

# WEST PAPUA 2024

## Carlos Bocos with Royle Safaris

Following the successful tour we had last year, I decided to organize a second one with Martin Royle. Again, we harvested an incredible number of mammals, including the three main highlights. We also confirmed that the ecotourism project we started in Klailik is working well, with the village seeing enough income thanks to the tourism to protect the Critically Endangered Western Long-beaked Equidna and the forest where it lives.

Martin will write a more detailed account about this tour so im just leaving a short piece, with the mammal list and some photos.

This year, the itinerary was slightly different than last year and please, keep in mind that it might change in the future, in order to see as many mammals as possible. There is always room for improvement and we have to continue looking for more and better places for mammals.

Also, another note of advice. This is a physically demanding tour, with very long walks on a daily basis.

We managed to photograph or video most of the species. All the materials will be put on Inaturalist and Youtube and we are always open to healthy identification discussions! The species highlighted in Red were not photographed

Here is the list:

1-Vogelkop Tree Kangaroo (*Dendrolagus ursinus*)- Again, excellent, prolonged, close, walk-away views for everyone. Two animals seen near the Mupi settlement. One of the main highlights of the trip. I didn't take the camera with me but everyone else did and they all took fantastic photos and videos.

2-Grizzled Tree Kangaroo (*Dendrolagus inustus*)- This one took some effort, as usual, but eventually one was tracked down, three hours away from the settlement. Hard work pays off! Another very big prize!

3-Stein's Cuscus (*Phalanger vestitus*)- Only for the lucky souls determined to explore the highest reaches of Mupi Gunung. Three individuals well seen and recorded up there. All seen in an area not visited on the previous tour, around 2000 meters elevation.

4-Northern Common Cuscus (*Phalanger orientalis*)- Frequently seen in Mupi. Also recorded in Klailik. Grey, Brown and White morphs seen.



5-Ground Cuscus (*Phalanger gymnotis*) - Photographs. Several well seen in Mupi



6-Arfak Ringtail (*Pseudochirulus schlegeli*)- Five logged in Mupi



7-Reclusive Ringtail (*Pseudochirops coronatus*)- 6 logged in Mupi, including some extremely close.





8-Striped Possum (*Dactylopsila trivirgata*)- Recorded in all the places visited  
9-Feather-tailed Possum (*Distoechurus pennatus*)- One recorded in the Arfaks



- 10- **Timor Deer** (*Rusa timorensis*)- Some seen in the Arfaks. Introduced species
- 11- Moluccan Bare-backed Fruit Bat (*Dobsonia moluccensis*)- Seen in all the places visited
- 12- **Geoffroy's Rousette** (*Rousettus amplexicaudatus*)- Few in the Arfaks
- 13- Common Blossom Bat (*Syconycteris australis*) - Photographs- Seen in all the places visited



- 14- Chestnut Tree Mouse (*Pogonomys macrourus*)- Several in the Arfaks, allowing very close studies



15- Grey Tree Mouse (*Pogonomys sylvestris*)- One seen well enough to ID but this one got away without photos or videos

16-New Guinea Jumping Mouse (*Lorentzimys nouhuysi*) - First detected in the Arfaks, being my first personal record up there. We obtained excellent photographs and videos of that one. After that, we recorded six in Klailik

17- Lesser Papuan Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus papuanus*)- One inside our hotel in Manokwari, at breakfast time. I guess it got inside during the night and it couldn't find the way out. We caught it and safely released out there





18-Müller's Three-striped Dasyure (*Myoictis melas*)- One hanging around the Mupi settlement put on a great show



19- **Wild Boar** (*Sus scrofa*)- Some seen during the walks to the Arfaks. Introduced species

20-Lowland Ringtail (*Pseudochirulus canescens*)- We saw few of them in Klailik, including two at point blank distance



21-Fawn-Leaf Nosed Bat (*Hipposideros cervinus*)- Few in Klailik

22-Undescribed Hippo (*Hipposideros species nova*)- One of the main highlights of the trip was this monster *Hipposideros*, discovered last year just shortly after our visit. It will be described sometime soon.





23-Maggie Taylor's (*Hipposideros maggietaayloriae*)- Few in Klailik

24-Brown Dorcopsis (*Dorcopsis muelleri*)- Few in Klailik

25- Beccari's Sheat-tailed Bat (*Emballonura beccari*)- Bunch of them in Klailik



26-Diadem Leaf-nosed Bat (*Hipposideros diadema*)- few in Klailik

27- Little Long-fingered Bat (*Miniopterus australis*)- Some in Klailik

28-Moluccan Myotis (*Myotis moluccarum*)- Few of them in Klailik

29-Large-eared Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus philippinensis*) - Several encounters in Klailik

30- Broad-eared Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus euryotis*)- Several encountered in Klailik



- 31- Black-tailed Melomys (*Melomys rufescens*) - Seen first in Klailik but best photos were taken in Waigeo
- 32-Loria's Pogonomys (*Pogonomys loriae*)- one seen in Klailik
- 33- **Rakali** (*Hydromys chrysogaster*)- One seen in Klailik
- 34- Lowland Common Paramelomys (*Paramelomys platyops*)- One well seen in Klailik





35-Bruijin's Tree Mouse (*Pogonomelomys bruijinii*)- Great views of several in Klailik



36-Dark Sheat-tailed Bat (*Mosa nigrescens*)- Daily encountered in Klailik

37- Great Flying Fox (*Pteropus neohibernicus*)- Many fly-by Klailik and one night we found a dozen of them foraging on a fruiting tree

38- Large New Guinea Spiny Rat (*Rattus praetor*)- One in a large fruiting tree in Klailik

39- Common Echymipera- Several in Klailik

40-Long-fingered Triok- On the fifth night in Klailik, we saw one well enough on a massive fruiting tree, to check that crazy long middle finger. Absolutely mega!



41-Western Long-beaked Equidna- This time took a lot of effort but we pinned down this mega on our fifth night in Klailik. One year after my first sighting in the place, the animals still there. Just a note about mammalwatching etiquette, because I keep hearing about photographers getting too close to the animal and stopping its way all the time, to take amazing photos with macro-wide-angle lenses. Please don't do this. It is a critically endangered species, known from very few places and we can't do enough to protect them.

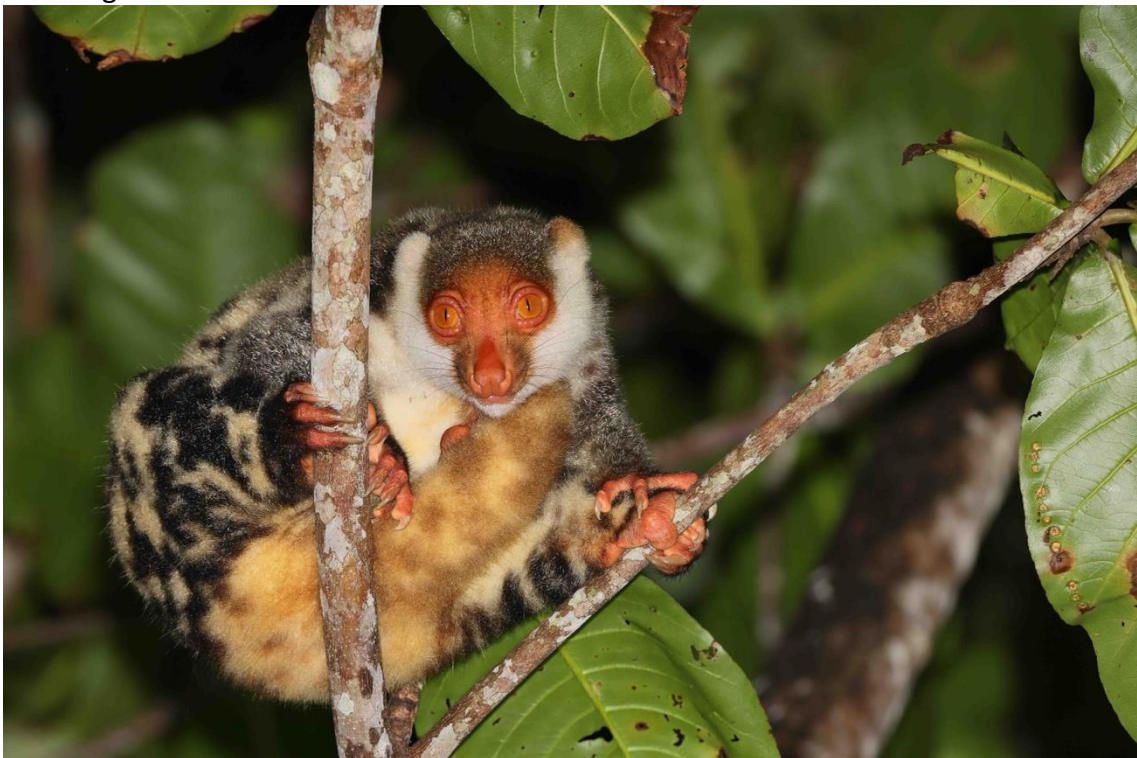


42- Common Tube-nosed Fruit Bat (*Nyctimene albiventer*)- One example in Klailik, showing well its distinctive back pattern

43-Unstriped Tube-nosed Fruit Bat (*Paranyctimene raptor*)- One well seen in Klailik



44-Waigeo Spotted Cuscus (*Spilocuscus waigeou*)- Around ten logged in Waigeo, stunning views!



45- **Giant White-tailed Rat** (*Uromys caudimaculatus*)- One seen in Klailik  
46- Temminck's Trident Bat (*Aselliscus tricuspis*)- Around 50 in Waigeo  
47- Raffray's Sheat-tailed Bat (*Emballonura raffrayana*)- Several seen in Klailik and Waigeo





48- Biak Roundleaf Bat (*Hipposideros papua*)- several found inside a cave in Waigeo

49- Large-eared Flying Fox (*Pteropus macrotis*)- Seen in Waigeo

50- Beaufort's Bare-backed Fruit Bat (*Dobsonia beaufortii*)- One seen well foraging on a fruiting tree

51- Spinner Dolphin (*Stenella longirostris*)- a pod seen in front of our resort in Waigeo