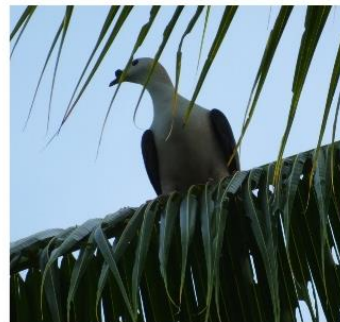


# BIRDING AND SIGHTSEEING IN RAJA AMPAT, TAMBRAUW AND SORONG CITY

A Trip Report by Charles Roring for Vacation Indonesia Tours (VIT TOURS)

I met Linda Petrulias, a tourist from the United States in the morning of 24 March 2024 at DEO airport of Sorong city. We immediately went to Pelabuhan Rakyat to continue our trip by fast passenger ferry to Waigeo island of Raja Ampat. This tour was organized by Darwin Sumang from Vacation Indonesia Tours. The sea trip took around 2 hours. We left Sorong city at around 09:00 and arrived at Waisai harbor at 11:30. We still had to go by car to Raja Ampat Dive Resort (RADR). Along the way, we stopped several times to watch birds. Some that we saw were Moustached Treeswift, White-breasted Woodswallow, Pacific Swallow, Osprey, and Willie Wagtail.



Charles Roring

Arriving at the resort, we were welcomed by the employees of the resort which helped us carry our bags into our rooms. We took a rest for around 30 minutes and began birdwatching walk inside the complex area of the resort. We saw Pied-Imperial Pigeon, Pacific Reef Heron,

Lesser Frigatebird, Beach Kingfisher, Helmeted Friarbird and Torresian Crow. We used the spotting scope that belonged to Linda. A guest of the resort, Wyanda, who was sunbathing at the jetty joined us to watch birds that were sitting on the branches of trees along the beach. We watched birds until sunset time. Our dinner was grilled fish, vegetable soup and fruits.

The next morning on 25 March, we woke up early at 04:00 and then made preparation for a long hike into the forest. We took our breakfast that had already been prepared by the staff of the resort and walked up the stairs to main road. We chartered a car to bring us to Warkesi birding site. There, we watched Red Bird of Paradise and Wilson's Bird of Paradise from 06:00 to around 09:00. The slopes to the lek of these paradise birds were steep. We had to walk



slowly using flashlight. We also had our breakfast at the birding hide of Red Bird of Paradise. When we returned to our resort, we were so exhausted because of long walk and lack of sleep. So, after lunch we took a nap. In the afternoon, we had an excursion by car to birding site near the bridge of Waisai airport. There we saw Hooded Butcherbird, Eclectus Parrot, Shining Flycatcher, Moustached Treeswift, Little Curlew, Common Sandpiper, Willie Wagtail, Red-cheeked Parrot, Brown Oriole, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove, Gray-streaked Flycatcher, and Nankeen Night Heron.

When we returned to our resort, it was nearly dark. We had dinner and then took a rest for another early morning birding walk.

The next morning, 26 March, 2024, we started our birding activity at 06:00. We chose the road behind Raja Ampat Dive Resort (RADR) as our birding site. There were a lot of birds that morning. We saw Pinon Imperial Pigeon, Yellow-faced Myna, Eclectus Parrot, Rainbow Lorikeet, Glossy-mantled Manucode, Blyth's Hornbill, Shining Flycatcher, Brown Oriole, Red-Bird of Paradise, Sahul Sunbird, Hooded Butcherbird, and Helmeted Friarbird.

After lunch, we took a rest and then at 15:00, we had an excursion to a small island at the



front of Kabui bay. There, we saw Metallic Starling, Crested Tern, Lesser Frigatebird, Beach Kingfisher, Eclectus Parrot, Rainbow Lorikeet, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Blyth's Hornbill, and Striated Heron. We enjoyed the surrounding view of the sea and the hills along Kabui bay and the coastal area of Saporkren village.

In the morning of 27 March 2024, we checked out from RADR and returned to Sorong city. We had a quick lunch at Solaria restaurant and then continued our trip to Sausapor. It took around 4 hours to reach the town. We checked into Sansapore Pacific Park. It was the only beach resort of the town.

After putting our bags in our rooms, we immediately walked to the beach to watch birds. There, we saw Common Sandpiper, Woodsandpiper and Lesser Frigatebird. There were

some butterflies in the front, and backyard of Sansapore Pacific Park. The sunset at the beach of the resort was beautiful. After dinner, we slept early.

The next day, on 28 March 2024, we woke up at 04:00, made preparation and then left for the site of Lesser Birds of Paradise at 04:30. It was located near hydroelectric powerplant. We still had to walk up a long and steep wooden stairs to reach the trees where birds of paradise like to gather and dance for mating. We were accompanied by Alfred and Eky. Our driver Emon, waited at his 4WD car. We waited for around three hours. We did see the Lesser Birds of Paradise but not in their breeding plumage. The male paradise bird displayed his feather and performed dancing.



After watching the paradise birds, we continued our activity by doing general birding. We saw Moustached Treeswift, Variable Goshawk, Gray-headed Goshawk Brown Cuckoo Dove, Yellow-billed Kingfisher, Gray Crow, Rainbow Lorikeet, Fairy Lorikeet, and Mimic Honeyeater.

Back to the resort, we had lunch and took a nap. At around 15:00, we went birding by car to the forest located between Sausapor and Werur. We saw a lot of species of birds including Hooded Butcherbird, Black Butcherbird, Yellow-faced Myna, Red-cheeked Parrot, Double-eyed Fig Parrot, Blyth's Hornbill, Palm Cockatoo, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Helmeted

Friarbird, Orange-bellied Fruit Dove, Pinon Imperial Pigeon, Variable Goshawk, Sahul Sunbird, Black-billed Cuckoo Dove and Long-tailed Honeybuzzard, Brahminy Kite.

We still wanted to enjoy birding but the sky was covered by thick clouds. We we returned to our car, it started to rain.

We returned to our resort and then took a rest. Dinner was served at 19:00 at Sansapore Pacific Park Resort.

On 29 March 2024, we checked out of the resort at 11:30 after having our early lunch. On the way to Sorong, we watched a huge White-bellied Sea Eagle and Lesser Black Coucal. We also saw a dead monitor lizard. The tyre of trucks or pick-up car might have hit him while crossing the road.

We still had a short birding walk at Mangrove forest of Sorong city where we saw Sacred Kingfisher, Beach Kingfisher, Metallic Starling, Orange-fronted Fruit Dove and Scaly-breasted Munia. Near sunset time, it started to rain again. We decided to end our birding walk that day and continued our trip to Swissbel Hotel where Linda would stay for 1 night. I returned to my house.

The next morning, I organized her transfer to DEO Airport of Sorong city and said good bye to her. She would fly to Jakarta and continue her holiday in Alor. She would enjoy scuba diving there.