

FACES OF POLYNESIA: FIJI TO TAHITI

ABOARD THE *CALEDONIAN SKY*

OCTOBER 22–NOVEMBER 7, 2017



Hordes of Sooty Terns swirling over Mopelia, French Polynesia © Brian Gibbons

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By Brian Gibbons

October 24, 2017

We started our adventure on Viti Levu, Fiji at the Westin Denarau resort, which is a set in a tropical garden paradise where we found our first Fijian endemics. Fiji Parrotfinch was quite charming and common. Western Wattled-Honeyeater, Fiji Woodswallow, and the ubiquitous and sometimes feisty mynas all reside around the resort. After a tour of the Garden of the Sleeping Giant and Viseisei Village, we embarked the *Caledonian Sky*, our fine home in the South Pacific for the next two weeks, as we island-hopped through this beautiful slice of the world.



Fiji Parrotfinch was our first endemic on Viti Levu, Fiji © Brian Gibbons

October 25

Taveuni, Fiji Dous Voux Peak, and Bouma National Park were sunny and hot with quite slow birding. Our first proper birding in Fiji took a good deal of effort, but we made it into a good day after working through the heat and sun to find some great Fijian endemics. After climbing ashore we got into five 4x4 trucks for the long ride into Bouma National Park. At first the road was a good dirt road, but it changed as we climbed higher and higher into the mountains. We went through deep ravines followed by steep climbs, and in a couple of places our drivers had to place rocks into the deeply rutted tracks so the trucks could pass. We made it up to the Taveuni Silktail trail, and we all clambered into the forest; a few folks glimpsed the Silktail, but the real prize in the woods was a calling male Orange Dove! His strange click, click, click call could be heard from a distance; finally he came into view, glowing on a distant branch. I retrieved the scope, and we got nice looks at this odd tangerine-colored dove. We proceeded further up the mountain, seeking the emerald cloud-forest like surroundings of the land. Tree ferns, epiphyte-laden branches, and moss made everything green. We tracked down Northern Wattled-

Honeyeater, Chattering Giant-Honeyeater, Collared Lory, Many-colored Fruit-Dove, and Peale's Imperial Pigeon, and got good scope views of Fiji Goshawk and Layard's White-eye. As we descended the mountain, we tried again for Silktail; the repeat visit was very productive for folks adventurous enough to try the trail again. Late in the afternoon, with our time waning, we finally caught up with a stunning Red Shining-Parrot that we studied in the scope, as it devoured the flower of a bromeliad. The long, bumpy road back to the dock was softened by our wonderful collection of birds from Bouma National Park. Just before reaching the ship, we stopped to take a few photos of a large roost of Flying Foxes just hanging out in a tree in someone's backyard.



Orange Dove was a prize endemic from Taveuni, Fiji © Brian Gibbons

October 26

Alofi, Wallis, and Futuna, birding in the morning and snorkel and beach in the afternoon. Again, it was sunny and hot with not too much bird action. A very cooperative Pacific Kingfisher sitting on a log eventually swooped into the leaf litter and caught a roach! The Crimson-crowned Fruit-Doves and Blue-crowned Lorikeets proved elusive, but we saw several of each zip by overhead. White-rumped Swiftlets darted under the trees right in front of us, daring us to reach out. Eastern Wattled-Honeyeater was a key endemic that we saw quite well on Alofi.

October 27

Wallis Island tour to Lalo Lalo crater lake with nesting Brown Noddies and White-tailed Tropicbirds. Buff-banded Rail and Lesser Frigatebird were also seen around the island. We stopped at a couple of churches and the location where thousands of US servicemen were stationed during World War II. A beach snorkel from Faioa Island in the afternoon was great, with clear water, tons of fish, and nice corals.

October 28

Niuafo'ou, Tonga. The Scrubfowl hunt involved trucks, walking, a boat ride, and more hiking. We crammed 24 of us into a small flatbed truck and the Police pickup for an hourlong drive to the other side of the island. We then walked a short distance to a second lake where we waited to be shuttled to the small island in the middle of the crater lake. Once we all got there, four at a time, we walked into the woods. Slow-going with our human caravan prevented us from seeing the Niuafo'ou Scrubfowl well, but eventually Taniela rounded one up and herded it to the group where everyone saw the rare megapode, at least briefly! We had a little time for an afternoon snorkel in clear warm waters. The volcanic structure provided a very different substrate for the corals and fish, as well as a few Sea Kraits. Dancers from the island were aboard in the afternoon for an excellent show.



Faioa Island, Wallis and Futuna - we had a wonderful beach snorkel from this spot © Brian Gibbons

October 29

Fonualei hosted tons of seabirds overhead and steaming volcanic vents but no possible landing for us. Toku, another tiny island with no possible landing, gave us great Humpback Whale action—mother and calf just off the bow for an hour, with escort and Bottlenose Dolphins. One whale breached spectacularly four times right in front of the ship. Seabirds were numerous around these islands, and we added Wedge-tailed Shearwater, Sooty Tern, Black Noddy, and many Brown Noddies. We continued south to Vava'u. On a Zodiac cruise and snorkel in the afternoon, a tiny islet with many Black Noddy nests on it was a highlight of the afternoon cruise, and the soaring cliffs with White-tailed Tropicbirds gliding in front of them were a close second. Beautiful sandy beaches strewn with massive boulders and

ringed with coral prevented our landing. The overcast day made for a nice cruise with the noddies, Pacific Kingfishers, Pacific Imperial-Pigeons, and a few other birds.

October 30 - the first

Alongside in Neiafu Vava'u, Tonga. The birders made a quick trip to 'Ene'io Botanical Garden where 600 species of plants from around the tropical Pacific grow. Haniteli Faalunu, our host, also has a couple of pairs of the rare Tongan Whistlers in the gardens; eventually we caught up with a male that held still just long enough for most folks to lay eyes on him. This beautiful endemic bird has a golden body with a glossy black hood. While we were listening to the pleasing song of the whistlers, waiting for them to appear between rain showers, a couple of stunning Crimson-crowned Fruit-Doves presented themselves for excellent scope views. Massive Pacific Imperial-Pigeons also flew past a couple of times. After lunch on the ship, we moved over to Nuku Island where we had a great beach snorkel; Garden Eels, Shrimp Goby Pairs, a Lionfish, and a kaleidoscope of colorful reef fishes made for a wonderful afternoon swim. We reconvened on the *Caledonian Sky* for a Zodiac cruise to the inappropriately named Swallow Cave. Along the way we saw Flying Foxes, Imperial Pigeons, and a feeding flock of Black Noddies. Finally, we ducked inside the cave on our Zodiac; crystal waters came into focus as our eyes adjusted, and we could hear the clicks of the White-rumped Swiftlets as they swirled around in the void overhead, homing in on their nests, which clung precariously to the cave ceiling, affixed by saliva.

October 30 - the second time around

After crossing the International Date Line we had another go at the 30th of October. This time we were in Niue, the smallest independent country in the world. Once ashore, folks scattered on a coastal tour, cultural tour, or just wandered the island on their own. In the afternoon some people enjoyed a snorkel at the reef surrounding the island. The snorkelers found a few Sea Kraits as well as many fish. From the dock I watched the Surf Tangs slide in and out with the surf as they grabbed a bite of algae before retreating with the waves, only to ride in with the next.



Caledonian Sky waiting patiently off Niue © Brian Gibbons

October 31

We arrived early in the morning at Beveridge Reef to find the conditions less than ideal. Foolishly we lowered a few scouting Zodiacs and went into the cut to see if the snorkel and dive operations would be possible; the sharks were there, unconcerned with the weather above. For those stuck in the Zodiacs, we soon became drenched by the squall. The wind, current, chop, and swell soon cancelled any possible operations for the morning, so we continued on our eastward way towards Palmerston Atoll in the Cook Islands. Heavy seas continued through the day and night.

November 1

Palmerston Atoll, Cook Islands. This is a clean and tidy little village with seemingly happy people, including an Australian descendant who'd been there for three months and planned on staying awhile; his grandmother had been born there but emigrated to Australia long ago. Birds were sparse, but we did add our first Red-tailed Tropicbird and our first hand-tamed Red-footed Boobies. Apparently many folks keep a booby as a pet, and we even saw one young, but quite large Great Frigatebird being fed on its perch. The locals entertained us with songs and dances that were a little rough around the edges but beautiful. The chilled coconuts were the best we've had. After lunch on the ship we returned inside the lagoon for a snorkel. Locals helped us navigate the tricky entrance into the lagoon by supplying pilots for each Zodiac. Kids had fun on the beach with the Zodiac traffic, and they welcomed everyone that arrived.

Western Reef-Heron, Pacific Golden-Plover, Red-footed Booby, Red-tailed Tropicbird, White Terns on eggs, Great Crested Tern, and Black Noddy over the lagoon were the birds for Palmerston.

During the night we encountered Beaufort Force 8 winds, a gale, and 5-7 m seas!



The locals on Palmerston have different pets than we have, here a Red-footed Booby © Brian Gibbons

November 2

Aitutaki. Our arrival was delayed by our slow progress during the night due to the high seas. After lunch on board, we went to our welcome where we watched traditional dances with percussion and vocal accompaniment and enjoyed fresh coconut juice in the rain. The birding tour then departed in the rain; we walked in the rain and saw only a few birds. Common Mynas were ubiquitous on the island. We also noted Pacific Golden-Plovers, Wandering Tattler, Great Frigatebird, White Tern, and our charming little target bird. The indigo-violet Blue Lorikeet put in an appearance in our host's garden just after our spirits were lifted by her gift of garden-fresh passionfruit. Several lorikeets struggled to fly in the wind and rain, and a few lucky folks even got to see one in the scope; most of our looks were brief, but we were satisfied. Because of the rain we assumed our search would be fruitless. Now thoroughly soaked, we made our way back to the dock for the return to the *Caledonian Sky*. The skies opened again and the rain peppered our face as Mimo expertly took us through the cut in the reef and returned us to the ship. Hot showers were in order after this very wet afternoon.



Kuhl's Lorikeet at Atiu, Cook Islands © Brian Gibbons

November 3

Atiu. Birdman George was instrumental in our success on Aitu. At our first stop George had us marching into the woods as he clapped, whistled, and shouted for the Kakerori, or Rarotonga Monarch, to come out. Eventually it worked after the shy birds gave an initial fleeting glimpse. While we were watching the monarch we also saw endemic Cook Islands Fruit-Doves as they moved through the same trees. Two endemics on our first stop, plus we heard the Chattering Kingfisher. Birdman George was making it happen on a gray and misty day. We drove to an open grove of trees with coconuts in flower as well as coral flowers, both food trees for the Kuhl's Lorikeet. Soon enough these rare birds were squeaking in the trees overhead, scrambling through the branches getting nectar from the flowers. Our best looks

came when one bird began feeding on a banana flower closer to us and we could appreciate the bright red breast, grass-green back, and violet nape—a stunning bird and another of George’s conservation successes. The Atiu Swiftlet would be our biggest challenge since these small aerial insectivores usually don’t fly in the rain. A quick stop for an obliging Chattering Kingfisher turned fortuitous. We scoped up a few more lorikeets in a mango, and then our final endemic fluttered by the coconut trees over the house in front of us! Atiu Swiftlets made many passes so we could admire this plain but very rare Atiu endemic. Having logged all the birds, we headed back to the landing area for some singing and dancing performed by the locals, followed by the largest buffet of fresh fruit I’ve ever seen: papaya, green mango, watermelon, coconuts, passionfruit, rambutan and more. Our time was up and we needed to leave Atiu. The locals wanted to hear the ship’s horn blow, so when everyone was back aboard and the *Caledonian Sky* was headed to French Polynesia, the captain let the horn blow as a salute to the friendly folks of Atiu.

November 4

Mopelia, French Polynesia. Finally a morning dawned gorgeous with calm seas. We did a bit of seawatching and were rewarded with a Black-winged Petrel. Midday we arrived at the tiny, uninhabited atoll of Mopelia in a deluge. Several of our staff members who drew the short straws were sent out to look for potential snorkeling and birding areas. An hour and a half later we had succeeded on both missions, as well as getting completely soaked. After lunch the weather cleared and we delighted in gorgeous snorkeling conditions. We enjoyed several Black-tipped and White-tipped sharks, and excellent fish diversity on the coral bommies. Our evening Zodiac cruise was equally successful as we made a quick landing on a motu covered in nesting Sooty Terns; tens of thousands of adults swirled around the island, squawking for the hungry chicks, which can amazingly reunite with their parents in the melee. Boobies, frigates, and a few Great Crested Terns could tolerate the cacophony. As we cruised by the other islands, we were hoping to spot the rare Bristle-thighed Curlew, but the wind had come up and we couldn’t track down this desired bird.



Sooty Tern chick waiting for its parents to feed it on Mopelia, French Polynesia © Brian Gibbons

November 5

Another gray morning dawned as we cruised into our mooring just outside of the wharf. Towering above the lagoon were the classic mountains of Bora Bora. We went ashore to seek the Polynesian endemic Gray-Green Fruit-Dove. Winding our way through some wooded gardens, we came to the end of the road. After sorting our things for a few minutes Brent announced we were ready to start our short walk. Seconds later, on cue, two Gray-Green Fruit-Doves flew into the tamarind tree we were standing under! While they didn't linger long, we eventually found a very cooperative bird that sat for extended scope views. With our primary target in the bag, we took a windy mountain road up to an artists' retreat where we enjoyed extensive views of the lagoon and a slender waterfall tumbling down the green-carpeted mountain behind us. Swamp Harriers are widely introduced through the Pacific Islands to kill the introduced rats; well, it turns out they prefer chicken and persist on many islands. Our perch in the mountains was an ideal lookout for this species. Soon Barbara spotted a distant harrier that proceeded to fly right over our heads. Also on the property was an old Polynesian marae, a ceremonial platform. Just before noon we found ourselves at the apparently legendary Bloody Mary's where we partook in their namesake beverage. In the afternoon some folks went for another rainy snorkel that involved rays clambering about their bodies looking for handouts.



Hordes of Sooty Terns swirling over Mopelia, French Polynesia © Brian Gibbons

November 6

A few of us were out on deck early, and we watched several elegant Tahiti Petrels wheeling in the wind before we came into port. Our morning outing was a trip to the Tahiti Monarch Reserve, where this critically endangered bird hangs on to this earth tenuously. The world population is around 80 birds and is growing very slowly under the intensive management of the non-profit tasked with this challenging job. A couple of locals led us into the beautiful forested canyon where the monarchs were nesting. They

directed us to two occupied nests where we witnessed the changing of the guard a few times. The newly-arrived bird quickly assumed its incubation duties on the nest while the newly-relieved bird disappeared into the forest to forage. Also in the forest we saw Polynesian Swiftlets and Society Kingfishers, both endemic new birds for us! A highly successful visit to the reserve left us some time to visit an ancient marae nearby with stone carvings and a few birds. Our final group event was to dine on a huge buffet for lunch which was excellent; of course, we were still watching, and some Common Waxbills and a Silver-eye interrupted our lunch. The grounds of the resort hosted many nesting Brown Noddies in the palm trees as well.

Finally after six countries, 3,000 miles, and thousands of birds, we ended our voyage through Polynesia with our memories full of amazing experiences and sights. Thank you for traveling with VENT and Zegrahm Expeditions.

Until our next birding adventure, wherever in the world that might be...

Brian Gibbons



White Terns in display flight over Wallis © Brian Gibbons

24 October - Nadi, Viti Levu, Fiji. Garden of the Sleeping Giant, Viseisei Village, and embark Caledonian Sky

25 October - Taveuni, Fiji. We landed at Somosomo Village and took trucks up to Bouma National Park

26 October - Alofi, Wallis and Futuna birding in the morning and island tour of Futuna in the afternoon
 27 October – Wallis, island tour in the morning, beach snorkel in the afternoon
 28 October - Niuafo'ou, Kingdom of Tonga. Birding outing for the Scrubfowl in the morning, afternoon dance performance by islanders on the Caledonian Sky
 29 October - Fanualei and Toku in passage. Vava'u afternoon snorkel and Zodiac cruise
 30 October - Neiafu, Vava'u. Birding outing in the morning to Ene'io Botanical Garden, afternoon snorkel on Nuku Island and Zodiac cruise to the swiftlet nesting cave
 30 October - After crossing the International Date Line we had another 30th. Niue
 31 October - At Sea, Beveridge Reef was the only bit of potential land today, weather was too rough for snorkeling
 1 November - Palmerston Atoll, Cook Islands. We spent the day at this amazing little settlement
 2 November - Aitutaki. Afternoon welcome dance by locals and then off in the rain to search for Blue Lorieet
 3 November - Atiu. Birdman George made our visit a success
 4 November - Mopelia, French Polynesia. Snorkel in the lagoon and evening Zodiac cruise through the lagoon
 5 November - Bora Bora, French Polynesia. Birding in the morning and snorkeling trip in the afternoon
 6 November - Tahiti. Birding visit to the Tahiti Monarch Reserve, afternoon at Intercontinental Resort

Megapodes		
Niuafoou Scrubfowl (E)	Megapodiidae <i>Megapodius pritchardii</i>	Niuafo'ou, Kingdom of Tonga. Involved a truck ride, a hike, a boat ride, and another hike to find this rare megapode.
Shearwaters & Petrels		
Black-winged Petrel	Procellariidae <i>Pterodroma nigripennis</i>	A couple of us had a quick flyby, 4 Nov, before Mopelia, French Polynesia
Tahiti Petrel	<i>Pseudobulweria rostrata</i>	A few were seen early as we arrived to Tahiti
Wedge-tailed Shearwater	<i>Ardeanna pacifica</i>	Hundreds around Fonualei, Tonga and a few scattered sightings
Tropicbirds		
White-tailed Tropicbird	Phaethontidae <i>Phaethon lepturus</i>	Most numerous tropicbird of the trip, best looks at a nest on Wallis at an old Tongan fort
Red-tailed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon rubricauda</i>	A few seen at sea as we cruised around the Cook Islands and French Polynesia
Frigatebirds		
Lesser Frigatebird	Fregatidae <i>Fregata ariel</i>	Several sightings throughout the voyage
Great Frigatebird	<i>Fregata minor</i>	Several sightings throughout the voyage
Boobies & Gannets		
Masked Booby	Sulidae <i>Sula dactylatra</i>	A single immature cruised past the ship near Atiu, Cook Islands
Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>	Common seen many times
Red-footed Booby	<i>Sula sula</i>	Common seen many times

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns

White-faced Heron

Pacific Reef-Heron

Striated (Little) Heron

Hawks, Eagles & Kites

Swamp Harrier

Fiji Goshawk (E)

Rails, Gallinules & Coots

Buff-banded Rail

Plovers & Lapwings

Pacific Golden-Plover

Sandpipers & Allies

Ruddy Turnstone

Gray-tailed Tattler

Wandering Tattler

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers

Brown (Common) Noddy

Black Noddy

White Tern

Sooty Tern

Black-naped Tern

Great Crested Tern

Pigeons & Doves

Rock Pigeon (I)

Spotted Dove

Zebra Dove (I)

Many-colored Fruit-Dove (E)

Crimson-crowned Fruit-Dove (E)

Cook Islands Fruit-Dove (E)

Gray-green Fruit-Dove (E)

Orange Dove (E)

Pacific Imperial-Pigeon (E)

Peale's Imperial-Pigeon (E)

Cuckoos

Long-tailed Koel

Ardeidae*Egretta novaehollandiae**Egretta sacra**Butorides striata***Accipitridae***Circus approximans**Accipiter rufitorques***Rallidae***Gallirallus philippensis***Charadriidae***Pluvialis fulva***Scolopacidae***Arenaria interpres**Tringa brevipes**Tringa incana***Laridae***Anous stolidus**Anous minutus**Gygis alba**Onychoprion fuscatus**Sterna sumatrana**Thalasseus bergii***Columbidae***Columba livia**Streptopelia chinensis**Geopelia striata**Ptilinopus perousii**Ptilinopus porphyraceus**Ptilinopus rarotongensis**Ptilinopus purpuratus**Ptilinopus victor**Ducula pacifica**Ducula latrans***Cuculidae***Urodynamis taitensis*

A couple around Westin Denarau Island Resort in Fiji

Seen at many of the far-flung islands we visited

Marty had one at the resort in Tahiti

Taveuni briefly, good looks at Bora Bora, French Polynesia

Taveuni, we had a juvenile briefly and good scope views of an adult

Wallis and a quick view at Niuafu'ou, Tonga

Fairly common lawn bird in the island communities we visited

Wallis

Seen several times throughout the voyage

Heikki, had one calling distinctly, I forgot the location he mentioned

Common, seen most days, nesting on Bora Bora and Tahiti

Fairly common.

Common seen almost every day, nesting on Wallis and Palmerston

Common around French Polynesia where we experienced thousands at a nesting colony

This elegant tern was seen several times, first at Wallis

Great Crested Tern, seen several times, nesting in French Polynesia

Fiji and Tahiti

A few around the resort at Fiji

Bora Bora and Tahiti

Taveuni

Finally good looks in Tonga at Ene'io Botanical Garden

Birdman George helped find these on Atiu, Cook Islands

Bora Bora, French Polynesia where we had good scope views

Good scope views of this improbable beast on Taveuni, my favorite!

First seen at Alofi, Wallis & Futuna, seen on several more islands

Taveuni

A brief flyby on Atiu

Swifts		
White-rumped Swiftlet (E)		
Atiu Swiftlet (E)		
Polynesian Swiftlet (E)		
Kingfishers		
Society Kingfisher (E)		
Chattering Kingfisher (E)		
Pacific Kingfisher (E)		
Old World Parrots		
Red Shining-Parrot (E)		
Collared Lory (E)		
Blue-crowned Lorikeet (E)		
Kuhl's Lorikeet (E)		
Blue Lorikeet (E)		
Honeyeaters		
Orange-breasted Myzomela (E)		
Chattering Giant-Honeyeater (E)		
Western Wattled-Honeyeater (E)		
Eastern Wattled-Honeyeater (E)		
Northern Wattled-Honeyeater (E)		
Woodswallows		
Fiji Woodswallow (E)		
Cuckooshrikes		
Polynesian Triller (E)		
Whistlers & Allies		
Tongan Whistler (E)		
Golden Whistler (E)		
Fantails		
Taveuni Silktaill (E)		
Streaked Fantail (E)		
Monarch Flycatchers		
Tahiti Monarch (E)		
Rarotonga Monarch (E)		
Slaty Monarch (E)		
Fiji Shrikebill (E)		
Vanikoro Flycatcher (E)		
Apodidae		
<i>Aerodramus spodiopygius</i>		Seen on six islands early in our voyage
<i>Aerodramus sawtelli</i>		Atiu
<i>Aerodramus leucophaeus</i>		Tahiti at the Tahiti Monarch Reserve
Alcedinidae		
<i>Todiramphus veneratus</i>		Tahiti at the Tahiti Monarch Reserve
<i>Todiramphus tutus</i>		Atiu first, also seen on Bora Bora
<i>Todiramphus sacer</i>		Seen on four islands early in the trip
Psittaculidae		
<i>Prosopaea tabuensis</i>		Taveuni, finally good scope views of a feeding bird
<i>Phigys solitarius</i>		Fiji, some folks had them at the Westin Denarau Resort, also seen at Taveuni
<i>Vini australis</i>		Alofi, Wallis & Futuna and at Niuafu'ou, Tonga; always high flyovers
<i>Vini kuhli</i>		Birdman George scored these for us on Atiu
<i>Vini peruviana</i>		Our lady guides brought us to their garden in the rain, where we found a few soaked lorikeets! We also enjoyed their excellent passionfruit for a snack
Meliphagidae		
<i>Myzomela jugularis</i>		A couple seen high in the trees on Taveuni
<i>Gymnomyza viridis</i>		Great looks on Taveuni
<i>Foulehaio procerior</i>		Westin Resort and Garden of the Sleeping Giant on Viti Levu, Fiji
<i>Foulehaio carunculatus</i>		Alofi, Wallis & Futuna, where we had good looks
<i>Foulehaio taviuensis</i>		Taveuni
Artamidae		
<i>Artamus mentalis</i>		A few folks caught up with this bird at the Westin Resort
Campephagidae		
<i>Lalage maculosa</i>		Taveuni, Tonga & Niue
Pachycephalidae		
<i>Pachycephala jacquinoti</i>		Ene'io Botanical Garden, Vava'u Tonga
<i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i>		Some folks heard and saw this on Taveuni
Rhipiduridae		
<i>Lamprolia victoriae</i>		Taveuni, most folks caught up with one along the forest trail
<i>Rhipidura spilodera</i>		Taveuni, most folks caught up with one along the forest trail
Monarchidae		
<i>Pomarea nigra</i>		We saw two occupied nests of this world rarity and a couple of exchanges as one bird relieved the other for incubation/brooding duties
<i>Pomarea dimidiata</i>		Birdman George, shouted up a couple on Atiu
<i>Mayornis lessoni</i>		Taveuni
<i>Clytorhynchus vitiensis</i>		Heard only Taveuni
<i>Myiagra vanikorensis</i>		Westin Resort, Garden of the Sleeping Giant on Viti Levu, and Taveuni

Azure-crested Flycatcher (E)

Swallows

Pacific Swallow

Bulbuls

Red-vented Bulbul

White-eyes, Yuhinas & Allies

Layard's White-eye (E)

Silver-eye

Thrushes & Allies

Island Thrush

Starlings

Polynesian Starling (E)

Common Myna

Jungle Myna

Waxbills & Allies

Common Waxbill (I)

Red Avadavat

Fiji Parrotfinch (E)

Chestnut-breasted Munia

Rorquals

Humpback Whale

Marine Dolphins

Bottlenose Dolphin

Spinner Dolphin

Short-finned Pilot Whale

Myiagra azureocapilla

Hirundinidae

Hirundo tahitica

Pycnonotidae

Pycnonotus cafer

Zosteropidae

Zosterops explorator

Zosterops lateralis

Turdidae

Turdus poliocephalus

Sturnidae

Aplonis tabuensis

Acridotheres tristis

Acridotheres fuscus

Estrildidae

Estrilda astrild

Amandava amandava

Erythrura pealii

Lonchura castaneothorax

Balaenopteridae

Megaptera novaeangliae

Delphinidae

Tursiops truncatus

Stenella longirostris

Globicephala

macrorhynchus

Heard only Taveuni

Fiji

Fiji and Tonga

Taveuni, Fiji

Bora Bora and Tahiti

Some folks glimpsed one flying across the road, Taveuni

Alofi, Wallis and Futuna first, then several Tongan Islands

Annoyingly common on Fiji, Tonga and French Polynesia

Annoyingly common on Fiji and Tonga

Tahiti at the Resort

Viseisei Village on Viti Levu, Fiji our first day

Westin Denarau Resort and Taveuni, Fiji

Tahiti

A great experience watching a mother and calf with an escort or two, several breaches too off the island of Toku, Tonga

A few sightings

A couple brief sightings

Taveuni, from the ship very early one morning