater decided not to play ball.

Another early start the following morning, was, at that time, beginning to feel like a little too much to some, though a successful morning on Lifou helped ease the pain. That said, our exploits on Lifou did take some time before the big payoff, and it wasn't until shortly before lunch-time when we safely had all our major targets in the bag – *not aided by the late arrival of our driver, and the unwillingness of some of the local landowners to let us wander around!*



The trickiest of our targets, of course, was the Large Lifou White-eye – *though some of us ended up having multiple views*; whilst the easiest, by far, were the Cardinal Myzomela and Small Lifou White-eye.

Red-bellied Fruit Dove and South Melanesian Cuckooshrike also put in appearances, but with little else to entertain us on the rather backwards shores of Lifou, we changed our return flight to a much earlier time, and spent the rest of the afternoon racing around north of Noumea, looking for White-bellied Goshawk. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in our endeavours, though it could never be said that we didn't try.

We once again met pre-dawn the following day, though the day ahead was to follow a significantly more relaxed pace than that of the previous days. One reason for the change, of course, was that we would soon find ourselves in the decidedly more-relaxed environs of Vanuatu.



**Fiji Parrotfinch by Rich Lindie**

Starting with a flight from Noumea to Port Vila, on Efate, we then found ourselves two wonderful gentlemen to drive us around the west of the island, where we successfully twitched Blue-faced Parrotfinch and enjoyed a lovely lunch on the beach, where interesting signage and marginally less-expensive beers were enjoyed by most. Back at the lacklustre Port Vila airport a short while later, all that lay ahead of us was a short hop to Santo Island, and yet more drinks on the beach: this time from the comfort of our wonderful beachside accommodation.

The next morning was, you guessed it, another early one, though lovely views of an Eastern Barn Owl and several flying foxes rapidly had us forgetting our woes – *that and a promise of an afternoon off at our hotel, of course.*

The reason for our early departure was a visit to the Loru Protected Area, and the chance to find several of Vanuatu's lowland endemics. Happily, we weren't disappointed in the end, leaving palm plantations and limestone forests of the reserve with all but one of our avian targets in the bag. The first to fall was, remarkably, Tanna Fruit Dove; whilst the most conspicuous species, by call at least, Melanesian Whistler, took a little longer to make its way onto everyone's lists. We also had to try a little harder than expected for Vanuatu Kingfisher, though views in the end were almost unbeatable; whilst the exquisite Buff-bellied Monarch proved to be no trouble at all. Pacific Imperial Pigeons, Pacific Emerald Doves and Vanuatu White-eyes put in several appearances too; whilst some had to wait until after lunch for views of Mackinlay's Cuckoo-Dove. *There's nothing like a lifer or two to ease one into a relaxed afternoon by the beach.*



**Pacific Kingfisher by Rich Lindie**

With only one glaring exception to our Vanuatu endemics tally, and with one extra day than needed, we set off the next morning for adventure, to a site not even visited by a Rockjumper group yet. Our efforts paid off handsomely, as we were rewarded with a total of three sightings of Vanuatu Megapode – the third of which involved each and every person in the group; even if it did require a little bush-whacking to achieve.

Naturally, we took some time to admire many of the other birds, as well as to get a general feel for the habitat and birding in the area. We also popped down to the beach for a short while, where a couple of Great Crested Terns put in an appearance, but nothing of sufficient interest to keep us from lunch and an afternoon siesta/swim back at the resort. Our late afternoon was spent wandering the surroundings of the resort or enjoying another drink on the beach.

With just an hour or so before our scheduled transfer to the airport, we gathered as a group the next morning, and strolled the roads around our resort one last time. Despite the lack of new birds, we all

enjoyed repeat sightings of the gorgeous Coconut Lorikeet, tame Pacific Emerald Doves and the local subspecies of Pacific Kingfisher; whilst some even managed to catch sight of yet another Vanuatu Megapode!

That was pretty much all we did, birding-wise, for the rest of the day, as a flight to Port Vila, and an afternoon at another beach-side resort took up most of the remainder of the day – save for a short walk around some farmland in the late afternoon.

The following day saw even less birding, but it was then that we fully came to appreciate that – whilst regular flight delays are seemingly a thing of the past in the region, itineraries in the region are still very much at the mercy of flight schedules. On the bright side, as it would be for the remainder of the trip, time off between transfers ensured we remained pretty well-rested throughout the tour, as well as a great time for catching up on notes, taking photographs, and even enjoying a little of the wonderful surroundings in which we often found ourselves.



**Barking Imperial Pigeon by Rich Lindie**

Indeed, our flight to Suva wasn't until midday, so we all found ourselves enjoying a few of some of the above-mentioned activities before finally bidding farewell to Vanuatu and the island of Efate. In Suva, we were amused during a very short layover – *we left the plane, completed immigration and customs formalities, gathered and re-checked our luggage, and passed through security once again, only to re-board the same plane!* – before taking to the skies for another thirty minutes, touching down in Nadi for the first of several times on the trip, where a short wait for our shuttle bus yielded both Fiji Woodswallow and Fiji Parrotfinch – *hello Fiji!*

Our hotel in Nadi would become a very familiar sight over the coming days, but for now, it was still a fresh hunting ground and the allure of new birds was just too much for some. So, after a decent night's



rest, and before our mid-morning flight, we gathered for our first morning birding session in Fiji. *Well, I gathered together with the reception staff for my first morning bill-paying session in Fiji, but that's beside the point.* More Fiji Parrotfinch put in an appearance that morning, accompanied this time by several Red Avadavats for good measure, whilst first-appearances were forthcoming from a delightful male Vanikoro Flycatcher, several Kikao and Fiji White-eye.

Taking yet another relatively hassle-free flight, we found ourselves dining for lunch once again on the beach, though this time on the island of Taveuni. We would be based there for the next three days, but with several endemics to find, we wasted little time in getting out into the field. Arriving first at a patch of forest on one of the steep interior hillsides, we soon laid eyes on our first Barking Imperial Pigeons and then our first Fiji Goshawk. Unfortunately, the weather was soon to turn foul to say the least, and along with it, our eagerness waned steadily as the afternoon wore on, seeing us return to the lodge, drenched from head to toe.



**Many-colored Fruit Dove by Rich Lindie**

The next morning, we awoke early and drove almost to the top of Des Voeux peak, only to find that while the weather was equally wet, there was just a little less rain, but a whole lot more mist to compensate. Regardless, we worked the road back down the hill as best we could, actually finding several of our targets and enjoying great views of most to boot. Indeed, despite the adverse conditions, we managed to get great views of Yellow-billed Honeyeater, Fiji Shrikebill, Fiji Wattled Honeyeater, Fiji Whistler, Azure-crested Flycatcher and even the most-prized of local endemics, Orange Fruit Dove! Our views of Silktail weren't the most satisfactory, but it really was a successful morning under the circumstances.

We went back up the hill for the afternoon, seeing much the same weather as earlier in the day, only this time we weren't so lucky on the sighting front. Some were lucky enough to see a Pacific Robin,

though; whilst further views of some of the more common endemics were just about all that entertained the rest of us. *It was a good thing we had great views of the Maroon Shining Parrot just before we left the resort!*

In the same conditions the following morning, we found ourselves yet again on the road up to Des Voeux peak. By then, we had few endemics still to find, though some still wished for better views of Silktail; and Fiji Bush Warbler had eluded us all until that point. Working hard to do so, we were at least able to reverse the situation with the latter species, though no amount of trying changed the score with the Silktail. Just as we were about to take leave of the area, however, our first Many-colored Fruit Doves of the trip put in an appearance; and, as if to say goodbye, a final Orange Fruit Dove did the same.



**Grey-eared Honeyeater by Rich Lindie**

Abandoning the forest for the sea, and the bad weather for sun and surf, we boarded a boat for the afternoon, ensuring not only a welcome change of pace and scenery, but also that we made it back to shore with enough time to enjoy a full happy hour. The highlight of our time on the water, and indeed our only major target, was, of course, Tahiti Petrel; whilst second-place went to the likes of Red-footed Booby, Black Noddy and both Lesser and Greater Frigatebirds.

The following day goes down as essentially another travel day – starting with a mid-morning flight back to Nadi, and ending, for the second time, at Tanoa Hotel.

Another mid-morning flight saw the start of the next day's activities, though this time we found ourselves on the shores of Kadavu Island at the end of it. Almost literally on the shore – we wheeled our bags straight out of the 'airport', across the road and down onto the beach! After that, it was a short boat ride to our accommodation, where we enjoyed a quick lunch before heading back across the bay



and into the forest. It took a while to get started, but birding along a quiet stretch of the road eventually yielded our first Kadavu Fantails, our first Slaty Monarchs, and our first good views of Collared Lory. We also had great looks at Crimson Shining Parrot and, albeit after a little effort, a Kadavu Honeyeater or two. Whistling Fruit Dove wasn't playing ball, however.

After eventually finding a calling bird, we spent the entire remainder of the afternoon trying to get glimpses. Some were lucky enough to spot a female, but most were left with no sighting at all. To make matters worse, we hadn't left the rain in Taveuni!



Grey Fantail by Rich Lindie

In fact, it seemed as if we had brought the rain with us the next morning – locals kept telling us how many days the area had been without rain, and yet we experienced nothing short of a deluge during our boat trip from the lodge back to town. *At least our driver would be there to meet us. Or would he?* A whole hour of standing in the rain, and it became ever clearer that the recent arrival of the ferry had stolen not only our driver, but just about every other driver on the island. Eventually waving down a driver with enough time and inclination to take us out into the forest, we saw our chances of finding Whistling Fruit Dove return from the brink – *only now we still had to find one!*

As it turned out, after failing to hear any along the rest of the road, we ended up back in the same spot as the previous day, where thankfully one started to call. Despite this, it wasn't until the eleventh-hour (beyond that for some) when Erik managed to pick one out for all to see. Perhaps fittingly, it was stunning male, and a perfect reward for our mammoth effort. The rest of the day involved a midday flight back to Nadi, and an evening flight to Suva.

Having arrived in the dark the previous day, we wouldn't see our lovely accommodation setting until late afternoon the following day, as the next day was to be one of the only days of the trip when we

would eat breakfast in the field. On the up-side, we didn't have as far to drive as on previous trips, and our early-morning departure wasn't *that* bad. Our aim for the day was to find a few endemics found most-easily in the interior of Viti Levu. *'Most-easily' is a bit misleading, but it's all relative when it comes to birding.* Giant Honeyeaters were, however, actually common and easy to see, and Black-throated Shrikebill proved not too difficult by any means. We also saw large numbers of Many-colored Fruit Doves towards the end of the day, as well as a few dozen Golden Fruit Doves. What required the most work, and not even for much or any reward for some, was Long-legged Thicketbird. We tried both morning and afternoon for this rarely-seen and secretive bird but only a few of us managed to catch glimpses. *At least some of us did see one.* Pink-billed Parrotfinch was heard only!



**Vanikoro Flycatcher by Rich Lindie**

After one of the longest waits I have ever had to endure for breakfast, the following morning saw us birding around our accommodation near Suva. Not far from the cabins, we had unbeatable (literally) views of Golden Fruit Dove, though our main target was to get good views of Masked Shining Parrot. We in fact managed this during our wait for breakfast, but more good looks were duly appreciated. We also enjoyed point-blank views of Pacific Kingfisher and further looks at Giant Honeyeater before, all too soon, it was time to wing our way back to Nadi, where another afternoon off was all that lay ahead.

Our birding exploits had essentially come to end by the time we woke on the seventeenth day of the trip, only we had more time left in Fiji than we had expected. We arrived at the Nadi airport to find that our flight to Samoa had been delayed, and that, after several details had been settled upon, we would be spending several hours at a nearby hotel, and flying to Apia in the early hours of the afternoon. As it worked out, we spent very few hours at our complimentary hotel, and more in the airport, but at least made it to Samoa on the same day. And despite having to quickly arrange alternative transport, we did make it to our accommodation in time to see our first Samoan endemics, including the tricky Mao!

Another day of foul weather lay ahead of us as we awoke the following morning on Upolu Island. Nonetheless, we started with a little birding around our lodge – where wonderful views of delicate White Terns and acrobatic White-tailed Tropicbirds were a real treat – and then jumped into our minivans and departed for the other side of the island, stopping briefly at the bottom of the driveway for our first Flat-billed Kingfishers. Along the way, and countless Buff-banded Rails later, we stopped for wonderful views of perched Blue-crowned Lorikeets; whilst the remainder of the drive was spent mostly staring through torrential rain.

Finally at our destination, we took a short break to use one of Samoa's unique 'garden toilets' and got straight back into the birding. Not long after, we picked up our first Samoan Flycatchers of the trip, as well as our first of many Cardinal Myzomelas on the island, and a couple of fly-over Crimson-crowned Fruit Doves. We improved on our views of the fruit dove a little later in the day, but much of the morning was very fruitless, and we eventually took shelter from the rain in a nearby beach-side resort restaurant, where we also enjoyed a relaxing lunch and our only views of Black-naped Tern. Our late afternoon was spent searching for a few remaining endemics around our own resort, including Samoan Whistler and Samoan Fantail – *both of which we found with little trouble.*

Ready and waiting for breakfast on the lodge balcony the following morning, we managed to see our second Eastern Barn Owl of the trip, though it was the tropicbirds, terns and flying foxes that stole the show again. Alas, it was soon time to leave, and with one more viable target for some to see, we spent the rest of our time birding on foot from the lodge before our airport transfer. We were, of course, looking for Red-headed Parrotfinch, and while some did get to see the bird, we proved yet again that this is a tricky species to see perched.

Another midday flight (and another flight to Nadi), saw in the penultimate leg of our journey, followed by one more night at the Tanoa Hotel.

The following day, an uneventful flight back to Sydney belied what had been nothing short of an epic trip!

## 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.

### Birds (134 in total, including 78 regional endemics!)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2017. IOC World Bird List (v 7.1).

**IUCN codes:** CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild,

NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

**General codes:** LO = Sighted by one or both of the tour leaders only, H = Species that was heard but not seen, ENC = Endemic to New Caledonia, EM = Endemic to Melanesia, EV = Endemic to Vanuatu,

EF = Endemic to Fiji, ES = Endemic to Samoa, EP = Endemic to the Pacific Islands

### Geese & Swans *Anatidae*

#### **Pacific Black Duck**

*Anas superciliosa pelewensis*

Blue River National Park and Viti Levu.



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### Megapodes *Megapodiidae*

**Vanuatu Megapode (EV)***Megapodius layardi* (EV)

An incredible four sightings, including one near our resort!

### Pheasants & Allies *Phasianidae*

**Red Junglefowl***Gallus gallus*

Santo, Vanuatu.

### Petrels, Shearwaters *Procellariidae*

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

Great views of a handful during our boat-trip off Taveuni, Fiji.

### Tropicbirds *Phaethontidae*

**White-tailed Tropicbird***Phaethon lepturus dorotheae*

Fabulous views of several around our lodge on Upolu, Samoa.

### Hérons, Bitterns *Ardeidae*

**White-faced Heron***Egretta novaehollandiae*

Small numbers (2-8) observed on New Caledonia and Viti Levu, Fiji. Small numbers on Taveuni and at least one on Kadavu, only recently recorded for the island.

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

Several sightings throughout Fiji, and on Upolu, Samoa.

### Frigatebirds *Fregatidae*

**Great Frigatebird***Fregata minor palmerstoni*

Taveuni and Kadavu.

**Lesser Frigatebird***Fregata ariel ariel*

Also sighted around Taveuni and Kadavu, Fiji.

### Gannets, Boobies *Sulidae*

**Red-footed Booby***Sula sula websteri*

One youngster sighted during our boat trip from Taveuni.

**Brown Booby***Sula leucogaster plotus*

Several sighted around Taveuni, followed by a few around Kadavu and Upolu.

### Cormorants, Shags *Phalacrocoracidae*

**Little Pied Cormorant***Microcarbo melanoleucos*

A couple of sightings on Grande Terre, New Caledonia.

### Kites, Hawks & Eagles *Accipitridae*

**Brown Goshawk***Accipiter fasciatus vigilax*

A few sightings in New Caledonia.

**Fiji Goshawk (EF)***Accipiter rufitorques*

Sighted on seven days during our time in Fiji.

**Swamp Harrier***Circus approximans*

Several sightings in both New Caledonia and Fiji.

**Whistling Kite***Haliastur sphenurus*

A handful of sightings in New Caledonia.

### **Kagu *Rhynochetidae***

**Kagu (ENC)***Rhynochetos jubatus* (ENC)

Two pairs in Blue River National Park, one of which we spent a magical half-hour with!

### **Rails, Crakes & Coots *Rallidae***

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

Brief sightings in New Caledonia and Vanuatu, followed by countless encounters in Samoa.

**Australasian Swamphen***Porphyrio melanotus*

Two brief sightings in New Caledonia, another in Fiji, and a couple in Samoa.

### **Plovers *Charadriidae***

**Masked Lapwing***Vanellus miles*

Kadavu air strip, Fiji.

**Pacific Golden Plover***Pluvialis fulva*

Three sightings on Upolu, Samoa.

### **Sandpipers, Snipes *Scolopacidae***

**Wandering Tattler***Tringa incana*

One near our accommodation on Taveuni, another near our accommodation on Efate.

**Ruddy Turnstone***Arenaria interpres*

One sighting on Upolu, Samoa.

### **Gulls, Terns & Skimmers *Laridae***

**Brown Noddy***Anous stolidus pileatus*

Several around our accommodation on Upolu, Samoa, as well as a few elsewhere on the island.

**Black Noddy***Anous minutus subsp?*

A few sighted during our boat trip from Taveuni, Fiji.

**White Tern***Gygis alba candida*

A regular sight around our lodge on Upolu, Samoa.

**Silver Gull***Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae forsteri*

Grande Terre, New Caledonia.

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

Sighted throughout Fiji, and on Efate, Vanuatu.

**Bridled Tern***Onychoprion anaethetus anaethetus*

Two sightings during our boat trip from Taveuni, Fiji.

**Black-naped Tern***Sterna sumatrana*

One sighting on Apia.

**Pigeons, Doves *Columbidae***

- Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)** *Columba livia*
- Metallic Pigeon** *Columba vitiensis*  
New Caledonia (*hyponochroa*), Taveuni and Viti Levu, Fiji (*vitiensis*), and Upolu (*castaneiceps*).
- Spotted Dove** *Spilopelia chinensis*  
Sighted throughout New Caledonia and Fiji.
- Mackinlay's Cuckoo-Dove (EM)** *Macropygia mackinlayi mackinlayi*  
A handful sighted on Santo, Vanuatu.
- Pacific Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps longirostris sandwichensis*  
Several seen well throughout Santo, Vanuatu.
- Tanna Fruit Dove (EV)** *Ptilinopus tannensis (EV)*  
A few sightings on Santo, Vanuatu.
- Many-colored Fruit Dove (EP)** *Ptilinopus perousii*  
Sighted on all three Fijian islands visited (*mariae*), as well as on Upolu, Samoa (*perousii*).
- Crimson-crowned Fruit Dove (EP)** *Ptilinopus porphyraceus fasciatus (VU)*  
Fairly common on Upolu, Samoa, where we enjoyed great views.
- Red-bellied Fruit Dove (EM)** *Ptilinopus greyi*  
Lifou, New Caledonia, and both Santo and Efate, Vanuatu.
- Orange Fruit Dove (EF)** *Ptilinopus victor*  
Several males and females on Taveuni.
- Golden Fruit Dove (EF)** *Ptilinopus luteovirens*  
Unbeatable views around our lodge near Suva, Viti Levu.
- Whistling Fruit Dove (EF)** *Ptilinopus layardi (NT)*  
An eleventh-hour sighting, and a great one at that, during our time on Kadavu.
- Cloven-feathered Dove (ENC)** *Drepanoptila holosericea (NT)*  
Two sightings in New Caledonia.
- Pacific Imperial Pigeon (EP)** *Ducula pacifica pacifica*  
Notably common on Santo, Vanuatu and Upolu, Samoa.
- Barking Imperial Pigeon (EF)** *Ducula latrans*  
Common throughout the three Fijian islands that we visited.
- Goliath Imperial Pigeon (ENC)** *Ducula goliath (NT)*  
Fabulous views during our time in Blue River NP, New Caledonia.

**Barn Owls *Tytonidae***

- Eastern Barn Owl** *Tyto delicatula*  
One, lovely sighting on our first morning on Santo, Vanuatu (*interposita*), followed by another, at our lodge in Samoa (*delicatula*).

**Cuckoos *Cuculidae***

- Shining Bronze Cuckoo** *Urodynamis taitensis*  
One sighting in Loru, Santo, Vanuatu.



**Swifts *Apodidae*****Glossy Swiftlet***Collocalia esculenta*Common on New Caledonia (*albidior*) and Santo, Vanuatu (*uropygialis*)**White-rumped Swiftlet (EP)***Aerodramus spodiopygius*New Caledonia (*leucopygius*), Vanuatu (*epiensis*), Fiji (*assimilis*) and Samoa (*spodiopygius*).**Uniform Swiftlet***Aerodramus vanikorensis*

Common on Santo, Vanuatu.

**Kingfishers *Alcedinidae*****Vanuatu Kingfisher (EV)***Todiramphus farquhari* (EV)

Great views of one, in the Loru Protected Area, Santo, Vanuatu.

**Pacific Kingfisher (EP)***Todiramphus sacer* (EP)Efate, Vanuatu (*jiuliae*), Santo, Vanuatu (*santoensis*), Taveuni and Viti Levu, Fiji (*vitiensis*) and Kadavu, Fiji (*eximius*).**Sacred Kingfisher***Todiramphus sanctus*Grande Terre, New Caledonia (*canacorum*) and Lifou, New Caledonia (*macmillani*).**Flat-billed Kingfisher (ES)***Todiramphus recurvirostris*

Delightfully common on Upolu, Samoa.

**Falcons and Caracaras *Falconidae*****Peregrine Falcon***Falco peregrinus*

One sighting on Viti Levu.

**Parrots *Psittacidae*****Crimson Shining Parrot (EF)***Prosopeia splendens*

Several sightings on Kadavu.

**Masked Shining Parrot (EF)***Prosopeia personata* (NT)

Great views of several around our lodge near Suva, Viti Levu.

**Maroon Shining Parrot (EF)***Prosopeia tabuensis*

Daily sightings on Taveuni.

**Horned Parakeet (ENC)***Eunymphicus cornutus* (VU)

Great close-ups, on two occasions, in Blue River National Park, New Caledonia

**New Caledonian Parakeet (ENC)***Cyanoramphus saisseti* (NT)

Also seen well and up-close in Blue River National Park, New Caledonia.

**Blue-crowned Lorikeet (EP)***Vini australis*

Several sightings on Upolu, Samoa.

**Collared Lory (EF)***Phigys solitarius*

Common on all three Fijian islands, though our first good views were on Kadavu.

**Coconut Lorikeet***Trichoglossus haematodus*Common throughout New Caledonia (*deplanchei*) and on Santo, Vanuatu (*massena*).**Honeyeaters *Meliphagidae***

- New Caledonian Myzomela (ENC)** *Myzomela caledonica*  
A few sightings in Blue River National Park, New Caledonia
- Cardinal Myzomela (EP)** *Myzomela cardinalis*  
Lifou (*lifuensis*), Vanuatu (*tenuis*) and Samoa (*nigriventris*).
- Sulphur-breasted Myzomela (EF)** *Myzomela jugularis*  
Great looks at this lovely endemic on all three Fijian islands visited.
- Grey-eared Honeyeater (EM)** *Lichmera incana (EM)*  
Common on Grande Terre (*incana*) and Lifou, New Caledonia (*poliotis*), and on Santo, Vanuatu (*griseoviridis*).
- Kadavu Honeyeater (EF)** *Xanthotis provocator*  
Eventually seen well by all during our time on Kadavu.
- New Caledonian Friarbird (ENC)** *Philemon diemenensis (ENC)*  
Great looks at a few in Blue River National Park.
- Polynesian Wattled Honeyeater (EP)** *Foulehaio carunculatus*  
Common on Upolu, Samoa.
- Fiji Wattled Honeyeater (EF)** *Foulehaio taviunensis*  
Daily sightings on Taveuni, Fiji.
- Kikau (EF)** *Foulehaio procerior*  
Common on Viti Levu, Fiji.
- Yellow-billed Honeyeater (EF)** *Gymnomyza viridis*  
Great views on more than one occasion - Taveuni, Fiji.
- Giant Honeyeater (EF)** *Gymnomyza brunneirostris*  
Several sighted in eastern and central Viti Levu, Fiji.
- Mao (ES)** *Gymnomyza samoensis (EN)*  
Two great sightings on Upolu, Samoa.
- Barred Honeyeater (ENC)** *Glycifohia undulata*  
A couple of good views during our time in Blue River National Park, New Caledonia.

### Australian Warblers *Acanthizidae*

- Fan-tailed Gerygone (EM)** *Gerygone flavolateralis*  
Small numbers, throughout Grande Terre (*flavolateralis*) and Lifou (*lifuensis*), New Caledonia.

### Woodswallows, Butcherbirds and allies *Artamidae*

- White-breasted Woodswallow** *Artamus leucorhynchus*  
Widespread and common in New Caledonia (*melaleucus*) and Vanuatu (*tenuis*).
- Fiji Woodswallow (EF)** *Artamus mentalis*  
Near-daily sightings in Fiji.
- Australian Magpie** *Gymnorhina tibicen*  
A handful sighted on Taveuni, Fiji.

### Cuckooshrikes *Campephagidae*

- South Melanesian Cuckooshrike (EM)** *Coracina caledonica*  
Sightings on Grande Terre (*caledonica*) and Lifou (*lifuensis*), New Caledonia, and on Santo (*thilenii*),

Vanuatu.

**New Caledonian Cuckooshrike (ENC)** *Coracina analis* (ENC)

Great views of two individuals in Blue River National Park.

**Polynesian Triller (EP)** *Lalage maculosa*

Taveuni (*woodi*), Kadavu (*soror*) and Viti Levu (*pumila*), Fiji, and Upolu (*maculosa*), Samoa.

**Long-tailed Triller (EM)** *Lalage leucopyga*

Lifou (*simillima*) and Grand Terra (*montrosieri*), New Caledonia, and Santo (*albiloris*), Vanuatu.

### **Whistlers and Allies *Pachycephalidae***

**Melanesian Whistler (EM)** *Pachycephala chlorura intacta*

Notably common on Santo, Vanuatu.

**New Caledonian Whistler (ENC)** *Pachycephala caledonica*

Common in New Caledonia.

**Fiji Whistler (EF)** *Pachycephala graeffii*

Recorded on Taveuni (*torquata*), Kadavu (*kandavensis*) and Viti Levu (*optata*), Fiji.

**Samoa Whistler (ES)** *Pachycephala flavifrons*

A couple of sightings around our accommodation on Upolu, Samoa.

**Rufous Whistler** *Pachycephala rufiventris xantheurae*

A few sightings in New Caledonia.

### **Fantails *Rhipiduridae***

**Grey Fantail** *Rhipidura albiscapa*

Common in New Caledonia (*bulgeri*) and on Santo, Vanuatu (*brenchleyi*).

**Streaked Fantail (EM)** *Rhipidura verreauxi*

New Caledonia (*verreauxi*), Vanuatu (*spilodera*), Taveuni (*rufilateralis*) and Viti Levu (*layardi*).

**Kadavu Fantail (EF)** *Rhipidura personata* (NT)

A few sightings during our time on Kadavu.

**Samoa Fantail (ES)** *Rhipidura nebulosa*

Daily sightings on Upolu, Samoa.

**Silktail (EF)** *Lamprolia victoriae* (NT)

A single, rather unsatisfactory sighting on Taveuni, despite the time we put in.

### **Monarchs *Monarchidae***

**Slaty Monarch (EF)** *Mayrornis lessoni lessoni*

Good looks on Taveuni, Fiji.

**Buff-bellied Monarch (EV)** *Neolalage banksiana*

Seen exceptionally well during our time on Santo, Vanuatu.

**Southern Shrikebill (EM)** *Clytorhynchus pachycephaloides*

Great views in Blue River National Park (*pachycephaloides*), followed by another sighting on Santo, Vanuatu (*grisescens*).

**Fiji Shrikebill (EP)** *Clytorhynchus vitiensis brunneus*

Several sighted on Taveuni, Fiji.

**Black-throated Shrikebill (EF)** *Clytorhynchus nigrogularis* (VU)



Superb looks during our trip to the interior of Viti Levu, Fiji.

**Melanesian Flycatcher (EM)**

*Myiagra caledonica*

A few sightings, split between Grande Terre (*caledonica*), Lifou (*viridinitens*) and Santo, Vanuatu (*marinae*).

**Vanikoro Flycatcher (EM)**

*Myiagra vanikorensis*

Viti Levu and Taveuni (*rufiventris*), and Kadavu (*kandavensis*).

**Samoaan Flycatcher (ES)**

*Myiagra albiventris* (NT)

Great views during our full day on Upolu, Samoa.

**Azure-crested Flycatcher (EF)**

*Myiagra azureocapilla azureocapilla*

A few lovely sightings on Taveuni.

**Crows & Jays *Corvidae***

**New Caledonian Crow (ENC)**

*Corvus moneduloides*

Great views during a visit to the northern suburbs of Noumea.

**Australasian Robins *Petroicidae***

**Yellow-bellied Flyrobin (ENC)**

*Microeca flaviventris*

Wonderfully common and confiding in Blue River National Park, New Caledonia.

**Pacific Robin (EP)**

*Petroica pusilla kleinschmidti*

Sighted only by some during our time on Taveuni, Fiji.

**Bulbuls *Pycnonotidae***

**Red-vented Bulbul**

*Pycnonotus cafer*

New Caledonia, Fiji and Samoa.

**Swallows and Martins *Hirundinidae***

**Pacific Swallow**

*Hirundo tahitica subfusca*

Santo, Vanuatu, and all three islands visited in Fiji.

**Welcome Swallow**

*Hirundo neoxena*

A few sightings in New Caledonia.

**Bush Warblers and allies *Cettiidae***

**Fiji Bush Warbler (EF)**

*Horornis ruficapilla*

Taveuni (*funnebris*), Kadavu (*ruficapilla*) and Viti Levu (*badiceps*).

**Grassbirds and allies *Locustellidae***

**Long-legged Thicketbird (EF)**

*Megalurulus rufus rufus* (EN)

Sighted by some in the interior of Viti Levu.

**White-eyes *Zosteropidae***

**Fiji White-eye (EF)**

*Zosterops explorator*

Near-daily sightings on Taveuni, and a few on Viti Levu.

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<b>Vanuatu White-eye (EV)</b> Daily sightings on Santo ( <i>brevicauda</i> ) and Efate ( <i>efatensis</i> ).	<i>Zosterops flavifrons</i>
<b>Small Lifou White-eye (ENC)</b> Common on Lifou.	<i>Zosterops minutus</i>
<b>Green-backed White-eye (ENC)</b> Daily sightings in New Caledonia.	<i>Zosterops xanthochroa</i>
<b>Silvereye</b> Grande Terre ( <i>griseonota</i> ), Lifou ( <i>melanops</i> ), Santo ( <i>tropicus?</i> ), Efate ( <i>vatensis</i> ) and Kadavu ( <i>flaviceps</i> ).	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>
<b>Large Lifou White-Eye (ENC)</b> Eventually seen very well, and a few times.	<i>Zosterops inornatus</i>

### **Starlings, Rhabdornis Sturnidae**

<b>Striated Starling (ENC)</b> A few sightings on Grande Terre ( <i>striata</i> ) and Lifou ( <i>atronitens</i> ).	<i>Aplonis striata</i>
<b>Polynesian Starling (EP)</b> Taveuni and Kadavu ( <i>vitiensis</i> ), and Upolu ( <i>brevirostris</i> ).	<i>Aplonis tabuensis</i>
<b>Samoan Starling (ES)</b> Common on Upolu, Samoa	<i>Aplonis atrifusca</i>
<b>Jungle Myna</b> Throughout Fiji, and Samoa.	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>
<b>Common Myna</b> Ubiquitous.	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>

### **Thrushes Turdidae**

<b>Island Thrush</b> A few on Taveuni ( <i>tempesti</i> ), followed by one sighting on Viti Levu ( <i>layardi</i> ).	<i>Turdus poliocephalus</i>
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### **Old World Sparrows Passeridae**

<b>House Sparrow</b>	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
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### **Waxbills and Allies Estrildidae**

<b>Common Waxbill</b> Several sightings in New Caledonia.	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
<b>Red Avadavat</b> Sighted on all visits to Nadi, as well as in the interior of Viti Levu.	<i>Amandava amandava</i>
<b>Blue-faced Parrotfinch</b> Successfully 'twitched' during our first morning in Vanuatu.	<i>Erythrura trichroa</i>
<b>Red-throated Parrotfinch (ENC)</b> One sighting in Blue River National Park.	<i>Erythrura psittacea</i>
<b>Red-headed Parrotfinch (ES)</b> A few sightings of flying individuals or pairs during our time in Samoa.	<i>Erythrura cyaneovirens cyaneovirens</i>

**Fiji Parrotfinch (EF)**

Several great sightings on Taveuni and Viti Levu.

*Erythrura pealii*

**(H) Pink-billed Parrotfinch (EF)**

Viti Levu.

*Erythrura kleinschmidtii*

**Chestnut Munia**

Daily sightings on Santo, Vanuatu.

*Lonchura atricapilla*

## MAMMALS

**Small Indian Mongoose**

A couple of sightings on Viti Levu, Fiji.

*Herpestes auropunctatus*

**Vanuatu Flying Fox**

Large numbers seen on both full days on Santo, Vanuatu.

*Pteropus anetianus*

**Samoaan Flying Fox**

Noted on our first evening on Upolu, Samoa

*Pteropus samoensis*

**Tongan (Pacific) Flying-Fox**

Santo, Taveuni, Viti Levu and Upolu.

*Pteropus tonganus*

**Dugong**

One sighting near our accommodation on Santo, Vanuatu.

*Dugong dugon*

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