




Endemic Mammals of West Papua


Destination: Bird's Head Peninsula & Waigeo Island

Duration: 17 Days / **Dates:** 23rd May – 8th June 2024


 Enjoying a few great minutes with the critically endangered **Long-beaked Echidna**


 Having expert help of Carlos Bocos, Juliana Senawi & a host of great local guides

 Seeing great birds such as Western-crowned Pigeon & Wilson's Bird-of-paradise

 Hiking the rugged Arfak Mountains & finding 2 different species of **Tree Kangaroo**

 Spotting a total of 47 species of mammals, including many endemic species

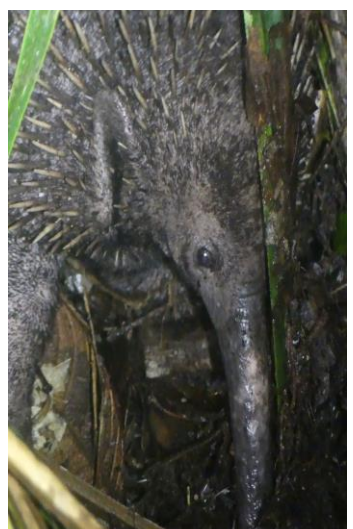
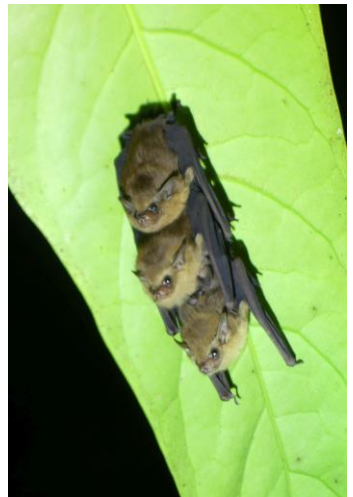
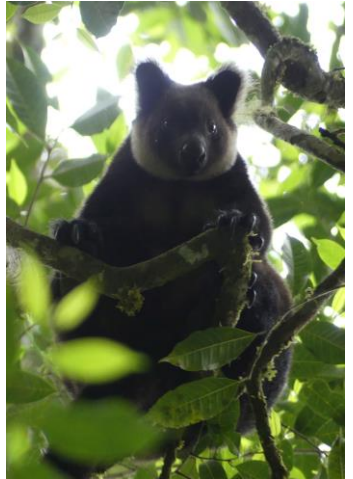
 Seeing 91 species of birds including 6 species of birds-of-paradise & other endemics

 Spotlighting 4 species of **Cuscus**, 3 species of **Ringtail** & 2 species of **Possums**

 After 5 nights of looking, finding two unusual and amazing **Long-fingered Trioks!**

 Finding and catching a few individuals of a undescribed **Leafnosed Bat** species

 Getting very close views of several rodent species whilst walking around



Tour Leader / Guides

Martin Royle (Royle Safaris Tour Leader)

Carlos Bocos (Specialist Mammalwatching Tour Guide)

Juliana Senawai (Southeast Asian Bat Specialist)

Hans Mandacan (Arfaks Local Guide / Tracker & Organiser)

Absalom Kalami (Klailik Local Guide / Tracker & Organiser)

Collette (Manokwari Airport Handler)

Participants

Peggy Faucher

Marc Faucher

Justin Brown

Overview

Day 1: Manokwari

Days 2-7: Gunung Mupi

Day 8: Manokwari

Days 9-14: Klailik

Days 15-16: Waigeo

Day 17: Sorong / Home



Day by Day Breakdown

Overview

Hot off the success of Jon Hall's amazing and pioneering trip to West Papua, Martin Royle of Royle Safaris contacted Carlos Bocos to try and get the world's first dedicated mammalwatching group tour to West Papua. We saw little reason to change the itinerary fundamentally, however some small tweaks were made and further adjustments will be made for following trips we can find new places for mammals and also streamline some of the difficult logistics. So in May 2024 (around 12 months on from the first trip) Carlos was back and this time with Martin and a small group of 3 clients (originally it was supposed to be 4, but a very last minute cancellation left us one short unfortunately).

The trip would be strongly mammal focused and would be built around three main highlights; two species of tree kangaroo in the rough and rugged Arfat mountains and thanks to the wonderful ecotourism project in Klailik the third target species would be the critically endangered western long-beaked echidna. And along the way we would see close to 50 species of mammals, nearly all unique to New Guinea.

Whilst we will be running this tour in the future, the next trip will be planned for 2026 and so please contact us for more information on this trip (info@royle-safaris.co.uk) we want to make sure that anyone wishing to come here understands that this is a very physically demanding trip. The hiking is hard, the accommodation often basic and there are very long nights spotlighting. All of these things are part of the fun and adventure of going looking for mammals in a part of the world few have done so before but they are also things which many people may not have experienced before and we want to make sure everyone is prepared correctly for such an incredible trip.

Below is a day by day breakdown of the trip, followed by a species list and some pictures of the wildlife we managed to see.



Days 0-1 **Manokwari**

Arrival

Two of clients on the trip (Peggy and Marc Faucher) booked a pre tour extension with Carlos to Sulawesi and so they arrived together the day ahead of the trip, Martin arrived shortly after these three into Manokwari and we heard today about the cancellation of Stewart Summers for personal reasons.

We met at the Swissbel Hotel in the town and had some food and rested, Justin would be arriving tomorrow morning, so only in the afternoon of day 1 did we all get together and prepare for the trip. We all took it easy, with Martin and Justin getting over the jetlag and getting ready for the adventure to start pre-dawn tomorrow morning.

Day 2 **Gunung Mupi**

Hiking & Wildlife Watching

This morning we woke pre-dawn and met the vehicles outside the hotel and some of our hiking team including the man who runs the operation up the mountain Hans Mandacan. So at around 3am we left some baggage at the hotel (so we would have some clean and dry clothes when we returned) and drove a couple of hours or so to the closest trail head to the mountain. Luckily it was dry so far and with some clear skies it looked promising for a dry hike.

The baggage we would be taking up and various supplies etc were all divided up among the large team of porters from the village and off we started.

The first 2 hours or so would be climbing the 400m (all uphill) which is in front of the actual Gunung Mupi we would be climbing and staying on. This part went pretty straight forward and was nearly all done in the dark, when we got to the top of this smaller hill we had a break and then headed down (around 100m) and into more typical rainforest (away from the bamboo which was on the initial hillside). When we got to the bottom of this hill we would zigzag the Teu River, crossing the water on fallen trees which had been crudely made into bridges. This crisscrossing the



mountain river went on for another couple of hours or so until we started to march upwards again, this time on Gunung Mupi and towards our camp at 1,074m elevation.

This walk is tough, anyone looking to do this trip in the future needs to be under no illusions as to how strenuous the hike is. The river crossings are difficult and potentially dangerous if you do not take them seriously and the walk is at least 8-9 hours solid uphill slog. The path is steep, sometimes so steep that you have to climb up using the wooden rails which the local team have put in place. And the clay-like mud can be slippery, we were lucky in terms of this walk was very dry, however if the heavens opened then it will get more slippery.

The reason we mention how difficult this is, is not to put people off, but to make sure that only people who are physically capable of this hike look to do it. But of course the mammal rewards are exceptional for all who make it to the top of the mountain.

During the hike there was very little seen, a few different Papuan hornbills flew overhead, mostly obscured by the canopy and there were brief views of a couple of brown-headed crows, a lesser bird-of-paradise, grey-streaked flycatcher, a male Papuan electus and Papuan mountain pigeons. As well as these birds a couple of reptile species were spotted, which have been tentatively identified as shrub- whiptail skink and Pacific bluetail skinks. Nearer the village and our home for the next few nights we had views of a couple of the larger mammals in the area, but also two introduced species, **wild pigs** (a female and some piglets) and a **rusa deer** which were moving through the forest not far from the village.

After we all made it and settled into the basic (but comfortable rooms) we had dinner and then a short night walk. It wouldn't be as long a night walk as other nights, because we were a little tired after such a long climb up. We walked a way back along the entrance pathway and quickly spotted a pair of **northern common cuscuses** including 1 stunning white morph that posed fantastically for us. Carlos spotted a **common echymipera** briefly and back near the village we had great views of a **ground cuscus** and a couple of **common blossom bats** were flying around. Not a bad start for a short walk.



Day 3 **Gunung Mupi**

Wildlife Watching

A cloudless blue sky greeted us on the first morning up the mountain, a couple of flocks of fairy lorikeets flew overhead noisily with a smaller flock of pygmy lorikeets coming closer to feed in a nearby tree. There was a feeding station within view of the main house in the village and we had a visit from a magnificent bird-of-paradise here as a very cool New Guinea vulturine parrot flew overhead.

We would spend time this morning waiting around the village whilst the local trackers were out looking for some of our main targets whilst here. The two species of tree kangaroos (ursine and grizzled) would be searched for by the large team of enthusiastic locals, living here and being accustomed to the hills and forests they are amazing at moving quickly up and down the steep slopes and spotting these elusive and very rare animals. We would wait and listen out for the whooping calls of happy trackers which would alert us to the fact that one had been found of we would head to have a look.

So whilst we waited we watched what birds would come to the pandanus fruit on the feeding station as well as walking the 200m or so to a special bid and paradise hide. The call for found tree kangaroos didn't come today and so the only animals of note during the day were the birds seen at the two feeders such as western parotias, magnificent riflebirds, black-billed sicklebill, New Guinea flowerpecker, olive-crowned flowerpeckers and mountain swiftlets (which were flying overhead towards dusk). There was also some excitement when Peggy and Marc found a brown tree snake in the rafters of their room.

Then after dark we headed out again, this time for a much longer night walk. The first mammal was a nice **chestnut tree mouse** and then we found the first of several more **ground cuscus** feeding on a couple of fig trees rich in fruit. Following on from here we had difficult views of a **striped possum** and then more **ground cuscuses** and **northern common cuscuses**.

Shortly after this Justin found and had brief views of a **reclusive ringtail possum** followed by another one which was this time seen by everyone as it rested in a fork in a large tree and looked at us. We then returned to the camp at around midnight and had a little rest before heading off along another trail for a while longer. There were many **Moluccan naked-backed fruit bats** flying around and feeding as well as **Geoffroy's rousettes** and another **reclusive ringtail**. These were the only mammals seen in this last part of the night walk. We did have some frogs including one large Arfak mountains frog and also a Papuan frogmouth, Papuan dwarf kingfisher and Martin found a white blind-



snake on the pathway. Taxonomy of blind-snakes is very confused and this may be an undescribed species. Unfortunately it seemed to have been stood on by someone on the trail and was not likely to survive much longer.

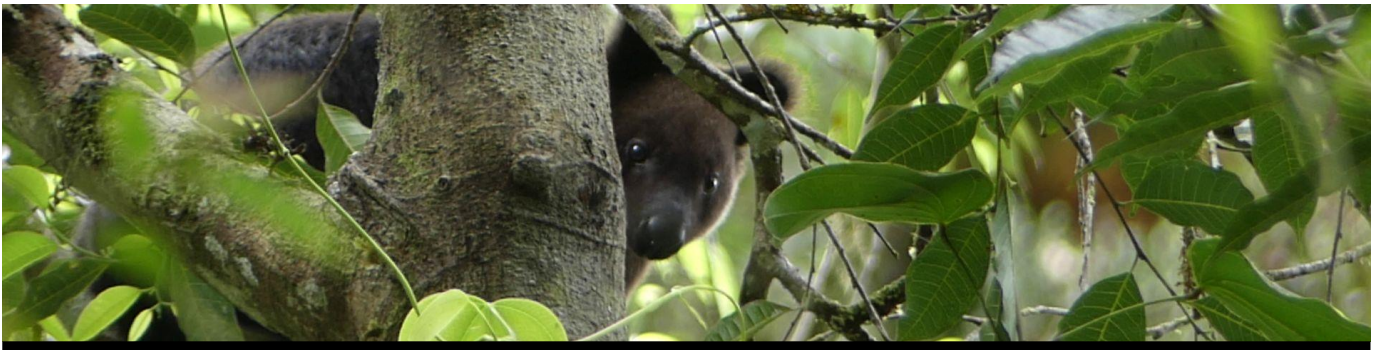
Day 4 Gunung Mupi

Wildlife Watching

This morning started with some heavy rain and when it stopped we spent the day looking at the birds visiting the feeders and chilling out waiting to hear the whooping calls of a located tree kangaroo. Martin had just arrived at the hide and was watching a western parotia when the calls were heard. We all quickly assembled at the main building in the village, got our gear on and cameras ready and headed off into the forest.

There was a hive of activity as people were running back and forth along trails, the key now was for the local team to locate the tracker who had found the animal and then set up a kind of relay system to get us there as quickly and efficiently as possible. Unfortunately for us the animal was quite far away and the terrain of this forest doesn't allow for quick or efficient walking. The walk was several hours (there and back) and the kangaroo had been found near the top of a steep ridge. So when we did finally climb up and make it to the trackers we were very happy to see a wonderful **grizzled tree kangaroo** looking at us from the top of a tree. The views were good but not very conducive for photography as it was backlit and there was a mist in the air. But quality pictures aside this was one of the main targets of the whole trip, a species which has been seldom seen by anyone other than the people who live in these mountains and one which made the hard walk there worth it and the walk back feel much shorter.

We rested and celebrated when back at the village and then waited for nightfall. On our shorter walk than last night (accounting for the longer walk to find the tree kangaroo today) we did manage to have views of an **Arfak ringtail**, two **common northern cuscuses** as well as a **striped possum**, **feather-tailed possum** and both **chestnut tree-mouse** and **gray tree mouse**.



Day 5 Gunung Mupi

Wildlife Watching

As we were getting up and starting our day some of the villagers brought us a **three-striped dasyure** which they found hanging around the settlement. We had great views of this awesome marsupial carnivore, it seemed to have recently come out of its torpor and once it had settled in a nearby tree we left it alone to get some more needed rest. The rest of the morning was spent watching the various birds-of-paradise and other birds as they flew around the settlement, visited the hide and flew overhead.

Then we heard the calls again, it filtered through to us that this was the second species of tree kangaroo here and also that it was in an easier location to get to. That all sounded like music to our ears and off we went again. It has to be said that whilst the climb up to this one was not as steep or long as yesterday, the overall distance covered to reach it was further. So it is worth noting that the locals' idea of distance is not the same as people who are not used to running up and down slippery forested mountains. But nether the less we made it had excellent views of a very obliging **Volekop's tree kangaroo**. This individual was halfway up a tree looking at us, both the tree kangaroos we had seen were very curious of us and it allowed for some great views and pictures of this one. Once again the amazing views of an amazing animal left us very happy and some of the pain in our knees had been lifted.

We returned to the village for dinner and then afterwards went out for another walk; where we found a hanging **common blossom bat** a very photogenic **common northern cuscus**, **ground cuscus** and a possible but unconfirmed **d'Alberti's ringtail** as well as roosting white-faced robin and more frogs including Arfakiana tree frog and an unidentified *xenorhina* species.

Day 6 Gunung Mupi

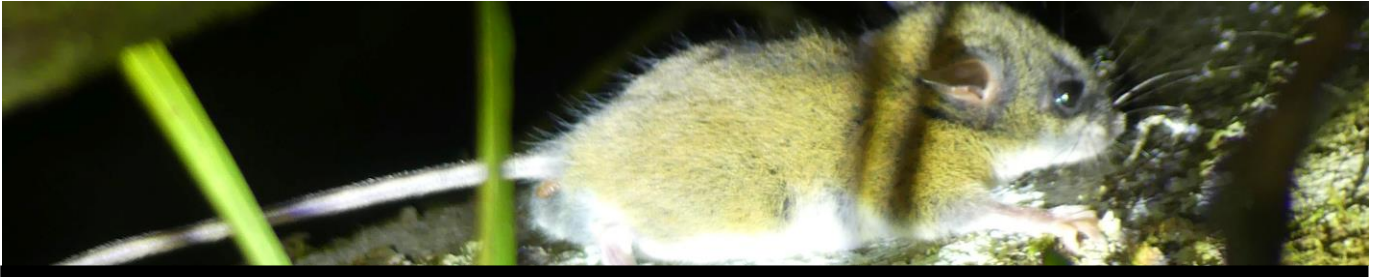
Wildlife Watching

Today Martin, Carlos, Peggy and Marc stayed around the village and would have a night walk around here, whilst Justin went up to the top of Gunung Mupi with Hans to see if they could find Stein's cuscus which is known from higher elevations. They left in the afternoon to get up to the top in the daytime and then walk down after dark.

During the day the hide had a male and female western parotia as well as a magnificent riflebird come and visit and feed and a pygmy eagle soared around above the mountain.



After dark the around the settlement we found some roosting birds including another white-faced robin and black-winged monarch, but mammal-wise it was very quiet. Other than some **Moluccan naked-backed fruit bats** flying around we didn't see anything. So just when we were about to call it a night Carlos found an **Arfak ringail** and then quickly after a **common northern cuscus** female climbing up a tree. This perked us up and we continued and were rewarded by a pair of **common northern cuscuses** feeding in a large fig tree and some **rusa deer** moving through the forest in the distance. Back near the settlement we had more **Moluccan naked-backed fruits bats** feeding in the tall fruiting trees and when Justin returned we found out that he had gone up to around 2,000m elevation and on the way back down had seen three **Stein's cuscuses** and two **Arfak ringtails**.



Day 7 **Gunung Mupi**

Wildlife Watching

Earlier then previously this morning we heard the news reverberating around the forest that another **Vokelkop's tree kangaroo** had been seen. It was in a similar place as where we had seen the previous time. Justin decided to have a look whilst everyone stayed at the settlement, particularly as at around the same time we heard that one of Carlos's traps had a rodent in it. It turned out to be a **chestnut tree mouse** which we saw well before being released.

Then after dark Carlos, Hans, Justin and Martin went for a walk up the hill to see what we could find on the final night walk here. We spooked a **rusa deer** near by the camp and then saw a impressive Arfak cannibal frog as well as a roosting chestnut-backed jewel-babbler. Which is a big deal bird around here and Hans and Carlos were very happy to see it here. Han's has birding clients who come all the way to try and see this species. It is also nice for mammalwatchers to get some nice rare birds as it is often birders who get the rare mammals without even trying.

As we climbed up the slope the vegetation changed and became (for want of a better expression) more alpine in nature. We had a rainbow ground snake shoot out from the side of the trail and across our path. Hans was petrified (snakes are not a welcome animal among many people who live in the forests in New Guinea), despite the snake being pretty small and completely harmless. We were rewarded for getting up this high as we found the first record of a **New Guinea jumping mouse** in the Arfaks, this great little rodent was found on the side of a tree on a flat ridgeline part of the trail.

On the way back down we also found a **striped possum**, **common northern cuscus** feeding on figs and back at the village Marc and Peggy told us of a **reclusive ringtail** that they had found just around the village.

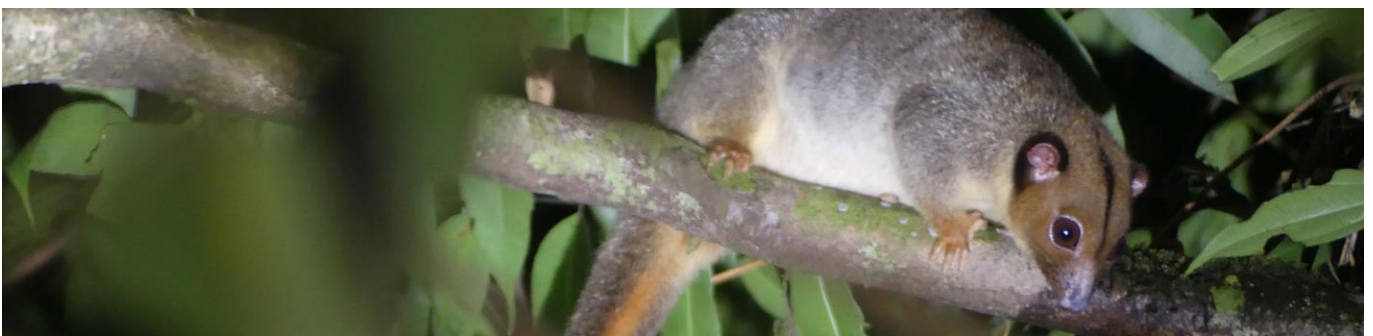
Day 8 **Gunung Mupi / Manokwari**

Hiking

At 6am we packed up, had breakfast and started the long descent down the mountain. It was a long slog (nearly as hard as coming up, with the steep declines hard on the knees and some pretty slippery parts, not to mention the river crossings on the tree trunks. But we made it back to the trail head and the vehicles in one piece.

We said buy to many of the people there and continued on in the vehicles to the hotel in Manokwari. We arrived and checked in around 2:30pm and enjoyed probably the best cold drink, shower and lie down on a bed we had all enjoyed before!

The rest of the evening and night we just rested and repacked ahead of the next stage of our trip, to the lowlands and in search of an even more elusive and little understood mammal, the western long-beaked echidna which would be the main focus of the next few days.





Day 9 Klailik

Travelling & Wildlife Watching

This morning we had a relatively leisurely start and didn't leave the hotel for the airport until 7:30am. But the wildlife watching had already started, a bat was flying around the corridor of the hotel on the 4th floor this morning, Carlos caught it and ID'd it as a **Papuan pipistrelle** a rare species to see in normal conditions, so a nice lucky find.

The flight from Manokwari to Sorong was uneventful and when we landed we met Julianna who would accompany us for the rest of the trip and be our specialist when it comes to mist netting for bats.

We then loaded up the vehicles and drove the 3 hours or so to the little eco-village of Klailik. This is a village that is establishing (very successfully) a small scale sustainable eco tourism project here, centred around the echidna which can be found in the lowland forests which surround the village.

Once we arrived we settled into our accommodation and met the local team, lead by Absalom the group of echidna trackers would go into the forest at dark and spend the night looking for this elusive species. We would go in ourselves and walk around to see what we can find and wait and hope to hear the whooping calls echoing through the forest which would signal the spotting of an echidna.

Juliana set up some mist nets and caught some **fawn leaf-nosed bats** and a **Moluccan myotis**. Before we entered the forest and just as dusk was settling we saw some **great flying foxes** leaving their roosting sites and flying over the forest to find fruiting trees. Walking into the forest we found some very cute **dark sheath-tailed bats** on the underside of leaves, lined up in threes and fours. Also seen early on were some snake species, including brown tree snake and a possible northern tree snake. There was a **common blossom bat** flying around looking for somewhere to feed and we also spooked a **brown dorcopsis** (a forest wallaby) which stayed for a short time for us to see it, but the pictures were poor in the low light.

There were also some nice frog species seen including a species of *xenorhina* and multi-coloured tree-frog and we had a very high up **lowland ringtail** but couldn't see it very well in the canopy. As we carried on we had a huge and amazing hercules moth land on Peggy and Marc allowing for very close pictures and for us to really appreciate just how enormous the species is.

One of the trackers found a **lowland common paraelomys** hiding in a nook of a tree root which we saw very well. We then got close to where we would be waiting for a few hours whilst the echidna trackers would do their thing, other sightings we had was a very nice tarantula on the path as well as a barred keelback. Then whilst we were waiting Carlos found one of the most spectacular snake species in the world (in my opinion) a large and stunning northern white-lipped python. This iridescent large python was amazing to see so close and livened up a relatively quiet period of waiting.

Juliana found a **rikali** moving along the stream just next to the waiting area which was another nice break from waiting in the dark. The waiting tonight was in vain unfortunately, at around midnight the team called it, they had seen tracks but no animal and so would try again tomorrow. We all returned to the village for the night.

Day 10 Klailik

Wildlife Watching

The next day we waited during the daylight hours around the village, there is not a great lot to do around here during the day, all of our wildlife watching would be done after dark. Plus today it rained, and rained and rained. It eventually stopped around 8pm, only a few **great flying foxes** were seen flying over the forest today and a handful of birds including sacred kingfisher, red-cheeked parrots and white-crowned cockatoo. It was too wet to set up the mist nets, so we didn't catch any bats tonight.

At around 8pm we left the village to go into the forest again, the tracking team were already there looking for echidna for us. Along the way we had another small group or two of the **dark sheath-tailed bats** resting in a line on the underside of leaves before we had a nice view of a **Bruijin's tree mouse** in a tree relatively low down, various fruit bats and perhaps also flying foxes were feeding in a large tree, but too high to really see what they were. As we continued to walk the trails around the waiting area we had views of a **diademed leaf-nosed bat** and excellent views of a nice posing white-lipped tree-frog just next to the trail.

In general the night was another quiet one and once again the trackers didn't find an echidna, but Carlos did find a **New Guinea jumping mouse** and a pup **Moluccan naked-backed fruit bat** and the trackers found another stunning species of snake. This time it was a nice northern green python on a small bush at eye-level and so allowed us to get very nice views and pictures.

We were having some great luck with snakes, but so far little luck with the echidna, but we still had time. So we called the effort tonight at around 2am and went back to the village for some sleep.





Day 11 Klailik

Wildlife Watching

Another day resting around the village waiting for nightfall and Mark and Peggy had another brown tree snake in the building they were staying in. As the weather was dry today Carlos decided it was time to explore the cave which the local team had found in between the trip Jon, Charles et al made in 2023 and this trip. It was in this cave that the Absolam took a picture of a strange looking bat which Carlos immediately ID'd as a new species. He decided to go himself for a few reasons (1) it could be anywhere in the forest (getting accurate info on distance from the local team is difficult), (2) he can move much quicker through the forest on his own than with the group in tow and (3) he doesn't know the make up of the cave and so wanted to get into the cave which may not be safe for the group.

He came back several hours later, very hot, sweaty and tired...but excited!

It turned out that the cave is not too far away (an hour or so) and also that is more of a sink hole akin to the cenotes of Central America than a traditional cave, which went down and down and opened up massively. It was a dangerous descent and one that he said stretched even his formidable field skills to the limit in getting into and out of safely. Mostly because it was straight up and down and the limestone karst formations are like razors to walk along and grip onto.

But the rewards for getting down there were massive. The cave had hundreds (perhaps thousands) of **Moluccan naked-backed fruit bats** roosting as well as thousands of the **undescribed bats** (which are large leaf-nosed bats currently unknown to science) and several other species of bats. But it was not just the bats down here Carlos also found a great melampitta roosting on the ledge inside the cave. There are very few (or no records) of great melampittas roosting and so that was a great find to go alongside the new species of bats.

It was decided that tomorrow Juliana would go here to the near the cave entrance to set up her mist nets and harp trap to try and get some samples of this new species to take measurements with a means of getting the species described.

Just after dark we walked on the other side of the village, the echidna trackers were out looking and Juliana had set up some nets along the pathways here and we would check them as explored this new part of the forest to see what we could find. It was quite a productive night for roosting birds and the first one we saw was a red-billed brush turkey seen well over the trail. There was a **broad-eared horseshoe bat** in one of the nets as we passed and we found some more **dark sheath-tailed bats** on the leaves again. Then came our second roosting bird of the night and this was a spectacular one as we came across a western crowned pigeon. This is one of the largest species of pigeons in the world and just stunning, in a powder blue colouration and with a wonderfully delicate crest of feathers running straight down the middle of its head. This is one of New Guinea's top birds and we were very happy to fine one. However the rest of the trails were quiet, there were no fruiting trees so we packed up the mist nets and headed to meet the echidna trackers on the other side of the village. Before leaving this part of the forest we found a roosting azure kingfisher and a coronate fruit-dove as well as a nice white-lipped tree-frog.

Back on the other side of the village we had a brief view of a **striped possum** and a **broad-eared horseshoe bat** hanging on a leaf over the trail and then a *papurana* species of frog before we found yet another stunning species of bird roosting, as we found a pair of beautiful fruit-doves.

Further mammals as we walked around included nice views of a **lowland ringtail** near the trail and another **Bruijin's tree mouse**. We then stopped and waited until around 1:30am before calling the night (without finding an echidna again. It was beginning to get a concerning, but we still had a good amount of time left for the team to find one of these amazing animals.

Day 12 Klailik

Wildlife Watching

The day time followed the same pattern as the previous few and then at around 5pm we went for a walk to the sink hole / cave to search around this area and see where the nets would be set up. As we walked to the area a large flock of Blyth's hornbills flew overhead. Giving brief views as they came in and out of view in the canopy.

We then arrived at the entrance of the cave and walked around as Juliana got the nets and traps set up and started to catch some bats. The sheer number of bats was incredible, they were flying around everywhere and the nets had 30-50 in them at one time, it was a race for everyone who had skills in doing so, to safely remove the bats, give them a quick check over and if healthy and a species that was wanted they were put in bags to relax for data collection later.

Unfortunately there was a late to fly **Moluccan naked-backed fruit bat** (these bats usually leave the caves early and so by setting them up later they are avoided – which is good as they don't need to be caught and with them being so large they can damage the nets). So when this one was in the net it was quickly taken out. Other than this individual the rest of the bats were all smaller insectivorous species including many **broad-eared horseshoe bats**, **large-eared horseshoe bats** (including a few of the yellow-morph of this species), **diademed leafnosed bats**, **fawn leaf-nosed bats**, **Maggie Taylor's roundleaf bats**, smaller numbers of **little bent-winged bats**, **Moluccan myotis** and of course several of the **novel leaf-nosed bat** species that we were most interested in.



The vast majority of the bats were released straight away, with only a small sample of the new species and one of each of the other species being taken back for further observations before them to being released a show time later.

Walking around the cave and on the karsts we found two species of tree mice; **Bruijin's tree mouse** and **Loria's pogonomys** and a great hook-billed kingfisher roosting and then several groups of the common **dark sheath-tailed bats** and a very nice close **New Guinea jumping mouse** in a part of the forest (along the top of a narrow ridge) that also had some very strange pitcher plants (which are likely another new species). As we continued our walk back out of the forest and back to the village (the trackers had not found an echidna and it was very late tonight) Carlos had views of a **common echymipera** and we found a large fruiting tree which had a large number of **great flying foxes** in it before another spectacular snake as we found a 2.5m long amethyst python and our final sighting of the night was another rare species of bird as we found a pair of roosting white-eared cat-birds.



Day 13 Klailik

Wildlife Watching

Today during the daytime rest time the trackers went to another part of the forest and try there. After scouring the same areas over the last few days they were convinced there was not around here and so trying somewhere else was the best solution.

They found some fresh evidence of echidna around there and so would focus on that area tonight. But at nightfall the rain came back and so that delayed our excursion into the forest until around 8:20pm. Walking to this new location had us walk along new trails which cut a path through some lowland swamp areas and it was very productive, we had great and close views of a young **lowland ringtail** and then brief views of a couple of **common echymipera** and also an arboreal **white-tailed giant rat** up a large fruiting tree.

From here we found some more roosting birds, first a blue jewel-babbler and then an eastern hooded pitta and then sleeping on a palm frond a large Indonesian forest dragon. It was round 10:20pm when we finally heard the calls of the echidna trackers. They had found one, so we mobilised, found one of the trackers and started off in the direction of the calls. It was around 30 minutes walk away and when we got there we found this amazing animal (a large adult individual) half under a fallen and rotting tree and half out, with its spines facing us. We stayed with the **western long-beaked echidna** for a good while, turning the lights off and being silent so it relaxed and moved around a little and then getting views again. We saw its amazing long nose and large clawed feet (with the hind feet pointing backwards). Then eventually we left this wonderful critically endangered animal in peace and started the walk back towards the village. On the fifth and final night we had finally seen our main target of Klailik and perhaps the whole trip.

On the way back we found a common paradise kingfisher sleeping and then Justin spotted a **large New Guinea spiny rat** and we all had views of a **northern common cuscus** and several fruit bats including **common tube-nosed fruit bat** and **unstriped tube-nosed fruit bat** in the trees as well as another **lowland ringtail** and a couple of **brown dorcopsis** darting in the undergrowth.

Then Justin spotted some eye-shine high in a massive fruiting tree. It was an intriguing looking marsupial length ways along a branch, we got some strong light on the hands and through the bins confirmed the long bony finger which differentiates the amazing and new for the trip **long-fingered triok** and then (still amazing – but much more common) striped possum. We all saw it and got some pictures – albeit distant ones; and then a short while after we found a second **long-fingered triok** lower down but it was a very brief view before it disappeared into thick foliage.

We then returned to the village for the night, in jubilant mood after seeing the large two major targets of the trip and on the final night. Despite knowing that it could happen at any point the mood had dampened a little in the last day or two after no echidna, so it was nice to get the happy mood back.

Day 14 Sorong

Travelling

We had a lie in and relaxed morning, packing and then after lunch the vehicles arrived and we headed back to Sorong around 2:30pm. Before leaving there were some nice birds around the village including sacred kingfisher, palm cockatoo (distant), New Guinea vulturine parrot, Papuan eclectus, sulphur-crested cockatoo, bramhiny kite, red-cheeked parrots, Blyth's hornbill and Torresian crow.



Justin would be leaving us tomorrow as he would not be travelling on to Waigeo Island so we said our goodbyes and all chilled out tonight.



Day 15 Waigeo Island

Travelling & Wildlife Watching

This morning we (Martin, Carlos, Peggy and Marc) for the ferry at 7:30am and cruised the 3 hours to the wonderful island of Waigeo. This is a very popular diving destination, however there are some great terrestrial animals to see also. Along the way we had some bird activity and tuna launching themselves from the surface, maybe some dolphins in the distance, but no confirmed cetaceans unfortunately. Birds we did see included brown boobies, lesser frigatebirds and black-naped terns.

We then arrived at the island and had a short transfer to the resort. The next couple of days was great way to end this hard trip, with a nice beach resort and a chilled out approach. The only thing we did tonight was a short walk around the grounds of the resort to find a few of the resident and endemic **Waigeo spotted cuscus** which are easy to see and engaging to watch.

Day 16 Waigeo Island

Wildlife Watching

Pre-dawn this morning we left for a special bird-of-paradise hide, the target of this birding is perhaps the most stunning looking bird in the world. The surreal looking Wilson's bird-of-paradise. Along the way there were some **large-eared flying** foxes feeding on fruiting tree along the trail.

We then arrived at the hide and settled in, we were not waiting too long at the lekking site, as the sun started to rise one of the obliging males showed up and cleaned away his lekking site before displaying for a couple of females who came and watched. We also had a bare-eyed rail come to the lek too which was a nice bonus bird. There were also a couple of skinks around, one large *Sphenomorphus* species (probably both *muelleri*) and a couple of smaller Indonesian brown rainbow skinks.

We then returned to the resort for breakfast before visiting some nearby bat caves, there were some nice bats in these caves, most species we had seen throughout the rest of the trip, but some were new for the trip including **Temmnick's trident bat**, **Raffray's sheath-tailed bat** and **Biak roundleaf bat**.

Just before sunset a pod of **spinner** dolphins swam past and put on a little show for us and then after dinner we went for a final night spotlighting to see what we could see, we didn't hold much hope for adding to the list, but it was surprisingly productive not too far from the resort.

We had some **Moluccan naked-backed fruit bats** feeding and flying over as well as a couple of much smaller **Beaufort's naked-backed fruit bats**. Along with several white-lipped tree-frogs we had amazing views of a **black-tailed melomys** in a tree and several large Papuan frogmouths, a **striped possum** and a few **Waigeo spotted cuscuses**.

We then headed back to the resort for our final night, Peggy and Marc were staying on an extra day here, so just Martin, Carlos and Juliana would be returning to Sorong on the ferry to catch their onwards flights. So effectively the trip ended here.

30	Northern common cuscus	<i>Phalanger orientalis</i>
31	Stein's cuscus	<i>Phalanger vestitus</i>
32	Lesser Papuan pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus papuanus</i>
33	Bruijn's pogonomelomys	<i>Pogonomelomys bruijnii</i>
34	Loria's pogonomelomys	<i>Pogonomys loriae</i>
35	Chestnut tree mouse	<i>Pogonomys macrourus</i>
36	Gray-bellied tree mouse	<i>Pogonomys sylvestris</i>
37	D'Albertis' ringtail possum	<i>Pseudocheirops albertisii</i>
38	Reclusive ringtail possum	<i>Pseudocheirops coronatus</i>
39	Lowland ringtail possum	<i>Pseudochirulus canescens</i>
40	Arfak ringtail possum	<i>Pseudochirulus schlegeli</i>
41	Large-eared flying fox	<i>Pteropus macrotis</i>
42	Great flying fox	<i>Pteropus neohibernicus</i>
43	Large New Guinea rat	<i>Rattus praetor</i>
44	Broad-eared horseshoe bat	<i>Rhinolophus euryotis</i>
45	Large-eared horseshoe bat	<i>Rhinolophus philippinensis</i>
46	Geoffroy's rousette	<i>Rousettus amplexicaudatus</i>
47	Javan rusa	<i>Rusa timorensis</i>
48	Waigeo spotted cuscus	<i>Spilocuscus papuensis</i>
49	Spinner dolphin	<i>Stenella longirostris</i>
50	Eurasian wild pig	<i>Sus scofra</i>
51	Common blossom bat	<i>Syconycteris australis</i>
52	Giant white-tailed rat	<i>Uromys caudimaculatus</i>
53	Western long-nosed echidna	<i>Zaglossus bruijnii</i>

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*Some bats identified 100% at roosts or with good views. Others identified with spectrograms in combination with sightings (no spectrograms without visual confirmation are recorded), behaviour and habitat – so not 100% but best educated guesses. For more information please email me.

† possible – tentative ID

‡ distant and blocked view for Justin - unconfirmed

Birds (* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Mountain swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus hirundinaceus</i>
2	White-eared catbird	<i>Ailuroedus buccoides</i>
3	Moluccan king parrot	<i>Alisterus amboinensis</i>

May									June							
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1		~10	~10		~100		2									
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19	Rainbow ground snake	<i>Stegonotus iridis</i>
20	Barred keelback	<i>Tropidonophis doriae</i>
21	Common keelback	<i>Tropidonophis mairii</i>

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Amphibians (* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Papuan wrinkled ground frog	<i>Cornufer papuensis</i>
2	Arfakiana tree frog	<i>Litoria arfakiana</i>
3	White-lipped tree-frog	<i>Nyctimystes infrafrenatus</i>
4	Multi-coloured tree-frog	<i>Nyctimystes multicolor</i>
5	Arfaks mountain frog	<i>Papurana arfaki</i>
6		<i>Papurana aurata</i>
7	Eilogo Estate frog	<i>Papurana garritor</i>
8	Papua frog	<i>Papurana papua</i>
9	Arfak cannibal frog	<i>Platyplectrum platyceps</i>
10		<i>Xenorhina</i> sp.

May									June							
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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Fishes (* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Convict surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus triostegus</i>
2	Vermiculate angelfish	<i>Chaetodontoplus mesoleucus</i>
3	Blue-green chromis	<i>Chromis viridis</i>
4	Blue demoiselle	<i>Chrysiptera cyanea</i>
5	Bluestreak cleaner wrasse	<i>Labroides dimidiatus</i>
6	Longfin batfish	<i>Platax teira</i>
7	Regal angelfish	<i>Pygoplites diacanthus</i>
8	Lei triggerfish	<i>Sufflamen bursa</i>
9	Yellowfin tuna	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>
10	Houndfish	<i>Tylosurus crocodilus</i>

May									June							
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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															1	

Pictures from Martin Royle, Carlos Bocos & Marc Faucher.



Western Long-Beaked Echidna



Reclusive Ringtail Possum



Common Northern Cuscus



Ground Cuscus



Arfak Ringtail Possum



Striped Possum



Feather-tailed Possum



Waigeo Spotted Cuscus



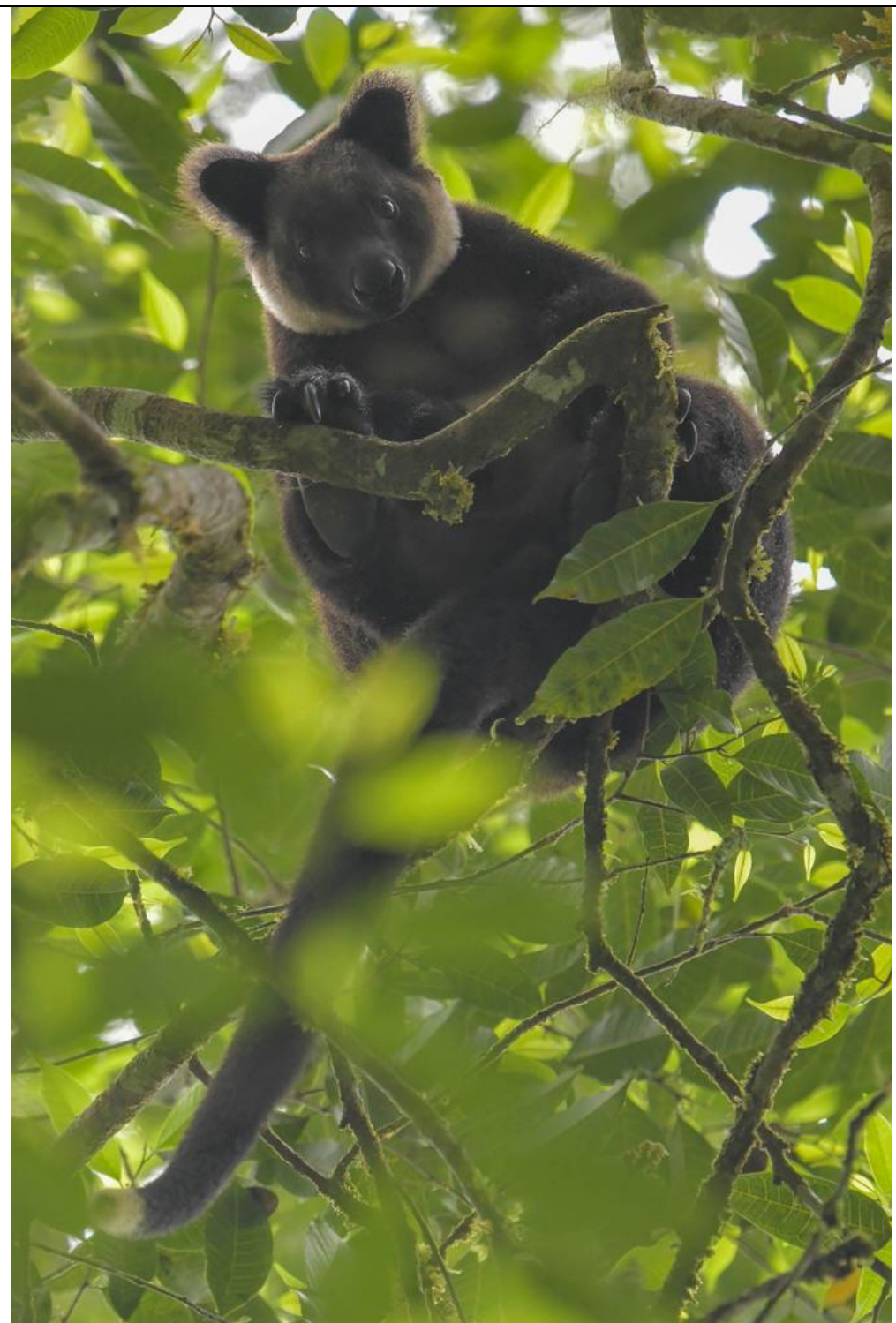
Lowland Ringtail Possum



Long-fingered Triok



Grizzled Tree Kangaroo



Ursine Tree Kangaroo



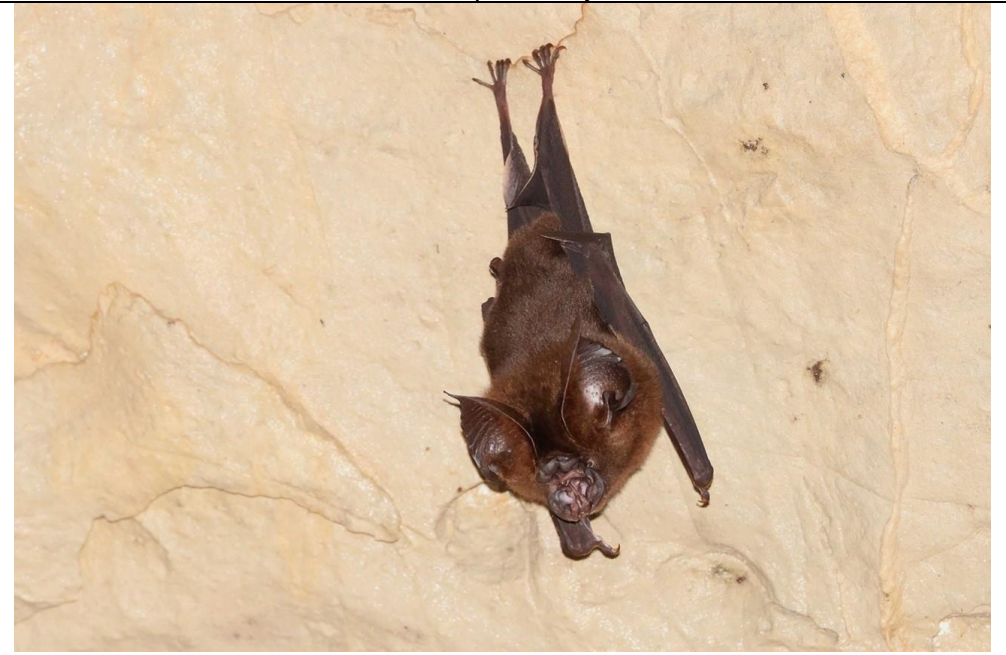
Brown Dorcopsis



Tree-striped Dasyure



Lesser Papuan Pipistrelle



Undescribed Hipposideros Species



Beccari's Sheath-tailed Bat



Raffray's Sheath-tailed Bat



Maggie Taylor's Roundleaf Bat



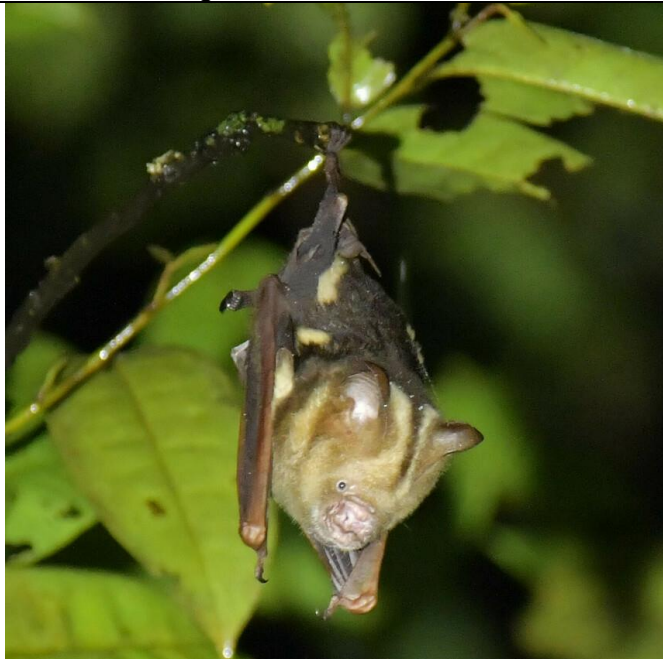
Broad-eared Horseshoe Bat



Large-eared Horseshoe Bat



Little Long-fingered Bat



Diademed Roundleaf Bat



Fawn Roundleaf Bat



Common Tube-nosed Fruit Bat



Common Blossom Bat



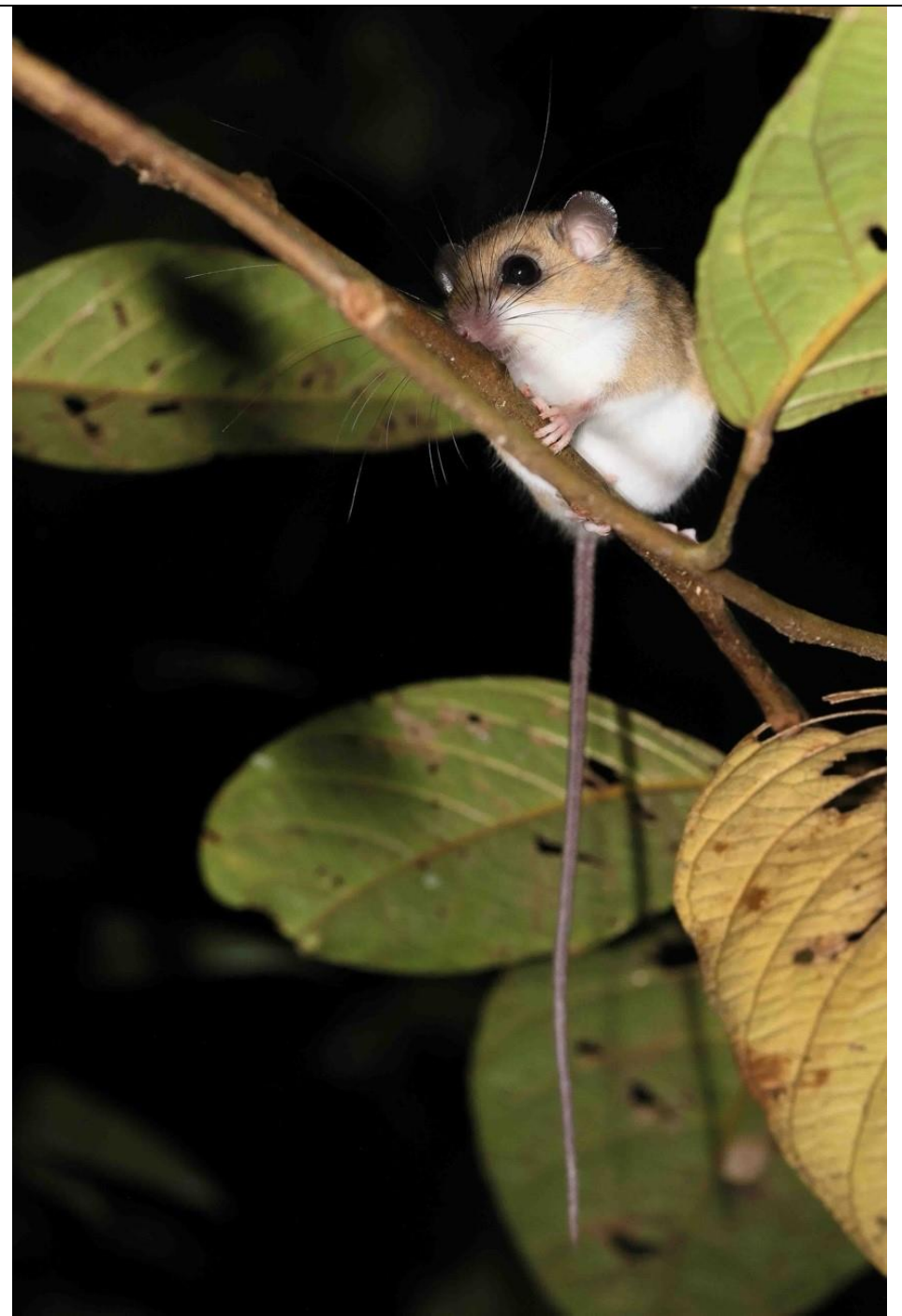
Unstriped Tube-nosed Fruit Bat



Beaufort's Naked-backed Fruit Bat



Moluccan Naked-baked Fruit Bat



Chestnut Tree Mouse



Black-tailed Melomys



Lowland Common Paramelomys



Brujin's Tree Mouse



New Guinea Jumping Mouse



Magnificent Riflebird



Vogelkop Lophoria



Magnificent Bird-of-paradise



Wilson's Bird-of-paradise



Western Parotia



Red-billed Brush-Turkey



Dusky Megapode



Bare-eyed Rail



Eastern Hooded Pitta



Azure Kingfisher



Papuan Dwarf Kingfisher



Yellow-billed Kingfisher



Beach Kingfisher



Rufous-bellied Paradise Kingfisher



Papuan Frogmouth



Papuan Eclectus



Western Crowned Pigeon



Beautiful Fruit-dove



New Guinea Bronzewing



Hooded Monarch



Olive-crowned Flowerpecker



Scrub Honeyeater



Green-backed Honeyeater



White-faced Robin



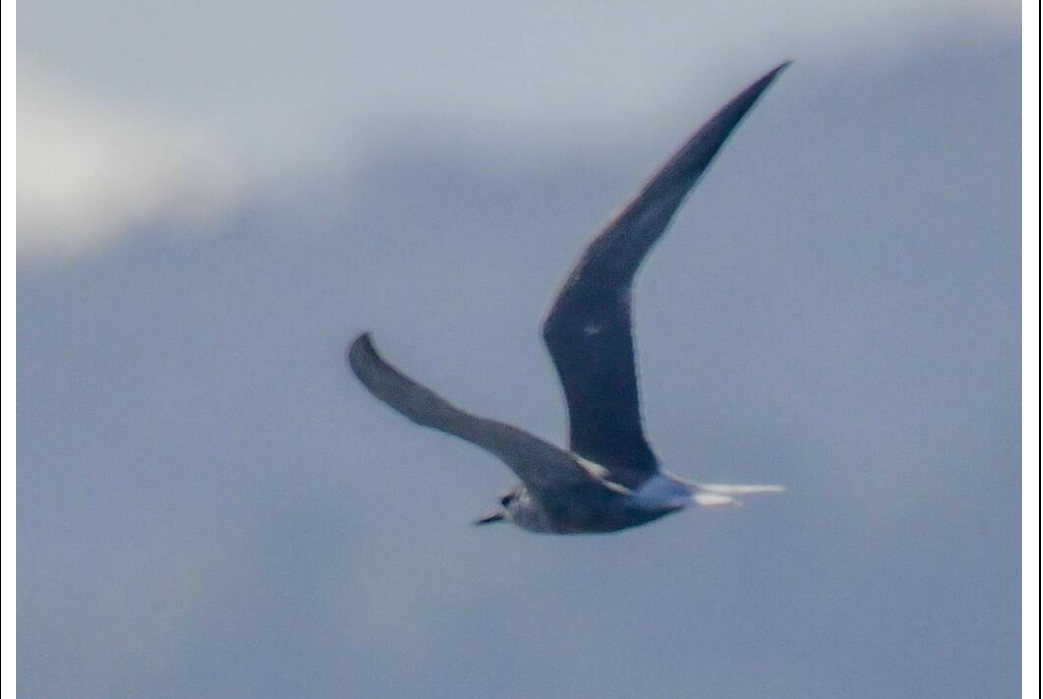
Frilled Monarch



Brown Noddy



Lesser Frigatebird



Black-naped Tern



Northern White-lipped Python



Northern Green Python



Barred Keelback



New Guinea Bronzeback



Brown Tree Snake



Indonesian Forest Dragon



Bar-lipped Sheen Skink



West Irian Bent-toed Gecko



Papua Frog



White-lipped Tree Frog



Xenorhina sp.



Arfak Cannibal Frog