

The Solomons

9/7-11/8 2012 & 12-22/7 2010



Solomons Frogmouth (*Rigidipenna inexpectata*) ©M. Lagerqvist

A trip report by Markus Lagerqvist

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Map of Melanesia (excl. New Guinea and Fiji)

Introduction

This trip report covers a five weeks birding trip to the Solomon Islands done by me, Ashley Banwell and Petter Zahl Marki in July-August 2013. It also includes notes from a trip to Bougainville in July 2010, organised by Ashley Banwell.

Geographically the Solomons archipelago is made up of most of the independent nation of Solomon Islands together with the province of Bougainville, an autonomous province of Papua New Guinea. In this report the term "The Solomons" is used to denote the archipelago (including Bougainville, but excluding Temotu) and "Solomon Islands" to denote the independent nation.

The Solomons form an archipelago consisting of more than 900 islands, from mountainous volcanic islands to small coral atolls. The climate is tropical. April to October is the so called dry season, although it's really never dry. Solomons Islands is actually the third rainiest country in the world, and we sure had our fair share of rain! November to March is the wet season, caused by the northwest monsoon, and is typically warmer and even wetter.

The archipelago has never been connected to any continent and has a high degree of endemism. In this report we recognise 84 bird species as endemic to the Solomons, but this number is likely to rise, with more distinct subspecies being split in the future. The taxonomy follows Guy Dutton's "Birds of Melanesia" with only four exceptions (we recognise Melanesian Kingfisher, Malaita Starling, Solomons Drongo and Makira Leaf Warbler at the species level).

Of the 84 endemics, we recorded 76, and also saw a fair share of the more distinct subspecies. In total we recorded 167 species.

Of the endemic species two are critically endangered; Choiseul Pigeon and Makira Woodhen. Both are feared extinct, but the low number of visitors and unconfirmed sightings give hope that they might still be rediscovered. Two species are considered endangered; Gizo White-eye and White-eyed Starling. A further 12 species are considered vulnerable.

The table on the next page summarizes all the endemics and on which of the visited islands each occurs and were recorded by us. For taxonomic notes see the trip list at the end of the report.

Distribution and records of endemic species

	= occurs on the island
✓	= recorded by us on the island

Species in red typeface were not recorded by us.

	Boug.	V.L.	Ran.	Gizo	Kol.	Isabel	Guad.	Mal.	Mak.	Renn.
Sanford's Sea Eagle	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓	
Imitator Goshawk	✓									
Woodford's Rail	✓					✓		✓		
Roviana Rail					✓					
Makira Woodhen										
Crested Cuckoo-Dove	✓						✓			
Choiseul Pigeon										
Silver-capped Fruit Dove									✓	✓
White-headed Fruit Dove									✓	
Chestnut-bellied Imp. Pigeon									✓	
Pale Mountain Pigeon	✓				✓		✓			
Ducorp's Cockatoo	✓	✓				✓	✓			
Yellow-bibbed Lory							✓	✓	✓	✓
Meek's Lorikeet	✓				✓					
Duchess Lorikeet	✓								✓	
Buff-headed Coucal		✓			✓		✓			
West Solomons Boobook	✓									
Guadalcanal Boobook							✓			
Malaita Boobook										
Makira Boobook									✓	
Fearful Owl	✓									
Solomons Nightjar										
Solomons Frogmouth						✓				
Ultramarine Kingfisher	✓					✓	✓			
Moustached Kingfisher										
Black-faced Pitta						✓				
Guadalcanal Honeyeater							✓			
Makira Honeyeater									✓	
Bougainville Honeyeater	✓									
Red-capped Myzomela	✓									
Crimson-rumped Myzomela		✓			✓					
Red-vested Myzomela								✓		
Black-headed Myzomela							✓			
Sooty Myzomela									✓	
N. Melanesian Cuckooshrike							✓			
Makira Cicadabird									✓	
Solomons Cuckooshrike	✓					✓	✓	✓		
Oriole Whistler	✓				✓		✓		✓	
Rennell Whistler										✓
Guadalcanal Hooded Whistler							✓			
Bougainville Hooded Whistler	✓									
Solomons Drongo							✓		✓	
Cockerell's Fantail	✓	✓			✓		✓			

	Boug.	V.L.	Ran.	Gizo	Kol.	Isabel	Guad.	Mal.	Mak.	Renn.
Brown Fantail	✓						✓			
Malaita Fantail										
Makira Fantail									✓	
Rennell Fantail										✓
Rennell Shrikebill										✓
Solomons Monarch	✓						✓			
Kolombangara Monarch					✓					
White-collared Monarch									✓	
Bougainville Monarch	✓									
Chestnut-bellied Monarch						✓	✓		✓	
White-capped Monarch		✓		✓	✓					
Steel-blue Flycatcher	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Makira Flycatcher									✓	
White-billed Crow						✓	✓			
Bougainville Crow	✓									
Shade Bush Warbler									✓	
Odedi	✓								✓	
Makira Leaf Warbler									✓	
Kolombangara Leaf Warbler					✓					
Guadalcanal Thicketbird							✓			
Bougainville Thicketbird										
Bare-eyed White-eye										✓
Yellow-throated White-eye	✓					✓				
Rennell White-eye										✓
Vella Lavella White-eye		✓								
Ranonga White-eye			✓							
Gizo White-eye				✓						
Solomons White-eye					✓					
Kolombangara White-eye					✓					
Grey-throated White-eye	✓						✓		✓	
Malaita White-eye								✓		
Rennell Starling										✓
White-eyed Starling							✓			
Brown-winged Starling	✓			✓		✓	✓			
Malaita Starling								✓		
Makira Starling									✓	
Makira Thrush									✓	
Guadalcanal Thrush							✓			
Bougainville Thrush										
Midget Flowerpecker	✓					✓	✓	✓		
Mottled Flowerpecker									✓	

Itinerary

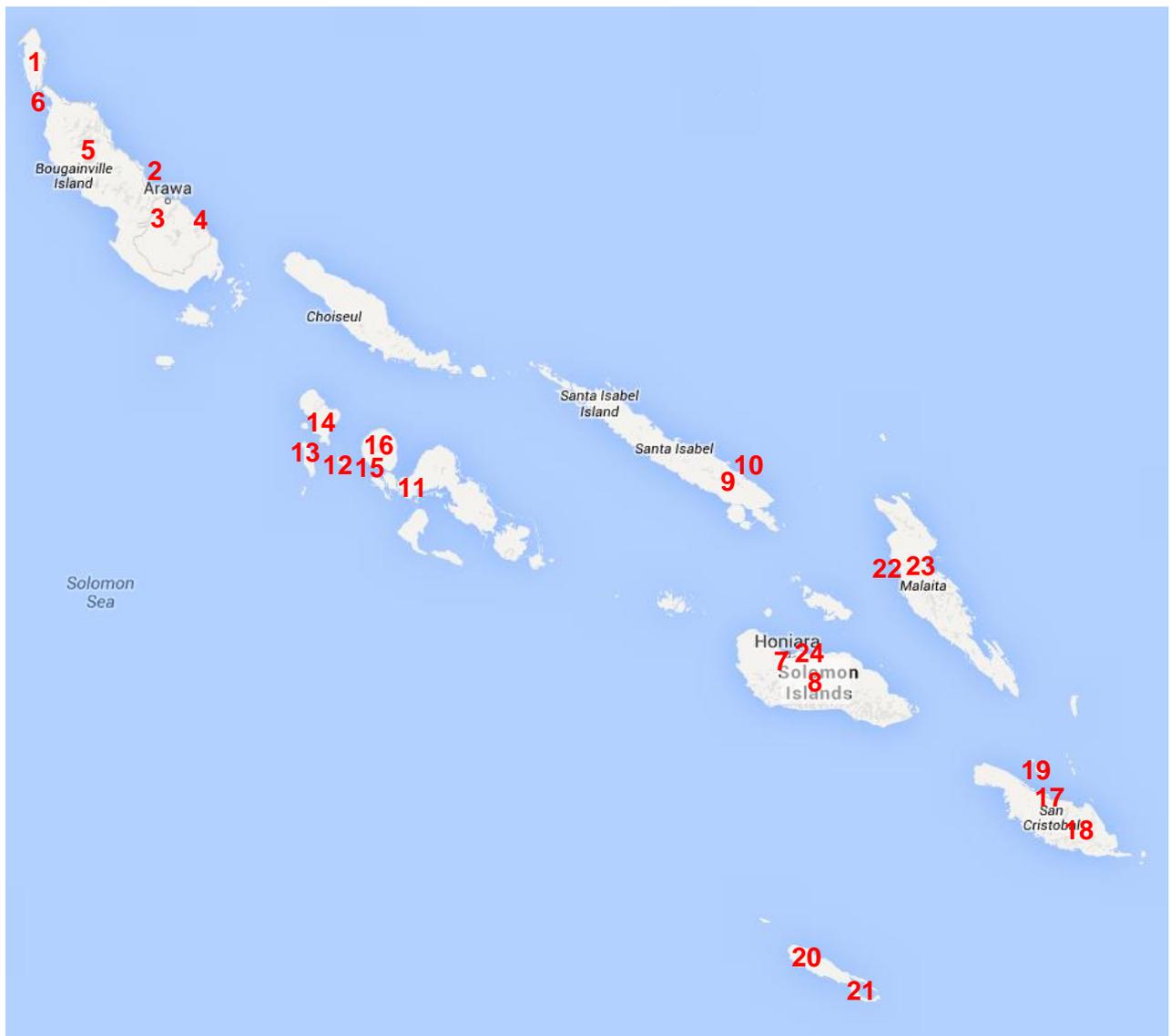
SOLOMON ISLANDS 2013

9/7	Brisbane-Honiara (Guadalcanal)
10/7	Mt. Austen
11-17/7	Betilonga-Mt. Mbutohaina expedition (Guadalcanal)
17/7	Honiara (Guadalcanal)-Buala (Isabel)
18/7	Buala-Tirotonga (Isabel)
19-20/7	Tirotonga (Isabel)
21/7	Tirotonga-Karuo Island-Buala (Isabel)-Honiara (Guadalcanal)
22/7	Honiara (Guadalcanal)-Munda (New Georgia)-Gizo (Gizo)
23/7	Gizo (Gizo)-Ranongga-Vella Lavella-Hambere (Kolombangara)
24/7	Hambere-Professor's Camp (Kolombangara)
25/7	Professor's Camp-Hambere (Kolombangara)-Gizo (Gizo)
26/7	Gizo (Gizo)-Munda (New Georgia)- Honiara (Guadalcanal)
27/7	Honiara (Guadalcanal)-Kirakira-Naara (Makira)
28/7	Naara-Hauta (Makira)
29/7	Hauta (Makira)
30/7	Hauta-Naara-Kirakira (Makira)
31/7	Kirakira (Makira)-Molehanua (Ugi)
1/8	Molehanua (Ugi)-Kirakira (Makira)
2/8	Kirakira (Makira)-Honiara (Guadalcanal)
3/8	Honiara (Guadalcanal)-Tinggoa-Lake Tenggano (Rennell)
4/8	Lake Tenggano (Rennell)
5/8	Lake Tenggano-Tinggoa (Rennell)
6/8	Tinggoa (Rennell)-Honiara (Guadalcanal)
7/8	Honiara (Guadalcanal)-Auki-Siubongi (Malaita)
8/8	Siubongi-Taladola (Malaita)
9/8	Taladola/Lama (Malaita)
10/8	Taladola/Lama-Auki (Malaita)-Honiara (Guadalcanal)
11/8	Honiara (Guadalcanal)-Brisbane

BOUGAINVILLE 2010

12/8	Alotau-Buka-Arawa
13/8	Arawa-Panguna
14/8	Panguna-Arawa
15/8	Arawa (Tunura Mission and Aropa airfield)
16/8	Arawa (Tunura Mission)
17/8	Arawa-Mt. Balbi
18-19/8	Mt. Balbi
20/8	Mt. Balbi-Buka
21-22/8	Buka (Nova and White Island)

Map of visited sites



1 Nova, Buka

2 Arawa, Bougainville

3 Panguna, Bougainville

4 Aropa, Bougainville

5 Mt. Balbi, Bougainville

6 White Island, Bougainville

7 Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal

8 Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal

9 Tirotonga, Santa Isabel

10 Karuo Island, Santa Isabel

11 Munda, New Georgia

12 Gizo

13 Ranongga

14 Vella Lavella

15 Kukundu, Kolombangara

16 Mt. Rano, Kolombangara

17 Naara, Makira

18 Hauta, Makira

19 Ugi

20 Tinggoa, Rennell

21 Lake Tengganu, Rennell

22 Taladola, Malaita

23 Lama, Malaita

24 Betikama, Guadalcanal

Diary

9/7 Brisbane-Honiara (Guadalcanal)

After a stop-over, staying two nights at Birder's Cottage at Cedar's Creek, I drove back to Brisbane International Airport to return my rental car. The three hours morning flight with Virgin Australia to Honiara was uneventful. Going through immigration took about 40 minutes, and well through I got a taxi to the nearby Pacific Casino Hotel – our base for the following weeks. After checking in I met with our local agent, Wilson Maelaua, from Destination Solomons. We talked through our plans and made arrangements for a visit to Mt. Austen the following day.

During the afternoon I went to the nearby Panatina Plaza Shopping Centre to withdraw cash from the ATM's and buy a local SIM card at Telekom. The only birds seen during the day were introduced **Common Mynas**.

10/7 Mt. Austen (Guadalcanal)

I was picked up by my driver at 4.35 and headed up the road to Mt. Austen, where the local guide Samson Hoasi was waiting for me in the dark. We walked up to the high grasslands (390 m.), and had some breakfast and waited for the sun to rise. At around 6.30 it was light enough to begin birding, and we started walking down the trail to the river on the other side of the mountain. The forest here is much degraded with few large trees left, but most lowland endemics can still be seen. I easily saw most of the expected species, including several **Buff-headed Coucals**, **Black-headed Myzomela**, **Solomons Cuckooshrike**, **Chestnut-bellied Monarch** and **White-billed Crow**. A **Variable Dwarf Kingfisher** of the Guadalcanal race *nigromaxilla* was heard, but refused to show itself.



Grasslands on Mt. Austen. ©M. Lagerqvist

Around three p.m. Ashley and Petter, having arrived in Honiara a couple of hours ago, joined me and we birded a couple of hours on the Honiara side of Mt. Austen. They managed to catch up on most species seen during the day, including six **White-billed Crows**.

At dusk we headed back to the hotel, had dinner and met up with Wilson, and discussed our plans for the upcoming trek into the interior of Guadalcanal, in search of the elusive montane endemics.

11/7 Honiara-Raho-Betilonga (Guadalcanal)

We had an early breakfast at the room, pancakes and fruit platter, before being picked up at 5.30 for a short 30 minutes drive to the village of Raho. At Raho we organised porters and at 7.30 we finally set off. The first part of the trail was fairly flat, crisscrossing the Tenaru river about 15 times. After the last river crossing the trail ascended a very steep and excruciating slope which left us all panting for breath.

Around lunch we heard a **Crested Cuckoo-Dove** calling and managed to find the bird perched high up in the canopy. While watching the dove it started to rain and soon it was pouring down. We continued walking on the soon very muddy and slippery trail and by the time we reached Betilonga (570 m.) around 13.45 we were all totally drenched and very tired after having trekked about 25 km.



The abandoned village of Betilonga. ©M. Lagerqvist

Betilonga is an abandoned village with a few building skeletons still standing, and we made one of them our home for the night. We spent the last hours of the afternoon cleaning up in the river and changing into dry clothes. At dusk a **Guadalcanal Boobook** was heard, but it refused to show itself.

12/7 Betilonga-Camp II (Guadalcanal)

We had tuna and crackers for breakfast at 5.45 and left Betilonga at 7.15. From Betilonga you walk up to a ridge top (710 m.) and then soon hit a series of rivers which you walk in for the rest of the day. The walk wasn't steep, but still very demanding. Walking in the often fast flowing river on slippery stones you had to watch every step not to fall over. At places you also had to pass strong rapids and waterfalls by scaling almost vertical and slippery cliff sides, which at a couple of places was seriously scary. Losing your footing could easily result in a very nasty fall and a broken leg! At a couple of places we choose to swim through the ravines and let our porters carry our equipment. We managed to make it through the day without any serious incidents, although Petter fell on a slippery stone and completely submerged his Canon DSLR.



Between Betilonga and Camp II you walk in the stream most of the time. ©M. Lagerqvist

With the noisy water a constant companion, and most of our focus on trying not to fall over, birding was not very productive. We did however see two flocks(!) of the rare and seldom recorded **White-eyed Starling** (at around 500 m.), totalling at least 30, maybe as many as 45 individuals. The only other new birds seen during the day were a pair of **Solomons Monarchs**, which we missed at Mt. Austen, and a few **Grey-throated White-eyes**.

At around 15 we reached our camp site (415 m.) and at the same time it started to rain heavily. We put up a tarpaulin to sleep under, but unfortunately it was a bit small, so you had to sleep in foetal position not to get either your feet or head wet, and keeping your sleeping bag dry was all but impossible.

13/7 Camp II-Mt. Mbutohaina (Guadalcanal)

We had breakfast (crackers and coffee) at 5.30 after a rainy night with precious little sleep. After breaking camp we soldiered on, continuing walking in the stream. On a small island in the stream we found three sleepy Solomon Islands Ground Boas. After about 2.5 hours we left the stream, climbing up a small waterfall and began scaling a very, very steep ridge side. We were aiming for the long abandoned village of Turipava, but only one of our guides had been in the area before, and that was almost 20 years ago, so we were not sure of the exact route.

In the late afternoon we reached a small flatter area at 1,100 m. on Mt. Mbutohaina that was large enough to put up our camp. Birding around the campsite we saw our first montane endemics, **Guadalcanal Honeyeater**, the scarce **North Melanesian Cuckooshrike** and **Brown Fantail** of the distinct Guadalcanal race *drownei*.

At dusk it started to rain heavily and we had another very wet night with too little sleep.



Guadalcanal Honeyeater (*Guadalcanaria inexpectata*) ©M. Lagerqvist

14/7 Mt. Mbutohaina (Guadalcanal)

We got up at 4.00 to listen for Moustached Kingfisher, which is supposed to call before dawn, above the camp site, but didn't hear anything. We then walked back to camp for some breakfast, before heading up to higher altitudes. We soon encountered a good feeding flock with **Brown Fantail**, **Island Thrush**, **Guadalcanal Hooded Whistler** and **Guadalcanal Honeyeater**.

We continued walking up the steep ridge to about 1,600 m. Here the habitat changed to more thickets and large bamboo stands.

We heard a **Guadalcanal Thrush** calling and after a lot work we managed to get views of the bird, a species seen by only a handful of observers ever. In the same area we also had a singing **Guadalcanal Thicketbird**, another virtually unknown species.



Guadalcanal Hooded Whistler (*Pachycephala implicata*) ©M. Lagerqvist

Back at camp we had tuna and rice for dinner. At dusk it started raining and blew up to quite a thunderstorm, which required a few panic repairs of our ramshackle camp. After midnight the rain subsided and we managed to get a few hours of sleep.

15/7 Mt. Mbutohaina (Guadalcanal)

We had set our alarm at 4.00 to get to higher altitude before dawn and make a new try for Moustached Kingfisher. We started climbing the ridge at 4.30 but after a short while it started to rain very heavily and we were hit by another thunderstorm. We tried to find some shelter under a tree and waited out the storm, with lots of lightning and roaring thunder around us. After an hour or so it subsided and we continued upwards, but it soon started to rain heavily again. We sought shelter again (1,400 m.) but there was no end to the rain so we scrambled down the now very slippery slope down to the campsite.

The rest of the day was spent under the tarpaulin as it continued to rain until dusk. Around midnight a **Guadalcanal Boobook** was heard calling, but we once again failed to locate it.



Or camp on Mt. Mbutohaina. ©M. Lagerqvist

16/7 Mt. Mbutohaina-Betilonga (Guadalcanal)

Today we had a very long and strenuous walk to look forward to, since we had decided to walk all the way back to Betilonga in one day (about 20 km). But since none of us wanted to risk scaling the precarious cliff sides along the stream again, we decided to try and cut a new route instead. We broke camp at 5.40 and walked down the ridge and then through the stream for a couple of hours until we reached Camp II. Well there we cut our way up another very steep ridge, and then followed the ridge top above the stream. It was exhausting and slow going, but less risky. The best bird of the day was a **Variable Dwarf Kingfisher**, found by Petter.

After passing by the worst parts we made our way down to the river again, walking the last part in the river, reaching Betilonga at 16.50. We were all exhausted, and after walking in wet boots for five days our feet were not a pretty sight. Walking in the stream you keep getting sand and small stones in your boots and both Petter and I had lots of small puncture wounds under our feet. We spent the last part of the day trying to dry out our feet, applying antiseptic cream and band aids in the hope of avoiding the wounds getting infected.

17/7 Betilonga-Honiara (Guadalcanal)-Buala (Isabel)

We got up at 5.15, had pomelo, tuna and crackers for breakfast and then put on our wet boots again and started waking at 7.15. We were quite exhausted after a tough week, and with our wounded feet it was a painful walk down to Raho, which we reached at 12.30. The only new bird seen was a **Stephen's Ground Dove**.



Petter, me and Ashley, with our guides and porters, back after the mountain trek. ©M. Lagerqvist

At Raho we were picked up and drove straight back to Pacific Casino Hotel. Wilson called Solomon Airlines and arranged a very late check-in for our flight to Fera, so we got 1 hour 45 minutes at the hotel to clean up and pack for Isabel. At 15.40 we took a taxi to the airport and got on our flight to Fera, which is a small islet off Isabel. From Fera you get a small boat over to the small, sleepy town of Buala, which is the capital of Isabel Province.

Our original plan had been to walk straight up to the village of Tirotonga, but both mine and Petter's feet were looking quite bad, so we were not up for the walk, and decided to stay the night at the Mother's Union Guesthouse in Buala instead.

18-20/7 Tirotonga (Isabel)

We got up at 5.15, had breakfast and tended to our feet, and then we were in for a long wait for our porters from Tirotonga who didn't arrive until 7.30. The walk up to Tirotonga took about two hours, walking very slowly. Petter saw a **Woodford's Rail** in a garden along the way.

Well at Tirotonga (540 m.) we were treated to a very nice breakfast by our hosts Veronica and William Manehage, before heading out for our first birding on Isabel. The forest in the immediate surroundings of the village is quite degraded, but most specialty species can still be found here. The best bird during the morning was another **Woodford's Rail** that came out briefly in response to play-back.

After a nice lunch we headed out in search for **Black-faced Pitta**, one of the star birds of Tirotonga. The species is known to be extremely shy and difficult to see, and we only heard one bird calling, but didn't see it.

After dinner we went out again to look for the other star bird at Tirotonga, the recently described **Solomons Frogmouth**. The local guide knew a territory on the outskirts of the village and he only had to whistle for the bird to fly in and perch right in front of us! We enjoyed fantastic views of this spectacular bird for a while, but it soon started to rain, so we called it a day and headed back to the house.

Before going to bed I had a shower and then tried to dry out my feet, which were looking quite bad and slightly infected, so I started taking antibiotics not to risk the rest of the trip.



Solomons Frogmouth (*Rigidipenna inexpectata*) ©M. Lagerqvist

19/7 Tirotonga (Isabel)

Today the big target was getting views of the elusive pitta. We got up at 5.30, had some breakfast and then hit the trails. No bird was heard at the first territory but at the second stop we hit the jackpot when Ashley spotted a **Black-faced Pitta** flying in to a perch, just a few meters in front of us. Amazingly the bird stayed put for eight minutes, allowing spectacular views!

We then walked up to a small ridge above the village overlooking a forested hillside; the best birds seen where **Solomons Cuckooshrike**, at least 15 **White-billed Crows** and a few **Yellow-throated White-eyes**. After a while it started raining heavily so we hurried back to the house for lunch.

The rain continued for most of the day, so we spent the afternoon reading and writing up notes.



Black-faced Pitta (*Pitta anerythra*) ©M. Lagerqvist

We also discovered that Solomon Airlines had moved our flight back to Honiara forward one day. This meant that we would get one extra day in Tirotonga (unnecessary since we'd already seen all the targets) and less time in the Western Province. This was not ideal, but not a big problem for me and Ashley. For Petter however, who was flying back home the next day this was a problem since he would miss his flight to Brisbane and then onto Singapore. Mobile reception was very poor at Tirotonga, but we managed to contact Wilson and have him book new flights for Petter.

In the evening it stopped raining and we did some night birding, getting more fantastic views of the frogmouth. We also listened for West Solomons Boobook, but heard none. You also used to be able to see Fearful Owl at Tirotonga, but the only known pair in the area had been killed by the villagers and the closest ones were a very long walk away. Since both Ashley and I had seen the species we didn't go for it. And neither me nor Petter were up for a long, tough walk, but rather wanted to heal our feet.

20/7 Tirotonga (Isabel)

We did some forest birding in the morning and got great views of a displaying pair of **Ultramarine Kingfishers**, before returning to the ridge, where we added **Pied Goshawk** and **Sanford's Sea-eagle** to our list. As the day before it started to rain around lunch and we headed back.

When the rain subsided in the afternoon we made an attempt to get photos of Woodford's Rail, but without success, but we did get good views of **Finsch's Pygmy Parrot**. In the evening it started raining again, and kept raining through the night.

21/7 Tirotonga-Karuo Island-Buala (Isabel)-Honiara (Guadalcanal)

We got up at 5.15 and it was still raining cats and dogs. By 7.45 the rain subsided and we started walking back down to Buala. We picked up laundry that we had left at Mother's Union Guest House, bought some lunch (canned tuna again) and arranged for a boat to take us to the small offshore Karuo islet to look for Island Monarch.

At lunch we headed out to Karuo where we soon found two **Island Monarchs**, not an endemic, but often a tricky bird to see, since you seldom visit the right habitat for it. From Karuo we drove straight to Fera and our flight back to Honiara which departed spot on time at 15.05.



Island Monarch (*Monarcha cinerascens*) ©M. Lagerqvist

After landing at Honiara, we headed straight up to Mt. Austen to look for **Guadalcanal Boobook** at a known roosting site. Unfortunately there was no sign of the boobooks in the roosting tree. We decided to stay until dark and do some night birding and managed to hear three boobooks calling, but again we failed to get any views.

Back at Pacific Casino Hotel we had dinner and met up with Wilson to discuss the next leg of the trip.

22/7 Honiara (Guadalcanal)-Munda (New Georgia)-Gizo (Gizo)

We had a nice hotel breakfast and then left for the airport at 7.40 to catch our flight to Munda on the island of New Georgia (Gizo airport was closed for maintenance), which even departed before time. Well at Munda we got a boat transfer to Gizo, which took about 1 hour 45 minutes. We checked in at the very nice Gizo Hotel and had tasty fried calamari for lunch. After lunch I took a walk along the seafront, enjoying the bustling market.

At three p.m. we got picked up by Nico from Dive Gizo, who gave us a ride and dropped us off at a forested roadside on the outskirts of Gizo. Here we soon found Gizo's only endemic, the very attractive **Gizo White-eye**. We also added **White-capped Monarch** to our list. We walked back to our hotel, where we enjoyed a tasty pizza for dinner.



Gizo White-eye (*Zosterops luteirostris*). ©M. Lagerqvist

23/7 Gizo (Gizo)-Ranongga-Vella Lavella-Hambere (Kolombangara)

We got up at 5.30 and had coffee in the room while waiting for Nico to pick us up and drive us to his dive boat. At 6.30 we were off, heading for the nearby island of Ranongga. Unfortunately the sea was very choppy and we got constantly showered by waves for the entire 1 hour 45 minutes transfer.

Apart from getting us totally soaked through, it also sabotaged our hope of getting some good seabirds, like Heinroth's Shearwater, on the crossing. Well at Ranongga we had trouble landing at Niyami village due to the waves crashing against the shore. Well ashore we got guided into the forest by a helpful villager and we almost immediately found our target, the **Ranongga White-eye**. With no more targets, we didn't stay long, but jumped in the boat again and headed towards the island of Vella Lavella, another 40 minutes getting drenched by waves.

At Vella Lavella we were dropped off at a beach and given instructions to cross the island to another pick-up point. It was an easy walk through secondary forest, where we soon found our main target, the distinctive **Vella Lavella White-eye**. We also picked up the endemic races of **Cockerell's Fantail** (*lavellae*) and **Crimson-rumped Myzomela** (*atrata*). Vella Lavella also hosts distinctive races of Solomons Monarch and Oriole Whistler, but to see these you need to get into better forest in the central parts of the island, which would require staying a couple of nights.



Vella Lavella White-eye (*Zosterops vellalavella*). ©M. Lagerqvist

We had lunch (tuna, what else?) at our pick-up point and then boarded our boat for another even wetter and choppier transfer, this time for 1 hour 40 minutes to the island of Kolombangara. This time it was too much even for my supposedly water proof Zeiss Victory binoculars and one of barrels got filled with seawater. It didn't dry out for the rest of the trip, so I had to use one eye from then on.

At Kolombangara we made ourselves at home at Hambere Village Stay. At four p.m. we headed out in the drizzling rain to look for Roviana Rail. We walked to the nearby village of Kukundu where we staked out the agricultural fields at the Seventh Day Adventist School. After the students had left for the day it didn't take long for a couple of **Roviana Rails** to venture out from hiding and give us great views.

24/7 Hambere-Professor's Camp (Kolombangara)

After a breakfast of coffee and coconut cake we started our walk up the volcano around 6.30. Close to the village we saw a **Melanesian Scrubfowl**. The first part of the trail followed an overgrown logging road with a lot of wet and tangled vegetation. Along this part we easily found the targeted **Solomons White-eyes**. Entering better forest we flushed a **Bronze Ground Dove**, and then the trail started ascending up the mountain. At around 500 meters we saw our only **Kolombangara Monarch** and a **Cockerell's Fantail** (*albina*).

We had lunch and filled our water bottles at the last river crossing before pushing up the last steeper ascent up to Professor's Camp (1,040 m.), a small flat, grassy area. I quickly put up my tent and continued up to 1,245 meters and saw several flocks of **Kolombangara White-eyes**. Back at the camp I saw a single **Meek's Lorikeet** flying by, and a nice male **Oriole Whistler** showed itself just before dusk.

Just after dusk it started to rain heavily, and it didn't take long for my tent to get flooded by rainwater, leaking in through the canvas, apparently not very good quality tents! The problem was somewhat solved by putting up a tarpaulin over the tents, even though the tent floor, and my sleeping bag, still got wet at my head and feet. Needless to say I didn't sleep much, instead spending the night sitting in my tent, listening to music and going through my lists and notes.



Professor's Camp. ©M. Lagerqvist

25/7 Professor's Camp-Hambere (Kolombangara)-Gizo (Gizo)

We got up at 5.45 to have some breakfast, but since our matches had got soaked during the night our guides didn't manage to make a fire, so no coffee, only white bread with peanut butter. At 6.30 we set off for the summit of Mount Rano, in search of the extremely range restricted Kolombangara Leaf Warbler.

We walked quickly up to 1,400 meters, seeing more flocks of **Kolombangara White-eyes** on the way. Since we were going to descend down to the coast the same day we had limited time to find the warbler. The moss-clad forest close to the summit was truly spectacular, but it took us four hours of searching before Ashley finally spotted a pair of **Kolombangara Leaf Warblers** at 1,620 meters. It turned out to be a surprisingly distinct warbler, well worth all the effort! After enjoying prolonged views of the warblers I made a quick dash for the summit at 1,670 meters, before hurrying down to the camp site. Unfortunately I didn't get any shots of them, since my Canon 7D had finally had enough of rain and moist and called it a day. (Fortunately I had a spare camera house stored at the hotel in Honiara.)

At 12.00 we were back at the camp and had a quick lunch before starting our long descent to the coast. It soon begun to rain very heavily and we got totally drenched and the trail turned into a

muddy stream. Since we knew the way we didn't keep company but just hurried down as quickly as possible. But since the lowland forest got flooded by the torrential rain it was actually quite tricky finding the trail and I was glad I had my GPS! It took me less than 4.5 hours down, arriving at the lodge around 16.50. Well there I had some dinner, packed all my wet stuff and waited for Ashley to arrive. At 18.10 we crossed over in the dark to Gizo, again getting drench by sea water on the crossing. It must have been quite a sight when we entered the hotel lobby!



Kolombangara Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus amoenus*) ©Ashley Banwell

At Gizo we found out that due to the bad weather no boats had made it that day from the airport at Munda to Gizo, so there would be no transport to the airport the following morning! Fortunately we managed to call our boat from Hambere and Venty agreed to take us in the morning. But since it was a smaller, slower boat we had to leave earlier than planned.

26/7 Gizo (Gizo)-Munda (New Georgia)-Honiara (Guadalcanal)

We got up at 4.30 and packed all our wet stuff, before meeting up with Venty, departing in the dark at 5.30. The ride to Munda took almost three hours, and Venty dropped us off at the harbour in Munda at 8.20. After some wandering around looking for the way to the airport terminal we realised he'd dropped us off at the wrong quay and that it was quite a walk to the terminal. We started to walk as fast as possible with all our bags, and about half way we got a ride by a car heading to the airstrip and arrived 20 minutes before departure. Back in Honiara I washed my clothes and hang up all my wet stuff (i.e. almost all of my stuff) on the balcony to dry in the sun. I spent the afternoon walking around downtown Honiara, having a tasty chocolate cake at the Lime Lounge and buying post cards and stamps at the post office.

27/7 Honiara (Guadalcanal)-Kirakira-Naara (Makira)

Since the flight to Kirakira had been rescheduled to 12.30, there was time for a sleep in (alarm at 07.00!) and a relaxed breakfast at the hotel, before taking a taxi to the airport. The plane landed at the airstrip in Kirakira at 13.30 where the local guide Alicks was waiting. After a short stop at the Freshwind Hotel, to say hallo to Winston's local contact Noyle, we continued to the Raavo River, the starting point for the trek to Hauta.

The first part of the trek followed the Raavo River, crossing it four times, sometimes in chest high water. After the last river crossing the trail ascended to the village of Naara, which we reached after about three hours, the last part going through good forest. Here I found a **Makira Fantail** (150 m.), which gave fantastic close-up views. This was actually the only one seen on Makira!

At Naara we met John Waihuru, who is the master mind behind the creation of the Bauro Highlands Conservation Area. We had some lunch and I installed myself in a house in the village. I also discovered that I'd had my smartphone in a pocket in my trousers all day, wading through rivers – it was totally drenched I had little hope that it would ever work again. (I did start working again after drying up for a couple of days!). A little late afternoon birding around the village's overgrown football field was quite productive and produced **Sooty Myzomela**, **Makira Honeyeater**, **Makira Cicadabird**, **Long-tailed Triller** and **Mottled Flowerpecker**.

After dinner, I had a long and interesting conversation with John and Alicks about the creation of the Bauro Highlands Conservation Area, the obstacles ahead, how to protect the forests from logging and what could be done to generate more sustainable eco-tourism to the island.



Makira Honeyeater (*Meliarchus sclateri*) ©M. Lagerqvist

28/7 Naara-Hauta (Makira)

I got up at 6.00 and had another long talk with John, before getting coffee and doughnuts for breakfast. At 8.10 I and John's son Joseph set off on the long trek to the village of Hauta in the Bauro Highlands. There are alternative routes to Hauta and we decided to take a longer route that would offer better birding along the way.

The morning was sunny, but by lunch time it started to rain heavily and I sought cover, having lunch under a tree, while waiting for the rain to subside. While waiting, a **Variable Dwarf Kingfisher** of the distinct blue and white *gentianus* race flew past in front of me! After a while it stopped raining and we continued, getting brief views of a skulky **Shade Bush Warbler** and adding **Solomons Drongo** of the *longirostris* race, **White-collared Monarch**, **Makira Flycatcher**, **Makira Leaf Warbler** and **Makira Starling** to the growing list of endemics along the way. It continued to rain on and off during the afternoon, and I was once again drenched, and tired after a quite strenuous seven hour walk when we arrived at Hauta village around 15.45. It had however been a very successful day and we now only needed five more species to clean up on all the Makira specialities! At Hauta I got installed in one of the houses and cleaned up in the stream, before having dinner, consisting of tarot, yams and cooking bananas, pretty bland to be honest.



Makira Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus makirensis*) ©M. Lagerqvist

29/7 Hauta (Makira)

It had rained all through the night, and when I got up at 6.00 it was still drizzling. I had breakfast (coffee and fried bananas) and waited for the rain to stop, before hitting the trails around seven. Today the goal was to see the five remaining Makira targets and we started by walking to a nearby fruiting tree to look for pigeons.

This paid off and we soon found three **Chestnut-bellied Imperial Pigeons**. We then walked up the ridge above Hauta and soon flushed a **Makira Thrush** from the trail. I went in after it and managed to find it again, getting brief but decent views of this pretty common, but shy species. Next on the list was the beautiful **White-headed Fruit Dove**. It took a lot of searching before we finally found a single bird. One more was seen later in the day, but these were the only sightings I had.

Now we only needed Yellow-legged Pigeon, and the scarce Makira Boobook, only known from a handful of sightings ever. Joseph knew which areas were good for the pigeon and we spent most of the day walking on and off trail, up and down steep slopes. At one time while walking through a small river gorge Joseph thought he heard a pigeon calling on the ridge above and we climbed and scrambled up the very steep slope through dense tangled vegetation, when we suddenly flushed two **Makira Boobooks!** It was too dark and dense to get any good shots, but I got a good look at one of the birds – what a bonus!



Makira Boobook (*Ninox roseoaxillaris*) ©M. Lagerqvist

After re-connecting with the trail we started to slowly walk back towards Hauta again and around 16.00, when we were almost back at Hauta again we finally got a flight view of a **Yellow-legged Pigeon!** Not satisfied with the brief view we once again walked off trail to reconnect with the bird. We didn't find it, but instead flushed another **Makira Boobook!!** Back at the trail we decided to hang around a small clearing for a while before calling it a day. This turned out to be a good strategy as I soon spotted two Yellow-legged Pigeons, giving fantastic views! In the same area we also saw a beautiful **Duchess Lorikeet** and a **Song Parrot** – a species that had eluded me so far on the trip!

Very happy with a 100 % clean-up, we headed back to the lodge where I washed off all the mud in the river, had some fried bananas and a well needed rest after a hard day's work!



Yellow-legged Pigeon (*Columba pallidiceps*) ©M. Lagerqvist

30/7 Hauta-Naara-Kirakira (Makira)

With no targets left to see, and a light rain falling, we had a relaxed morning, before setting off towards the coast around 9.30. It continued raining on and off all morning, but we still saw some good birds, including a **Pacific Robin** at around 400 m., which is well below its supposed altitudinal range. On the way down we took a break in a small village where a family kept a Makira Boobook, caught with a sling-shot just a couple of days before.

At 12.00 we reached Naara, where we had lunch before continuing. Due to all the rain the previous days the water level in the Raavo River was too high to safely cross it on foot. To continue we needed to find someone that could take us down the river in a canoe. At 14.20 we finally took off and navigated down the streams, reaching the road by 16.20, where there was supposed to be a car waiting. At 17.30 Alicks finally showed up, and we drove back to Kirakira and the Freshwind Hotel.

31/7 Kirakira (Makira)-Molehanua (Ugi)

I got up at 5.45, had breakfast and then met up with Noyle and walked down to the harbour. On the flooded football field I spotted a couple of **White-headed Stilts**, a first record for the Solomons! Looking out over the ocean towards Ugi, all we could see was a massive, dark raincloud, which we would have to steer straight into, with our small one-engine boat, to get to Ugi. This made me a bit hesitant but after some discussion among the locals I was assured that it would be ok, and we finally set off at 8.30. As expected we had a wet crossing, but after 50 minutes we landed safely at Molehanua village on Ugi, where we were greeted by Chief Henry Ha'aina.

Since it was raining quite heavily we took shelter and had some coffee and crackers, while waiting for it to clear up. After an hour or so I headed out, guided by a couple of boys from the village.

Most of the endemic subspecies turned out to be quite common; a **Silver-capped Fruit Dove** and several **Cardinal Myzomelas** and **Rufous Fantails** of the dark *ugiensis* race were found in the village. The all black *ugiensis* race of **Chestnut-bellied Monarch**, possibly better treated as a distinct species, was easily found in the beach forest around the village



"Ugi Black Monarch" (*Monarcha castaneiventris ugiensis*) ©M. Lagerqvist

To find the last target we headed inland to get to better forest and after a little searching we found a small pack of *squamulatus* **White-collared Monarchs**, another distinct race that could be treated as a good species. The forest where however being logged by a Malaysian logging company and the sound of chainsaws was a constant companion.

Back at the village I had lunch (noodles, tuna and Fijian Taro) before taking a walk along the shore, in hope of spotting a Beach Thick-knee, but had no luck. The rest of the afternoon was spent swimming in the fantastic water, relaxing and reading a good book – quite a luxury after almost four weeks of tackling steep trails in rain!

At dinner – a tasty coconut crab – I had a long and interesting discussion with Chief Henry. He told me that the village had decided to turn part of the island into a cattle farm and allow "selective logging", but tried to assure me that good forest would be left. After dinner I made myself at home in a hut in the village.

1/8 Molehanua (Ugi)-Kirakira (Makira)

After a coffee and crackers we left Ugi at 7.15, enjoying a much more pleasant crossing in calm weather, accompanied by a school of dolphins and a few **Greater Crested Terns**. The rest of the day was spent just passing the time in Kirakira, a rather uninspiring town with not much to do.

2/8 Kirakira (Makira)-Honiara (Guadalcanal)

Another slow day without any birding; after breakfast and a stroll around town the flight back to Honiara left at 12.30. During the afternoon I took another walk to downtown Honiara, posted my post cards and had a coffee and chocolate cake at the Lime Lounge.

3/8 Honiara (Guadalcanal)-Tinggoa-Lake Tenggano (Rennell)

The day started with an early breakfast at the room at 4.45, before leaving for the airport for the flight to Rennell, joined by local guide Timothy Jonston who happened to be in Honiara. From above Rennell was covered by dense rain clouds and the plane had to circle over the island several times just to find the airfield, but after a couple of attempts we finally landed safely. The rain was pouring down heavily and there was no sign of the car that was supposed to take me to the Kiakoa Lakeside Lodge, so we sought shelter under a nearby roof. After some waiting we headed out in the rain and ran over to the lodge's "office" in Tinggoa. There the staff explained that we were waiting for the next flight to bring a few more guests before setting off. After a couple of hours we found out that the weather on Rennell was now too bad for the plane to land safely, and that it had turned back to Honiara! At 12.45, after 4.5 hours of waiting we finally loaded the truck and headed for Lake Tenggano.



Bare-eyed White-eye (*Woodfordia superciliosa*) ©M. Lagerqvist

The drive to Lake Tenggano was one of my unpleasant drives ever. Not only did we waste time making constant stops in every small village on the way, the driver and other staff also drank beer after beer, getting drunker and drunker. After almost four hours we finally arrived at the shore of Lake Tenggano, a world heritage site and the largest lake in the Pacific. Here we took a small boat over to the other side and the Kiakoa Lakeside Lodge. It was still raining and the only new species seen during the day was the odd-looking **Bare-eyed White-eye**, the very common **Australian White Ibis** of the endemic *pygmaeus* race and the local races of **Little Pied Cormorant** and **Australasian Grebe** on the lake.

4/8 Lake Tenggano (Rennell)

I got up at 6.00, had a rather poor breakfast consisting of a coffee and a few crackers, before crossing back over the lake to the main road. The following 4-5 hours were spent walking along the road and most of the Rennell targets were easily found. **Rennell Fantail** was quite common, and it didn't take long to see the first of five **Rennell Shrikebills** – surely one of the best Solomon endemics! **Rennell Starling** and **Rennell White-eye** were a bit scarcer but soon made it onto the list. The endemic races of **Fan-tailed Gerygone** and **Island Thrush** were also common. A couple of Rennell Whistlers were heard very briefly, but despite searching they refused to show themselves.



Rennell Shrikebill (*Clytorhynchus hamlini*) ©M. Lagerqvist

At 11.30 I headed back to the lodge for a delicious lunch (coconut crab, tilapia and papaya), and then spent some time scanning the surrounding forest, adding a couple of **Silver-capped Fruit Doves** and a **Pacific Imperial Pigeon** to the tally. The local guide at the lodge thought that the whistler could be seen in the forest behind the lodge, so at 15.45 we headed out on what turned out to be a miserable "trail", walking over very sharp lime stones, having to put most of my concentration on where to put my feet, rather than on birding.

It soon started to drizzle which made the stones precariously slippery and at one point I slipped and tore up some nasty scratches on my arm. After a while the rain got really heavy and we had to turn back to the lodge, once again getting totally drenched and without having seen more than a handful of birds, and no whistlers.

5/8 Lake Tenggano-Tinggoa (Rennell)

This morning I got up at 6.00, had a coffee and a few crackers before crossing over back to the main road. The plan was to bird until 10.00 when the car was supposed to head back to Tinggoa, picking me up along the road.

It didn't take long to find the first target, a nice male **Melanesian Flycatcher**. The whistler continued to cause trouble though, but shortly after nine I finally heard a **Rennell Whistler** singing close to the road. The sound came from the top of a small lime stone plateau and I had to climb up through some pretty dense vegetation, but the bird stayed put and I finally got great views of my last target species!



Rennell Whistler (*Pachycephala feminina*) ©M. Lagerqvist

Very happy with the morning I started to walk back along the road, adding a very confiding **Bronze Ground Dove** to the list. Back at the lake I had to wait until 12.00 before we finally got going, since we had to wait for some other guests. After driving about one hour a spring came loose, and it took 1.5 hours to hammer it back into place. The trip back was further slowed down since we made multiple stops along the way, putting up information posters about plans for a future logging operation covering large parts of Rennell, including forest right up to Lake Tenggano. We finally arrived to Tinggoa around 17.00.

Before dusk a short walk around the airfield produced both the endemic race of **Song Parrot** and **Finsch's Pygmy Parrot** – two species not seen at the lake. I then headed to the local store to buy noodles and tuna, which I prepared at the local guest house, before calling it a day.

6/8 Tinggoa (Rennell)-Honiara (Guadalcanal)

A short morning walk around the airfield produced another couple of **Song Parrots**, before the flight back to Honiara, arriving at 9.30. After a quick snack at the hotel, the rest of the morning was spent at Mt. Austen to find the last couple of Guadalcanal targets still missig.

The main target was **Guadalcanal Boobook** and after meeting up with Samson again, we walked a short way to another roosting tree. This time luck was with us and two birds were easily seen.



Guadalcanal Boobook (*Ninox granti*) ©M. Lagerqvist

Very happy with the day I called for a taxi to go back to the hotel where I had some delicious fried calamari for lunch, and then spent the afternoon washing clothes and packing for the last leg of the trip. At dinner I once again met up with Wilson to discuss the plans for Malaita. Malaita is the most heavily exploited island and to get up to good high altitude forest is very difficult, since the locals are very suspicious of strangers. Since this is the only chance of seeing the rare Malaita Fantail, I still wanted to give it a go, and Wilson thought that he might had found a way...

7/8 Honiara (Guadalcanal)-Auki-Siubongi (Malaita)

The transfer to Malaita was made by ferry on the Pelican Express II from Honiara harbour, together with Wilson's local contact Jeffery, who happened to be in Honiara. The crossing was uneventful, with very few birds seen, arriving in Auki, the capital of Malaita, around 11.00. At the harbour we were met by Jeffrey's son Frank and Kwaiga from the village where I was going to spend the coming nights.

After buying some supplies we drove for about an hour to the village of Kwaimanafu. From there, I and Kwaiga walked to the village of Siubongi. It was a rather easy one hour walk, although with multiple river crossings. Since we were supposed to go to high altitude forest I had anticipated a longer walk, but was assured that we would get up high the following day. Some late afternoon birding around the village, proved unproductive.

For dinner we had tuna with mangrove fruit, which is a local specialty on Malaita, not bad. I also asked the villagers about the Malaita Boobook, which is known only from a few specimens. They said they sometimes saw the bird around the village, but didn't know of any roosts. They also described the call and it all sounded very credible. I suspect that it's probably not as rare as thought.

8/8 Siubongi-Taladola (Malaita)

After some bread and lime tea we set off around 6.15 on our trek to get up to higher altitudes. A single **Malaita Starling** was a promising start, but after an hour scrambling up and down muddy slopes and still only at just below 400 m. I started to get more and more suspicious and it was soon evident that we would not be able to get much higher. This was all very disappointing and we decided that it would be pointless to spend another night at Siubongi, and that the best strategy would be to cut our losses, get back to the coast as quickly as possible and try to come up with another plan!

Said and done, we walked back to the village, where I packed my things, and then walked back to Kwaimanafu, and from there continued to the main road. There we waited for about an hour, before getting on a bus to the village of Taladola where Jeffery met up at Bronwin's Guesthouse. After some discussion we decided that the best option was to take a taxi and drive as high as possible up the road above Auki the next morning. Jeffery contacted a 4WD taxi and we decided that it would pick us up at 6.00 the following morning.

In the evening, the very hospitable guesthouse owner, Bronwin, served a tasty grilled bonito with cassava chips and coconut sauce for dinner. Definitely a good place to stay!

9/8 Taladola (Malaita)

At 6.00 there was no sign of Jeffrey or the taxi driver. After more than an hour's wait, Jeffrey finally arrived at 7.10 and we drove to Auki to find our missing taxi. It turned out that the taxi had broken down, and we had to find a new car. At 7.45 we were finally on our way! We drove as far up as we could, and then walked a short way to the village of Busrata, arriving at 9.00. After some waiting the village elders turned us away, saying we could not walk past the village, since the mountain was sacred.

We had no other choice but to turn around and drive back, we next tried the village of Lama, at the highest point of the road, around 500 m. Here the greeting was much friendlier and it was no problem to bird in the forest behind the village. It was now late in the morning and the bird activity was low, but at least a couple of **Malaita White-eyes** and a pair of **Solomons Cuckooshrikes** of the strikingly patterned *tricolor* race were seen.

Around lunch we drove back down to Taladola. An afternoon walk in a nearby area that Jeffery's son Frank thought could be good for birding only resulted in a pointless exercise consisting of chopping our way through dense secondary shrubbery. It was a very hot and sunny afternoon and the exercise left us exhausted and drenched in sweat, and without any good birds.

10/8 Taladola-Auki (Malaita)-Honiara (Guadalcanal)

After the previous day's we decided to get up in the mountains earlier in the morning, to have a better chance of finding the scarce Red-vested Myzomela. Bronwin served a nice breakfast at 4.30, and around 5.30 the taxi arrived and we drove back to Lama, arriving around 6.30. The first hour's birding was spent on the ridge above the village, but very few birds were seen (I've never seen so many spider webs though).

The area below the village, towards a small river, proved more productive. Here I found some large trees with lots of ant plants. According to the field guide the myzomela feeds on ant-plants, so I decided to stake out the trees. This area was much birdier, and after an hour or so I spotted a spotted a female **Red-vested Myzomela** feeding in the canopy. After a little more scanning I also found the splendid male – success at last! With the myzomela finally in the bag, we drove back down to Auki, where we had lunch before taking the Discovery 360 ferry back to Honiara.



Malaita White-eye (*Zosterops stresemanni*) ©M. Lagerqvist

11/8 Honiara (Guadalcanal)-Brisbane

With no more endemics left to look for I spent the last morning birding the Betikama wetlands on the outskirts of Honiara together with Polish birder Wojciech Dabrowka. New birds seen were a few **Australasian Reed Warblers** and a surprise **Yellow Bittern**, a first nation record. The endemic race of Red-back Buttonquail also occurs here, but I didn't see any.

I then headed back to the hotel to pack my bags, and at 11.30 Wilson picked me up and took me to the airport for my Solomon Airlines flight to Brisbane.

Short notes from Bougainville

The following section covers a ten days birding trip to Bougainville in 2010, done as an extension to a remote Papua New Guinea trip, arranged by Ashley Banwell.

12/7 Alotau-Buka-Arawa

We arrived in Buka around twelve, on a flight from Alotau, PNG. After some shopping for supplies we set off towards Arawa. All bridges on Bougainville were bombed during the civil war (often referred to as “The Crisis”), and had not been rebuilt yet, so all rivers had to be driven across, which made for an interesting journey! Thanks to Japanese aid new bridges were now in the process of being built. After about 4.5 hours we arrived in Arawa, where we met up with local birder John Toroura, at the Poonang-Nava Inn, a nice place to stay, serving good food!



One of many river crossings. ©M. Lagerqvist

13/7 Arawa-Panguna

After an early breakfast we drove to Arawa airstrip, where we soon spotted our target, a **Woodford's Rail** of the distinct *tertius* race. After a short, unproductive stop at the nearby Tunura Catholic Mission we continued towards the “No Go Zone”, surrounding the Panguna Copper Mine, the epicentre of the The Crisis. Anyone interested in the story behind the copper mine and the civil war is recommended to read Donald Devon's excellent book “Getting under the skin”.

In Panguna we got ourselves installed in one of the bombed out building skeletons, that serviced as our accommodation. We waited out the rain and spent the last hours of the afternoon birding along the entrance road below the old mine.

Birding was productive, and we managed to get a good suite of endemics, including **Pale Mountain Pigeon**, **Red-capped Myzomela**, **Cockerell's Fantail**, **Bougainville Monarch**, **Steel-blue Flycatcher**, **Bougainville Crow**, **Yellow-throated White-eye**, **Grey-throated White-eye** and **Midget Flowerpecker**. We also heard the elusive, recently described **Odedi** calling.



Our "hotel" at Panguna. ©M. Lagerqvist

14/7 Panguna-Arawa

We had a simple breakfast at 5.30 and then drove on a bit past Panguna to the start of a trail. The first part of the trail was fairly easy, with a handful of shallow river crossings. It then became totally overgrown and we had to chop our way through with a machete. After a while it got better again, although fairly steep and slippery. Along the higher part of the trail we soon found three of our main target species; **Bougainville Honeyeater**, **Solomons Monarch** and **Brown Fantail** of the distinct Bougainville race *drownei*. We then spent a lot of time to get views of the skulky **Odedi**, and after about 1.5 hours we had all finally gotten good views of this attractive bush warbler!

Back at the "hotel" we were met by a couple of pretty unpleasant guys who demanded us to pay them 6,000 Kina (about USD2,150) for our stay in Panguna! They were obviously trying to hustle us, but having seen all target species we didn't want to risk it turning into a nasty situation, so we quickly packed our things and drove back to Arawa a day earlier than planned.

15/7 Arawa (Tunura Mission and Aropa airfield)

The morning was spent birding around Arawa where we enjoyed fantastic views of a pair of **Ultramarine Kingfishers**, a **Solomons Cuckooshrike** and a flock of about 20 **Duchess Lorikeets**. At a roosting tree we got great views of **West Solomons Boobook**. We also made another visit to the Tunura Catholic Mission, but still no Sanford's Sea Eagle.

In the afternoon we drove east along the coast, looking for a place to watch for seabirds, but we didn't find any good spots. The last hour of daylight was spent at the old airfield at Aropa, where **Australasian Reed Warbler** was added to our list. After dinner we went out listening for night birds, but it was very quiet – but we did see a Northern Common Cuscus.



Ultramarine Kingfisher (*Todiramphus leucopygius*) ©M. Lagerqvist

16/7 Arawa (Tunura Mission)

This morning we made yet another visit to the Tunura Catholic Mission and this time we finally got views of **Sanford's Sea Eagle**. With no more species to see around Arawa we decided to try and find a roosting tree 37.5 south of Aropa where the rare White-eyed Starling had been seen in 1985. The going was very slow due to the progressively worse road and at 29 km south of Aropa we reached a river that we decided not to try crossing, especially since the rain was now pouring down and we didn't want to risk getting stuck on the other side due to rising water levels. We therefore drove the two hours back to the hotel for lunch.

The afternoon was again spent birding around the Tunura Catholic Mission, where we got fantastic views of two more **Sanford's Sea Eagles**. In the evening we once again went out night birding, but this time we struck gold, with brief, but good views of the majestic **Fearful Owl**.

17/7 Arawa-Mt. Balbi

This morning we were driving up towards Mt. Balbi, to look for the missing montane endemics, but due to an incident where the armed perpetrator (guns were still very common on Bougainville) had fled up to a village close to Mt. Balbi the coastal road was closed to all traffic and we had to wait it out. But after a couple of hours the road was opened again and we were on our way. We did see a couple of **Red-flanked Lorikeets** while waiting.

The small gravel road from the coastal road up towards Mt. Balbi was in really bad condition, but with our 4WD we made it to the drop-off point and could begin our walk up the mountain. The trail up is seldom used and was overgrown, and after a short while it started to rain cats and dogs. The heavy rain continued for the rest of the day, so when we finally reached a site that was suitable for building a camp (1,140 m.) we were totally drenched. Our guides and porters were very good at camp construction though and we soon had our tarpaulins up and could seek shelter, dry up and get some dinner. No new birds were seen during the afternoon.



Building a camp on Mt. Balbi. ©M. Lagerqvist

18/7 Mt. Balbi

Most of our first full day on Mt. Balbi was unfortunately wasted due to a never ending rain, and we spent most of the time in the shelter of our camp. During a recess in the rain we did manage to squeeze in some birding along the trail above our camp and saw a few good species, like a beautiful male **Scarlet Robin**, both **Bougainville** and **Solomons Monarch** and **Brown Fantail**.

19/7 Mt. Balbi

In the morning it was still raining heavily, but after some hours of waiting it subsided somewhat, so we started to make our way up towards higher altitudes. The trail was miserable; very steep and extremely muddy, so all of us kept falling over and by the end of the day we all looked like mud men. On the way up we saw a single **Bougainville Honeyeater**, a few Island **Leaf Warblers** of the *bougainvillei* race and heard one **Odedi** singing.

Closing in on 1,800 meters the habitat changed to more stunted forest and thickets. **Brown Fantail** became more common and above 1,800 meters **Guadalcanal Hooded Whistler** was easily found. With the rain not really stopping and precious little time we never really got a decent chance to find the elusive thicketbird, and made our way down to camp again.

A surprise find was an **Imitator Goshawk** that one of the porters found on the ground, just having caught a prey. This was only the fifth record for Bougainville of this elusive forest raptor.



Imitator Goshawk (*Accipiter imitator*) ©M. Lagerqvist

20/7 Mt. Balbi-Buka

I spent the first hours of morning at a clearing just below camp where the shy Bougainville Thrush had allegedly been sighted. No thrush was seen though and we slowly made our way down to our cars, seeing a couple of **Meek's Lorikeets** on the way. In the village we were served some delicious papayas and avocados and shown a beautiful collection of orchids from the mountain.

We then drove north again and took the boat across the Buka Passage to our seaside hotel.

21/7 Buka (Nova and Buka Passage)

In the morning we drove a short distance to the village of Nova, close to the airport on Buka, where we birded the secondary forest behind the village. It was quite birdy and we got fantastic views of seven **Bougainville Crows**, a few **Ultramarine Kingfishers** and at least 50 **Cardinal Lorys**.

In the afternoon we took a small boat out around the bay south of the Buka Passage, including a visit to a small islet called White Island. The best birds were a small flock of **Torresian Imperial Pigeons**. Other birds seen included **Sanford's Sea Eagle**, **Roseate Tern**, and quite a few shorebirds, including one **Terek Sandpiper**.



Sanford's Sea Eagle (*Ichthyophaga sanfordi*) ©M. Lagerqvist

22/7 Buka (Buka Passage)

This was the last day of birding, before flying back to Port Moresby. With no more reasonable targets to look for we took another boat tour out of Buka to White Island, where we did some leisurely birding and swam in the warm ocean. No new birds were seen but we saw no less than eight **Eastern Ospreys** and enjoyed great views of a pair of **Beach Kingfishers**.

Strategy and sites

The Solomons are seldom visited by birders and to see all the endemics would be a daunting and time consuming task, since some species are very poorly known and some sites are difficult to access. However, most endemics can be seen by visiting ten islands spending 5-6 weeks. To see all endemics the following islands must be visited (not including Choiseul, for the possibly still extant Choiseul Pigeon):

- Bougainville
- Vella Lavella
- Ranongga
- Gizo
- Kolombangara
- Santa Isabel
- Guadalcanal
- Malaita
- Makira
- Rennell

Further, the islands of Ugi, Rendova and Tetepare hold distinct subspecies that might be elevated to species status in the future, and are worth a visit if time allows. Below follow notes of the islands and sites visited, with comments on strategy, and a table of GPS co-ordinates for interesting records and places.



Duchess Lorikeet (*Charmosyna margarethae*) ©M. Lagerqvist

Bougainville (incl. Buka)

Seven Solomons endemics (and one distinct subspecies) are found only on Bougainville, these include a couple of montane endemics that are among the most difficult of all Solomons endemics to see. A further nine species are shared only with Santa Isabel or Guadalcanal, and some of them are most easily found on Bougainville. By combining a visit to the lowlands around Arawa with a visit to montane forest at Panguna (and/or Mt. Balbi) you will have a chance of seeing most targets.



Panguna

The forests around the old copper mine at Panguna is the key site on Bougainville, where most of Bougainville's endemics can be seen. Key species to see here are Bougainville Honeyeater, Bougainville Monarch, Odedi, Brown Fantail of the *drownei* race, Bougainville Hooded Whistler and Bougainville Crow.

Three endemics shared with Santa Isabel; Imitator Goshawk, Red-capped Myzomela and Yellow-throated White-eye, are also present, and the myzomela is much more common here than at Tirotonga.

Mt. Balbi

Mt. Balbi holds many of the same species as Panguna but access is more difficult and requires camping for two or more nights. The most difficult of the Bougainville endemics, Bougainville Thicketbird and Bougainville Thrush, are both possible.

Arawa

The area around Arawa is good for many widespread endemics, like Sanford's Sea Eagle (at Tunura Catholic Mission), Duchess Lorikeet and Ultramarine Kingfisher. However, the key species here is the *tertius* race of Woodford's Rail, which can be seen early morning, venturing out of the tall grasses along the Arawa airstrip.

Other key species here are the owls, with both West Solomons Boobook and Fearful Owl present. A local guide is helpful to get the latest information on day roosts for the boobook. Fearful Owl is scarce and some luck is needed to see the species.

Buka

The forests around the village of Nova, close to Buka airport, are a good spot to look for Ultramarine Kingfisher and Bougainville Crow in case you miss them at other sites.

Other areas

There are recent observations of both the legendary Moustached Kingfisher, and the *pallida* race of Black-faced Pitta from Bougainville. These include a Moustached Kingfisher recently caught at Kongara, Kieta District in Central Bougainville. So far these areas have been closed to foreigners, but they might become accessible the coming years.

Santa Isabel

No species are endemic to Santa Isabel, but a couple of key species are more readily seen here than anywhere else.

Tirotonga

The village of Tirotonga, in the mountains above the capital of Buala, is famous as the place to see two of the most sought after Solomons endemics; Solomons Frogmouth and Black-faced Pitta. The villagers know where to find both species. Woodford's rail of the *immaculatus* is also present in the agricultural patches around the village.

West Solomons Boobook is also found here, although there were no birds present at the known day roosts when we visited. There used to be Fearful Owl here as well, but the birds at the village have been killed. The species can still be seen on Santa Isabel though and the local guides at Tirotonga might be able to direct you to alternative sites.

Tirotonga is also a good site for quite a few other endemics, shared with one or more other islands. Yellow-throated White-eye (also found on Bougainville), White-billed Crow (also found on Guadalcanal) and the often scarce Solomons Cuckooshrike are readily found. Red-capped Myzomela is possible, but much easier on Bougainville. With some luck you can see the rare Imitator Goshawk here.



Karuo Island

The small islets off Buala are good for the widespread, but often missed, Island Monarch. We easily found the species on Karuo Island, but it's also present on Fera Island.



Western Province

Ten species are endemic to the islands of the Western Province and they can all be seen in a five days visit. The city of Gizo is the second largest in the Solomon Islands and a centre for diving tourism. Boat trips to the other islands can be arranged from here (e.g. by Dive Gizo).

Gizo

The attractive Gizo White-eye is easily found in secondary forest on the outskirts of Gizo city, past the electricity station, along the road from Gizo to Saeraghi. Take a taxi there, and walk back into town. The same area is also good for White-capped Monarch.



Vella Lavella & Ranongga

These islands each hold an endemic white-eye, both are easily found in secondary vegetation close the coast on a day trip from Gizo, or on the way to Kolombangara.

The islands also hold a few distinct subspecies, which could be worthwhile looking for. The most likely to get split is probably the *nigrotectus* race of Kolombangara Monarch on Vella Lavella. The bird is uncommon though and to see it you need to get into better forest on the interior of the island, which would require spending a couple of nights on Vella Lavella. This would also give you a better chance of seeing the dark *melanonota* race of Oriole Whistler.

On the boat trips between the islands you also have a good chance of spotting Heinroth's Shearwater, which probably breeds on Kolombangara.



Kolombangara

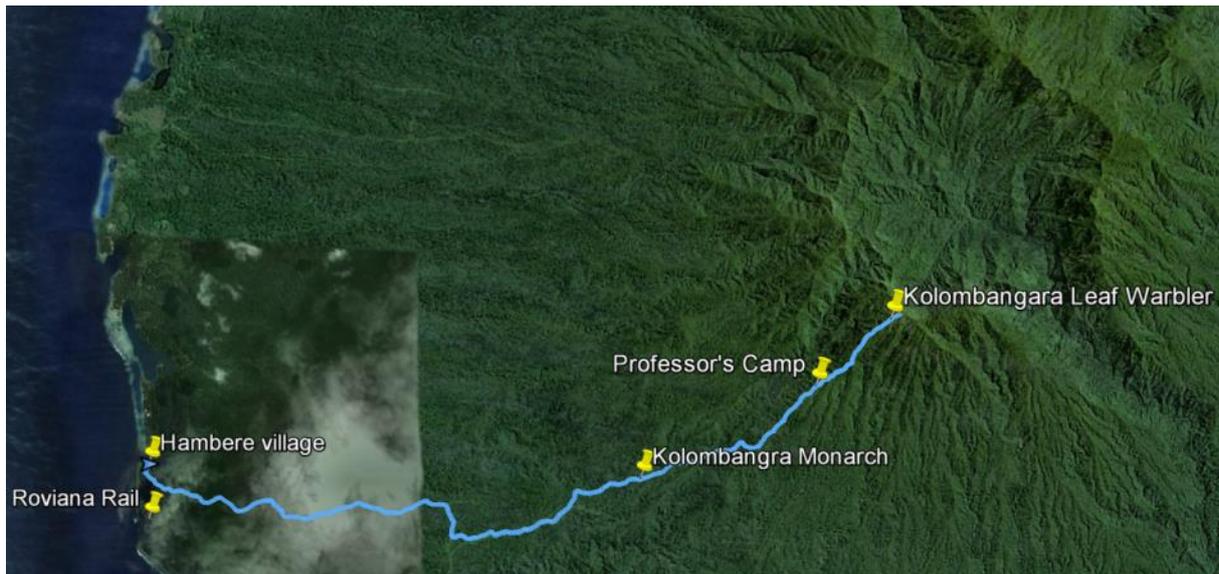
Four species are essential to see on Kolombangara, but the island is also a good place for a couple of more widespread endemics that can be tricky to see elsewhere. Roviana Rail is readily found at the agricultural fields belonging to the large Seventh Day Adventist School at the village of Kukundu, a short walk from Hambere. The rail won't show itself during the day, when the students are out working the fields. A good time to visit is late in the afternoon when the school day is over. If you don't see the rail at the school, another good spot is the nearby airstrip.

Solomons White-eye is readily seen in lowland forest along the trail up the summit of the island. White-capped Monarch is also common here. When you reach good primary forest you should be on the lookout for Kolombangara Monarch, which is quite scarce, we only saw one bird.

The lookout at Professor's Camp is a good spot for the more widespread, but often scarce, Meek's Lorikeet. Above the camp Kolombangara White-eye is very common, moving through the canopy in fast-moving flocks. To see the last endemic, the extremely range-restricted Kolombangara Leaf Warbler you need to get up into mossy forest close to the summit.

One night at Professor's Camp should be enough to find the high altitude endemics, walking up to the summit in the morning and then walking back down to the coast. It did take some searching for us to find the warbler though, and if you want to be on the safe side, you could spend two nights to allow for a full day in the mossy forest.

Even though we didn't see it here, Kolombangara is also a good place to see the scarce North Melanesian Cuckooshrike, which can be seen at lower altitudes here than on other islands.



Rendova and Tetepare

The nearby islands of Rendova and Tetepare each hold a distinct subspecies of Kolombangara White-eye, which could be split off as one or two species in the future. We did not have the time to visit, but it could be worthwhile. There is an eco-lodge on Tetepare.

Guadalcanal

To see all the endemics on Guadalcanal is at the moment very difficult. Most of the lowland species can be found close to Honiara, but the high altitude species require a *very* though trek into the uninhabited interior of the island.

Mt. Austen

Mt. Austen, on the outskirts of Honiara, is famous as the scene of one of the most decisive battles in the Pacific War; 250 American and around 3,000 Japanese soldiers lost their lives at the Battle of Mount Austen in December 1942-January 1943. The battle is related in Terrence Malick's 1998 movie "The Thin Red Line", which is recommended if you haven't seen it!

The site is also the most well-known birding site in the Solomons, and in a day's birding you'll be able to see all Guadalcanal lowland endemics; Black-headed Myzomela, Guadalcanal Boobook and the *woodfordi* race of Woodford's Rail being the keys species. It's also a great site for a host of endemics shared with one or more other islands, like Buff-headed Coucal, Solomons Cuckooshrike and White-billed Crow. The *nigromaxilla* race of Variable Dwarf Kingfisher is also possible but more difficult.

Mt. Austen is easily reached by taxi from Honiara. A local guide is advisable, especially for information on roosting sites for Guadalcanal Boobook. Our guide Samson Hoasi was very good and can be contacted through Wilson at Destination Solomons.



Betikama wetlands

The wetlands at Betikama don't hold any endemics you won't see anywhere else, but it's a nice spot to bird, close to Honiara airport, with time to spare. The most interesting species here are the Guadalcanal race of Red-backed Buttonquail and the *toxopei* race of Australian Reed Warbler.

Raho-Mt. Mbutohaina trek

The montane endemics of Guadalcanal are the most difficult of the Solomons endemics to see and require at least a seven days gruelling camping expedition to the interior of the island. The trek is physically challenging, scaling some very steep and slippery canyon sides, hacking your way through dense rainforests and walking through fast flowing streams – by far the most difficult any of us had done.

The rewards are high though, with a chance of seeing a handful of species seen by very few birders ever, including Guadalcanal Honeyeater, Guadalcanal Hooded Whistler, Guadalcanal Thrush and Guadalcanal Thicketbird. There is also a chance of seeing Moustached Kingfisher. The bird was last seen (at 1,300 meters on Mt. Mbutohaina) by David Gibbs in 1995. Unfortunately we lost much of our birding time on the mountain due to heavy rains and in hindsight we should have spent one or two more days.

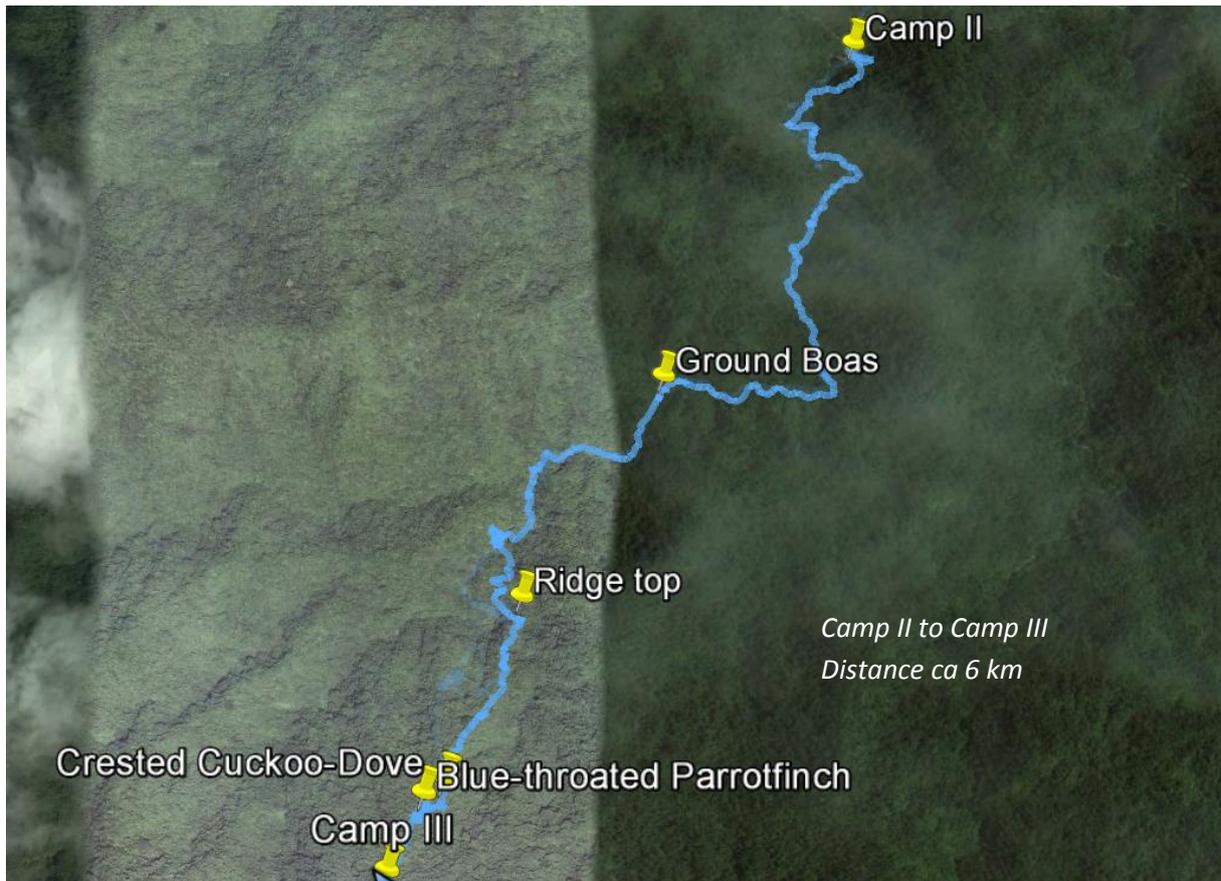


Other good birds that can be seen on this trek include the very rarely observed White-eyed Starling, the scarce North Melanesian Cuckooshrike, Crested Cuckoo-Dove and the distinct *meeki* race of Solomons Drongo, which may prove to be a distinct species.

At the moment there is no other easy way to get into these areas, but this may change in the upcoming years. One alternative way could be by going up to Gold Mine Ridge above Honiara, which would make for a shorter trek than from Raho, but this would require permits from the mining company, which can be tricky to get. Another option that could be worthwhile looking into would be to go up by helicopter.

The four maps on the following pages detail the trek from Raho to Mt. Mbutohaina.





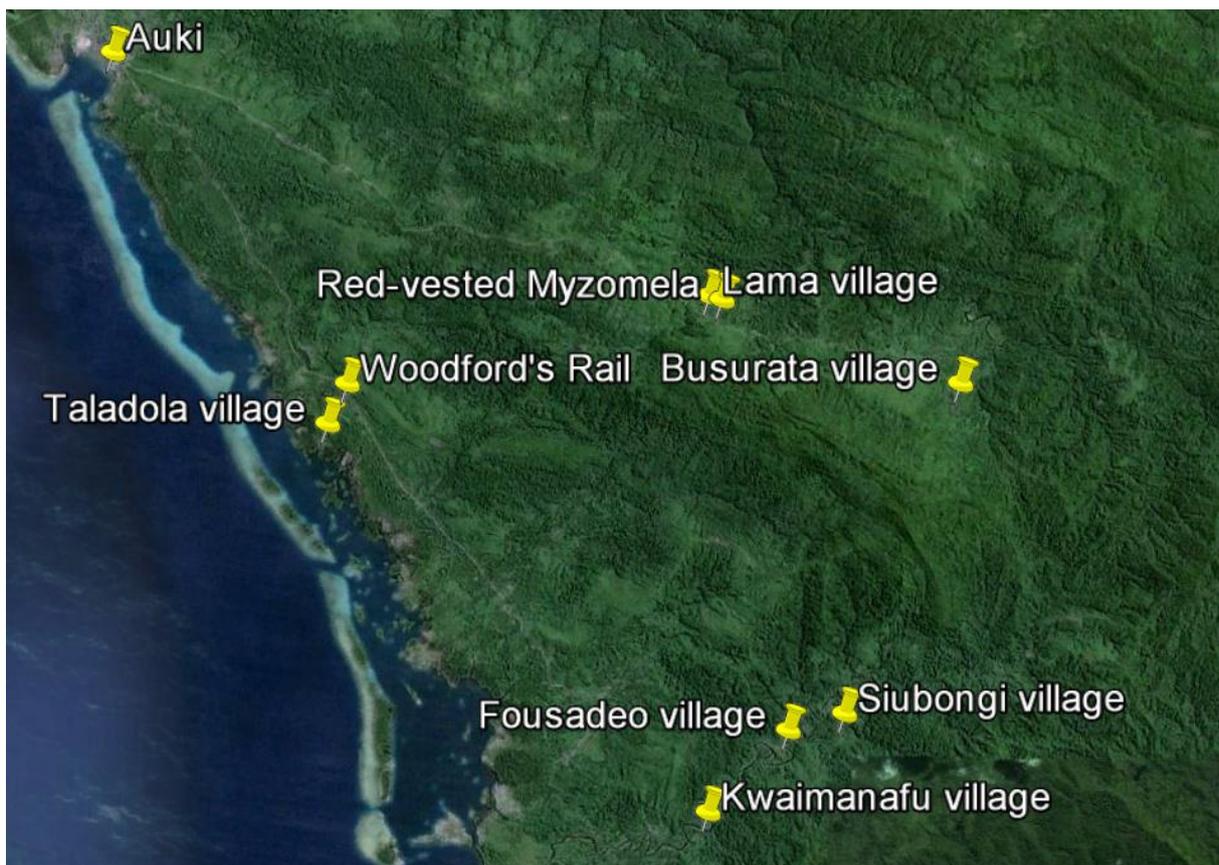
Malaita

Malaita is the most heavily exploited island and it is very difficult to get access to good forest. Of the five endemics Malaita White-eye is the only one that is easily found in forest patches along the road above Auki. Malaita Starling and Red-vested Myzomela can also be found here, but are both much more scarce. The distinct Malaita subspecies of Solomons Monarch, Cockerell's Fantail and Oriole Whistler are also worth looking for, I did not see any of these and at least the Cockerell's Fantail seems to be very scarce.

The undescribed race of Woodford's Rail can be seen in areas of tall grass or agricultural fields along the coastal road.

Malaita Boobook is only known from old specimens, but is probably overlooked. When talking to villagers they knew the bird and its call, e.g. in Siubongi village, so with some time and effort it could probably be found.

To see the Malaita Fantail you need to get into good high altitude forest, but access is limited mainly due to suspicious villagers not permitting foreigners to enter. I intended to go to the area where it was seen in 1995 by David Gibbs, but was strongly advised against it due to a recent incident where a tourist guide had been "tortured" by angry villagers.



Makira

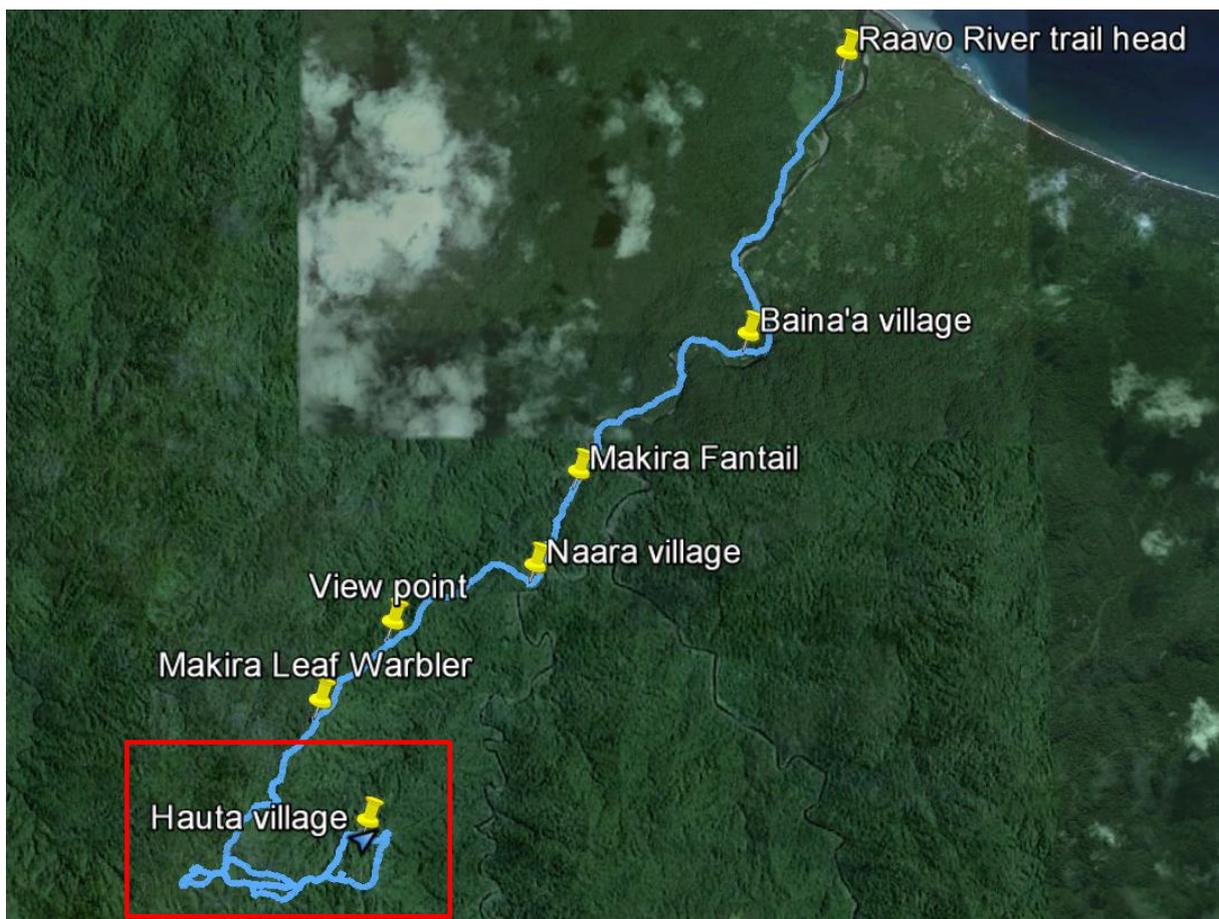
Makira is the most endemic rich island, with no less than 13 endemic species. It's also the best place for several other sought after species and distinct subspecies. Luckily all targets can be seen in the same area around the village of Hauta in the Bauro highlands.

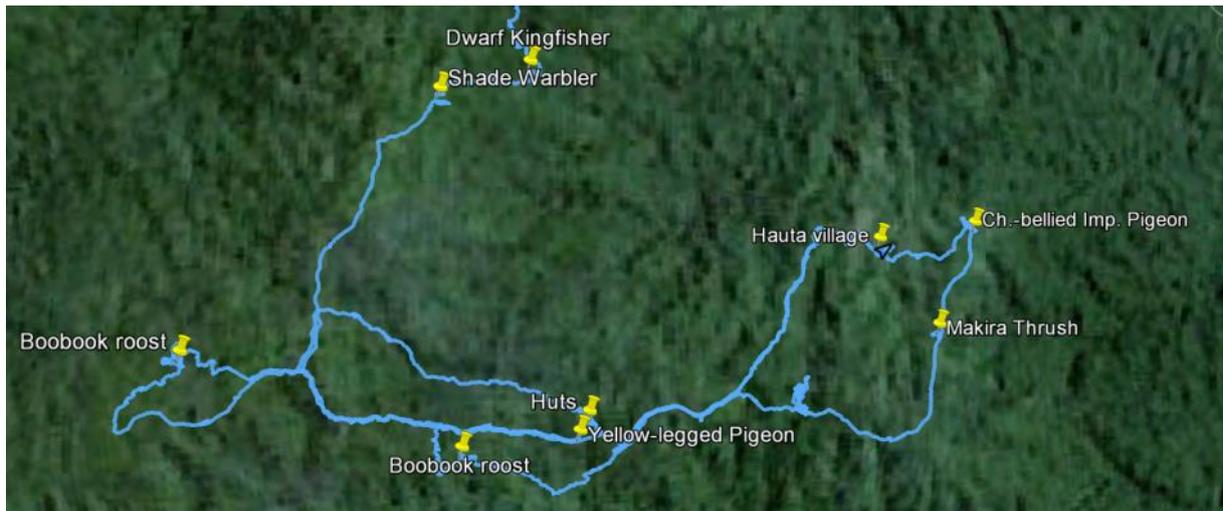
Bauro highlands

Four days is ideal for a visit to the Bauro highlands, with a full day around Hauta. The trek is about 29 km one way and moderately strenuous, with a couple of chest deep river crossings, and very basic accommodation. Among the endemics the most difficult ones are Makira Boobook and Makira Fantail. Shade Bush Warbler and, especially, Makira Thrush can be tricky to get good views of, but are both fairly common.

Apart from the endemics the Bauro highlands is among the best sites for several other targets like Solomons Drongo (here the distinct race *longirostris*), Duchess Lorikeet, Yellow-legged Pigeon, Crested Cuckoo-Dove and Chestnut-bellied Imperial Pigeon.

A visit should be arranged in advance through the Pamahima Association (see contacts).





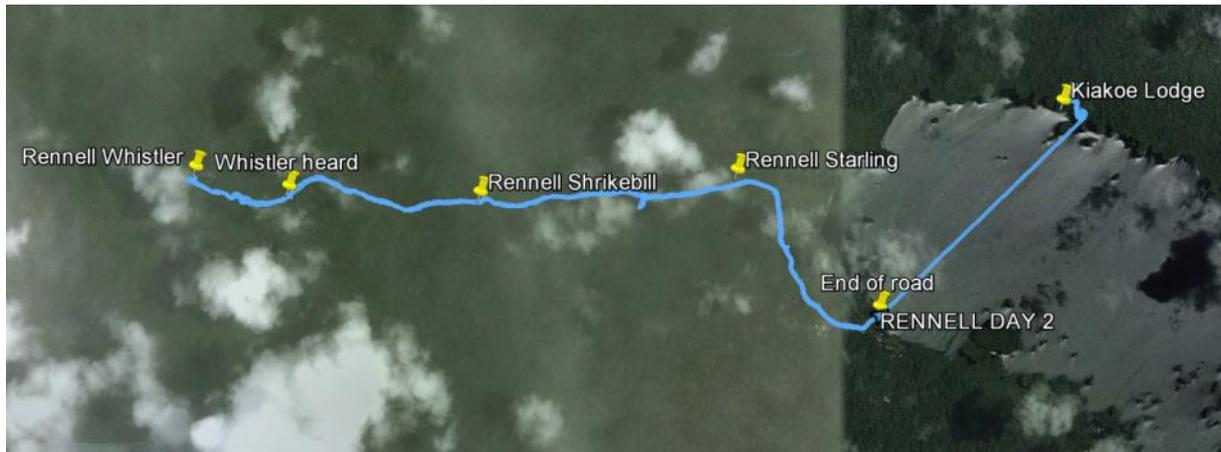
Ugi

Ugi is only a 30 minutes boat crossing from Kirakira and well worth a visit with endemic subspecies of Silver-capped Fruit Dove, White-collared and Chestnut-bellied Monarch and Rufous Fantail. Especially the two monarchs are good split candidates. I stayed one night in Molehanua village, but if you're pressed for time you could also do Ugi as a day trip back and forth from Kirakira.



Rennell

Rennell has six endemics, which are all possible to see in the forests close to the airfield at Tinggoa. Five of them are easily seen, but the Rennell Whistler can be a little trickier to find. Since there are no daily flights I chose to instead bird the forests at Lake Tenggano, which is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The whistler is possibly easier here than at Tinggoa, but other species like the endemic race of Song Parrot seems scarcer here. A visit to Lake Tenggano will also give you the endemic subspecies of Australasian Grebe and Little Pied Cormorant.



In addition to the endemics, Silver-capped Fruit Dove is only shared with Ugi and a few other small islands off Makira, and Rennell is also the only place in the Solomons for Pacific Imperial Pigeon and Melanesian Flycatcher.

GPS co-ordinates

Santa Isabel	Black-faced Pitta	S 08°10.303'	E 159°35.701'	564 m.
Santa Isabel	Karuo Island	S 08°08.624'	E 159°35.562'	12 m.
Gizo	Gizo White-eye	S 08°05.936'	E 156°49.265'	78 m.
Vella Lavella	Vella Lavella White-eye	S 07°56.427'	E 156°41.814'	72 m.
Vella Lavella	Lepari village (Vella Lavella)	S 07°56.803'	E 156°42.556'	32 m.
Ranongga	Ranongga White-eye	S 08°02.598'	E 156°35.303'	52 m.
Ranongga	Niyami village (Ranongga)	S 08°02.598'	E 156°35.303'	52 m.
Kolombangara	Summit	S 07°59.331'	E 159°03.596'	1 669 m.
Kolombangara	Kolombangara Leaf Warbler	S 07°59.361'	E 157°03.517'	1 620 m.
Kolombangara	Professor's Camp	S 07°59.960'	E 157°02.906'	1 042 m.
Kolombangara	Kolombangara Monarch	S 08°00.833'	E 157°01.328'	514 m.
Kolombangara	Last water before camp	S 08°00.546'	E 157°02.188'	590 m.
Guadalcanal	Mt. Austen	S 09°28.977'	E 159.59.272'	387 m.
Guadalcanal	Betikama	S 09°26.576'	E 160°01.910'	20 m.
Guadalcanal	Raho village	S 09°29.285'	E 160.02.218'	39 m.
Guadalcanal	Betilonga	S 09°33.414'	E 159.58.616'	571 m.
Guadalcanal	White-eyed Starling (I)	S 09°35.588'	E 159.58.781'	499 m.
Guadalcanal	White-eyed Starling (II)	S 09°35.815'	E 159.58.280'	481 m.
Guadalcanal	Solomons Drongo	S 09°35.815'	E 159.59.280'	474 m.
Guadalcanal	Dangerous river ravine	S 09°35.953'	E 159.59.552'	438 m.
Guadalcanal	Camp II	S 09°36.155'	E 159.59.736'	416 m.
Guadalcanal	Camp III (Mt. Mbutohaina)	S 09°37.550'	E 159 58.918'	1 082 m.
Guadalcanal	Guadalcanal Thrush/Thicketbird	S 09°38.024'	E 159 58.683'	1 597 m.
Guadalcanal	Guadalcanal Boobook roost	S 09°28.133'	E 159°58.986'	231 m
Makira	Raavo River, start of trek	S 10°29.196'	E 161°57.984'	17 m.
Makira	Makira Fantail	S 10°31.962'	E 161°56.201'	113 m.
Makira	Naara village	S 10°32.577'	E 161°55.902'	70 m.
Makira	Makira Leaf Warbler	S 10°33.445'	E 161°54.514'	723 m.
Makira	Shade Bush Warbler	S 10°34.003'	E 161°54.129'	854 m.
Makira	Variable Dwarf Kingfisher	S 10°33.966'	E 161°54.263'	790 m.
Makira	Hauta village	S 10°34.233'	E 161°54.824'	525 m.
Makira	Chestnut-bellied Imperial Pigeon	S 10°34.192'	E 161°54.984'	533 m.
Makira	Makira Boobook roost (I)	S 10°34.384'	E 161°53.763'	896 m.
Makira	Makira Boobook roost (II)	S 10°34.539'	E 161°54.167'	783 m.
Makira	Makira Thrush	S 10°34.366'	E 161°54.914'	565 m.
Makira	Yellow-legged Pigeon	S 10°34.513'	E 161°54.334'	747 m.
Makira	Pacific Robin (low altitude record)	S 10°33.642'	E 161°55.252'	397 m.
Ugi	Molehanua village	S 10°17.955'	E 161°43.436'	11 m.
Ugi	"Ugi Rufous Fantail"	S 10°17.969'	E 161°43.857'	19 m.
Ugi	"Ugi Black Monarch"	S 10°17.955'	E 161°43.945'	21 m.
Ugi	"Ugi Pied Monarch"	S 10°17.532'	E 161°43.732'	28 m.
Malaita	Siubongi village	S 08°51.881'	E 160°47.964'	151 m.
Malaita	Lama village	S 08°48.541'	E 160°46.871'	467 m.
Malaita	Red-vested Myzomela	S 08°48.538'	E 160°47.023'	405 m.
Rennell	Rennell Shrikebill	S 11°42.102'	E 160°21.573'	57 m.
Rennell	Rennell Shrikebill	S 11°42.246'	E 160°22.836'	39 m.
Rennell	Rennell Starling	S 11°42.166'	E 160°23.882'	35 m.
Rennell	Rennell Whistler heard	S 11°42.226'	E 160°22.056'	45 m.
Rennell	Rennell Whistler	S 11°42.146'	E 160°21.681'	53 m.

Accommodation

Pacific Casino Hotel

PO Box 1298, Honiara (Guadalcanal)

Web site: <http://www.solomon-hotel.com>

Tel: 677 25009

E-mail: reservation@solomon-hotel.com

A rather uninspiring hotel, with slow, bureaucratic service and long dark corridors, but otherwise perfectly fine, with a decent restaurant and most importantly, not too far from the airport. There are flashier, more expensive hotels in downtown Honiara, but beware that traffic along the road into town can be very slow.

Rates start at SBD500 (USD68) for a budget room, but I would recommend a room with a balcony on the first floor, so you can hang out laundry and other wet stuff to dry. A room with a balcony cost SBD850 (USD117) for a view towards the highway or SBD950 (USD131) for a balcony with sea view.

Gizo Hotel

PO Box 1298, Honiara (Guadalcanal)

Web site: <http://www.gizohotel.com>

Tel: 677 60199

Fax: 677 60137

E-mail: gizohotel@solomon.com.sb

Not cheap, but a nice hotel, right at the waterfront in the city centre, with a good restaurant and bar. Rates range from SBD1,100 (USD155) to 1,200 (USD169) for a double room.

Freshwind Hotel

Kirakira Station Road, Nakumwe (Makira)

Tel: 677 50073

Nothing fancy, but probably the best choice in Kirakira, with decent service and a restaurant serving nice food. They can also help arrange boat transfer to Ugi.

Kiakoe Lakeside Lodge

Lake Tenggano (Rennell)

Tel: 677 74 94123

Perfectly situated on the northern shore of Lake Tenggano, with easy access to great roadside birding by a short boat transfer. They also serve quite nice food, and it's a very nice place to spend some time. However, I'm still very reluctant to recommend it, due to the bad experience with their transfer, first having to wait several hours to get going, then stopping to do errands all along the way and then with the driver and staff getting drunk. I also had to wait a long time for another, very slow transfer back, with the vehicle breaking down. The cost for a single room was SBD150 (USD21).

Hambere Village Stay

Hambere village (Kolombangara)

Web site: <http://www.ambere-villagestay.com>

Tel: 677 746 58 61

E-mail: hamberevillage@gmail.com

Basic, but very nice, with friendly service and good food. Perfectly located a short walk from Kukundu for the Roviana Rail, and a good starting point for the trek up the volcano. The lodge also has a boat for the crossing to Gizo. A standard bungalow for up to six guests cost SBD450 (USD62) and a couples bungalow SBD500 (USD69)

Taladola Resthouse

Taladola village (Malaita)

Tel: 677 74 43 044

The owner, Bronwin Amasia, is very friendly and will take good care of you, and serves good food. But if you don't have your own transportation it is perhaps more convenient to stay in Auki.



Brown Fantail (*Rhiphidura drownei*), a comparison between ssp *drownei* from Bougainville (large picture) and ssp *ocularis* from Guadalcanal (small picture). ©M. Lagerqvist

Contacts

Bougainville Experience Tours

Mr. Zhon Bosco Miriona

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Tel: +675 736 56050

Web page: www.bougtours.com

Zhon Bosco Miriona made all the ground arrangements for our Bougainville trip, planned by Ashley Banwell (www.worldbirders.com), including birding guides and the camping expedition to Mt. Balbi. He was a good and friendly guide and is used to catering for the needs of birders.

Destination Solomons

Mr. Wilson Maleaua

P.O. Box 1350, Honiara

E-mail: destsolo@solomon.com.sb

Tel: +677 23 444

Fax: +677 23 445

Destination Solomons is the most experienced local ecotourism operator and can make arrangements for all islands in the Solomon Islands. Wilson Maleaua was very helpful and friendly and met up with us our hotel in Honiara between every leg of the trip, to discuss the arrangements for the next island. He has an extensive contact net, even though there are no good, local birding guides on most of the islands. A note on the downside is that I had to pay most local costs on Malaita, even though I had already paid for the arrangements to Destination Solomons, and several months later I'm still waiting for a promised refund for these expenses.

Pamahima Association (Bauro Highlands Birding)

Mr. Alick Peter Pinihimae

E-mail (1): pamahimaassociation@gmail.com

E-mail (2): alick_pihini@yahoo.com.au

Any visit to the Bauro Highlands on Makira should be arranged in advance and Alick Pinihimae, who is related to John Waihuru, the man behind the Hauta Conservation Area, is a good contact for arranging a visit to Makira.

Literature and other resources

Field guides

Dutson, Guy et. al.: "*Birds of Melanesia: Bismarcks, Solomons, Vanuatu and New Caledonia*", Christopher Helm, 2011

The best and most updated field guide for the region. Good illustrations, also of many subspecies.

Doughty, Chris et.al: "*Birds of The Solomons, Vanuatu & New Caledonia*", Christopher Helm, 1999
Very handy field guide, but less updated, much shorter texts and not so many subspecies illustrated.

Hadden, Don: "*Birds and Bird Lore of Bougainville and the North Solomons*", Dove Publications, 2004
Photographic guide, doesn't replace the field guides, but a nice complement with more detailed information on distributions on Bougainville, also includes local legends and bird names in local languages.

Other literature

Lewis, B.A., Cribb, P.J.: "*Orchids of the Solomons Islands and Bougainville*", Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, 1991

A very detailed guide to identifying Solomon orchids.

Randall, Will: "*Solomon Time: Adventures in the South Pacific*", Abacus, 2002

En entertaining narrative about living and starting up a chicken farm on a remote island in the Solomon Islands.

Denoon, Donald: "*Getting Under the Skin – The Bougainville Copper Agreement and the Creation of the Panguna Mine*", Melbourne University Press, 2000

A detailed and interesting account of the creation of the Panguna Copper Mine and the events that led to The Crisis.

Laracy, Hugh: "*Ples Biling lumi – Solomon Island The Past Four Thousand Years*", Institute of Pacific Studies of the University of the South Pacific, 1989

Essays about different parts of the history of the Solomon Islands, rather academic though.

Online resources

There are few good trip reports from the Solomons, but some can be found at www.cloudbirders.com.

Sound recordings from www.xeno-canto.org.

Species list

Taxonomy not based on any specific authority, but mostly follow “Birds of Melanesia”; see taxonomic notes below. Heard only species indicated by *.

Introduced species indicated by [...]. Solomon endemics in **red bold** typeface.

Melanesian (excl. New Guinea and Fiji) endemics in **black bold** typeface.

Megapodes	<i>Megapodiidae</i>
Melanesian Megapode 15/7, 1 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal 23/7, 1 sp heard, Hambere, Kolombangara 24/7, 1 sp+1 sp heard, Hambere, Kolombangara	<i>Megapodius eremita</i>
Ducks, Geese and Swans	<i>Anatidae</i>
Pacific Black Duck 10/7, 4 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal 11/7, 2 sp, Raho-Betilonga, Guadalcanal 24/7, 1 sp, Hambere, Kolombangara 25/7, 3 sp, Hambere, Kolombangara 30/7, 1 sp, Raavo River, Makira 31/7, 1 sp, Molehanua, Ugi 11/8, 2 sp, Betikama, Guadalcanal	<i>Anas superciliosa pelewensis</i>
Grebes	<i>Podicipedidae</i>
Australasian Grebe 3/7, 1 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell 4/7, 3 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell	<i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae rennellianus</i>
Ibises, Spoonbills	<i>Threskiornithidae</i>
Australian White Ibis 3/8, >40 sp, Tinggoa-Lake Tenggano, Rennell 4/8, >20 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell 5/8, >50 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell 6/8, >10 sp, Lake Tenggano-Tinggoa, Rennell	<i>Threskiornis moluccus pygmaeus</i>
Herons and Bitterns	<i>Ardeidae</i>
Yellow Bittern 11/8, 1 sp, Betikama, Guadalcanal	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>
Nankeen Night Heron 14/7, 1 sp, Panguna, Bougainville 15/7, 1 sp, Aropa, Bougainville 20/7, 1 sp, Ruvulu, Bougainville 16/7, 1 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina-Betilonga, Guadalcanal 19/7, 1 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel 21/7, 1 sp, Karuo, Isabel 25/7, 1 sp, Hambere-Mt. Rano, Kolombangara 26/7, 1 sp, Gizo-New Georgia 30/7, 1 sp, Raavo River, Makira	<i>Nycticorax caledonicus hilli</i>

Striated Heron

22/7, 3 sp, Buka Passage, Bougainville
10/7, 2 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
23/7, 2 sp, Vella Lavella
30/7, 1 sp, Raavo River, Makira

Butorides striata solomonensis

Great Egret

10/8, 1 sp, Auki, Malaita
11/8, ca 5 sp, Betikama, Guadalcanal

Ardea alba modesta

Pacific Reef Heron

16/7, 1 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
20/7, 2 sp, Buka Passage, Bougainville
21/7, 5 sp, Buka Passage, Bougainville
22/7, 5 sp, Buka Passage, Bougainville
22/7, 1 sp, Munda, New Georgia
22/7, 2 sp, Gizo, Gizo

Egretta sacra sacra

Frigatebirds

Fregatidae

Great Frigatebird

21/7, 1 sp, Buka Passage, Bougainville

Fregata minor palmerstoni

Lesser Frigatebird

16/7, 5 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
21/7, 1 sp, Fera, Isabel
23/7, 5 sp, Gizo-Ranongga
23/7, 5 sp, Vella Lavella-Kolombangara
3/8, 1 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell
4/8, >50 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell
5/8, >10 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell

Fregata ariel ariel

Gannets and Boobies

Sulidae

Brown Booby

23/7, 1 sp, Gizo-Ranongga
25/7, ca 10 sp, Kolombangara-Gizo
26/7, >10 sp, Gizo-New Georgia
31/7, 1 sp, Makira-Ugi

Sula leucogaster plotus

Cormorants, Shags

Phalacrocoracidae

Little Pied Cormorant

15/7, 3 sp, Aropa, Bougainville
16/7, 1 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
10/7, 1 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
11/8, ca 5 sp, Betikama, Guadalcanal

Microcarbo melanoleucos melanoleucos

Little Pied Cormorant

3/8, >15 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell
4/8, ca 10 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell
5/8, ca 5 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell

Microcarbo melanoleucos brevicauda

Great Cormorant

30/7, 13 sp, Raavo River, Makira

Phalacrocorax carbo novaehollandiae

Ospreys***Pandionidae***

Eastern Osprey

Pandion cristatus

- 15/7, 1 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
- 21/7, 6 sp, Buka Passage, Bougainville
- 22/7, 8 sp, Buka Passage, Bougainville
- 21/7, 4 sp, Fera, Isabel
- 22/7, 2 sp, New Georgia-Gizo
- 23/7, 5 sp, Ranongga
- 25/7, 1 sp, Hambere, Kolombangara

Kites, Hawks and Eagles***Accipitridae***

Pacific Baza

Aviceda subcristata gurneyi

- 13/7, 1 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
- 16/7, 2 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
- 21/7, 2 sp, Buka, Bougainville
- 10/7, 1 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
- 18/7, 5 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
- 19/7, 2 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel

Brahminy Kite

Haliastur indus flavirostris

- 13/7, 1 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
- 15/7, 2 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
- 16/7, 2 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
- 20/7, 1 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
- 21/7, 1 sp, Buka, Bougainville
- 10/7, 2 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
- 17/7, 1 sp, Honiara, Guadalcanal
- 19/7, 1 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
- 20/7, 2 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
- 21/7, 2 sp, Fera, Isabel
- 22/7, 1 sp, Munda, New Georgia
- 23/7, 1 sp, Hambere, Kolombangara
- 25/7, 1 sp, Hambere, Kolombangara
- 27/7, 2 sp, Kirakira, Makira
- 30/7, 1 sp, Kirakira, Makira
- 31/7, 1 sp, Molehanua, Ugi
- 8/8, 1 sp, Lama, Malaita
- 10/8, 1 sp, Auki, Malaita

Sanford's Sea Eagle*Haliaeetus sanfordi*

- 16/7, 3 sp, Tunuru, Bougainville
- 21/1, 1 sp, Buka Passage, Bougainville
- 22/7, 1 sp, Buka Passage, Bougainville
- 20/7, 1 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
- 23/7, 1 sp, Hambere, Kolombangara
- 28/7, 1 sp, Naara-Hauta, Makira
- 29/7, 2 sp, Hauta, Makira
- 30/7, 1 sp, Raavo River, Makira
- 8/8, 1 sp, Kwaimanafu, Malaita
- 10/8, 1 sp, Auki, Malaita

Swamp Harrier

Circus approximans

- 6/8, 1 subad.(?), Henderson airfield, Guadalcanal

Variable Goshawk 15/7, 2 sp, Arawa, Bougainville 17/7, 1 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville 21/7, 1 sp, Buka, Bougainville	<i>Accipiter hiogaster bougainvillei</i>
Variable Goshawk 20/7, 3 sp+1 heard, Tirotonga, Isabel 21/7, 1 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel	<i>Accipiter hiogaster rufoschistaceus</i>
Brown Goshawk 4/8, 1-2 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell 5/8, 1 sp heard, Lake Tenggano, Rennell 5/8, 2 sp, Tinggoa, Rennell	<i>Accipiter fasciatus fasciatus</i>
Pied Goshawk 13/7, 1 sp, Panguna, Bougainville 14/7, 1 sp, Panguna, Bougainville 15/7, 1 sp, Aropa, Bougainville 10/7, 4 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal 12/7, 1 sp heard, Betilonga-Camp II, Guadalcanal 20/7, 2 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel 9/8, 1 sp (dark phase), Lama, Malaita 10/8, 1 sp heard, Lama, Malaita	<i>Accipiter albogularis woodfordi</i>
Pied Goshawk 28/7, 2 sp+1 heard, Naara-Hauta, Makira 29/7, 1 sp, Hauta, Makira	<i>Accipiter albogularis albogularis</i>
Imitator Goshawk 14/7, 1 sp?, Panguna, Bougainville 19/7, 1 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville	<i>Accipiter imitator</i>

Rails, Crakes and Coots

Rallidae

Woodford's Rail 12/7, 1 sp, Arawa, Bougainville 13/7, 1 sp, Arawa, Bougainville	<i>Nesoclopeus woodfordi tertius</i>
Woodford's Rail 18/7, 2 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel 19/7, 1 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel	<i>Nesoclopeus woodfordi immaculatus</i>
Woodford's Rail 10/8, 1 sp, Auki, Malaita	<i>Nesoclopeus woodfordi ssp. nov.</i>

NOTE: The Woodford's Rail complex could possibly be better treated as comprising three or four distinct species, so it's worth trying to see all the different subspecies.

Buff-banded Rail 21/7, 1 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal	<i>Gallirallus philippensis christophori</i>
Pale-vented Bush-hen 8/8, 2-4 sp, Taladola, Malaita	<i>Amaurornis moluccana ultima</i>

Roviana Rail

23/7, 2 sp, Kukundu, Kolombangara
 25/7, 1 sp heard, Hambere, Kolombangara

Gallirallus roviae

Purple Swamphen

15/7, 1 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
 4/8, 4 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell
 5/8, 3 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell
 11/8, >20 sp, Betikama, Guadalcanal

Porphyrio porphyrio samoensis

Stilts, Avocets**White-headed Stilt**

31/7, 2 sp, Kirakira, Makira

Himantopus leucocephalus

NOTE: The first record from the Solomons and the second record for the nation with one previous record from Vanikoro in the Temotus. Probably the one of these birds also seen by Birdquest in August.

Plovers**Charadriidae****Pacific Golden Plover**

14/7, ca 15 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
 16/7, 4 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
 21/7, ca 30 sp, Buka Passage, Bougainville
 21/7, 2 ad+2 juv, Fera, Isabel

Pluvialis fulva

Mongolian Plover

21/7, ca 5 sp, Buka Passage, Bougainville

Charadrius mongolus

Sandpipers and Snipes**Scolopaciidae****Whimbrel**

21/7, ca 40 sp, Buka Passage, Bougainville
 22/7, ca 15 sp, Buka Passage, Bougainville

Numenius phaeopus

Grey-tailed Tattler

21/7, 12 sp, Buka Passage, Bougainville
 22/7, 8 sp, Buka Passage, Bougainville

Tringa brevipes

Terek Sandpiper

21/7, 1 sp, Buka Passage, Bougainville

Xenus cinereus

Common Sandpiper

21/7, 1 sp, Buka Passage, Bougainville

Actitis hypoleucos

Ruddy Turnstone

21/7, 10 sp, Buka Passage, Bougainville

Arenaria i. interpres

Gulls, Terns and Skimmers**Laridae****Black Noddy**

21/7, ca 5 sp, Munda-Gizo
 22/7, >30 sp, Gizo-Ranonga
 23/7, 1 sp, Kolombangara-Gizo

Anous minutus minutus

Greater Crested Tern

12/7, 2 sp, Buka Passage, Bougainville
 15/7, 1 sp, Tunuru, Bougainville
 15/7, 3 sp, Aropa, Bougainville
 21/7, ca 30 sp, Buka Passage, Bougainville
 21/7, ca 10 sp, Munda-Gizo
 26/7, >30 sp, Gizo-Munda
 1/8, 1 sp, Ugi-Makira
 5/8, 3 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell
 7/8, ca 10 sp, Honiara, Guadalcanal
 7/8, 1 sp, Guadalcanal-Malaita
 10/8, 1 sp, Malaita-Guadalcanal

*Thalasseus bergii cristatus***Bridled Tern**

21/7, 1 sp, Aropa, Bougainville
 21/7, >30 sp, Munda-Gizo
 22/7, 2 sp, Gizo-Ranongga
 10/7, 1 sp, Malaita-Guadalcanal

*Onychoprion anaethetus anaethetus***Sooty Tern**

23/7, 1 sp, Kolombangara-Gizo

*Onychoprion fuscatus serratus***Roseate Tern**

21/7, 1 sp, Buka Passage, Bougainville

*Sterna dougallii bangsi***Black-naped Tern**

21/7, ca 30 sp, Buka Passage, Bougainville
 22/7, 2 sp, Buka Passage, Bougainville

*Sterna sumatrana sumatrana***Pigeons and Doves****Columbidae****Metallic Pigeon**

29/7, 1 sp, Hauta, Makira

*Columba vitiensis halmaheira***Yellow-legged Pigeon**

29/7, 3 sp, Hauta, Makira

*Columba pallidiceps***MacKinlay's Cuckoo-Dove**

13/7, 2 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
 13/7, 1 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
 16/7, 1 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
 10/7, >30 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
 11/7, 1 sp, Raho, Guadalcanal
 12/7, 1 sp heard, Camp II-Betilonga, Guadalcanal
 18/7, 1 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
 20/7, 2 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
 21/7, 2 sp, Gizo, Gizo
 21/7, 1 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
 21/7, 1 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
 4/8, >30 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell
 5/8, >15 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell
 6/8, 1 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
 9/8, 3 sp, Taladola, Malaita

Macropygia mackinlayi arossi

Crested Cuckoo-Dove

14/7, 1 sp heard, Panguna, Bougainville
 11/7, 2 sp, Raho-Betilonga, Guadalcanal
 12/7, 1 sp heard, Betilonga-Camp II, Guadalcanal
 14/7, 1 sp+1 sp heard, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guad.

*Reinwardtoena crassirostris***Stephan's Emerald Dove**

15/7, 1 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
 17/7, 1 sp, Betilonga-Raho, Guadalcanal
 22/7, 1 sp, Gizo, Gizo
 23/7, 1 sp, Hambere, Kolombangara
 24/7, 1 sp, Hambere-Mt. Rano, Kolombangara

*Chalcophaps stephani mortoni***Bronze Ground Dove**

24/7, 1 sp, Hambere-Mt. Rano, Kolombangara

*Gallinolumba beccarii intermedia***Bronze Ground Dove**

5/8, 1 imm., Lake Tenggano, Rennell

*Gallinolumba beccarii solomonensis***Superb Fruit Dove**

13/7, 1 female, Camp II-Mt. Mbutohaina, Guad.
 18/7, 1 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
 22/7, 1 sp, Gizo, Gizo
 23/7, 1 sp heard, Ranongga

*Ptilinopus superbus superbus***Silver-capped Fruit Dove**

31/7, 2 sp, Molehanua, Ugi

*Ptilinopus richardsii richardsii***Silver-capped Fruit Dove**

4/8, 2 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell

*Ptilinopus richardsii cyanopterus***Yellow-bibbed Fruit Dove**

14/7, 1 pair, Panguna, Bougainville

*Ptilinopus solomonensis bistictus***Yellow-bibbed Fruit Dove**

13/7, >5 sp, Camp II-Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal
 14/7, >5 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal

*Ptilinopus solomonensis ocularis***Yellow-bibbed Fruit Dove**

8/8, 1 female, Lama, Malaita

*Ptilinopus solomonensis ambiguus***Yellow-bibbed Fruit Dove**

28/7, 4 sp, Naara-Hauta, Makira
 29/7, ca 10 sp, Hauta, Makira

*Ptilinopus solomonensis solomonensis***Claret-breasted Fruit Dove**

14/7, 2 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
 21/7, 1 sp, Buka, Bougainville
 10/7, > 5 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
 19/7, >10 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
 22/7, 2 sp, Gizo, Gizo
 24/7, 1 sp heard, Hambere-Mt. Rano, Kolomb.
 8/8, 1 sp, Lama, Malaita

Ptilinopus viridis lewisii

White-headed Fruit Dove*Ptilinopus eugeniae*

29/7, 2 sp, Hauta, Makira

NOTE: In a genetic study, Cibois et.al. (2013) found the White-headed Fruit Dove to be embedded within the Claret-breasted Fruit Dove (*P. viridis*). Except for head color they are very similar and they suggest that a recent common ancestry could cause the paraphyly of *P. viridis* by incomplete lineage sorting.

Pacific Imperial Pigeon

Ducula pacifica pacifica

4/8, 1 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell

5/8, 9 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell

6/8, 5 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell

Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeon*Ducula rubricera rufigula*

13/7, 1 sp, Panguna, Bougainville

14/7, 1 sp, Panguna, Bougainville

15/7, 1 sp, Arawa, Bougainville

16/7, 1 sp, Arawa, Bougainville

21/7, 5 sp, Buka, Bougainville

10/7, >30 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal

11/7, 1 sp, Raho-Betlonga, Guadalcanal

12/7, 1 sp, Betilonga-Camp II, Guadalcanal

13/7, 2 sp, Camp II-Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal

14/7, 1 sp heard, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal

16/7, 2 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina-Betilonga, Guadalcanal

17/7, 1 sp heard, Betilonga-Raho, Guadalcanal

18/7, 1 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel

19/7, ca 5 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel

20/7, 1 sp+heard, Tirotonga, Isabel

21/7, 1 sp heard, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal

23/7, heard, Ranongga

23/7, heard, Hambere, Kolombangara

24/7, 3 sp+heard, Hambere-Mt. Rano, Kolomb.

25/7, heard, Hambere-Mt. Rano, Kolombangara

28/7, ca 15 sp, Naara-Hauta, Makira

30/7, ca 5 sp, Hauta-Naara, Makira

30/7, 2 sp, Raavo River, Makira

8/8, 1 sp heard, Lama, Malaita

Island Imperial Pigeon

Ducula pistrinaria pistrinaria

13/7, 2 sp, Arawa, Bougainville

15/7, ca 15 sp, Arawa, Bougainville

16/7, ca 20 sp, Arawa, Bougainville

17/7, ca 10 sp, Arawa, Bougainville

21/7, ca 20 sp, Buka, Bougainville

22/7, ca 10 sp, Buka, Bougainville

17/7, ca 10 sp, Fera, Isabel

22/7, 1 sp, Gizo, Gizo

31/7, 1 sp, Molehanua, Ugi

9/8, 5 sp, Taladola, Malaita

Chestnut-bellied Imperial Pigeon*Ducula brenchleyi*

29/7, 4 sp, Hauta, Makira

Torresian Imperial Pigeon

Ducula spilorrhoa

21/7, 6 sp, Buka Passage, Bougainville

Pale Mountain Pigeon

13/7, 2 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
 14/7, ca 10 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
 19/7, ca 10 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
 20/7, ca 15 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
 12/7, >10 sp, Betilonga-Camp II, Guadalcanal
 13/7, >10 sp, Camp II-Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal
 14/7, ca 10 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal
 25/7, 2 sp, Hambere-Mt. Rano, Kolombangara

*Gymnophaps solomonensis***Caracaras, Falcons****Falconidae****Oriental Hobby**

16/7, 1 sp, Tunuru, Bougainville

*Falco severus papuanus***Cockatoos****Cacatuidae****Ducorp's Cockatoo**

14/7, 2 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
 15/7, ca 10 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
 16/7, 5 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
 18/7, ca 5 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
 19/7, ca 5 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
 20/7, ca 10 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
 20/7, 1 sp, Mt. Balbi-Buka, Bougainville
 21/7, ca 10 sp, Buka, Bougainville
 10/7, >30 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
 11/7, >15 sp, Raho-Betilonga, Guadalcanal
 12/7, >25 sp, Betilonga-Camp II, Guadalcanal
 13/7, 1 sp+heard, Camp II-Mt. Mbutohaina, Guad.
 14/7, heard, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal
 16/7, 2 sp heard, Mt. Mbutohaina-Betilonga, Guad.
 17/7, 1 sp heard, Betilonga-Raho, Guadalcanal
 17/7, 2 sp, Buala, Isabel
 18/7, >30 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
 19/7, >30 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
 20/7, >30 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
 23/7, 4 sp, Vella Lavella
 26/7, ca 5 sp, Honiara, Guadalcanal
 6/8, 1 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
 11/8, 2 sp, Betikama, Guadalcanal

*Cacatua ducorpsii***Parrots****Psittacidae****Finsch's Pygmy Parrot**

10/7, 1 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
 16/7, 4-5 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina-Betilonga, Guad.
 20/7, 1 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel

*Micropsitta finschii nanina***Finsch's Pygmy Parrot**

30/7, 1 sp heard, Hauta, Makira
 31/7, 2 sp+heard, Molehanua, Ugi
 4/8, 1 sp heard, Lake Tenggano, Rennell
 5/8, 1 sp, Tinggoa, Rennell

Micropsitta finschii finschii

Cardinal Lory

12/7, 10 sp, Buka-Arawa, Bougainville
13/7, 1 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
15/7, 5 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
16/7, ca 10 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
21/7, ca 50 sp, Buka, Bougainville
22/7, ca 15 sp, Buka, Bougainville
10/7, 5 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
11/7, 2 sp, Raho-Betilonga, Guadalcanal
18/7, 3 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
19/7, 6 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
20/7, >15 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
21/7, ca 5 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
21/7, ca 10 sp, Karuo, Isabel
22/7, ca 10 sp, Gizo, Gizo
23/7, a few sp, Vella Lavella
24/7, >20 sp, Hambere-Mt. Rano, Kolombangara
25/7, >20 sp, Mt. Rano-Hambere, Kolombangara
28/7, ca 5 sp, Naara-Hauta, Makira
29/7, ca 5 sp, Hauta, Makira
2/8, >10 sp, Honiara, Guadalcanal
10/8, 2 sp, Lama, Malaita

Chalcopsitta cardinalis

Coconut Lorikeet

19/7, 2 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
20/7, 10 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
10/7, 2 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
17/7, ca 20 sp, Betilonga-Raho, Guadalcanal
21/7, 2 sp, Karuo, Isabel
22/7, ca 5 sp, Gizo, Gizo
23/7, a few sp, Ranongga
23/7, a few sp, Vella Lavella
23/7, a few sp, Hambere, Kolombangara
25/7, ca 10 sp, Hambere-Mt. Rano, Kolombangara
8/8, ca 15 sp, Taladola, Malaita

Trichoglossus haematodus massena

Yellow-bibbed Lory

10/7, >30 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
11/7, >10 sp, Raho-Betilonga, Guadalcanal
12/7, ca 2 sp, Betilonga-Camp II, Guadalcanal
16/7, 2 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina-Betilonga, Guadalcanal
31/7, 1 sp, Molehanua, Ugi
4/8, 2 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell
7/8, ca 10 sp, Auki, Malaita
7/8, ca 5 sp, Kwaimanafu-Siubongi, Malaita
9/8, 2 sp, Lama, Malaita

Lorius chlorocercus

Meek's Lorikeet

13/7, heard, Panguna, Bougainville
14/7, 1 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
18/7, heard, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
19/7, heard, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
20/7, 2 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
24/7, 1 sp, Professor's Camp, Kolombangara

Charmosyna meeki

Red-flanked Lorikeet
17/7, 2 sp, Arawa, Bougainville

Charmosyna placentis pallidior

Duchess Lorikeet

13/7, ca 10 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
15/7, ca 20 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
18/7, heard, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
19/7, 1 sp+heard, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
20/7, heard, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
28/7, 2 sp, Hauta, Makira
29/7, 1 sp, Hauta, Makira

Charmosyna margarethae

Song Parrot

18/7, 2 sp heard, Tirotonga, Isabel
29/7, 1 male, Hauta, Makira
9/8, 2 sp, Taladola, Malaita

Geoffroyus heteroclitus heteroclitus

Song Parrot

5/8, 1 sp, Tinggoa, Rennell
6/8, 2 sp, Tinggoa, Rennell

Geoffroyus heteroclitus hyacinthinus

Eclectus Parrot

15/7, 5 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
21/7, 3 sp, Buka, Bougainville
10/7, 1 sp+heard, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
11/7, 1 sp heard, Raho-Betilonga, Guadalcanal
18/7, 3 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
19/7, >5 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
20/7, >10 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
22/7, 1 sp, Gizo, Gizo
23/7, 2 sp, Ranongga
23/7, 2 sp, Vella Lavella
29/7, 2 sp, Hauta, Maikra
31/7, 1 sp, Molehanua, Ugi

Eclectus roratus solomonensis

Cuckoos

Cuculidae

Buff-headed Coucal*

23/7, 1 sp heard, Ranongga
24/7, 1 sp heard, Hambere-Mt. Rano, Kolomb.
25/7, 2 sp heard, Hambere-Mt. Rano, Kolomb.

Centropus milo albidiventris

Buff-headed Coucal

10/7, 3 sp+heard, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
11/7, 1 sp heard, Raho-Betilonga, Guadalcanal
12/7, 1 sp heard, Betilonga-Camp II, Guadalcanal
13/7, 1 sp, Camp II-Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal
16/7, 1 sp+heard, Mt. Mbutohaina-Betilonga, Guad.
17/7, 1 sp+2 sp heard, Betilonga-Raho, Guad.
6/8, 1 sp heard, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
11/8, 1 sp heard, Betikama, Guadalcanal

Centropus milo milo

Pacific Koel 13/7, 1 sp heard, Camp II, Guadalcanal 17/7, 2 sp heard, Betilonga-Raho, Guadalcanal 23/7, heard, Ranongga	<i>Eudynamys orientalis alberti</i>
Shining Bronze Cuckoo* 4/8, 2 sp heard, Lake Tenggano, Rennell 6/8, 1 sp heard, Tinggoa, Rennell	<i>Chrysococcyx lucidus harterti</i>
Shining Bronze Cuckoo 13/7, 5 sp, Panguna, Bougainville 15/7, 1 sp, Arawa, Bougainville 10/7, 2 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal 19/7, 3 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel 21/7, 1 sp, Karuo, Isabel 22/7, 1 sp, Gizo, Gizo 29/7, 1 sp, Hauta, Makira	<i>Chrysococcyx lucidus lucidus</i>
Brush Cuckoo 13/7, 1 sp heard, Arawa, Bougainville 13/7, 1 sp heard, Panguna, Bougainville 18/7, 1 sp heard, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville 13/7, 1 sp heard, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville 11/7, 1 sp heard, Betilonga, Guadalcanal 12/7, 2 sp heard, Betilonga-Camp II, Guadalcanal 13/7, 2 sp heard, Camp II-Mt. Mbutohaina, Guad. 14/7, 3 sp heard, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal 16/7, 1 sp heard, Mt. Mbutohaina-Betilonga, Guad. 17/7, 1 sp heard, Betilonga-Raho, Guadalcanal 25/7, 1 sp, Hambere-Mt. Rano, Kolombangara 28/7, 3 sp heard, Naara-Hauta, Makira 29/7, 2 sp heard, Hauta, Makira	<i>Cacomantis variolosus addendus</i>

Owls

Strigidae

West Solomons Boobook

15/7, 2 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
19/7, 1 sp heard, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville

Ninox jacquinoti eichhorni

Guadalcanal Boobook

11/7, 1 sp heard, Betilonga, Guadalcanal
16/7, 1 sp heard, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal
21/7, 3 sp heard, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
6/8, 1 pair, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal

Ninox granti

Makira Boobook

29/7, 3 sp, Hauta, Makira
[30/7, 1 recently caught, Hauta-Naara, Makira]

Ninox roseoaxillaris

NOTE: The different boobook taxa in the Solomons are traditionally treated as different subspecies of Solomons Boobook (*N. jacquinoti*), but are split into four species in "Birds of Melanesia" based on differences in vocalizations, plumage and size. Makira Boobook is previously only known from three specimens and a handful of sightings, and Malaita Boobook is only known from three specimens.

Fearful Owl

16/7, 2 sp, Arawa, Bougainville

Nesasio solomonensis

Frogmouths**Podargidae****Solomons Frogmouth***Rigidipenna inexpectata*

18/7, 1 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel

19/7, 1 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel

NOTE: Solomons Frogmouth was described as a good species as late as 2007, when it was found to be distinct enough to be placed in its own monotypic genus. It was previously thought that the frogmouths in the Solomons were Marbled Frgmouths. Samson, our guide at Mt. Austen, claimed that there are frogmouths also on Guadalcanal, even though they are rare and difficult to see.

Treeswifts**Hemiprocniidae****Moustached Treeswift***Hemiprocne mystacea woodfordiana*

15/7, 1 sp, Arawa, Bougainville

17/7, 3 sp, Arawa, Bougainville

20/7, 1 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville

20/7, 2 sp, Buka, Bougainville

12/7, 3 sp, Betilonga-Camp II, Guadalcanal

13/7, 3 sp, Camp II-Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal

18/7, 2 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel

19/7, 3 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel

20/7, 1 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel

9/8, 2 sp, Taladola, Malaita

Swifts**Apodidae****Glossy Swiftlet***Collocalia esculenta tametamele*

13/7, common, Panguna, Bougainville

14/7, common, Panguna, Bougainville

20/7, 1 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville

Glossy Swiftlet*Collocalia esculenta becki*

10/7, >10 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal

11/7, ca 5 sp, Raho-Betilonga, Guadalcanal

13/7, 1 sp, Camp II-Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal

16/7, 1 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina-Betilonga, Guadalcanal

17/7, ca 5 sp, Betilonga-Raho, Guadalcanal

18/7, >1 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel

19/7, >10 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel

20/7, >10 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel

23/7, 1 sp, Vella Lavella

24/7, ca 5 sp, Hambere-Mt. Rano, Kolombangara

25/7, ca 10 sp, Hambere-Mt. Rano, Kolombangara

Glossy Swiftlet*Collocalia esculenta makirensis*

27/7, 2 sp, Naara, Makira

28/7, >20 sp, Naara-Hauta, Makira

29/7, >30 sp, Hauta, Makira

30/7, >50 sp, Hauta-Kirakira, Makira

Glossy Swiftlet*Collocalia esculenta desiderata*

3/8, 2 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell

4/8, >10 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell

5/8, >20 sp, Lake Tenggano-Tinggoa, Rennell

6/8, 2 sp, Tinggoa, Rennell

White-rumped Swiftlet
12/7, 1 sp, Betilonga, Guadalcanal

Aerodramus spodiopygius reichenowi

Uniform Swiftlet
15/7, ca 10 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
16/7, ca 10 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
17/7, ca 10 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
10/7, >10 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
12/7, >10 sp, Betilonga-Camp II, Guadalcanal
17/7, ca 2 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
18/7, ca 2 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
19/7, ca 2 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
20/7, ca 2 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
21/7, common, Tirotonga-Buala, Isabel
21/7, common, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
28/7, >30 sp, Naara-Hauta, Makira
3/8, 4 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell
4/8, >10 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell
5/8, >10 sp, Lake Tenggano-Tinggoa, Rennell
6/8, 2 sp, Tinggoa, Rennell
8/8, 5 sp, Siubongi-Kwaimanafu, Malaita

Aerodramus vanikorensis lugubris

Rollers

Coraciidae

Oriental Dollarbird
13/7, 1 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
21/7, 2 sp, Buka, Bougainville
10/7, 1 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
11/7, 1 sp, Raho-Betilonga, Guadalcanal
12/7, 1 sp, Betilonga-Camp II, Guadalcanal
13/7, 1 sp, Camp II-Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal
18/7, 1 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
20/7, 1 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
28/7, 2 sp, Naara-Hauta, Makira
30/7, 2 sp, Naara, Makira
31/7, 1 sp, Molehanua, Ugi

Eurystomus orientalis solomonensis

Kingfishers

Alcedinidae

Ultramarine Kingfisher
15/7, 2 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
16/7, 1 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
21/7, 3 sp, Buka, Bougainville
10/7, 2 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
18/7, 1 sp+1 heard, Tirotonga, Isabel
19/7, 2 sp+1 heard, Tirotonga, Isabel
20/7, 2 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
21/7, 1 sp heard, Tirotonga, Isabel

Todiramphus leucopygius

Melanesian Kingfisher
21/7, 1 sp?, Buka, Bougainville
10/7, 2 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
22/7, 3 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal

Todiramphus tristrami alberti

Melanesian Kingfisher
30/7, 1 sp, Ravo River, Makira

Todiramphus tristrami solomonis

Melanesian Kingfisher

4/8, 3 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell

5/8, 4 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell

Todiramphus tristrami amoenus

NOTE: Melanesian Kingfisher is split from Collared Kingfisher (*T. chloris*) based on Andersen et.al., 2013, who found the species to be massively paraphyletic. Among the Melanesian races only *alberti* and *nusae* were sampled and a more dense sampling may reveal further splits in the complex.

Beach Kingfisher

21/7, 2 sp, Buka passage, Bougainville

22/7, 2 sp, White Island, Bougainville

22/7, 1 sp, New Georgia-Gizo

25/7, 1 sp, Hambere, Kolombangara

31/7, 1 sp, Molehanua, Ugi

1/8, 1 sp, Molehanua, Ugi

Todiramphus saurophagus saurophagus

Sacred Kingfisher

15/7, 2 sp, Arawa, Bougainville

17/7, 1 sp, Arawa, Bougainville

21/7, 2 sp, Buka, Bougainville

22/7, 3 sp, Buka, Bougainville

3/8, 1 sp, Tinggoa, Rennell

5/8, 1 sp, Tinggoa, Rennell

6/8, 1 sp, Tinggoa, Rennell

Todiramphus sanctus sanctus

NOTE: Sacred Kingfisher is not supposed to occur on Rennell, and some of the races of Melanesian Kingfisher in the Solomons are confusingly similar to Sacred Kingfisher. However the bird at Tinggoa was much smaller, with a thinner bill and much buffier below than the larger and whiter *amoenus* Melanesian Kingfishers seen at Lake Tenggano.

Common Kingfisher

17/7, 1 sp, Betilonga-Raho, Guadalcanal

23/7, 1 sp, Hambere, Kolombangara

25/7, 1 sp, Hambere, Kolombangara

Alcedo atthis salomonensis

Variable Dwarf Kingfisher

24/7, 2 sp+2 heard, Mt. Rano, Kolombangara

Ceyx lepidus collectoris

Variable Dwarf Kingfisher

10/7, 1 sp heard, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal

16/7, 1 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina-Betilonga, Guadalcanal

Ceyx lepidus nigromaxilla

Variable Dwarf Kingfisher

27/7, 1 sp heard, Ravo River-Naara, Makira

28/7, 1 sp+1 sp heard, Naara-Hauta, Makira

Ceyx lepidus gentianus

NOTE: Many of the 15 different races within the Variable Dwarf Kingfisher complex are highly distinct and could be treated as different species. A recent genetic study (Andersen et.al., 2013) concluded that each taxon is monophyletic and substantially diverged from all other taxa (2.6-6.8 % divergent in uncorrected ND2 *p*-distance). There are six endemic subspecies in the Solomons; of these the very similar *pallidus* on Bougainville and *meeki* on Choiseul and Isabel form a sister pair, as do *collectoris* from the New Georgia islands and *nigromaxilla* from Guadalcanal. Anderson et.al. propose that all 15 races should be seen as distinct species. Even though their discussion is based on an evolutionary species concept and it remains to be seen whether their recommendations will be more widely accepted, it is a good idea to try to see as many as possible of the different races.

Hornbills**Bucerotidae****Blyth's Hornbill**

13/7, 1 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
 15/7, 2 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
 16/7, 3 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
 17/7, 2 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
 18/7, heard, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
 19/7, heard, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
 20/7, 1 sp+heard, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
 21/7, 5 sp, Buka, Bougainville

*Rhyticeros plicatus harterti***Blyth's Hornbill**

10/7, >20 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
 11/7, 3 sp, Raho-Betilonga, Guadalcanal
 12/7, 2 sp heard, Betilonga-Camp II, Guadalcanal
 13/7, 1 sp, Camp II-Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal
 14/7, 2 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal
 16/7, 2 sp heard, Mt. Mbutohaina-Betilonga, Guad.
 17/7, 1 sp heard, Betilonga-Raho, Guadalcanal
 23/7, 1 sp, Hambere, Kolombangara
 24/7, 1 sp heard, Mt. Rano, Kolombangara
 25/7, 2 sp heard, Mt. Rano, Kolombangara

*Rhyticeros plicatus mendanae***Pittas****Pittidae****Black-faced Pitta**

18/7, 1 sp heard, Tirotonga, Isabel
 19/7, 1 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel

*Pitta anerythra pallida***Honeyeaters****Meliphagidae****Guadalcanal Honeyeater**

13/7, 1 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal
 14/7, ca 15 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal

*Guadalcanaria inexpectata***Makira Honeyeater**

27/7, 3 sp, Naara, Makira
 28/7, >10 sp, Naara-Hauta, Makira
 29/7, 3 sp, Hauta, Makira
 30/7, >5 sp, Hauta-Naara, Makira

*Meliarchus sclateri***Bougainville Honeyeater**

14/7, 2 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
 19/7, 1 sp+2 heard, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville

*Stresemannia bougainvillei***Cardinal Myzomela**

31/7, 7 sp, Molehanua, Ugi

*Myzomela cardinalis pulcherrima***Cardinal Myzomela**

3/8, ca 5 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell
 4/8, >20 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell
 5/8, >20 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell

Myzomela cardinalis sanfordi

Red-capped Myzomela

13/7, ca 10 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
 14/7, ca 15 sp, Panguna, Bougainville

*Myzomela lafargei***Crimson-rumped Myzomela**

24/7, ca 5 sp, Mt. Rano, Kolombangara
 24/7, ca 5 sp, Mt. Rano, Kolombangara

*Myzomela eichhorni eichhorni***Crimson-rumped Myzomela**

23/7, 1 sp, Vella Lavella

*Myzomela eichhorni atrata***Red-vested Myzomela**

10/8, 1 pair, Lama, Malaita

*Myzomela malaitae***Black-headed Myzomela**

10/7, 2 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
 11/7, 1 sp, Raho, Guadalcanal
 12/7, 3 sp, Betilonga-Camp II, Guadalcanal
 13/7, 1 sp, Camp II-Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal

*Myzomela melanocephala***Sooty Myzomela**

27/7, 2-3 sp, Naara, Makira
 28/7, >10 sp, Naara-Hauta, Makira
 29/7, >10 sp, Hauta, Makira
 30/7, ca 5 sp, Hauta-Naara, Makira

*Myzomela tristrami***Australasian Warblers****Acanthizidae****Fan-tailed Gerygone**

4/8, >10 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell
 5/8, >15 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell

Gerygone flavolateralis citrina

NOTE: Fan-tailed Gerygone also occurs on Vanuatu and New Caledonia, but the *citrina* race found on Rennell is highly distinct and could be treated as a distinct species.

Cuckooshrikes**Campephagidae****North Melanesian Cuckooshrike**

13/7, 2 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal

Coracina welchmani amadonis

Barred Cuckooshrike

13/7, 1 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
 19/7, 3 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel

Coracina lineata nigrifrons

Barred Cuckooshrike

10/7, 2 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
 13/7, 1 sp, Camp II-Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal

Coracina lineata pusilla

Barred Cuckooshrike

28/7, 1 sp, Naara-Hauta, Makira
 29/7, 1 sp, Hauta, Makira

Coracina lineata makirae

White-bellied Cuckooshrike
15/7, 2 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
16/7, 5 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
17/7, 2 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
21/7, 2 sp, Buka, Bougainville

Coracina papuensis perpallida

White-bellied Cuckooshrike
10/7, >30 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
17/7, 2 sp, Betilonga-Raho, Guadalcanal
19/7, 3 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
22/7, 1 sp, Gizo, Gizo
23/7, 2 sp, Vella Lavella
23/7, 3 sp, Hambere, Ranongga
25/7, 2 sp, Mt. Rano, Kolombangara
10/7, 2 sp, Betikama, Guadalcanal

Coracina papuensis elegans

White-bellied Cuckooshrike
7/8, 2 sp, Siubongi, Malaita

Coracina papuensis eyerdami

Grey-capped Cicadabird
13/7, 4 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
19/7, 1 female, Tirotonga, Isabel
20/7, 2 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel

Coracina remota saturatior

Grey-capped Cicadabird
10/7, >5 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
13/7, 1 female, Camp II-Mt. Mbutohaina, Guad.
14/7, 1 male, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal

Coracina remota erythropygia

NOTE: The four races of Grey-capped Cicadabird are endemic to the Bismarcks and Solomons, but treated as part of the more widespread Common Cicadabird in "Birds of Melanesia".

Makira Cicadabird
27/7, 1 pair, Naara, Makira
28/7, 1 male, Naara-Hauta, Makira
29/7, 1 female, Hauta, Makira
30/7, 1 female, Hauta, Makira

Coracina salomonis

Solomons Cuckooshrike
15/7, 1 female, Arawa, Bougainville
10/7, 2 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
19/7, 2 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel

Coracina holopolia holopolia

Solomons Cuckooshrike
9/8, 1 pair, Lama, Malaita

Coracina holopolia tricolor

Long-tailed Triller
27/7, 3 sp, Naara, Makira
28/7, 3 sp, Naara-Hauta, Makira
29/7, 3 sp, Hauta, Makira
31/7, 5 sp, Molehanua, Ugi

Lalage leucopyga affinis

Whistlers and allies***Pachycephalidae*****Oriole Whistler**

28/7, ca 5 sp heard, Naara-Hauta, Makira
 29/7, 2 males, Hauta, Makira
 30/7, 1 sp+heard, Hauta-Naara, Makira

*Pachycephala orioloides christophori***Oriole Whistler**

13/7, 2 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
 14/7, ca 10 sp, Panguna, Bougainville

*Pachycephala orioloides bougainvillei***Oriole Whistler**

12/7, ca 10 sp heard, Betilonga-Camp II, Guad.
 13/7, 1 female, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal
 14/7, 1 male+1 female+1 imm., Mt. Mbutoh., Guad.

*Pachycephala orioloides cinnamomea***Oriole Whistler**

24/7, 1 male+heard, Mt. Rano, Kolombangara
 25/7, 2 sp+heard, Mt. Rano, Kolombangara

Pachycephala orioloides centralis

NOTE: The Oriole Whistler complex (previously included in Golden Whistler) consist of eight recognised subspecies. They form a well supported clade in a recent study by Andersen et.al. (2013). The study showed that *christophori* from Makira is the most basal branch, that *cinnamomea* is sister to *bougainvillea*, and that *centralis* is sister to *melanonota* from Vella Lavella and Ranongga. The study did not include three Solomon races (*pavuvu*, *melanoptera* and *sanfordi*) and considering the plumage variation it is wise to try and see as many as possible of the different races, as more splits in the complex are possible in the future.

Rennell Whistler

4/8, 2 sp heard, Lake Tenggano, Rennell
 5/8, 1 male+2 sp heard, Lake Tenggano, Rennell

Pachycephala feminina

NOTE: Rennell Whistler has traditionally been considered as a distinct subspecies in the Oriole (or Golden) Whistler complex, differing from all other taxa by lacking a distinct male plumage. It is split by Dutson in "Birds of Melanesia" and this split is supported by genetic results which show it to be basal to a Polynesian clade of whistlers (Andersen et.al. 2013).

Bougainville Hooded Whistler

19/7, ca 10 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville

*Pachycephala richardsi***Guadalcanal Hooded Whistler**

14/7, >10 sp, Panguna, Bougainville

Pachycephala implicata

NOTE: The two "hooded whistlers" have traditionally been regarded as forming a single species. The male plumage is however strikingly different and they are split by Dutson in "Birds of Melanesia". This split is further strongly supported by genetic results which show a 7.9 % divergence in DN2 sequences (Andersen et.al. 2013).

Drongos***Pachycephalidae*****Solomons Drongo**

14/7, 1 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal

Dicrurus longirostris meeki

Solomons Drongo

28/7, 1 sp, Naara-Hauta, Makira
 29/7, 1 sp, Hauta, Makira

Dicrurus longirostris longirostris

NOTE: The drongos in the Solomons were split as Solomons Islands Drongo (*D. solomenensis*) from Spangled Drongo (*D. bracteatus*) by Doughty in "Birds of The Solomons, Vanuatu and New Caledonia", based on differences in wing length, tail shape, bill length/shape, habitat preferences, behaviour and vocalizations. The split has not been generally accepted but in "Birds of Melanesia" Dutson note that both *meeki* and *longirostris* could be treated as separated species. We follow Doughty, but the whole Hair-crested/Spangled Drongo complex is in dire need of more in depth study and it would not be surprising if two species are involved in the Solomons.

Fantails***Rhipiduridae*****Willie Wagtail**

13/7, 1 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
 15/7, 3 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
 16/7, 1 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
 21/7, ≥1 sp, Buka, Bougainville
 22/7, ≥1 sp, Buka, Bougainville
 10/7, 3 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
 12/7, 3 sp, Betilonga-Camp II, Guadalcanal
 13/7, 2 sp, Camp II-Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal
 16/7, 2 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina-Betilonga, Guadalcanal
 17/7, 1 sp, Betilonga-Raho, Guadalcanal
 21/7, 1 sp, Buala, Isabel
 21/7, 1 sp, Karuo, Isabel
 21/7, 1 sp, Fera, Isabel
 22/7, 2 sp, Gizo, Gizo
 23/7, 2 sp, Hambere, Kolombangara
 27/7, 1 sp, Ravo River-Naara, Makira
 30/7, 4 sp, Naara-Ravo River, Makira
 31/7, 1 sp, Kirakira, Makira
 31/7, 1 sp, Molehanua, Ugi
 1/8, 1 sp+1 heard, Kirakira, Makira
 2/8, 1 sp+1 heard, Kirakira, Makira
 2/8, 2 heard, Honiara, Guadalcanal
 3/8, 1 heard, Honiara, Guadalcanal
 6/8, 2 sp, Honiara, Guadalcanal
 7/8, 1 sp+3 heard, Kwaimanafu-Siubongi, Malaita
 7/8, 1 sp, Siubongi-Kwaimanafu, Malaita
 8/8, 2 sp+1 heard, Taladola, Malaita
 9/8, 1 sp, Auki, Malaita
 9/8, 8 sp, Taladola, Malaita
 10/8, 2 sp, Lama, Malaita

*Rhipidura melaleuca***Cockerell's Fantail**

13/7, 1 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
 14/7, 1 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
 19/7, 1 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville

*Rhipidura cockerelli septentrionalis***Cockerell's Fantail**

23/7, 2 sp, Vella Lavella

*Rhipidura cockerelli lavellae***Cockerell's Fantail**

24/7, 1 sp, Mt. Rano, Kolombangara

Rhipidura cockerelli albina

Cockerell's Fantail

12/7, 2 sp, Betilonga-Camp II, Guadalcanal
 13/7, 1 sp, Camp II-Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal
 14/7, 1 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal

Rhipidura cockerelli cockerelli

NOTE: The Cockerell's Fantail is quite variable, with no less than seven races described. The most distinct is the scarce *coultsi* race on Malaita, which could be considered as separate species.

Brown Fantail

14/7, 2 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
 19/7, ca 15 sp, Panguna, Bougainville

*Rhipidura drownei drownei***Brown Fantail**

13/7, 1 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal
 14/7, ca 5 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal

Rhipidura drownei ocularis

NOTE: The two races of Brown Fantail are quite distinct and could be treated as separate species following the same biogeographic pattern as the montane thicketbirds and whistlers.

Makira Fantail

27/7, 1 sp, Ravo River-Naara, Makira

*Rhipidura tenebrosa***Rennell Fantail**

4/8, ca 5 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell
 5/8, >10 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell

Rhipidura rennelliana

Rufous Fantail

14/7, 1 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
 17/7, 1 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
 19/7, 1 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville

Rhipidura rufifrons commoda

Rufous Fantail

24/7, 1 sp, Mt. Rano, Kolombangara

Rhipidura rufifrons granti

Rufous Fantail

13/7, >5 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal
 14/7, 1 sp, Camp II-Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal
 16/7, 2 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina-Betilonga, Guadalcanal

Rhipidura rufifrons rufifronta

Rufous Fantail

31/7, >5 sp, Molehanua, Ugi

Rhipidura rufifrons ugiensis

Rufous Fantail

27/7, 3 sp, Ravo River-Naara, Makira
 28/7, 3 sp, Naara-Hauta, Makira
 29/7, 3 sp, Hauta, Makira
 30/7, 5 sp, Hauta-Naara, Makira

Rhipidura rufifrons russata

Monarchs**Monarchidae****Rennell Shrikebill**

4/8, 5 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell
5/8, 7 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell

Clytorhynchus hamlini

Solomons Monarch

14/7, 1 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
19/7, 1 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
20/7, 1 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
12/7, 2 sp, Betilonga-Camp II, Guadalcanal
13/7, 1 sp, Camp II-Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal
14/7, 1 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal

Symposiachrus barbatus barbatus

NOTE: The *malaitae* race on Malaita is quite distinct and could be treated as separate species.

Kolombangara Monarch

24/7, 1 sp, Hambere-Mt. Rano, Kolombangara

Symposiachrus browni browni

NOTE: Of the four races of Kolombangara Monarch the seldom recorded *nigrotectus* from Vella Lavella is the most distinct and could be treated as separate species.

White-collared Monarch

31/7, 4 sp, Molehanua, Ugi

Symposiachrus vidua squamulatus

White-collared Monarch

28/7, 2 sp, Naara-Hauta, Makira
30/7, 3 sp, Hauta-Naara, Makira

Symposiachrus vidua vidua

NOTE: The *squamulatus* race on Ugi differs in both calls and plumage from *vidua* on Makira and could be treated as separate species.

Island Monarch

21/7, 2 sp, Karuo, Isabel

Monarcha cinerascens impediens

Bougainville Monarch

13/7, 2 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
14/7, ca 5 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
19/7, ca 5 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville

Monarcha erythrostickus

Chestnut-bellied Monarch

10/7, 3 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
11/7, 3 sp heard, Raho-Betilonga, Guadalcanal
12/7, 1 sp, Betilonga-Camp II, Guadalcanal
13/7, 1 sp+1 sp heard, Camp II-Mt. Mbutoh., Guad.
16/7, 2 sp heard, Mt. Mbutohaina-Betilonga, Guad.
17/7, 1 sp+1 sp heard, Betilonga-Raho, Guadalcanal
18/7, 1 sp Tirotonga, Isabel
20/7, 2 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel

Monarcha castaneiventris castaneiventris

Chestnut-bellied Monarch

28/7, >15 sp, Naara-Hauta, Makira
29/7, >5 sp, Hauta, Makira

Monarcha castaneiventris megarhynchus

Chestnut-bellied Monarch

31/7, ca 5 sp, Molehanua, Ugi

Monarcha castaneiventris ugiensis

NOTE: Of the four different races of Chestnut-bellied Monarch the most distinct is the all black *ugiensis* which could be treated as separate species.

White-capped Monarch

22/7, 5 sp, Gizo, Gizo
 23/7, 2 sp, Vella Lavella
 24/7, >5 sp, Hambere-Mt. Rano, Kolombangara
 25/7, 2 sp, Hambere-Mt. Rano, Kolombangara

*Monarcha richardsii***Steel-blue Flycatcher**

13/7, 1 pair, Panguna, Bougainville
 14/7, ca 5 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
 17/7, 1 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
 19/7, 2 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville

*Myiagra ferrocyanea cinerea***Steel-blue Flycatcher**

10/7, 6 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
 11/7, 2 females, Raho-Betilonga, Guadalcanal
 12/7, ca 10 sp, Betilonga-Camp II, Guadalcanal
 13/7, 1 sp+1 heard, Camp II-Mt. Mbutohaina, Guad.
 18/7, 1 sp Tirotonga, Isabel
 19/7, 1 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
 20/7, 1 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel

*Myiagra ferrocyanea ferrocyanea***Steel-blue Flycatcher**

23/7, 1 sp, Vella Lavella
 24/7, 3 sp, Hambere-Mt. Rano, Kolombangara

*Myiagra ferrocyanea feminina***Steel-blue Flycatcher**

7/8, 1 female, Kwaimanafu-Siubongi, Malaita
 9/8, 1 male, Lama, Malaita
 9/8, 2 sp, Lama, Malaita

*Myiagra ferrocyanea malaitae***Makira Flycatcher**

28/7, 1 male, Hauta, Makira
 29/7, 1 female, Hauta, Makira

*Myiagra cervinicauda***Melanesian Flycatcher**

5/8, 2 males, Lake Tenggano, Rennell

*Myiagra caledonica***Crows, Jays****Corvidae****White-billed Crow**

10/7, 7 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
 12/7, heard, Betilonga-Camp II, Guadalcanal

*Corvus woodfordi woodfordi***White-billed Crow**

18/7, >10 sp Tirotonga, Isabel
 19/7, >15 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
 20/7, >10 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel

Corvus woodfordi vegetus

Bougainville Crow

13/7, 1 sp+heard, Panguna, Bougainville
 21/7, 7 sp, Nova, Buka, Bougainville

Corvus meeki

Australasian Robins**Petroicidae**

Pacific Robin

18/7, 1 sp+heard, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
 19/7, ca 5 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville

Petroica multicolour septentrionalis

Pacific Robin

25/7, 1 sp, Mt. Rano, Kolombangara

Petroica multicolour kulambangrae

Pacific Robin

29/7, 1 female, Hauta, Makira
 30/7, 1 female, Hauta-Naara, Makira

Petroica multicolour polymorpha

Swallows, Martins**Hirundinidae**

Pacific Swallow

13/7, 5 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
 15/7, ca 10 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
 16/7, ca 5 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
 17/7, ca 5 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
 20/7, ca 5 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
 21/7, ca 10 sp, Buka, Bougainville
 17/7, 1 sp, Honiara, Guadalcanal
 23/7, a few sp, Hambere, Kolombangara
 26/7, 2 sp, Honiara, Guadalcanal
 30/7, 3 sp, Kirakira, Makira
 1/8, 1 sp, Kirakira, Makira
 2/8, 3 sp, Kirakira, Makira
 2/8, >5 sp, Honiara, Guadalcanal
 6/8, 7 sp, Honiara, Guadalcanal
 7/8, ca 10, Honiara, Guadalcanal

Hirundo tahitica subfusca

Cettia Bush Warblers and allies**Cettiidae****Shade Bush Warbler**

28/7, 1 sp, Hauta, Makira
 29/7, 1 sp+1 heard, Hauta, Makira

Horornis parens

Odedi

13/7, 3 sp heard, Panguna, Bougainville
 14/7, 1 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
 19/7, 1 sp heard, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville

Horornis haddeni

Leaf Warblers and allies**Phylloscopidae**

Island Leaf Warbler

13/7, 1 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal
 14/7, 1 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal

Phylloscopus maforensis becki

Island Leaf Warbler

19/7, 4 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville

Phylloscopus maforensis bougainvillei

Island Leaf Warbler* *Phylloscopus maforensis pallescens*
25/7, 1 sp heard, Mt. Rano, Kolombangara

Makira Leaf Warbler

28/7, 3 sp, Hauta, Makira
29/7, 2 sp, Hauta, Makira

NOTE: The Island Leaf Warbler is another complex with many isolated races in need of further study, and some taxa may deserve species status. There are three races in the Solomons, plus the closely related Makira Leaf Warbler, which is generally accepted as a good species but included in Island Leaf Warbler in "Birds of Melanesia". The name *Phylloscopus maforensis* (Meyer, 1874) has priority over the frequently used *P. poliocephalus* (Salvadori, 1876).

Kolombangara Leaf Warbler

25/7, 2 sp, Mt. Rano, Kolombangara

Phylloscopus amoenus

Reed Warblers and allies

Acrocephalidae

Australian Reed Warbler

15/7, 2 sp+heard, Aropa airfield, Bougainville
11/8, 2 sp+heard, Betikama, Guadalcanal

Acrocephalus australis toxopei

Grassbirds and allies

Locustellidae

Guadalcanal Thicketbird*

14/7, 1 sp heard, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal

Megalurulus turipavae

White-eyes

Zosteropidae

Bare-eyed White-eye

3/8, >5 sp, Tinggoa-Lake Tenggano, Rennell
4/8, >20 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell
5/8, >20 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell
6/8, 2 sp, Tinggoa, Rennell

Woodfordia superciliosa

Yellow-throated White-eye

13/7, ca 30 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
14/7, ca 5 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
17/7, heard, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
19/7, 2 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville

Zosterops metcalfeii exiguus

Yellow-throated White-eye

18/7, >10 sp Tirotonga, Isabel
19/7, >10 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
20/7, >10 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel

Zosterops metcalfeii metcalfeii

Rennell White-eye

4/8, 4 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell
5/8, 2 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell
6/8, 2 sp, Tinggoa, Rennell

Zosterops rennellianus

Vella Lavella White-eye

23/7, 10 sp, Vella Lavella

Zosterops vellalavella

Gizo White-eye

22/7, >5 sp, Gizo, Gizo

*Zosterops luteirostris***Ranongga White-eye**

23/7, 10 sp, Ranongga

*Zosterops splendidus***Solomons White-eye**

24/7, ca 5 sp, Hambere-Mt. Rano, Kolombangara

Zosterops kulambangrae kulambangrae

NOTE: The distinct races on Rendova (*paradoxus*) and Tetepare (*tetiparus*) could be treated as one or two further species, but more research is needed.

Kolombangara White-eye

24/7, >20 sp, Mt. Rano, Kolombangara

25/7, >40 sp, Mt. Rano, Kolombangara

*Zosterops murphyi***Grey-throated White-eye**

28/7, ca 10 sp, Naara-Hauta, Makira

*Zosterops ugiensis ugiensis***Grey-throated White-eye**

12/7, ca 5 sp, Betilonga-Camp II, Guadalcanal

13/7, >20 sp, Camp II-Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal

14/7, >10 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal

16/7, heard, Mt. Mbutohaina-Betilonga, Guad.

17/7, heard, Betilonga-Raho, Guadalcanal

*Zosterops ugiensis oblitus***Grey-throated White-eye**

13/7, 1 sp+heard, Panguna, Bougainville

19/7, ca 10 sp, Panguna, Bougainville

*Zosterops ugiensis hamlini***Malaita White-eye**

9/8, 3 sp, Lama, Malaita

10/8, 2 sp, Lama, Malaita

*Zosterops stresemanni***Starlings, Rhabdornis****Sturnidae****Metallic Starling**

16/7, 20 sp, Aropa-Sirowai, Bougainville

17/7, 1 sp, Betilonga-Raho, Guadalcanal

17/7, 3 sp, Buala, Isabel

18/7, >40 sp Tirotonga, Isabel

19/7, common, Tirotonga, Isabel

20/7, common, Tirotonga, Isabel

21/7, common, Tirotonga, Isabel

25/7, >20 sp, Hambere, Kolombangara

31/7, ca 10 sp, Molehanua, Ugi

2/8, >10 sp, Honiara, Guadalcanal

3/8, 3 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell

4/8, >10 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell

6/8, 2 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal

7/8, 3 sp, Siubongi, Malaita

8/8, >15 sp, Siubongi, Malaita

9/8, >20 sp, Taladola, Malaita

10/8, >30 sp, Lama, Malaita

Aplonis metallica nitida

Singing Starling

13/7, ca 10 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
15/7, ca 5 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
16/7, ca 5 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
17/7, ca 5 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
10/7, >5 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
18/7, >30 sp Tirotonga, Isabel
19/7, 2 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
21/7, ca 20, Buala, Isabel
22/7, 2 sp, Gizo, Gizo
9/8, 3 sp, Auki, Malaita

Aplonis cantoroides

Rennell Starling

4/8, 4 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell
5/8, 1 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell

Aplonis insularis

White-eyed Starling

12/7, >30 sp, Betilonga-Camp II, Guadalcanal

Aplonis brunneicapillus

NOTE: We saw two flocks that both appeared to contain only White-eyed Starlings (all birds we could check were this species). The first flock consisted of about 10+ birds. The second flock was larger, probably around 20+ birds. There are very few recent records of this species and according to Birdlife the species is thought to be extirpated at Betilonga. We noted birds with nesting materials, which would make this the third nesting colony found by ornithologists, and the first since Peter Kaestner found one near Kieta on Bougainville in 1987.

Brown-winged Starling

12/7, 2 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
15/7, 1 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
19/7, ca 5 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
20/7, 4 sp, Buka-Arawa, Bougainville
18/7, >10 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
19/7, 2 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
20/7, >10 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
21/7, 2 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
22/7, 2 sp, Gizo, Gizo

Aplonis grandis grandis

Brown-winged Starling

10/7, >30 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
11/7, 2 sp, Raho-Betilonga, Guadalcanal
12/7, 2 sp, Betilonga-Camp II, Guadalcanal

Aplonis grandis macrura

Malaita Starling

8/8, 1 sp, Siubongi, Malaita

Aplonis malaitae

NOTE: Often considered a race of Brown-winged Starling, but has white iris, longer head and throat hackles and is slimmer built and has different calls (see e.g. Finch, B.W. 1990).

Makira Starling

28/7, 3 sp, Naara-Hauta, Makira
29/7, >10 sp, Hauta, Makira

Aplonis dichroa

Long-tailed Myna

13/7, 1 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
 15/7, 5 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
 16/7, 2 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
 21/7, 2 sp, Buka, Bougainville
 18/7, 1 sp heard, Tirotonga, Isabel
 19/7, 2 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
 20/7, >10 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
 22/7, 2 sp, Gizo, Gizo
 25/7, 2 sp, Mt. Rano, Kolombangara

*Mino kreffti kreffti***Long-tailed Myna**

10/7, >30 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
 11/7, ca 5 sp, Raho-Betilonga, Guadalcanal
 12/7, 1 sp, Betilonga-Camp II, Guadalcanal
 13/7, 1 sp, Camp II-Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal
 10/8, 2 sp heard, Lama, Malaita

*Mino kreffti sanfordi***[Common Myna]**

9/7, ca 10 sp, Honiara, Guadalcanal
 17/7, ca 10 sp, Honiara, Guadalcanal
 21/7, ca 10 sp, Honiara, Guadalcanal
 26/7, ca 10 sp, Honiara, Guadalcanal
 2/8, >20 sp, Honiara, Guadalcanal
 6/8, 1 sp, Honiara, Guadalcanal
 7/8, ca 5 sp, Honiara, Guadalcanal
 11/8, >10 sp, Betikama, Guadalcanal

*Acridotheres tristis***Thrushes****Turdidae****Makira Thrush**

29/7, 1 sp+5 heard, Hauta, Makira

*Zoothera margaretae***Guadalcanal Thrush**

14/7, 1 sp+1 sp heard, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guad.

*Zoothera turipavae***Island Thrush**

25/7, 1 sp, Mt. Rano, Kolombangara

*Turdus poliocephalus kulambangrae***Island Thrush**

14/7, 4 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal

*Turdus poliocephalus sladeni***Island Thrush**

4/8, >15 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell
 5/8, ca 10 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell

Turdus poliocephalus rennellianus

Flowerpeckers**Dicaeidae****Midget Flowerpecker***Dicaeum aeneum aeneum*

13/7, a few sp, Panguna, Bougainville
 14/7, ca 5 sp, Panguna, Bougainville
 16/7, 1 sp heard, Arawa, Bougainville
 19/7, ca 5 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
 20/7, 2 sp, Mt. Balbi, Bougainville
 18/7, heard, Tirotonga, Isabel
 19/7, 1 sp+heard, Tirotonga, Isabel
 20/7, >5 sp, Tirotonga, Isabel
 21/7, heard, Tirotonga, Isabel

Midget Flowerpecker*Dicaeum aeneum malaitae*

8/8, 1 male, Siubongi, Malaita
 10/8, 1 sp, Lama, Malaita

Midget Flowerpecker*Dicaeum aeneum becki*

10/7, >20 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
 11/7, heard, Raho-Betilonga, Guadalcanal
 12/7, ca 2 sp, Betilonga-Camp II, Guadalcanal
 13/7, >10 sp, Camp II-Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal
 14/7, ca 5 sp heard, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal
 16/7, ca 5 sp heard, Mt. Mbutoh.-Betilonga, Guad.
 17/7, heard, Betilonga-Raho, Guadalcanal
 6/8, 2 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal

Mottled Flowerpecker*Dicaeum tristrami*

27/7, 3 sp, Naara, Makira
 28/7, ca 10 sp, Naara-Hauta, Makira
 29/7, 2 sp, Hauta, Makira
 30/7, 4 sp, Hauta-Naara, Makira

Sunbirds**Nectariniidae****Olive-backed Sunbird***Cinnyris jugularis flavigastra*

13/7, 1 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
 15/7, ca 5 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
 16/7, ca 5 sp, Arawa, Bougainville
 10/7, >10 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
 11/7, 1 sp, Raho, Guadalcanal
 21/7, 1 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
 22/7, 3 sp, Gizo, Gizo
 23/7, ca 5 sp, Ranongga
 23/7, ca 10 sp, Vella Lavella
 23/7, 2 sp, Hambere, Kolombangara
 24/7, 1 sp, Hambere-Mt. Rano, Kolombangara
 6/8, 1 sp, Mt. Austen, Guadalcanal
 7/8, 2 sp, Siubongi, Malaita
 8/8, >15 sp, Siubongi, Malaita
 8/8, ca 5 sp, Taladola, Malaita
 9/8, 2 sp, Taladola, Malaita
 10/8, 2 sp, Lama, Malaita
 11/8, 2 sp, Betikama, Guadalcanal

Sparrows

[Eurasian Tree Sparrow]
26/7, 2 sp, Honiara, Guadalcanal

Passeridae

Passer montanus

Waxbills

Blue-faced Parrotfinch
14/7, 1 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal
25/7, 1 sp, Mt. Rano, Kolombangara

Estrildidae

Erythrura trichroa woodfordi

NOTE: The Blue-faced Parrotfinches on Kolombangara and Bougainville are thought to be the same subspecies as on Guadalcanal.



White-eyed Starlings at nesting colony near Betilonga (*Aplonis brunneicapillus*) ©M. Lagerqvist

MAMMALS

Murids	<i>Muridae</i>
Pacific Rat 21/7, 1 sp, Buka, Bougainville	<i>Rattus exulans</i>
Old World Fruit Bats	<i>Pteropodidae</i>
Solomons Flying Fox 16/7, ca 10 sp, Arawa, Bougainville	<i>Pteropus rayneri</i>
Phalangerids	<i>Phalangeridae</i>
[Northern Common Cuscus] 15/7, 1 sp, Arawa, Bougainville	<i>Phalanger orientalis</i>
Dolphins	<i>Delphinidae</i>
Indo-Pacific Bottle-nosed Dolphin 31/7, 1 sp, Molehanua, Ugi 1/8, ca 15 sp, Ugi-Makira	<i>Tursiops aduncus</i>

REPTILES

Monitor lizards	<i>Varanidae</i>
Western Pacific Monitor Lizard 4/8, 1 sp, Lake Tenggano, Rennell	<i>Varanus indicus</i>
Boas	<i>Boidae</i>
Solomons Ground Boa 13/7, 3 sp, Camp II-Mt. Mbutohaina, Guadalcanal	<i>Candoia carinata paulsoni</i>
Colubrid snakes	<i>Colubridae</i>
Solomons Tree Snake 11/7, 1 sp, Raho-Betilonga, Guadalcanal 28/7, 1 sp, Naara-Hauta, Makira	<i>Dendrelaphis salomonis</i>
Elapid snakes	<i>Elapidae</i>
Solomons Red Krait 16/7, 1 sp, Mt. Mbutohaina-Betilonga, Guadalcanal	<i>Salomonelaps par</i>