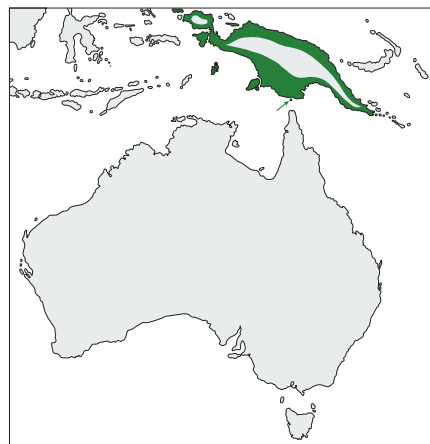


Subgenus *Sylphitreron* Bonaparte

Sylphitreron Bonaparte, *Consp. Av.*, 2, 1854, p. 40. Type, by original designation, *Columba perlata* Temminck.

In molecular analyses, the nine Moluccan–Melanesian species included in this subgenus formed a supported clade with some irresolution between them (Cibois *et al.* 2014). There is little or no sexual dimorphism, and a prominent feature of the plumage pattern

are wing markings in the form of a ‘shoulder-patch’ or spotting on the wing-coverts. The only species occurring in Australia is *P. iozonus*, which has been recorded in the northernmost Torres Strait islands.



ORANGE-BELLIED FRUIT-DOVE

Ptilinopus iozonus (G. R. Gray)

Ptilinopus iozonus G. R. Gray, *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, 1858, p. 186. (Aru Islands.)

DESCRIPTION

Length 21 cm.

ADULTS

General plumage on both upperparts and underparts rich olive-green with golden-bronze tone; bend of wing and outer lesser wing-coverts mauve, forming conspicuous ‘shoulder-patch’; tertials and innermost median wing-coverts grey-blue with broad green edges; secondary-coverts bright green with strong yellow edges; secondaries bright green with fine pale yellow margins; primary-coverts and primaries bluish-black, suffused green on outer webs and at tips; underwing-coverts and undersides of flight feathers grey; chin grey suffused olive-green; orange abdominal patch, more extensive in male; thighs grey; under tail-coverts cream-white with yellow tips; tail green above with broad blue-grey terminal band, brown-grey below with broad pale grey terminal band; bill olive with yellow tip; iris yellow to white; eyering bluish-green; legs and feet reddish-purple; weight males 100–140 g, females 95–120 g.

35 males (New Guinea): wing 115–125 (120.1) mm, tail 47–58 (52.8) mm, bill 15–20 (16.9) mm, tarsus 18–23 (20.9) mm.
25 females (New Guinea): wing 115–123 (118.9) mm, tail 48–54 (51.0) mm, bill 15–18 (16.8) mm, tarsus 20–23 (21.2) mm.

JUVENILES

Entirely dark olive-green, paler on underparts, but overall darker than adults; yellow margins to feathers on mantle, scapulars and wing-coverts giving barred appearance; feathers of underparts also with yellow margins, and most prominently on abdomen; underwing-coverts grey with yellow margins to feathers; less prominent terminal tail-band; bill brownish-olive with greenish-yellow tip; iris yellow-grey; legs and feet red.

DISTRIBUTION

Boigu Island, northernmost Torres Strait, north Queensland; also Aru Islands, Indonesia, and New Guinea.

SUBSPECIES

1. *P. i. finschi* Mayr
Ptilinopus iozonus finschi Mayr, *Mitt. Zool. Mus. Berlin*, 17, 1931, p.705. (Finschhafen.)

Birds seen on Boigu Island undoubtedly belong to this subspecies, which is described above, and is widespread throughout the lowlands of southern and south-eastern Papua New Guinea, west in the north to the Huon Peninsula and in the south to the Trans-Fly River region.

2. Other subspecies occur elsewhere in the lowlands of New Guinea, including offshore islands, and on the Aru Islands, Indonesia.

GENERAL NOTES

First sightings of the Orange-bellied Fruit-Dove on Boigu Island, northernmost Torres Strait, were made on 14 and 15 November 2004, and a series of photographs was obtained. Clarke (2007) records these sightings as follows:

On 15 November 2004 at 0740 h, while standing on grassland south of the Boigu Island airstrip and looking towards mangroves near the dump, I observed a small fruit-dove in flight. The bird was initially observed flying out of the mangroves and gaining height in front of my position. It flew out over the clearing for about 100 m before circling

OPPOSITE:

Orange-bellied Fruit-Dove

Ptilinopus iozonus finschi

with climbing fig *Ficus pantoniana*.

Front: ANWC B09684 adult ♀

Ravi Kivau village,

Purari River delta, PNG,

20 February 1966.

Rear: ANWC B03826 adult ♂

Brown River, PNG,

5 September 1968.