

New Caledonia 2023

2023-11-05 ~ 2023-11-08

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Along with a friend (Bryan Baker), I had signed up for a southwest Australia endemics tour with Bellbird Tours. It was a reasonably short tour, so we thought to bird a few days in New Caledonia beforehand, targeting the endemics and especially Kagu. We contacted Isabelle Jolit (Caledonia Birds, website: <https://caledoniabirds.com/>) and fortunately, she was available to guide us on our available days. Bryan and I flew into Sydney, Australia from the U.S., spending the night in Sydney before flying out the next day to New Caledonia. There were no problems with any of the flights. While Sydney was rainy and quite cool, New Caledonia was sunny and warm.

I highly recommend Isabelle Jolit as a guide and traveling companion. Her services were very reasonably priced, and we had a great time. She also handled all the driving. Other than the 3 endemics found on offshore islands (Ouvea and Lifou Islands), we had good views of all endemics in just a few days. We did not fly out to Lifou and Ouvea Islands.

New Caledonia is a wonderful place to visit. The food and beer were both excellent. Our lodging was also comfortable and convenient. We stayed at the Le Lagon Hotel in Noumea for 3 nights and at the Sheraton Resort near Bourail for 1 night. There is excellent dining available within easy walking distance of the Le Lagon Hotel and the Sheraton has its own restaurant (also quite excellent). We departed too early to have breakfast at either hotel but picked up something along the way. The Sheraton is rather isolated, so unless you have transportation, you are restricted to dining at the restaurant there. We took a shuttle at a very reasonable cost from the international airport to Noumea. Note that the international airport is located well outside of Noumea. Taxis are available, but the shuttle worked out very well and I can recommend it. We took the shuttle back to the airport after our tour was concluded.

The weather cooperated nicely. There were very few pests other than the rare mosquito. The flora is fascinating and worth some study. The birds were fantastic! Kagu did not disappoint, and we had several nice views at two different locations. We got lucky with the New Caledonian Thicketbird (2 birds!), which perched up (briefly) for some nice views. It was also a treat to watch New Caledonian Crow, one of the smartest birds in the world (makes and uses tools).

The format of the species list in this trip report was developed by iGoTerra (www.igoterra.com) and the bird list follows the IOC 13.2 taxonomy. Numbers of birds in the species listings are not indicative of the overall numbers seen during the trip. They simply reflect what I saw the first time I saw each species on that day. The trip was hugely successful. I saw my target family (Kagu, which was my main objective), and had a total of 31 life birds.

I am very thankful for Isabelle Jolit and her guiding/driving. All photos in this report were taken by me.

New Caledonia



Annotated checklist

New Caledonia

Birds

- 1 **Pacific Black Duck** *Anas superciliosa pelewensis*
3 Domaine de la Deva 2023-11-08
- 2 **Hardhead** *Aythya australis*
4 Domaine de la Deva 2023-11-08
- 3 **Satin Swiftlet** *Collocalia uropygialis albidior* **Endemic** **Lifer**
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06, 50 Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 4 **White-rumped Swiftlet** *Aerodramus spodiopygius leucopygius* **Endemic** **Lifer**
Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 5 **Shining Bronze Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx lucidus layardi*
Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 6 **Rock Dove** *Columba livia*
3 Nouméa 2023-11-05
- 7 **Metallic Pigeon** *Columba vitiensis hypoenochroa* **Endemic** **Lifer**
Robinson (town) 2023-11-06, enroute La Foa to Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07, Pothe Tribal Lands 2023-11-08
- 8 **Spotted Dove** *Spilopelia chinensis*
Nouméa 2023-11-05, Nouméa 2023-11-07, 2 en route Sheraton Resort to Pothe Tribal Lands 2023-11-08
- 9 **Pacific Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps longirostris sandwichensis*
2 Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 10 **Red-bellied Fruit Dove** *Ptilinopus greyi* **Lifer**
2 Gouaro 2023-11-08



Metallic Pigeon



Red-bellied Fruit Dove

Cloven-feathered Dove *Drepanoptila holosericea* NT **Endemic** **Lifer**
male enroute La Foa to Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07, male Parc des Grandes Fougères

2023-11-07

- 12 **Goliath Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula goliath* NT **Endemic** **Lifer**
2 Robinson (town) 2023-11-06, Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07



Cloven-feathered Dove



Goliath Imperial Pigeon

- 13 **Buff-banded Rail** *Hypotaenidia philippensis swindellsii*
enroute La Foa to Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07, en route Sheraton Resort to Pothe Tribal Lands 2023-11-08
- 14 **Dusky Moorhen** *Gallinula tenebrosa*
Domaine de la Deva 2023-11-08
- 15 **Australasian Swamphen** *Porphyrio melanotus samoensis*
12 Sheraton Resort, Bourail 2023-11-07, 12 Sheraton Resort near Bourail 2023-11-08
- 16 **Silver Gull** *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae forsteri*
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 17 **Greater Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bergii cristatus*
Nouméa 2023-11-08
- 18 **Black-naped Tern** *Sterna sumatrana sumatrana*
2 Nouméa 2023-11-08
- 19 **Kagu** *Rhynochetos jubatus* EN **Endemic** **Lifer**
pair Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06, Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07
- 20 **Little Pied Cormorant** *Microcarbo melanoleucos melanoleucos*
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06, Domaine de la Deva 2023-11-08
- 21 **Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo novaehollandiae*
2 Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06, 7 Domaine de la Deva 2023-11-08
- 22 **White-faced Heron** *Egretta novaehollandiae*
enroute Parc des Grandes Fougères to Bourail 2023-11-07, Sheraton Resort near Bourail 2023-11-08
- 23 **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus cristatus*
Nouméa 2023-11-06
- 24 **Brown Goshawk** *Accipiter fasciatus vigilax*
enroute Nouméa to La Foa 2023-11-07

- 25 **White-bellied Goshawk** *Accipiter haplochrous* NT **Endemic** **Lifer**
enroute La Foa to Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07, Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07



Kagus



White-bellied (New Caledonian) Goshawk

- 26 **Swamp Harrier** *Circus approximans*
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06, en route Domaine de la Deva to Noumea 2023-11-08
- 27 **Whistling Kite** *Haliastur sphenurus*
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06, 2 Domaine de la Deva 2023-11-08
- 28 **Sacred Kingfisher** *Todiramphus sanctus canacorum*
Nouméa 2023-11-05, Robinson (town) 2023-11-06, Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07
- 29 **Horned Parakeet** *Eunymphicus cornutus* VU **Endemic** **Lifer**
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06, Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07
- 30 **New Caledonian Parakeet** *Cyanoramphus saisseti* **Endemic** **Lifer**
2 Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06, Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07
- 31 **Coconut Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus haematodus deplanchii* **Endemic** **Lifer**
2 en route Noumea to Parc Provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06



Horned Parakeet



New Caledonian Parakeet



Coconut Lorikeet

- 32 **Barred Honeyeater** *Glycifohia undulata* Endemic Lifer
en route Noumea to Parc Provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 33 **New Caledonian Myzomela** *Myzomela caledonica* Endemic Lifer
male en route Noumea to Parc Provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 34 **New Caledonian Friarbird** *Philemon diemenensis* Endemic Lifer
4 Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06, en route Noumea to Parc Provincial de la Rivière Bleue
2023-11-06, Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07
- 35 **Grey-eared Honeyeater** *Lichmera incana incana* Endemic Lifer
en route Noumea to Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06, Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 36 **Crow Honeyeater** *Gymnomyza aubryana* CR Endemic Lifer
pair Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 37 **Fan-tailed Gerygone** *Gerygone flavolateralis flavolateralis* Endemic Lifer
Robinson (town) 2023-11-06
- 38 **White-breasted Woodswallow** *Artamus leucorhynchus melaleucus*
Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07, Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 39 **South Melanesian Cuckooshrike** *Coracina caledonica caledonica* Endemic Lifer
Robinson (town) 2023-11-06, enroute La Foa to Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07, Parc des
Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07
- 40 **New Caledonian Cuckooshrike** *Edolisoma anale* NT Endemic Lifer
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 41 **Long-tailed Triller** *Lalage leucopyga montrosieri* Endemic Lifer

pair Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07, Pothe Tribal Lands 2023-11-08

- 42 **New Caledonian Whistler** *Pachycephala caledonica* **Endemic** **Lifer**
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 43 **Rufous Whistler** *Pachycephala rufiventris xantheura*
pair Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07
- 44 **Grey Fantail** *Rhipidura albiscapa bulgeri*
Robinson (town) 2023-11-06, Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07, Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 45 **Streaked Fantail** *Rhipidura verreauxi verreauxi* **Endemic** **Lifer**
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06, Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07
- 46 **Southern Shrikebill** *Clytorhynchus pachycephaloides pachycephaloides* **Endemic** **Lifer**
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 47 **Melanesian Flycatcher** *Myiagra caledonica caledonica* **Endemic** **Lifer**
female Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07, female Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 48 **New Caledonian Crow** *Corvus moneduloides* **Endemic** **Lifer**
Robinson (town) 2023-11-06, enroute La Foa to Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07, 4 Sheraton
Resort near Bourail 2023-11-08, Pothe Tribal Lands 2023-11-08
- 49 **Yellow-bellied Flyrobin** *Cryptomicroeca flaviventris* **Endemic** **Lifer**
3 Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06, Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07
- 50 **Red-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus cafer* **Lifer**
Nouméa 2023-11-08
- 51 **Welcome Swallow** *Hirundo neoxena neoxena*
Domaine de la Deva 2023-11-08
- 52 **New Caledonian Thicketbird** *Cincloramphus mariae* **Endemic** **Lifer**
2 Pothe Tribal Lands 2023-11-08



Melanesian Flycatcher



New Caledonian Crow



Yellow-bellied Flyrobin



Welcome Swallow

- 53 **Silvereye** *Zosterops lateralis griseonota*
Pothe Tribal Lands 2023-11-08
- 54 **Green-backed White-eye** *Zosterops xanthochroa* **Endemic** **Lifer**
en route Noumea to Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06, 2 Robinson (town) 2023-11-06, Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07, Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 55 **Striated Starling** *Aplonis striata striata* **Endemic** **Lifer**
pair Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06, enroute La Foa to Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07
- 56 **Common Myna** *Acridotheres tristis tristis*
6 Nouméa 2023-11-05, 2 Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07, 12 en route Sheraton Resort to Pothe Tribal Lands 2023-11-08
- 57 **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*
2 Nouméa 2023-11-05, 2 Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 58 **Chestnut-breasted Mannikin** *Lonchura castaneothorax*
25 enroute La Foa to Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07
- 59 **Red-throated Parrotfinch** *Erythrura psittacea* **Endemic** **Lifer**
Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07, Pothe Tribal Lands 2023-11-08
- 60 **Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild astrild*
4 Pothe Tribal Lands 2023-11-08

Butterflies

- 1 **Montrouzier's Ulysses Swallowtail** *Papilio montrouzieri* **Endemic** **Lifer**
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 2 **Monarch** *Danaus plexippus*
Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07
- 3 **Autumn Leaf** *Doleschallia bisaltide* **Lifer**
Robinson (town) 2023-11-06
- 4 **Purple Crow** *Euploea tulliolus* **Lifer**
Gouaro 2023-11-08

- 5 **Meadow Argus** *Junonia villida* Lifer
Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07
- 6 *Polyura gamma* Endemic Lifer
Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 7 *Cyrestis whitmei* Lifer
en route La Foa to Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07



Autumn Leaf



Purple Crow



Meadow Argus



Polyura gamma

Dragonflies

- 1 **Yellow-striped Flutterer** *Rhyothemis phyllis* Lifer
Gouaro 2023-11-08



Cyrestis whitmei



Yellow-striped Flutterer

Spiders and allies

- 1 **Dome Web Spider** *Cyrtophora moluccensis cupidinea* Endemic Lifer
Robinson (town) 2023-11-06
- 2 *Gasteracantha westringi* Lifer
Robinson (town) 2023-11-06
- 3 **Ninja-star Ceiling Spider** *Zosis geniculata* Lifer
Domaine de la Deva 2023-11-08



Dome Web Spider



Ninja-star Ceiling Spider

Plants

- 1 *Plerandra gabriellae* Endemic Lifer
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 2 *Myodocarpus fraxinifolius* Endemic Lifer
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 3 *Basselinia pancheri* Endemic Lifer
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 4 *Chambeyronia macrocarpa* Endemic Lifer

Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06, Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07

- 5 *Cyphokentia macrostachya* **Lifer**
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 6 *Cyphophoenix fulcita* **Endemic** **Lifer**
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 7 *Calanthe balansae* **Endemic** **Lifer**
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 8 *Nepenthes vieillardii* **Endemic** **Lifer**
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 9 **Tamana** *Elaeodendron curtispiculum* **Lifer**
Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 10 *Cyathea intermedia* **Endemic** **Lifer**
Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07



Nepenthes vieillardii



Cyathea intermedia

- 11 **Grey Ebony** *Diospyros fasciculosa* **Lifer**
Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 12 *Mimusops elengi* **Lifer**
Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 13 *Gymnostoma webbianum* **Lifer**
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 14 **Sea Mango** *Cerbera manghas* **Lifer**
Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 15 *Fagraea berteroaana* **Lifer**
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 16 *Gardenia conferta* **Lifer**
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 17 **Alahe'e** *Psydrax odorata* **Lifer**
Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 18 *Cryptocarya transversa* **Lifer**

Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06

- 19 **Canary Beech** *Hubera nitidissima* Lifer
Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 20 **Giant Houp** *Montrouziera cauliflora* VU Lifer
Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07
- 21 **Scrub Bloodwood** *Baloghia inophylla* Lifer
Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 22 **Yellow Tulipwood** *Drypetes deplanchei* Lifer
Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 23 *Crossostylis grandiflora* Lifer
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 24 *Acropogon austrocaledonicus* Lifer
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 25 *Pandanus balansae* Lifer
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 26 **Grand Kauri** *Agathis lanceolata* VU Endemic Lifer
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 27 **Mueller's Araucaria** *Araucaria muelleri* EN Lifer
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 28 **Calico Flower** *Aristolochia elegans* Lifer
Gouaro 2023-11-08



Calico Flower (Dutchman's Pipe)



Flower (unidentified)

- 29 **Austral Bracken** *Pteridium esculentum*
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 30 **Small-leaved Fig** *Ficus obliqua* Lifer
Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 31 **Orange Jasmine** *Murraya paniculata* Lifer
Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 32 *Semecarpus atra* Lifer

- Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 33 *Planchonella cinerea* Lifer
Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 34 *Acropogon bullatus* Lifer
Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 35 *Sarcomelicope leiocarpa* Lifer
Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 36 *Maesa novocaledonica* Lifer
Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 37 *Didymocheton bijugus* Lifer
Gouaro 2023-11-08
- 38 *Dicksonia thyrspteroides* Lifer
Parc des Grandes Fougères 2023-11-07
- 39 *Garcinia amplexicaulis* Lifer
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 40 *Thiollierea montana* Lifer
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 41 *Ceodes gigantocarpa* Lifer
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 42 *Psychotria gabriellae* Lifer
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 43 *Hernandia cordigera* Lifer
Parc provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06
- 44 *Grevillea exul* Lifer
en route Noumea to Parc Provincial de la Rivière Bleue 2023-11-06



Pierced Rock (Poe Beach)

