



Wildlife of the World Newsletter

December 2025



Wilson's Bird-of-Paradise (Diphyllodes respublica)

Happy Christmas !

I hope you're enjoying the festive season and are not too swamped with all the preparations... this can be a fun time of year, but also quite exhausting! In between festivities I've been continuing to sort through the photos from my Indonesia trip and I've now written a report on the second leg, Waigeo Island [which you can read on my website here](#).

Waigeo is a Papuan island famous with scuba divers for its superb coral reefs. The wildlife is similar to the main island of Papua but much more accessible with a few special species of its own. There are also some comfortable resorts like the excellent Raja Ampat Eco Lodge where I spent several days.

Despite frequent heavy rain I thoroughly enjoyed my stay, photographing all sorts of exotic insects and birds as well as this beautiful three-meter python.

The highlight though was the incredible Wilson's bird-of-paradise shown at the top, which only lives on Waigeo and one other neighbouring island. David Attenborough filmed its strange display for the first time in 1996... [this is my rather less impressive attempt!](#)

From Waigeo I headed to Java and then Flores and Komodo. Hopefully the report for them should be out in the New Year.



Amethystine Python

(Simalia amethystina)

Wildlife-watching Sites

Anja Community Reserve, Madagascar

My chosen site for this month is a very special nature reserve in Madagascar's central mountains. Its home to the world's largest concentration of endangered ring-tailed lemurs and was created by local people 25 years ago to protect them.

The local community still run and manage the reserve today, carrying out conservation activities such as tree planting to replace the forest that has been destroyed. They also act as guides, showing tourists around the reserve which in addition to the lemurs is home to various special birds, insects and reptiles including the beautiful carpet chameleon below.



Ring-tailed Lemur

(Lemur catta)



Carpet Chameleon (Furcifer lateralis)

The Books

The books are proving popular this month and are presumably going to be appearing in some stockings on Christmas morning!

Reviews are critical in the modern world of on-line purchasing, so if you're in the UK I have a few copies of each of the four titles available for free, in return for writing a brief review on Amazon or Good Reads. Reply to this email letting me know if you're interested in receiving a copy.

Hoping you and everyone close to you have a wonderful Christmas!

Best Wishes

Hugh



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