

THE MONTCLAIR BIRD CLUB

YOUR WEEKLY BIRD 30

March 31, 2024

By Christy Morganstein

Caroline Islands Ground Dove

In October 2023, my husband and I took a dive trip to Chuuk Lagoon (also known as Truk Lagoon), where the Japanese fleet was sunk during Operation Hailstone in February 1944. Located 970 miles north of New Guinea, Chuuk Lagoon is a natural harbor with a protective reef surrounding eleven major islands. We flew in and out of Weno Island, where we did most of our birding. Politically, it is part of the Federated States of Micronesia, while geographically it is identified as part of the larger Caroline Islands group, whence the name of our bird today—the Caroline Islands ground dove.



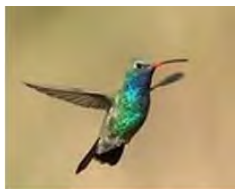
Photo by Christy Morganstein

This dove is endemic to the islands of Chuuk and Pohnpei. Formerly it was considered a subspecies of the white-throated ground dove, which is native to the Northern Mariana Islands and Yap (also in the Caroline Islands) and is closely related to the white-bibbed ground dove of Papua New Guinea. Despite its name, we first found it perched in a tree at our hotel.



Photo by Christy Morganstein

If you would like to see your photographs highlighted here, send one or two pictures with a short paragraph to Sandy Sorkin & Rick Wright at MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com.



Southwest Wings

