



Bird Guide



Where to find birds in the Kimbe Bay area



Introduction

Walindi Plantation Resort has produced this guide for tour groups and independent travellers who wish to watch birds in West New Britain.

The guide describes the species of birds you may encounter at several key sites near Walindi.

The information has been collated from data provided by several birding tour groups as well as a standardised survey program of several sites undertaken in early 2010. The highlights for each sites are mainly Bismarck Archipelego endemics and noted as such (E).

Naturally the chances of seeing any individual species can vary due to time of day, season, weather and good luck.

INDEX:

2. Introduction
3. Endemics List
4. Walindi Plantation Resort
5. Nambala
6. Tili
7. Garu Wildlife Management Area
8. Vege
9. Kilu Ridge
10. Boku
11. Hela
12. Kulu River
13. Mount Gabuna
14. The Islands
15. Pelagic Birding
16. Numundo
17. Shorebirds
- 18-19. Speices List—West New Britain

Below: Shining Flycatcher female © Henry Cook
Main Cover: Brown Cuckoo Dove © Henry Cook



This guide was compiled for Walindi Plantation Resort by Dejan Stojanovic, Robert Davis, Henry Cook, Erika Wagner, Gina Barnett and Tansy Bliss, February 2010

Endemic bird species seen at sites visited by Walindi Plantation Resort Categorised as Common C, Uncommon U and Rare R

New Britain Endemics	Bismarck Archipelago Endemics & Solomon Islands (S)	Special interest
New Britain Buzzard (U)	Melanesian Scrubfowl (S) (C)	Heinroth's Shearwater (U)
NB Grey-headed Goshawk (R)	Yellow-legged Pigeon (S) (R)	Beck's Petrel (R)
Blue-eyed Cockatoo (C)	Mackinlay's Cuckoo-dove (S) (R)	Bar-tailed Cuckoo-dove (U)
New Britain Boobook (U)	Pied Cuckoo-dove (R)	Nicobar Pigeon (U)
White-mantled Kingfisher (U)	Yellow-bibbed Fruit-dove (S) (R)	White-bibbed Fruit Dove (R)
Rufous-faced Thicket Warbler (R)	Red-knobbed Fruit-dove (C)	Grey (Island) Imperial Pigeon (C)
New Britain Friarbird (C)	Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeon (S) (C)	Yellow-tinted Imperial Pigeon (C)
	Finsch's Imperial Pigeon (U)	Eastern Black-capped Lory (C)
	Bismarck (Black) Imperial Pigeon (R)	Buff-faced Pygmy-parrot (U)
	Red-chinned Lorikeet (R)	Variable Dwarf Kingfisher (NB race) (C)
	Song Parrot (S) (U)	Beach Kingfisher (C)
	Bismarck Hanging Parrot (U)	Island Monarch (C)
	Violaceous Coucal (C)	Channel-billed Cuckoo (U)
	Pied Coucal (C)	Dwarf Cassowary (U)
	Black-headed Paradise Kingfisher (C)	Bronze Ground-dove (S) (R)
	Bismarck Kingfisher (U)	
	Bismarck Pied Monarch (U)	
	Lesser Shining Flycatcher (U)	
	Black-bellied Myzomela (U)	
	Ashy Myzomela (C)	
	Sclater's Myzomela (U)	
	Bismarck Flowerpecker (C)	
	Black-headed White-eye (R)	
	Long-tailed Myna (S) (C)	
	Buff-bellied Mannikin (S) (C)	
	Bismarck Wood-swallow (U)	
	Black Imperial Pigeon (U)	

Around Walindi

Staying at Walindi Plantation Resort provides many opportunities for on site birdwatching. A mosaic of lowland rainforest, open landscaped gardens and beach frontage support a number of resident and transient species.

Sunbirds and flycatchers are common in the gardens while the open coast can give excellent views of osprey fishing and moustached tree swifts foraging aerially from the tall casuarina trees.

Highlights:

- Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeon **E**
- Blue-eyed Cockatoo **E**
- Red-flanked Lorikeet
- Eastern Black-capped Lory
- Buff-faced Pygmy Parrot
- Pied Coucal **E**
- New Britain Boobook **E**
- New Britain Friarbird **E**
- Ashy Myzomela **E**
- Bismarck Flowerpecker **E**

Notes:

At night the New Britain Boobook often calls from the casuarina tree behind the main building. Pygmy parrots are a common but very cryptic resident at Walindi best identified initially by their high pitched calls.



Above: Moustached Tree Swift © Dejan Stojanovic
Below: Buff-faced Pygmy Parrot © Dejan Stojanovic

Nambala

Located on Walindi Plantation Resort's doorstep, this unique forest and food garden property gives those with reasonable fitness a superb opportunity to seek out a range of bird species. Tracks wind through deep shady areas and open vistas from elevated viewpoints give clear views of the skies.

Highlights:

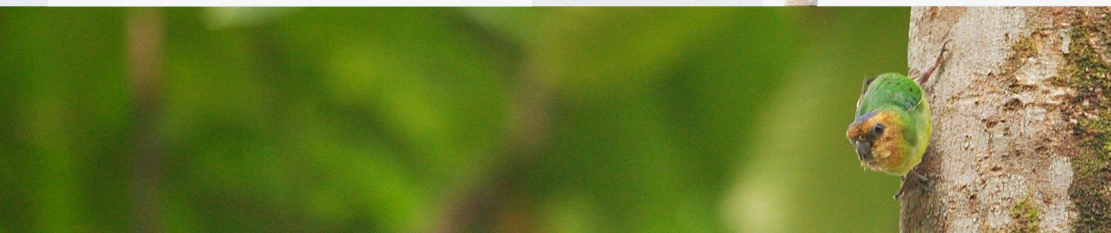
- White-bellied Sea Eagle
- Melanesian Scrub fowl **E**
- Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeon **E**
- Blue-eyed Cockatoo **E**
- Eastern Black-capped Lory
- Buff-faced Pygmy Parrot
- Violaceous Coucal **E**
- Pied Coucal **E**
- Variable Dwarf Kingfisher **E**
- Black-headed Paradise Kingfisher **E**
- Blyth's Hornbill
- Lesser Shining Flycatcher **E**
- New Britain Friarbird **E**
- Ashy Myzomela **E**

Notes:

An early morning spent at the view point almost guarantees photographic views of hornbills, parrots and pigeons leaving roost trees. Sunbirds and kingfishers move about in the canopy and raptors soar over head.



Above: Black Sunbird © Gina Barnett
Below: Brahminy Kite © Henry Cook



Tili Forest

This lowland rainforest patch has a diverse bird community within easy reach of Walindi. Access is via an all-weather gravel road that passes through open grassland and oil palm plantations before reaching the forest. It is worth checking for manikins amongst the seeding grasses and for bitterns in the damp areas in the oil palm plantations.

Notable Species:

New Britain Buzzard **E**
 Pied Cuckoo Dove **E**
 Finsch's Imperial Pigeon **E**
 Red-knobbed Fruit Dove **E**
 White-throated Ground Dove
 Song Parrot **E**
 Black-headed Paradise Kingfisher **E**
 White-mantled Kingfisher **E**
 Bismarck Pied Monarch **E**
 Dull (Lesser Shining) Flycatcher **E**
 Red-banded Flowerpecker **E**
 Buff-breasted Mannikin **E**

Notes:

The forest patch flanks the road for approximately 3km, so walking the road is the best way to bird this area. Access should be arranged by Walindi Plantation Resort.



Above: Blyth's Hornbills © Henry Cook
 Below: Black-headed Paradise Kingfisher © Dejan Stojanovic



Above: Eastern Black-capped Lorries © Dejan Stojanovic
 Below: Bismarck Flowerpecker female © Dejan Stojanovic

Garu WMA

Garu Wildlife Management Area is a large reserve that incorporates a number of distinct habitats including hot rivers and lowland rainforest. Access is via an all-weather gravel road and several small tracks lead off to megapod nesting areas.

Notable Species:

Melanesian Scrub Fowl **E**
 New Britain Buzzard **E**
 Finsch's Imperial Pigeon **E**
 Red-knobbed Fruit Dove **E**
 Buff-faced Pygmy Parrot
 Violaceous Coucal **E**
 Pied Coucal **E**
 Black-headed Paradise Kingfisher **E**
 White-mantled Kingfisher **E**
 Ashy Honeyeater **E**
 Bismarck Pied Monarch **E**
 Dull (Lesser Shining) Flycatcher **E**
 Red-banded Flowerpecker **E**

Notes:

Garu Wildlife Management Area is protected because of its importance to breeding Melanesian Scrub Fowl. They are frequently seen near the hot rivers as they use geothermal heat to incubate their eggs. Mind the holes in the ground dug by these birds and look in the undergrowth for paradise kingfishers.





Vege

This site is accessed by a dirt road passing through plantations. There are excellent opportunities for viewing imperial pigeons and parrots. The thick rainforest cover provides habitat for abundant passerines.

Notable Species:

- New Britain Buzzard **E**
- Pied Cuckoo Dove **E**
- Black Imperial Pigeon **E**
- Finsch's Imperial Pigeon **E**
- Buff-faced Pygmy Parrot
- Pied Coucal **E**
- Violaceous Coucal **E**
- White-mantled Kingfisher **E**
- Bismarck Pied Monarch **E**
- Dull (Lesser Shining) Flycatcher **E**
- Black-bellied Myzomela **E**
- Ashy Myzomela **E**
- Bismarck Flowerpecker **E**

Notes:

Good birding starts along the road on the way to the site where fruit doves are in abundance. Thereafter, time of day, season and weather will determine other suitable spots. Walindi Plantation Resort can arrange birdwatching at this site.

Above: Red-flanked Lorikeets, female allopreening male © Henry Cook
Below: Stephan's Ground Dove © Dejan Stojanovic



Kilu Ridge

A 15 minute drive from Walindi, this site offers excellent birding in a variety of habitats. A gentle walk down the ridge provides your best chance for some key New Britain endemics and is well suited to a short trip in the early morning or afternoon. The top section of the track gives open views over lowland rainforest and food gardens while the lower section provides good habitat for roosting parrots and hornbills.

Notable Species:

- Yellow-legged Pigeon **E**
- Pied Cuckoo Dove **E**
- Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeon **E**
- Pied (Yellow-tinted) Imperial Pigeon **E**
- Red-knobbed Fruit Dove **E**
- Blue-eyed Cockatoo **E**
- Song Parrot **E**
- Buff-faced Pygmy Parrot
- Pied Coucal **E**
- Violaceous Coucal **E**
- Black-headed Paradise Kingfisher **E**
- Rufous-faced Thicket Warbler **E**
- Bismarck Woodswallow **E**
- Bismarck Flowerpecker **E**

Notes:

Access to this site varies, so consult with Walindi to confirm your plans. On the ridge be sure to scan the treetops for Song Parrots and Bismarck Woodswallows and check the thick rainforest scrub check for the thicket warbler.



Top: Yellow-legged Pigeon © Dejan Stojanovic
Above: Bismarck Woodswallow © Henry Cook
Below: Bismarck Woodswallows © Dejan Stojanovic





Boku

This lowland forest area is home to a suite of endemic New Britain birds. Access is through a dirt road running through the forest. Forest tracks through flat habitat make this site suitable for birdwatchers of all abilities and interests.

Notable Species:
 Melanesian Scrub Fowl **E**
 New Britain Buzzard **E**
 Pied Cuckoo Dove **E**
 Finsch's Imperial Pigeon **E**
 Bismarck Hanging Parrot **E**
 New Britain Boobook **E**
 Pied Coucal **E**
 Violaceous Coucal **E**
 White-mantled Kingfisher **E**
 New Britain Friarbird **E**
 Dull (Lesser Shining) Flycatcher **E**
 Bismarck Flowerpecker **E**

Notes:
 This site is suitable as a half day trip, either in the early morning or late afternoon. Access and a local guide must be arranged by Walindi.

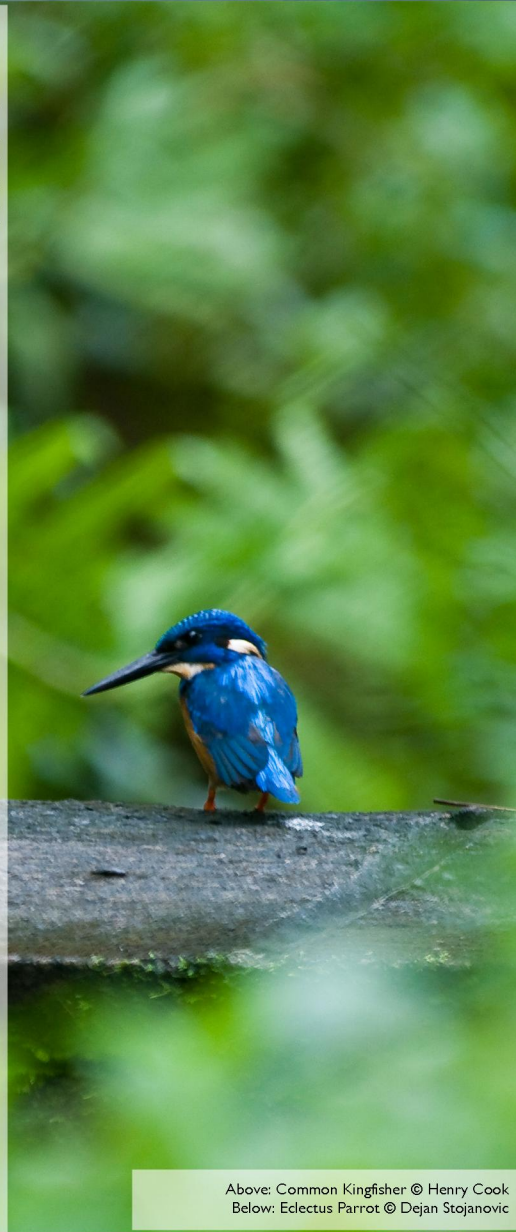
Above: Immature Variable Goshawk © Gina Barnett
Below: Dull (Lesser Shining) Flycatchers © Gina Barnett

Hela

This lowland forest is approximately 30 minutes from Walindi Resort. Walking along the paths in the forest provides opportunities for spotting bird feeding parties which may yield interesting species. A few walking tracks take you up to a small forested hilltop which is suitable for birding.

Notable Species:
 Melanesian Scrub Fowl **E**
 New Britain Buzzard **E**
 Red-knobbed Fruit Dove **E**
 Finsch's Imperial Pigeon **E**
 Black Imperial Pigeon **E**
 Blue-eyed Cockatoo **E**
 Bismarck Hanging Parrot **E**
 Black-headed Paradise Kingfisher **E**
 Bismarck Kingfisher **E**
 Variable Dwarf Kingfisher
 White-mantled Kingfisher **E**
 Black-bellied Myzomela
 Bismarck Pied Monarch **E**
 Bismarck Flowerpecker **E**

Notes:
 This site is best visited early in the morning and access must be arranged through Walindi.



Above: Common Kingfisher © Henry Cook
Below: Eclectus Parrot © Dejan Stojanovic





Kulu River

This trip will take you through a variety of habitats including grassland, oil palm and river flats. Check for crakes, bitterns, waterfowl and shorebirds as well as the rainforest species. The road is all-weather and there are good views of river flats and rainforest from the Daliavu Bridge. The Kulu River site is an open gravel river bank with views to the lowland rainforest on the opposite side.

Notable Species:

- Blue-breasted (King) Quail
- Black Bittern
- Pied Cuckoo Dove **E**
- White-bibbed Fruit Dove
- Red-knobbed Fruit Dove **E**
- Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeon **E**
- Blue-eyed Cockatoo **E**
- New Britain Boobook **E**
- Bismarck Kingfisher **E**
- Bismarck Pied Monarch **E**
- Bismarck Woodswallow **E**
- Bismarck Flowerpecker **E**

Notes:

The rank grasslands sometimes support quail and other easily overlooked species. Spotted Whistling Ducks and other interesting water birds have been found in ponds among the oil palm near the Daliavu Bridge.

Above: Black Bittern © Dejan Stojanovic
Below: Pacific Black Duck © Dejan Stojanovic



Mount Gabuna

This site is only accessible by an uphill bush track, so good fitness is required. The rainforest here is stunning and the bird life abundant, with many of the sought-after endemics. Inside the forest, a track takes you up a moderately steep slope to the Mt. Gabuna crater which allows scanning for raptors.

Notable Species:

- Dwarf Cassowary
- Melanesian Scrub Fowl **E**
- New Britain Buzzard **E**
- Finsch's Imperial Pigeon **E**
- Island Imperial Pigeon **E**
- Song Parrot **E**
- Pied Coucal **E**
- Violaceous Coucal **E**
- Black-headed Paradise Kingfisher **E**
- Bismarck Pied Monarch **E**
- Dull (Lesser Shining) Flycatcher **E**
- Bismarck Flowerpecker **E**
- Bismarck Wood-swallow **E**

Notes:

This rainforest has remained relatively intact – cassowary even occur here! The track takes you up to 600 meters above sea level and will take a full day. It can be quite an arduous hike, but the sightings can be very rewarding. Arrange access with Walindi.



Above: Red-knobbed Imperial Pigeon © Dejan Stojanovic
Below: Dwarf Cassowary © Dejan Stojanovic



The Islands

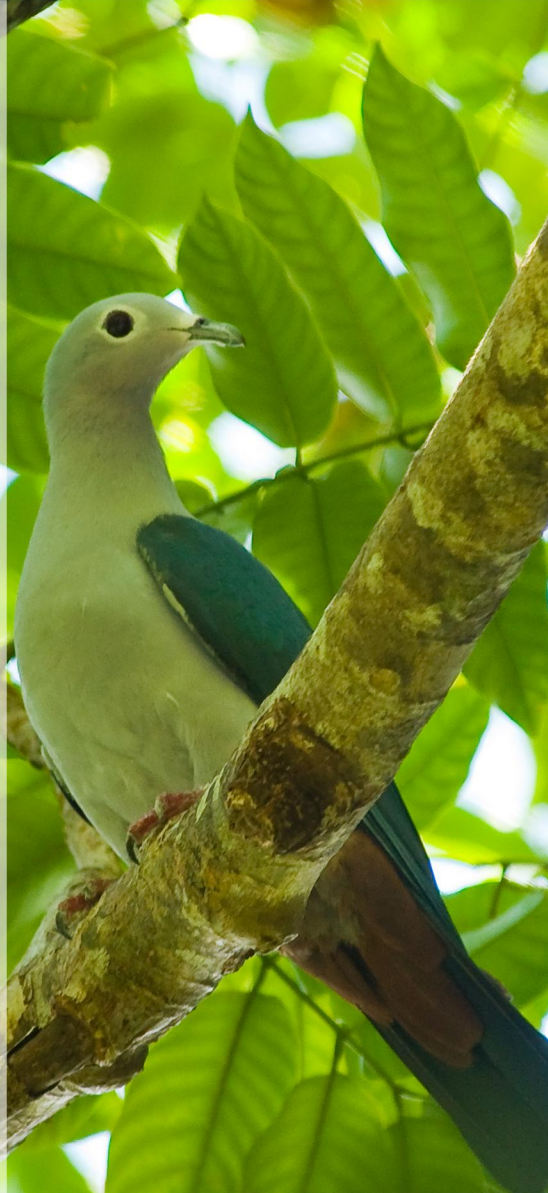
Restorf, Malumalu and Schaumann Islands are fantastic! In the dry season, these rainforest clad islands are hubs of activity as commuting pigeons bring crop-loads of fruit back to their hungry squabs. All year round, these islands are accessible by boat and once you have picked up the endemic passerines you can don your snorkel and explore the world's best coral reef.

Notable Species:

- Melanesian Scrub Fowl **E**
- Nicobar Pigeon
- Island Imperial Pigeon **E**
- Pied (Yellow-tinted) Imperial Pigeon **E**
- Yellow-bibbed Fruit Dove **E**
- Beach Kingfisher
- Sclater's Honeyeater **E**
- Golden Whistler
- Island Monarch
- Dull (Lesser Shining) Flycatcher **E**
- Bismarck Flowerpecker **E**

Notes:

Landing is possible at Restorf and Schaumann Islands but suitable footwear is required for wading ashore and climbing the moderate slopes. An early start is best for the island species so it is possible to incorporate some snorkelling to make a full day trip. Arrange boat trips and access to islands with Walindi.



Above: Island Imperial Pigeon © Henry Cook
Below: Beach Kingfisher © Dejan Stojanovic

Pelagic Birding

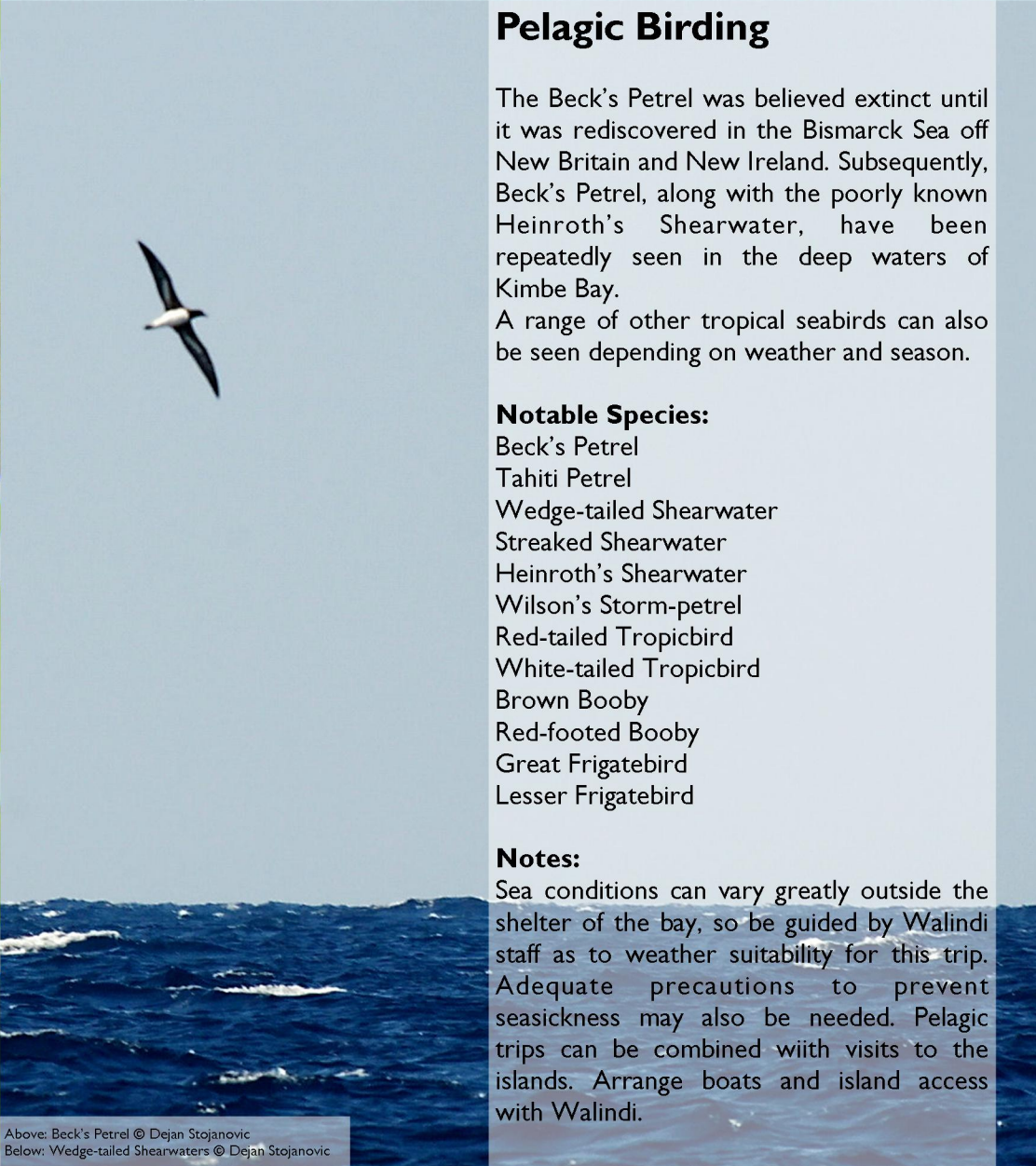
The Beck's Petrel was believed extinct until it was rediscovered in the Bismarck Sea off New Britain and New Ireland. Subsequently, Beck's Petrel, along with the poorly known Heinroth's Shearwater, have been repeatedly seen in the deep waters of Kimbe Bay. A range of other tropical seabirds can also be seen depending on weather and season.

Notable Species:

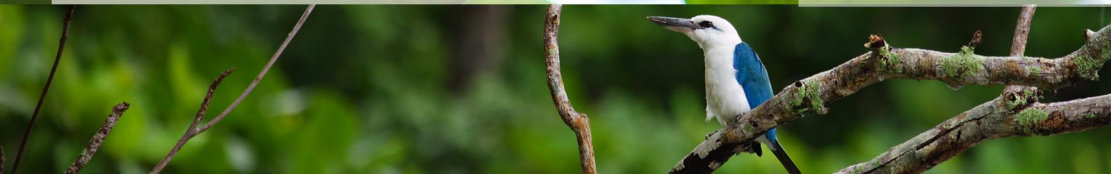
- Beck's Petrel
- Tahiti Petrel
- Wedge-tailed Shearwater
- Streaked Shearwater
- Heinroth's Shearwater
- Wilson's Storm-petrel
- Red-tailed Tropicbird
- White-tailed Tropicbird
- Brown Booby
- Red-footed Booby
- Great Frigatebird
- Lesser Frigatebird

Notes:

Sea conditions can vary greatly outside the shelter of the bay, so be guided by Walindi staff as to weather suitability for this trip. Adequate precautions to prevent seasickness may also be needed. Pelagic trips can be combined with visits to the islands. Arrange boats and island access with Walindi.



Above: Beck's Petrel © Dejan Stojanovic
Below: Wedge-tailed Shearwaters © Dejan Stojanovic





Numundo

Lowland West New Britain has been greatly disturbed by human activity and is currently dominated by oil palm. These areas however can hold a variety of bird species often not seen elsewhere. Snipe, quail, crakes and mannikins can be found in these habitats.

Settlement ponds are rich birding locations and shorebirds and waterfowl occur here.

Notable Species:

- Black Bittern
- Spotted Whistling Duck
- King (Blue-breasted) Quail
- White-browed Crake
- Bush Hen
- Snipe (*Gallinago spp.*)
- Wagtails (*Motacilla spp.*)
- Buff-bellied Mannakins

Notes:

Access should be arranged through Walindi. Grasslands in the Kimbe area are ephemeral and subject to mowing and grazing, so be prepared to stop and check the grassy areas when you see them.



Above: Buff-bellied Mannikin © Dejan Stojanovic
Below: Black-necked Stilt © Dejan Stojanovic

Shorebirds

New Britain is an excellent place to look for migratory shorebirds visiting from the northern hemisphere. Although not well known, the Kimbe area supports a variety of habitats where shorebirds can be found.

Flooded grasslands and settlement ponds are excellent for plovers, snipe and sandpipers. The mudflats in front of Walindi are an excellent spot to watch for shorebirds from the comfort of a deck chair. In the wet season, Kimbe Bay itself provides habitat for phalaropes that can be seen from boats on the way to the islands.

Notable Species:

- Snipe (*Gallinago spp.*)
- Bar-tailed Godwit
- Terek Sandpiper
- Grey-tailed Tattler
- Ruddy Turnstone
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
- Eastern Curlew
- Pacific Golden Plover
- Red-necked Phalarope

Notes:

Shorebirds are present year-round in West New Britain although their numbers peak in the wet season. Few surveys of shorebirds have been undertaken in the region and there are likely to be many more species than currently known.



Above: Pacific Golden Plovers © Dejan Stojanovic
Below: Red-necked Phalarope © Dejan Stojanovic



Field list of birds for West New Britain

As of January 2010 there were no confirmed sightings for those species in italics at the sites visited by WPR.

Dwarf Cassowary	Lesser Sand Plover
<i>Little Grebe</i>	Greater Sand Plover
<i>Australasian Grebe</i>	Swinhoe's (Chinese) Snipe
Tahiti Petrel	Bar-tailed Godwit
Streaked Shearwater	Little Curlew
Flesh-footed Shearwater	Whimbrel
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	Marsh Sandpiper
Heinroth's Shearwater	Terek Sandpiper
Red-tailed Tropicbird	Common Sandpiper
Masked Booby	Grey-tailed Tattler
Red-footed Booby	<i>Wandering Tattler</i>
Brown Booby	Ruddy Turnstone
Great Frigatebird	Red-necked Stunt
Lesser Frigatebird	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Little Pied Cormorant	Red-necked Phalarope
<i>Little Black Cormorant</i>	<i>Pomarine Jaeger</i>
Great Egret	Greater Crested-Tern
Intermediate Egret	Roseate Tern
Eastern Reef Egret	Black-naped Tern
<i>Striated Heron</i>	Common Tern
Rufous Night-heron	Little Tern
<i>Yellow Bittern</i>	Grey-backed Tern
Black Bittern	<i>Bridled Tern</i>
Spotted Whistling-Duck	<i>Sooty Tern</i>
<i>Wandering Whistling-Duck</i>	Brown Noddy
Pacific Black Duck	<i>Black Noddy</i>
<i>Garganey</i>	<i>Common White-Tern</i>
Osprey	White-throated Pigeon
Pacific Baza (Crested Hawk)	Yellow-legged Pigeon
New Britain Buzzard	Brown Cuckoo-Dove
Brahminy Kite	Bar-tailed (Black-billed) Cuckoo-Dove
White-bellied Sea eagle	Mackinlay's Cuckoo-Dove
Variable Goshawk	Pied Cuckoo-Dove
Slaty-backed Goshawk	Stephan's Dove
New Britain Grey-headed Goshawk	<i>New Britain Bronzewing</i>
New Britain Sparrowhawk	Nicobar Pigeon
Meyer's Goshawk	White-bibbed Ground-Dove
Oriental Hobby	<i>Bronze Ground-Dove</i>
<i>Peregrine Falcon</i>	<i>Red-napped Fruit-Dove</i>
Melanesian Scrubfowl	Superb Fruit-Dove
King Quail	White-bibbed Fruit-Dove
Red-backed Buttonquail	Yellow-bibbed Fruit-Dove
<i>New Britain Rail (Pink-legged rail)</i>	Red-knobbed Fruit-Dove
Buff-banded Rail	<i>Pacific Imperial-Pigeon</i>
Bush-hen	Red-knobbed Imperial-Pigeon
White-browed Crane	<i>Purple-tailed Imperial-Pigeon</i>
Purple Swamphen	Finsch's Imperial-Pigeon
<i>Dusky Moorhen</i>	Island (Grey) Imperial-Pigeon
<i>Comb-crested Jacana</i>	<i>Pinon Imperial-Pigeon</i>
Black-winged Stilt	Black Imperial-Pigeon
Beach Stone-curlew	Pied (Yellow tinted) Imperial-Pigeon
Pacific Golden-Plover	Papuan Mountain-Pigeon
Little Ringed Plover	

Blue-eyed Cockatoo
Rainbow Lorikeet
Eastern Black-capped Lory
Red-chinned Lorikeet
Red-flanked Lorikeet
Buff-faced Pygmy-Parrot
<i>Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrot</i>
Song Parrot
Eclectus Parrot
Bismarck Hanging-Parrot
<i>Oriental Cuckoo</i>
Brush Cuckoo
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo
Common Koel
Channel-billed Cuckoo
Violaceous Coucal
Pied Coucal
<i>Golden Masked-Owl</i>
New Britain Boobok
<i>Large-tailed Nightjar</i>
Glossy Swiftlet
Uniform Swiftlet
White-rumped Swiftlet
<i>Whitehead's Swiftlet</i>
Moustached Treeswift
Variable Dwarf Kingfisher
Bismarck Kingfisher
<i>Little Kingfisher</i>
Common Kingfisher
Black-headed Paradise-Kingfisher
White-mantled Kingfisher
Collared Kingfisher
Sacred Kingfisher
Beach Kingfisher
<i>Blue-tailed Bee-eater</i>
Rainbow Bee-eater
Common Dollarbird
Blyth's Hornbill
Red-bellied Pitta
Pacific Swallow
Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike
White-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike
Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-Shrike
Common Cicadabird
Varied Triller
<i>Pied Chat</i>
<i>Northern Melanesian Thrush</i>
<i>Island Thrush</i>
Rufous-faced Thicket-warbler
<i>Melanesian Thicket-warbler</i>

Australian Reed-warbler
<i>Island Leaf-warbler</i>
<i>Tawny Grassbird</i>
Golden-headed Cisticola
<i>Bismarck Rufous Fantail</i>
Northern Fantail
Willie Wagtail
Spangled Drongo
Island Monarch
Bismarck Pied Monarch
Satin Flycatcher
Shining Flycatcher
Lesser Shining Flycatcher
<i>River Flycatcher</i>
<i>Common Golden Whistler</i>
Mangrove Golden Whistler
New Britain Friarbird
Ashy Myzomela
<i>Red Myzomela</i>
Black-bellied Myzomela
Slater's Myzomela
<i>New Britain Honeyeater</i>
Black Sunbird
Yellow-bellied Sunbird
Bismarck Flowerpecker
Black-headed White-eye
<i>Hooded Mannikin</i>
Buff-bellied Mannikin
<i>Blue-faced Parrot-finch</i>
Singing Starling
Metallic Starling
<i>Yellow-eyed Starling</i>
<i>Yellow-faced Myna</i>
Long-tailed Myna
<i>Brown Oriole</i>
Bismarck Wood-swallow
<i>Black-faced Wood-swallow</i>
Island Crow