

Report on a Birding trip to Bali and The Lesser Sundas (Sumba, W. Timor, Flores, and Komodo)

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Komodo Dragon, Komodo Island.

Introduction

Having visited Indonesia in 2000 (Java and Sumatra) and 2002 (Sulawesi and Halmahera), I had long wanted to return there to visit some of the other islands in this fabulous birding country. It was a conversation with a friend here in March about a good deal he had got just with Etihad Airlines on a flight to China, that prompted me to check their web site. I first considered flights from Dublin to Chengdu, in Sichuan, but news of the closure of and access to some of the birding sites there, in particular Wawu Shan, lead me to postpone a trip to here for now. Instead I saw that I could get a return flight from Dublin to Denpasar, Bali, with Etihad on certain dates in late May for €640 return, which wasn't a bad price at all.

So I downloaded as many trip reports as I could find on the web and began planning an independent trip. I would have just over two months to prepare and organise everything, if I was to leave at the end of May.

After booking the main flights and drawing up a rough itinerary, the first thing I needed to do was to book my internal flights. With many of the Indonesia airlines, it is not possible to do this directly with them, if you are not actually in Indonesia.

However Indonesian travel company www.travelindo.com was able to book all my flights and e-mail me the e-tickets. They provided good and prompt service and they only charge a small commission for this service. I booked four flights with them at a total cost of about €350, meaning that I paid just under €1000 for all the flights.

I was very lucky in that all my internal flights, (booked with four different airlines), were on time with no delays or cancellations. Having read trip reports where others had got delayed, cancelled or diverted, I was prepared for the worst, but happily it wasn't an issue for me.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Rob Hutchinson, Chris Gooddie, Joseph Brooks and Richard Bonser for some pre-trip information. In Indonesia Freddy Hambuwali helped with logistics on Sumba, Martin Klau on Timor and Hery Kumanegara at Bali Barat N.P.

Logistics, strategy, transport etc.

I followed a fairly standard itinerary on most islands, initially studying both trip reports by www.birdquest-tours.com and www.birdtourasia.com in advance to get an idea of the best route to pick.

The following internal flights were taken to travel around the islands:-

28 May Batavia Airlines Denpasar to Waingapu (via Kupang), dep. 10.55hrs. arr. 13.50hrs.

2 June Trans Nusa Waingapu to Kupang. Dep 07.30hrs. arr. 08.30hrs.

8 June Merpati Kupang to Ruteng. Dep 06.30hrs. arr. 07.50hrs.

16 June Lion Air (operated by Wings Air) Labuanbajo to Denpasar. Dep. 08.30. arr 09.50hrs.

To get around on the ground, I used a mixture of some pre-arranged transport by car, motorbike taxi (ojek), public bus and bemo (chartered bus).

For **Sumba**, I contacted Freddy Hambuwali freddy_ikat@yahoo.com. He arranged a car and driver to meet me at Waingapu on arrival to bring me to Yumbu and then on to Lewa where he arranged four nights accommodation for me at the homestay of Ferdinand and his family in Lewa village. I then got to the birding sites around Lewa by using an ojek driven by Joni, a son of Ferdinand. On my second last full day I used a car, again arranged by Freddy to travel from Lewa to Watumbelar and back. Next day the car brought me back to Waingapu and on again to Yumbu, before dropping me back to Waingapu.

On **Timor** I made contact with Martin Klau timorfloressa@gmail.com. As well as a drop-off at Camplong from Kupang airport, I arranged four full days car hire with him. He met me when I arrived at Kupang and travelled with me to Camplong from there. Next day I hired the car and driver, and Martin accompanied me to Bipolo. He was anxious to check the site again for guiding a forthcoming tour, so didn't charge me a 'guide fee' for this day. I used the car again when I had finished at Camplong to bring me to Soe and Ole Nasi. Martin also organised a 4WD to bring me from Soe to Gunung Mutis. I arranged an ojek back to Soe myself the next day. Finally I hired the car again to bring me back to Kupang from Soe, with stops at Ole Nasi and Camplong on the way.

On **Flores** I didn't use any private transport and got around ok with a combination of ojek, bemo and public bus. In Labuanbajo, it was quite easy to arrange an overnight boat trip to **Rinca** and **Komodo Island** with many agents looking for my business around the harbour area there. I used the Suarmanik Kencana Cruise Co./ Pt. Wanen Tour and Travel who have a small office near the harbour.

On my return to **Bali** I got a bus to Gilimanuk, where I had contacted Bali Barat Park Ranger Hery Kumanegara hery_kn@yahoo.co.id I arranged to hire him for a day to see **Bali Myna** and a few other species at Bali Barat N.P.

Resources

At the time of writing the web site www.travellingbirder.com is down, and has been for some time. This was a very useful resource for preparing for my trip and its disappearance is a big loss. However the web site <http://burung-nusantara.org> about birds and birding in Indonesia has many of the 'lost' reports. There are links to almost all of the trip reports I used available there. I used the trip report of Henk Hendriks (2008) and his excellent accompanying maps, which were especially useful. Also the reports of George Wagner (2009), Mikael Bauer (2005), Peter Collaerts (2011). Other reports referred to included Greg Roberts (2012); Oscar Campbell, Bali (2011); Sander Lagerveld (2007); Bjorn Anderson, Bali, (2005); Petri Hottola, Bali, (2011); Jon Hornbuckle, Wallacea (2001); Andy Adcock (2001); Stijn de Win, Bali on www.Birding2asia.com.

A useful article on birding in Flores and Komodo was published in the OBC's *Birding Asia* no. 11. 2009, pp. 59-63 by Attila Simay, Tamas Zalai and Zoltan Ecsedi.

Most of the bird sounds were available at www.xeno-canto.org and I also found some others on <http://avocet.zoology.msu.edu/>

The field guide *A Guide to the Birds of Wallacea* by Coates and Bishop, is quite bulky and heavy and I decided against bringing my copy. I just colour-photocopied a few plates that I thought might be useful to bring.

The book *Birding Indonesia, a Birdwatcher's Guide to the World's Largest Archipelago* by Paul Jepson was useful for some pre-trip planning and contains a few useful maps.

In addition, I compiled a homemade photographic field guide by printing out pictures of some species on the Internet, and pasting them into a notebook. In the notebook, I also tried to extract and compress relevant information, site guides, copy of maps etc, from all the trip reports and books to cut down on weight to carry.

Costs, etc.

Indonesia is not too expensive a country if you are coming from the Western World. But at the same time it's not overly cheap. Locals will often try to charge foreign tourists more as they see them as being wealthy. I found this when using public buses and ojek drivers, where it was definitely worth haggling over the price.

Private car hire is quite expensive, with me paying about 600 IDR/day. This is why I only used it for a few days on both Sumba and Timor, and a single day at Bali Barat. With no one to share costs with, it added expense to the trip. Public buses are cheap but, as mentioned above, touts try to make you pay more than local people are paying. The disadvantage is that the buses usually only begin the journey when they are full.

Overall the trip cost me about €2200, with about €1000 of this being flights. Quite a large proportion of the remaining cost was the hire of private transport for some days on Sumba, Timor and Bali.

Weather

It was generally warm and sunny throughout the trip. A few heavy showers on Sumba were the only significant rain. At Gunung Mutis and Fatumnasi, Timor, the birding was affected a bit by foggy conditions.

Sites visited

The sites I visited were the ones on most itineraries:

Sumba:

Yumbu grasslands

Lewa area: forest at km51 and km68-71

Watumbelar

Timor:

Camplong

Bipolo

Ole Nasi

Gunung Mutis and Fatumnasi

Flores:

Kisol

Danau Rana Mese

Pagal

Golo Lusang

Puaralolo

Potawangka Road

I did not have time to visit **Poco Ranaka** in the end, instead returning to **Danau Rana Mese** for a second time.

Bali:

Uluwatu

Bali Barat N.P.

Bedugul Botanical Gardens

Accommodation

Bali:

Stayed 1 night at the Gong Hotel, Uluwatu <http://thegonguluwatu.wordpress.com/> 200k IDR

Stayed 1 night at hotels at Kuta and Sanur. 300k IDR each.

Stayed 1 night at Dewi Warsiki Hotel in Gilimanuk. 300k IDR

Stayed 1 night at Melati Homestay near Bedugul Botanical Gardens. 125k IDR

Sumba:

Stayed 4 nights at Ferdinand's Homestay at Lewa village 250k IDR/night incl. 3 meals

At Waingapu, stayed 1 night in the 'basic room' option at Elvin Hotel. 88k IDR.

Timor:

At Camplong stayed 2 nights at the Catholic Seminary, Wisma Oenat Honis 100k IDR/night incl. 3 meals.

At Soe stayed 2 nights at Baghia Dua Hotel.

At Faumnasi, stayed 1 night at Mateos Anin's Homestay. 200k incl. meals and guiding

At Kupang, stayed one night at Hotel Maya.

Flores:

At Kisol stayed 3 nights at Catholic Seminary, Wisma Arnoldus.

At Ruteng stayed 2 nights at Hotel Susteran MBC (Jl. Ahmad Yani no.45), run by nuns.

At Labuanbajo stayed 3 nights at Hotel Wisata 150k IDR /night.

Also one night on the boat trip to Rinca and Komodo Islands.

Itinerary summary

25 May Travel day: Flying Dublin- Abu Dhabi- Kuala Lumpur.

26 May Arrive Denpasar, Bali, from Kuala Lumpur at 18.20hrs. Travel to Uluwatu.

27 May Birding Uluwatu. Travel to Kuta area in afternoon/evening.

28 May Fly Denpasar to Waingapu (Sumba) with Batavia Airlines. Yumbu area in evening. Travel on to Lewa for 4 nights.

29 May am: forest at km51 pm: forest at km 68-71.

30 May am: forest at km 68-71 pm: forest at km51.

31 May am: Watumbelar area. pm: forest at km68-71.

1 June am: forest at km 51. pm: Yumbu area and wet paddyfields beyond Yumbu.

2 June Fly Waingapu to Kupang (Timor) with Transnusa Airlines. Met by Martin Klau and dropped off at seminary at Camplong. Birding Camplong area in afternoon.

3 June Birding Bipolo and Bariti areas with Martin Klau.

4 June am: birding Camplong. pm: travel to Soe and birding Ole Nasi in evening.

5 June Birding Gunung Mutis.

6 June am: Birding Fatumnasi /Gunung Mutis area. Evening: Travel to Soe

7 June am: OleNasi. pm: Camplong. Travel to Kupang where over-nighted.

8 June Fly Kupang to Ruteng (Flores) with Merpati. Travel to Kisol. Birding Kisol area in afternoon/evening.

9 June Birding Kisol.

10 June Birding Kisol until 8am. Travel to Ruteng and check in Susteran MBC. Birding at Danau Rana Mese.

11 June am: Birding near Pagal. pm: Birding Golo Lusang.

12 June am: Birding Danau Rana Mese. pm: travel Ruteng to Labuanbajo.

13 June Boat trip to Rinca Island and onwards towards Komodo.

14 June Komodo Island. Return to Labuanbajo.

15 June am: Puaralolo pm: Potawangka Road.

16 June Fly Wings Air from Labuanbajo to Denpasar. Travel Denpasar to Gilimanuk.

17 June Bali Barat N.P. Later travel to Singaraja and onwards to Bedugul Botanical Gardens.

18 June am: Bedugul Botanical Gardens. pm: Travel to Sanur where overnigheted.

19 June Small amount of birding near Sanur. Travel to Denpasar airport for flight home.

20 June Arrive 07.30hrs Dublin.

Daily account

25th May

Left Dublin for Abu Dhabi with Etihad on time at 09.20hrs, arriving on schedule at 19.50hrs local time.

26th May

After a few hours layover in Abu Dhabi it was onto Kuala Lumpur where we arrived a little behind schedule. I was a bit worried as the connection time here was only 1hr. 20 min but all worked out ok and the flight for Denpasar left more or less on time. Arrived at Ngurah Rai airport, Denpasar on time at 18.20hrs.

Got through immigration, obtained visa (€25), and collected bag very quickly. Changed money at one of the many kiosks. They all seemed to have the same rate of 11300 IDR to the Euro. I later saw slightly better rates at moneychanger outlets around Kuta, so if changing a large amount this is something to keep in mind.

Was met outside by driver from The Gong Hotel at Uluwatu (which I had arranged with them in advance). This cost me 200k IDR. Stopped on way to Uluwatu to buy some snacks and water for tomorrow. Arrived at The Gong after just over an hour, unpacked, and went to bed.

27th May

Awoke at 03.45hrs. and couldn't sleep after this. Read up some notes and trip reports, waiting for the dawn to arrive. Left The Gong just pre-dawn at 06.10hrs. and took small track across the road down towards the cliffs north of the temple. Managed to find another small track along the cliff edge which lead to the temple, without having to go back to the main road. Then covered the area SE out the temple and then came back to The Gong by the same route, via the Temple. Highlights included a few of the Critically Endangered **Black-winged Starling** (Myna) as well as a few **Javan Mynas** in their native range.



Black-winged Starling (Myna), Uluwatu, Bali.



Uluwatu coastline from the north.

Offshore was fairly quiet, but I did see a few **White-tailed Tropicbirds**, which was one of my targets here. Unexpectedly I also got my first views of a **Green Junglefowl** in the scope, perched high up in the trees on a ridge, before it dropped down out of sight. **Bar-winged Prinias** also showed at times. I arrived back to The Gong for about 1pm. and had a lunch of fried noodles. I arranged a car from here to bring me to the Kuta area for 2.30pm. A quick

walk down the track opposite the hotel after lunch produced a nice male **Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker** and a **Fulvous/Spot-breasted Woodpecker**.

Left The Gong close to 3pm, and stopped off at the airport to visit the Batavia ticket desk, to confirm my flight to Waingapu on Sumba tomorrow. The traffic through Kuta was fairly bad and it took a quite a while to get to my pre-booked hotel. Birded the grounds of the hotel for a while where the highlight was a pair of **Java Sparrows**. A large number of **White-headed Munias** also came in to roost nearby towards dusk.

28th May

Woke to the sound of many **Savanna Nightjars** calling around the hotel. A walk around the hotel grounds produced a juvenile **Java Sparrow**, but no sign of the adults from yesterday. Went for the buffet breakfast at 07.15hrs and then at 08.15hrs after a final look around the hotel grounds, I took a taxi from the hotel to the airport (85k IDR). Thankfully my Batavia flight left on time at 10.55hrs. The flight was to Waingapu but via Kupang, Timor, (where a few **Australian Pratincoles** were visible from the aeroplane in the grass along the runway). Arrived as scheduled into Waingapu at 13.50hrs. Met by my friendly driver, Frankie, who Freddy Hambuwali had organised to meet me. Our first stop was to head to the grasslands of Yumbu, about 16km east of Waingapu to try for the **Sumba Buttonquail**.

We arrived at the bridge at Yumbu, and went beyond it a few hundred metres. Over the next hour and a half, I walked the grass on both sides of the road. I flushed two Buttonquails in total, one on each side of the road. The views were fairly brief however. I then spent about an hour walking the grassy area on the Waingapu side of the bridge (the traditional area in trip reports). Unfortunately there is now too much disturbance here, with a lot of cattle, human habitation and grazing and not surprisingly, I failed to flush any buttonquails here. I decided that I would try to get back to the area on the far side of the bridge again to try for better views before leaving Sumba, in a few days time.

At about 17.30hrs we left to head to Lewa. The bare grassy hills of a largely deforested island were much in evidence as we drove westwards. We arrived at the home-stay of Ferdinand, where Freddy had organised accommodation for me. I was shown to my simple room, which would be my base for the next four nights. A welcome dinner was then presented to me. Although the family had little English, I managed to arrange for breakfast at 04.30am and then an ojek with Ferdinand's son, Joni, to bring me to the forest at km51 the next morning.



Australian Bushlark, Yumbu, Sumba.

29th May

After the early breakfast of omelette and nasi goreng, I was on the back of the motorbike by 04.45hrs. I was a little worried that Joni wouldn't know where the track to the forest was in the dark. Although I couldn't find a marker post for km51, we stopped along the road and with the torch I saw the track. In the dark I followed it over a ridge and in the distance I could make out a darker area of vegetation. This must be the forest edge I thought. After about 15 minutes I finally arrived at the forest edge. I took what I now know was the left hand track, as mentioned in previous trip reports.

This was to be one of the best and most memorable of my birding experiences during the trip. With the Ipod I quickly succeeded in getting two **Little Sumba Hawk Owls** to show themselves. They were to continue calling until after dawn. I had no luck with **Sumba Boobook** however. I heard **Mees's Nightjar** but unfortunately the dawn arrive before I managed to get a view.

The birding on the first section of the trail up to the large clearing was excellent. I had good views of both **Sumba Flycatcher** and '**Sumba**' **Jungle Flycatcher** along the trail. At the clearing I recorded **Sumba Brown Flycatcher**, **Pacific Baza**, **Black-naped Fruit Doves**, **Cinnamon-banded Kingfishers** perched up, and my first **Yellow-spectacled White-eyes** and '**Lesser**' **Wallacean Drongos** of the trip. The real highlight however was getting a prolonged perched view of a **Red-naped Fruit Dove**, one of the most sought after of Sumba's endemics. I heard a few **Elegant Pittas** call and although one came fairly close, it did not show. Along the forest track after the clearing, a movement high up in a tree revealed itself as a **Chestnut-backed Thrush**, one of only two individuals I was to see on the trip. I had arranged to meet the Joni back on the road at 12.00hrs. It was hard to drag myself away from the forest. Back in the homestay I had lunch and after this, I saw a group of 4 **Pale-headed Munias** in the garden of the homestay. A heavy rain shower meant that they sought shelter in some bushes in the garden.



Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher, near km51, Lewa area, Sumba.

By 2pm, the sun was out again and I got Joni to drop me to km69 by ojek and arranged for him to collect me at 8pm, so giving me a chance at some nightbirding here. I walked up and then down the road between km 68 and 71. Theoretically I think I should have had an official park guide accompany me and permit arranged. I wasn't stopped but on one occasion an 'official' looking Park 4WD slowed down and stopped ahead of me and I thought the game was up! Thankfully it then continued on its way. There was much traffic along this road, being the main trans Sumba highway, so the birding was not as enjoyable as the morning I'd spent at km51. Birding was generally much slower than it had been in the morning. Highlights were two brief **Marigold Lorikeets** (previously lumped with **Rainbow Lorikeet**), **Sumba and Wallacean Cuckoo Shrikes**. At the forest edge, I also flushed a few **Brown Quails**. Many **Elegant Pittas** were heard, but none showed. Despite trying hard I had no luck with any of the remaining nightbird targets (**Sumba Boobook** and **Mees's Nightjar**). Back to the homestay on ojek at 8pm for a welcome dinner.

30th May.

Today I did the same itinerary as yesterday, only in reverse order. As I had hoped the road at km68-71 was better for birding in the early morning than it was the previous afternoon. Up for a 04.30hrs. breakfast and then back to km68 on the ojek with Joni. Birded from km68 to km71 marker posts and then back up the road to km68 again. At the forest edge at km68 I heard a **Sumba Boobook** before dawn. Frustratingly it didn't come in to the Ipod. **Mees's Nightjar** also called near the forest edge pre-dawn, but unfortunately no views were had. As the dawn arrived, **Green Junglefowls** called close to me, but remained well hidden in the scrub along the forest edge. I saw my first **Ashy-bellied White-eyes** as I began to walk the road. It was amazing how active the place was compared to yesterday afternoon's 'dead time'. Further along the road, a fruiting fig tree was already full of activity with lots of **Black-naped Fruit Doves** and **Thick-billed Flowerpeckers**. I waited here for some time, and eventually two **Marigold Lorikeets** flew in and gave good views (probably the same two

birds I had seen briefly nearby yesterday). I was hoping to see **Sumba Green Pigeon**, but unfortunately none came in to the fruiting tree while I was there. Plenty of **Black-naped Orioles** and **Short-tailed Starlings** were also in evidence at the tree.

By now I wanted to make a determined effort for **Elegant Pitta**. I knew that my time was limited on Sumba and the race here was different to birds I might see on Flores. After hearing one call off the road, I found a trail going into the forest. I found a comfortable spot with some visibility and played the Ipod. A response almost immediately. The bird was close but wouldn't show. Then silence for quite a while. As I was almost about to give up, I heard it again a bit further in. This time I decided to slowly make my way through the thick vegetation towards the source of the call. After another 20 minutes I still hadn't seen it. A quick blast of the tape and suddenly it called again close to me. As I frantically scanned through the thick vegetation, I suddenly latched onto the bird, just visible in a small window through the branches and foliage. It was perched up at about 2m in a tree and stayed calling for about a minute, until it dropped to the ground and then hopped behind a ridge. I managed to follow its large bounding hops and saw it again as it emerged through the vegetation beyond the small ridge and then it disappeared out of sight. Success at last!

Further along the road I was pleased to see my first **Sumba Myzomela**. A bird which can prove elusive at times, apparently. A **Sumba Flycatcher** gave good views too, as I headed back up the road I picked up two distant **Sumba Hornbills** flying away! They continued over a distant ridge and out of sight. A frustrating view and leaving me with the feeling that I wanted to see more of them.

Back for lunch to the homestay in Lewa. I was anxious to speak to Freddy about travelling to see the **Cockatoo**. I would need to hire a car and driver through him to do this. I managed to call Freddy from the homestay. We agreed that tomorrow morning I would go very early by car to Watumbelar to try for the Cockatoo. Freddy also said there was a good chance of better views of **Sumba Hornbill** there too.

At 1.30pm, I took my final ojek ride with Joni back to km51 where I stayed until 7.30pm. I decided to sit on a hill overlooking the forest and scan the forest for a number of hours as most of my target birds remaining (**Sumba Green Pigeon**, **Sumba Hornbill**, **Yellow-crested Cockatoo**) would probably be easier to see by this method.

Best birds seen were a **Short-toed Eagle** and a perched **Brown Goshawk**. In addition my only **Black Kite** of the trip! A very brief flight view was had of a **Sumba Green Pigeon**, but again I wanted a bit more of a view before I would count it. A short walk down through the forest along both tracks produced a **Sumba Brown Flycatcher**. At dusk I waited at the forest edge for nightbirds. Again I heard **Mees's Nightjar**, two in fact, but only succeeded in seeing a shadow in the torchlight with the naked eye. I still needed better views. I got naked eye views of **Little Sumba Hawk Owl** in flight, but once again **Sumba Boobook** eluded me and I failed to hear or see any.

Back at the homestay, I was surprised to see that Frankie, my driver had arrived from Waingapu for our trip to Watumbelar tomorrow. I hadn't expected to see him until tomorrow morning.

31st May.

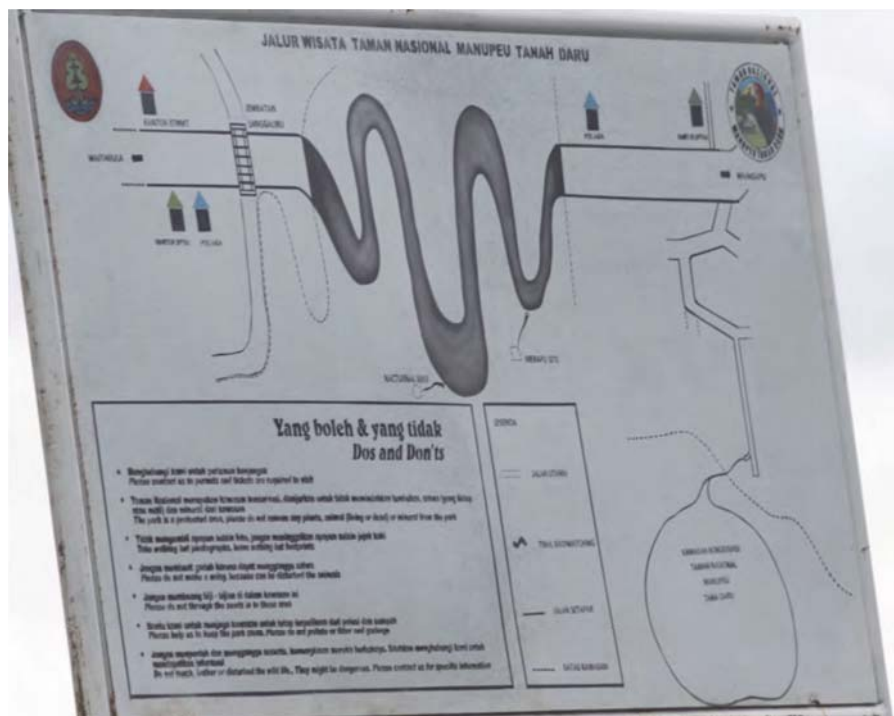
Up at 3.30am for breakfast at homestay. At 4am myself, Frankie and our compulsory National Park guard drove for just over an hour south of Lewa on bad winding roads towards Watumbelar. We called to the house of a local guide, and woke him up. He knew the route to get to the viewpoint to look for the **Yellow-crested Cockatoo**. We left Frankie with the car, and myself, local guide and park guard began our trek in the dark. We headed towards some forest and as we did I heard a **Mees's Nightjar** call. A quick play of the Ipod and the bird flew straight in over our heads. It flew around us a few times perching briefly. Finally I had seen this species well! We continued on for another 45 minutes or so and climbed up onto a grassy ridge which overlooked some forest covered hills. I was glad to have the scope for scanning. After about 20 minutes waiting we saw our first **Sumba Hornbills**. Much better views than I'd got yesterday near km69. In the end we had quite a few sightings of the **Hornbill** before the morning was over. Then the bird we had come to see appeared. Firstly two **Yellow-crested Cockatoos** flew past and perched distantly in some trees on the far ridge. In total we recorded four or five birds during the morning. When it got quite hot after 10am, bird activity dropped dramatically, and the Cockatoo and Hornbill appearances stopped.



Sumba Hornbill, Watumbelar, Sumba.

Other good birds seen at Watumbelar included good numbers of **Sumba Green Pigeons**, and occasional small groups of **Marigold Lorikeets** flying past. Strangely we didn't see any **Great-billed** or **Eclectus Parrots**, although I had seen both these species before in Indonesia.

We left at about 10.30am and slowly made our way back to the car, stopping for a siesta break in the shade en route. By 12.30pm we were back at the car, and I gave the local guide a small tip for his service. We headed back to the home-stay for lunch. In the afternoon I went with Frankie and the N.P. guard to the road between km68 and km71. It was fairly quite birdwise along the road. A **Spectacled Monarch** was my first of the trip, as were a flock of **Black-faced Munias** near km71 in a crop field.



Park sign at km68 near Lewa, Sumba.

Once again I tried many spots along the road after dusk for **Sumba Boobook**. I heard the bird distantly at the forest edge at km68, but it was too far away and never came closer. Stayed out until 8pm and then headed back in the car to Lewa. We firstly went to the Park H.Q. where I had to register and pay the Park Ranger Guard fee (100k IDR), camera fee (25k IDR) and entry fee (10k IDR). I didn't tell them at the HQ that I had also visited the main road along km68-71 during the two previous days as well!! Back to the homestay for 8.30pm and a welcome dinner.

1st June

This was my last full day in Sumba and so the last chance to try for **Sumba Boobook**. I got Frankie to drop me in the car to km51 at 4am. He returned to the home-stay and would collect me on the road at 10am. After walking up and down the forest track in the dark trying for **Sumba Boobook**, finally at 5.20am one flew in near the big clearing in response to my Ipod. It sat above me for about two minutes before flying way over the big clearing. Success at last, and the last of the Sumba targets I needed to see. Up to three **Little Sumba Hawk Owls** also showed well too. A **Mees's Nightjar** showed well at the clearing. As the dawn approached the bird song began. I enjoyed some relaxing birding, getting more views of birds I had seen already. A '**Sumba**' **Jungle Flycatcher** showed well again along the trail and in the clearing and I also found **Sumba** and **Sumba Brown Flycatcher** again. A **Red-naped Fruit Dove** sat tight, high up in a tree. Nearby two **Sumba Green Pigeon** flew in and showed for a while above me.



Red-naped Fruit Dove, near km51, Lewa area, Sumba.

At 10am I met Frankie and the car on the road and we travelled back the short distance to Lewa, so that I could check out of the home-stay. By 11am we were on the road back to Waingapu.

In Waingapu, we stopped at “Mr. Café” for a quick lunch and then I checked into one of the more basic rooms at the Elvin Hotel. After that we visited the Trans Nusa office, and I reconfirmed my flight to Kupang with them for early next morning. We then paid a visit to Freddy Hambuwali’s house and I met him for the first time.

In the late afternoon myself and Frankie travelled towards Yumbu. We firstly went to some marshes beyond Yumbu about 12-15km. Unfortunately Freddy had told us that most of the wetlands have been and are being converted to paddyfields, and this proved to be the case. Best birds were a **Pied Heron**, four **Javan Plover** and good views of **Australian Pratincoles** and **Zebra Finches**.

When it had cooled down a little in the evening, we returned to Yumbu and I spent the next two hours walking the extensive grasslands above the ridge east of the bridge and south of the road. I flushed quite a few **Sumba Buttonquails**, at least 8 birds. Views were often fleeting but on a few occasions I saw the main features. Dark face, greyish bill, warm ochre belly and flanks etc. **Australian Bushlarks**, **Zitting Cisticolas** and **Barred Doves** were also noted. We left the area at 6pm and Frankie dropped me back to the Elvin Hotel. Frankie would collect me at 5am next morning and take me to the airport. I paid him a bit extra for this. Ate in a small café just up the road from the Elvin Hotel.

2nd June

Arrived at the small airport at 5.25am. It was still closed! Soon a few locals also arrived. I was a bit of a novelty, being the only westerner at the small airport and attracted a lot of attention. The airport was fairly chaotic, and all check in for tickets and baggage was done by

hand (no computers at this airport!). Eventually we took off at 07.45hrs, only 15min behind schedule. We arrived into Kupang, the largest city in West Timor, on time at 8.30am, where I was met by Martinus (or Martin) Klau. Through Martin, I had arranged the car and driver for most of my stay on Timor. By about 11am we arrived at the catholic seminary at Camplong, arranged by Martin, where I would be staying for two nights. Early tomorrow morning Martin and the driver would be back to collect me for our visit to Bipolo.

After leaving some bags at the seminary, I took a walk up towards the forest. I met a local park guard and he felt that he should be accompanying me. Personally once we'd found the track I was happy to find the target birds on my own. With language difficulties it was hard to get him to understand that though. First bird was a **Northern Fantail**, which the park guard seemed to think was one of my target birds! After a while I decided to leave the main track and go on one of the trails. At this point the park guard decided to leave and I was finally on my own, or so I thought! After about 15min, a young guy appeared on the trail behind me!

I recognised his binoculars. They were the ones the park guard had been using just minutes before. He had sent his 'apprentice' to continue the guiding! This was not what I wanted as I couldn't really concentrate on the birding with somebody tagging along and following my every move. I decided I would spend only a short time on the trail before heading back for lunch at the seminary. At one point on the trail, I heard an alarm call of some sort. Raising my bins and looking up, I was amazed to see a **Buff-banded Thicket-warbler** hopping around a dense tangle. This was supposedly one of the more difficult endemics and a real skulker, and I had seen it without any effort. Just then another movement proved to be a **Timor Bushchat**, another big target. Things got a bit quieter then and I headed back to Camplong, closely followed by my well-intentioned young 'guide'.

As I passed the park office/hut, heading back to the seminary, I told the park guard I was ok to go out on my own in the afternoon. He was happy enough with this, thankfully! After lunch at the seminary, I was back out on the track and headed towards the trails again.

The afternoon and evening proved to be excellent for birding. At an area of bamboo along the main track, I got some good views of a **Tricoloured Parrotfinch**, an unexpected bonus here. My first **Yellow-eared** and **Streak-breasted Honeyeaters** also showed. I turned to the left up one of the trails, just after the small collection of houses. This went through good forest before entering a eucalyptus plantation on the top of the ridge. On the way up I had good views of a **Black-banded Flycatcher**, one of Timor's most beautiful and sought after endemics. As I waited for this bird to show again, a movement on the ground caught my eye. It was another **Buff-banded Thicket-warbler** and I had nice views of this large warbler walking deliberately through the undergrowth. Other birds noted were my first **Timor Blue Flycatcher** and **Plain Gerygone**.

Back in the seminary a large group of teenagers had arrived to stay and they were extremely noisy. I knew it was going to be difficult to get much sleep tonight! I was surprised later to see that the park guard had also arrived to see me. He was willing to bring me out to look for **Southern Boobook**, the race on Timor is probably as good split, **Timor Streaked Boobook**. I was happy this time to go with him, especially if he was able to show me the Owl. We went up the main road and were joined by a local man, who turned out to be a more of a bird hunter than bird lover...

Over the next 1.5hrs we heard a few distant Boobooks calling, but none came in to my Ipod. Then a disturbing thing: in our torch lights we spotted on a few occasions pairs of White-eyes, probably **Mountain White-eyes**, roosting just above head height on low saplings. I was fairly shocked when the local guy with us proceeded to take out his machete and just wallop the birds with the side of it, as they roosted on the tree! The ranger didn't seem to mind. All part of the hunting culture I suppose! He then spent some minutes trying to find the corpses on the forest floor. The first ones he couldn't find, and maybe they got away. He did hit another pair as we found one injured bird on the ground and he then finished it off. I don't know if it was for 'sport' or food that he was happy to kill them, but I can't see how you'd get much of a meal out of a White-eye!

By 9am I was back at the seminary. A noisy night followed. I think the music must have stopped after midnight when I finally got to sleep!!

3rd June

Had set the alarm for 3.30am! Waited from 4am for Martin to arrive. In the end it was closer to 4.30, as he had got a bit delayed. We headed back the road towards Kupang and took the turn off for Bipolo. We firstly tried for **Timor 'Streaked' Boobook** but had no success, although we did hear one distantly. We would try again in the evening at dusk.

We walked the main road down. An unexpected sighting was a **Timor Sparrow** hopping at the side of the road. Martin hadn't seen them before along the main road that goes through the forest. They are normally looked for at the edge of the forest and in the paddyfields. It turned out that the bird was carrying nest material and later we saw that a pair was gathering nest material close to the roadside.

Down towards the bridge we had nice views of an **Orange-banded Thrush** hopping along the edge of the dry riverbed. We saw a few more of these Timor endemics as we walked back up the road.

We stayed in the area until lunchtime, spending quite a bit of time trying to get a decent look at a fairly vocal Timor Oriole, which didn't really oblige too much. By mid-day it was very hot as we ventured out past the paddyfields to the fishponds area. I was glad we'd got the Timor Sparrows earlier as with the heat, there was very little bird activity near the paddyfields. At the fishponds a few **Red-capped Plovers** were the only ones of the trip I was to see. A single **White-faced Heron** was also present.

After a picnic lunch, we headed on a few km to an area called Bariti, which is supposed to be a good spot for the elusive **Olive-shouldered Parrot**. For the first half hour we wandering around the plantation and saw little. Then suddenly we heard a parrot call and got a brief perched view and a flight view of two birds. We got up on a ridge to overlook the forest thinking that this would be our best hope to see the parrot again, and also possibly have a chance at the increasingly tough **Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon**. A notable sighting was of a group of **Timor Sparrows** near a small farmstead, but we had no more sign of the parrot and no sign of the Imperial Pigeon at all. One I was to miss on this trip.



Timor Sparrow, Bariti, Timor.

At 4pm we left Bariti and headed back to Bipolo with the intention of staying there until dusk to try again for the **Boobook**. At the edge of the forest near the paddyfield we waited for dusk. A male **Tricolored Parrotfinch** showed well in rough ground near the forest edge. At dusk a **Yellow-crested Cockatoo** flew over calling loudly. Apparently this single bird has been around for a number of years here, and some people have raise doubts as to its origins. After dusk we succeed in seeing our main quarry, **Timor 'Streaked' Boobook** and got some reasonable views in the spotlight.

Then it was back to the seminary in Camplong and a welcome dinner. I fixed up with Martin for his services. I would be seeing him again in Kupang at the end of my stay in Timor, when he would drop me to the airport. Lawrence would be back with the car tomorrow at lunchtime to bring me on to Soe, via Ole Nasi.

I was glad that all the school children seemed to have left, so I could look forward to a peaceful night's sleep at last....

4th June

Was out at 04.45hrs. for a final few hours at Camplong. I heard a **Timor Boobook** but it was quite distant. I had 6 target birds to get, namely **Sunda Bush Warbler, Timor Stubtail, (Greater) Wallacean Drongo, Timor Oriole, Spot-breasted Dark-eye and Slaty Cuckoo Dove**. In the end I succeeded with all except the Cuckoo Dove this morning. I eventually found a pair of Dark-eyes along one of the trails at about 11am. By 12am I was back at the seminary for lunch and to check out. Lawrence and the car had arrived from Kupang and at around 1pm we left to head eastward to Soe. I checked into the Bhagia Dua Hotel on the outskirts of the town and then it was back the road to visit the forest at Ole Nasi for the afternoon and evening. After some confusion we eventually found the access track to the forest, near a small house on a bend. A local kid from the settlement was assigned to accompany me along the trail. It was still hot and there wasn't huge bird activity in the forest. After a while however I heard the distinctive call of a **Bar-necked/Dusky Cuckoo Dove**, but it was quite distant. We continued on and reached a big clearing. I got a brief view of a

Black-backed Fruit Dove, but I wanted better than this to count it. We continued down the trail beyond the clearing. After a while another **Bar-necked/Dusky Cuckoo Dove** called. This time it was closer. I played the Ipod and almost straight away a very large long-tailed Cuckoo Dove flew in above us and sat there, allowing some nice scope views.

After a while my young 'guide' decided to head back when I conveyed to him that I would be staying out in the forest until after dark to look for night birds by producing my torch and saying 'Burung Hutan', which means Owl. I was trying to find a smaller clearing which Martin had told me was a good spot to look for the Timor race of **Large-tailed Nightjar**, which is probably a good species, **Timor Nightjar**. I went some way beyond the large clearing, but couldn't find an obvious 'small' clearing. This meant that I was in deep forest as dusk arrived, not the best area to look for Nightjars. I had no response to the Ipod so decided to cut my losses and head back to the larger clearing. When I arrived here it was completely dark, not really the best time to be looking for Nightjars. Again no response to the Ipod. I did however have nice views of a **Timor Boobook** here, in then torchlight, my best of the trip. I decided to head slowly back to the road and the car, occasionally playing the Nightjar call. When I was about half way back from the clearing, I heard a Nightjar call. A response at last! However I was in thick forest at this time and had no decent visibility. Then silence and that was it. I kept trying all the way back to the road, but no more calls were heard. Travelled back to the Bhagia Dua hotel in Soe, and ate in the restaurant there.

5th June

I was supposed to be collected at 4am today by a different driver in a 4WD to go to Gunung Mutis, Timor's highest mountain. At 4.15am I switched on my mobile only to receive a text from Martin to say that he was trying to arrange another driver as the original one was 'unreliable'. Martin was in contact with the hotel manager and finally after much waiting, a new driver, Bruno, arrived in a bright yellow 4WD jeep! The problem was that it was now 7am, so I would lose out on the best part of the day i.e. the morning, at Gunung Mutis. Martin would later give me a small refund of the money I had paid to hire the 4WD for the full day at Gunung Mutis.

A bit of a frustrating day, as Bruno wasn't too familiar with where exactly to drop me off for the trail up Gunung Mutis. I had not read up the info. too much, as I had expected the original driver to know exactly where to go. In the end we went past the spot with the pool for a number of km, before I looked at trip reports and saw that behind the pool was where the trail begins. So it was very late before I got any birding started. Before we got this far however I had good views of many flocks of **Olive-headed Lorikeets**, but failed to find any **Iris Lorikeets** with them.

Over the next few hours I found a few of the target birds, 'Timor' **Pygmy Wren Babbler** and a single **Timor Leaf Warbler** (I thought they would be commoner). A few **Metallic Pigeons** showed well, and also I got my best views of **Timor Friarbird** but my main target the **Timor Imperial Pigeon** proved elusive. Then the fog descended and it was virtually impossible to do any birding! I continued on the main trail up the mountain, and reached the large clearing. A distant deliberate low call was probably coming from a **Timor Imperial Pigeon**, but in the fog I had no chance to see it. I got back to the car about 4.15pm, still in

heavy fog. We then slowly drove back down the road to the village of Fatumnasi on the extremely rough and pot-holed road. We stopped at Mateos Anin's home-stay and he showed me to the very simple accommodation, where I would be spending the night.

The fog got even worse and now it was drizzling rain as well. I met Mateos's family and had a meal in his traditional thatched roof house with them. Bruno headed back to Soe, and I would take an ojek back to there tomorrow after some final birding with Mateos around Fatumnasi.



The famous Mateos Anin at Fatumasi.



Some of Mateos's grandchildren pose with their captive Olive-shouldered Parrot.



Local kids near Fatumnasi pose for a photo.

6th June.

Unfortunately I awoke to light rain and still foggy conditions. After a quick breakfast in Mateos's home we both headed out to the forest west of the village. For a man who is 70 years old, he is amazingly fit, and I struggled at times to keep up with him as we crossed ditches and streams and hiked up ridges. We were looking for **Iris Lorikeet** and I had an outside hope of seeing **Slaty Cuckoo Dove** or **Timor Imperial Pigeon**, although I knew that Gunung Mutis was a more reliable spot for the latter.

A dark pigeon proved to be just a **Metallic Pigeon** unfortunately. Things were not good as the heavy fog persisted and we probably heard **Iris Lorikeets** calling in the fog, but they remained unseen. We did however see two **Olive-shouldered Parrots** and a female **Tricolored Parrotfinch**, my third sighting of the trip of this species! By 11am we headed back to the home-stay for an early lunch. The fog had lifted a little by noon and we walked up the road in the direction of Gunung Mutis from Fatumnasi. After a few km we left the main track and headed to the left into the forest. We continued off track through the forest. Near a river we heard a deep cooing call, which sounded like **Timor Imperial Pigeon**. Unfortunately the fog was rolling in again however and after some waiting we gave up on seeing this bird. We did have two more sightings of **Olive-shouldered Parrot** and a **Metallic Pigeon**. By 3pm we were back at the home-stay. I packed up and Mateos arranged an ojek to bring me back to Soe. The ojek only cost 50k IDR. We left at 4pm and the journey back to Soe and the Bhagia Dua hotel took about 70min. on a very rough road at times. So rough that I had to get off the motorbike on a few occasions to let the driver negotiate the pot holes. I gave him 60k IDR for his work. Ate at restaurant at the Bhagia Dua and collected my laundry from them.

7th June.

I had texted Martin to ask than Lawrence would arrive with the car at 4am as I wanted to try again for '**Timor**' **Large-tailed Nightjar** again at Ole Nasi. On arrival I made my way by torchlight through the forest here. Arrived at the big clearing and tried the Ipod. Unfortunately the batteries in my speaker were starting to go and the sound wasn't very strong. As the dawn arrived I had heard no Nightjar. This was one I was going to miss. I did have slightly more luck later however by getting good views at last of two **Black-backed Fruit Doves**. Also I scored my other main target, **Slaty Cuckoo Dove (Timor Back Pigeon)** when a bird flew in high above me and sat still for quite a while, allowing me to get the scope on it, although the angle I was looking up at it was not great for viewing. Other highlights were a nice **Black-banded Flycatcher** early in the morning and more views of **Buff-banded Thicket Warbler**. This time I managed a few photos of the Warbler. By noon I was back at the road where Lawrence was waiting with the car and we soon were on our way to Camplong. Although I had by now no real targets birds there, I thought I would spend a few hours there, as it would probably be my last birding in Timor. Arrived at Camplong about 1.15pm. I got Lawrence to drive the car some of the way up the track and then left him while I went up the trail towards the ridge. **Timor Oriole** and yet more views of the **Buff-banded Thicket Warbler** were had.



Buff-banded Thicket-warbler, Ole Nasi, Timor.

At about 3.15pm we headed to Kupang and eventually arrived at the Hotel Maya, near the seafront, where Martin had arranged a room for me. There was not much bird activity offshore and a **Crested Tern** was the best I saw. Ate in the restaurant of the Pandai Timor (Timor Beach Hotel) across the road. A wedding reception was taking place and I was approached many of the party who were very interested in talking to me and finding out where I was from and if I liked Indonesia.

8th June.

Martin and Lawrence arrived to bring me to the airport at 5.10am. I had expected them earlier but I still made it in plenty of time for my flight to Flores. The Merpati flight even departed about 15 min. early at 06.15am. I arrived into Ruteng at 07.30hrs. I was soon accosted by ojek drivers when I left the airport, all anxious for my business. In the end I got one to take me to the public bus station a few km out of the town. Again once we arrived here the bus touts descended on us, grabbing my bag and throwing it up on the roof of the small bemo/van. I bargained the fare to Kisol to 40k IDR, which I thought at the time seemed ok value. However I was later to find out in Kisol that 20k would have been a more normal price for the bus! I was to learn the lesson that it's best not to ask the price before travelling. Just board the bus and assume you'll pay the same as the locals are paying.

Typically I had about an hour to wait before the bus filled up and left. We got to Kisol around midday and the bus dropped me on the main road near the seminary. I began walking up towards the church only to meet a priest coming the other way on a motorbike. He told me that the accommodation area was a little bit back the road but he offered to give me a lift there on his bike. Finally when I got to the seminary, I was given a room. It turned out that there were a lot of government officials also staying so the only room available didn't have an en suite. This was ok by me. I met the manager Gabriel, a very friendly guy with good English. He had worked for some time with an Irish priest in PNG, and was fairly familiar with Ireland. He was interested in hearing about the special birds in the Kisol area.

After lunch I was anxious to finally get out birding. Gabriel arranged for an ojek to come and collect me to bring me the few km up the track to the forest edge. Costing just 10k IDR, this was a much better plan than walking to the area as the habitat is poor for the first 3km or so. I

asked the ojek driver to come back and collect me at 8pm, to allow me some time to look for nightbirds.

Soon we reached the start of the natural forest and I began walking. The birding was a bit slow generally, the time of day not helping. I heard a few **Elegant Pittas** call and eventually obtained excellent views of two different individuals off one of the side trails. After some effort I finally got a good view of a **White-rumped Kingfisher**, one of my main targets here. Unfortunately although I heard **Flores Crow** giving its baby-like wailing, I failed to see them today. Other good birds were a **Golden-rumped Flowerpecker** and my first **Brown-capped Fantails** of the trip.



Elegant Pitta, *concinna* race, Kisol, Flores.

Seeing **Moluccan Scops Owl** here proved to be easy enough once dusk arrived and I also got views of a **Mees's Nightjar** along the track. I failed to get any response though from **Wallace's Scops Owl** to the calls on my Ipod however. Soon after 8pm my ojek driver returned and dropped me back to the seminary. I arranged for him to come back and collect me at 4am next morning...

9th June

Ready at 4am for ojek to appear but he still hadn't arrived by 4.15pm. One of the women at the seminary started making calls on her mobile, so it looked like something was happening! Finally at 4.20am a different ojek driver arrived, but on the same bike. Turns out it was the first guy's brother. Dropped off at the forest edge. Managed to obtain better views of **Moluccan Scops Owl** that I'd had yesterday evening, but again no sign of **Wallace's Scops Owl**. By 9.00am it was warming up and I moved to a vantage point where I could look over the forested slopes of Gunung Pacan Deki for one of my main targets in Flores, the critically endangered **Flores Hawk Eagle**. I'd heard reports that some groups had spent a large amount

of time here waiting for a sighting of this bird. In the end I only had to wait about an hour before I picked a bird up with the bins soaring around to the left of the mountain, and not actually over the forested slopes, as I had expected. I watched it for about 15 min. in the scope before it disappeared off over a ridge and over the other side of the mountain.

Back along the main track I heard the sweet musical song of a thrush and on entering the forest was able to obtain views of up to three **Chestnut-capped Thrushes**, as they fed on some small berries. I had seen this elusive species before in Sabah, but it was great to see them again.

I had arranged for the ojek to pick me up at 12.30pm and then it was back to the seminary for some lunch. I was back out to the forest at 2.30pm. This time I put in an effort to see **Flores Crow**, which so far I'd only heard calling here. Eventually I got some view of this shy, canopy loving corvid. The swooshing sound of its wings as it flies is certainly very distinctive, and a good way to track its movements! After dusk I got some more views of **Moluccan Scops Owl** and also **Mees's Nightjar**. With about half an hour to go before my ojek driver returned, I suddenly heard the odd hollow drumbeat call of a **Wallace's Scops Owl**, coming from the plantation area, just before the natural forest. I went in after it, but it was now further away and not responding to the Ipod. I decided I would return tomorrow for a pre-dawn visit.

10th June.

Again my ojek driver hadn't arrived by 4am. Finally at 4.20am he arrived, and I got him to drop me along the track near the plantation. Firstly I heard nothing. Then about half an hour before dawn, I heard the **Wallace's Scops** again, this time on the other side of the track. I went in, and approached closer to the source of the call. I shone the torch and suddenly saw the shape of a small owl. On raising my bins, I got a few seconds on it before it took flight. Soon after I was running out of darkness as the dawn arrived.

I stayed in the forest until 8am, when my ojek driver returned. Then it was back to the seminary to pack up and check out. I would be heading back to base myself in Ruteng for a few days. Gabriel was heading to Borong, the next town on the way to Ruteng, and offered to give me a free lift on his motorbike to there. He reckoned that being a Sunday, it would be easier to get transport from there to Ruteng rather than at Kisol. Most of the passing buses would be full. We left Kisol at 10am and by 11am, after some waiting to fill the vehicle with other passengers, I was on the way and heading for Ruteng. At 1.30pm the bemo dropped me at the nuns seminary Sustern MBC, a comfortable place with very clean rooms. They do not provide food here however, but there is a small restaurant a short distance up the road from it.

After dropping my gear in the room, I went out onto the road and was approached by quite a few ojek drivers hoping for business. I was lucky to meet Iren, a student of English, who was supplementing his income with some ojek service. He offered me a very reasonable price of 50k IDR for a return journey to Danau Rana Mese. We arrived there to heavy fog. Iren went back to Ruteng and I arranged for him to collect me at 9pm, which would give me a few hours to look for the main target bird here, **Flores Scops Owl**. The fog eventually lifted somewhat as I walked back the road towards Ruteng from the park buildings. The birding

was difficult and not very pleasant as there was continuous movement of motorbikes and cars passing up and down the road. Almost all wanted to shout, beep their horns and wave at me. There were very little in the way of trails to get off the main road either. I found one small clearing at one of the bends and quickly called in a **Flores Jungle Flycatcher**. A Flores race **Pygmy Wren Babbler** also showed well, which was a bit unexpected, as I thought I would have to go higher to see them.

I walked up and down the road after dark and eventually heard a distant **Flores Scops Owl** respond to my Ipod. It didn't come closer however. Finally after some more time up and down the road, I heard a bird call not too far away. I crashed down off the road through the thick mossy tree trunks and managed to approach the calling bird a bit more, by bushwhacking through the thick undergrowth. In the end I seemed to be under the tree it was calling from. Despite frantic attempts to find it in the torchlight I could not see it in the heavy and thick canopy of hanging branches and mossy vegetation. Then it called again. Further away. It had moved! In total I heard at least three **Flores Scops Owls** calling but ultimately failed to get any views of this rare and enigmatic species.

By 9pm things had gone quiet and Iren would be arriving back soon to collect me. We headed back to Ruteng but I knew I'd be back to give the Owl a second chance. Iren suggested going back to his family's house for some food, with them. I took him up on the offer and after eating at his place, he dropped me back to my accommodation only to see that the gate was locked! The nuns had thought I was already back. After a while a nun eventually realised I was outside and opened the gate. I arranged for Iren to come back at 5am tomorrow to bring me to Pagal, north of Ruteng.

11th June

Iren arrived on time at 5am and we were soon heading north out of Ruteng, towards Pagal. Beyond the settlement of Pagal we soon got into decent roadside forest. We went a few km through this habitat before I asked Iren to drop me off. He would come back at midday and pick me up somewhere along the road.

The roadside birding was productive here. I quickly saw my first **Black-fronted Flowerpeckers** (strange that I had seen none of these before now). I saw my first **Dark-crowned White-eyes (Crested Dark-eye)**. Two **Brown-capped Woodpeckers** showed, the only woodpecker species in the Lesser Sundas. I wandered as far as the next small village, where I purchased a few snacks from one of the small basic shops. I was a novelty to the locals. They weren't expecting a westerner to be walking the road through their village! I turned back and began walking the road again. There was some bird activity from sunbirds and a few flowerpeckers around some bottlebrush plants. Then suddenly a casual scan of the bottlebrush revealed a lime green shape at the back of one of the flowers. I could not believe it. A **Wallace's Hanging Parrot** feeding away right on front of me up the slope, and the main target bird at this site. Most people only get fly over views of this rare and endangered species, if they see them at all. It turned out there were two birds, a pair, feeding very quietly and unobtrusively in the thick vegetation. I could have easily walked right past them had I not happened to scan the vegetation at the right time. I watched them for the next $\frac{3}{4}$ hour or so, getting a few record photos at times, before they flew off high over the canopy. Then

things got even better when a group of four **Flores ‘Rainbow’ Lorikeets** flew past calling and perched up in a nearby tree along the roadside, allowing good scope views.



Wallace's Hanging Parrot feeding on fruit, near Pagal, Flores.

I birded up and down the road until it was soon midday and I expected Iren to meet me along the road somewhere. I was surprised when he arrived on the back of another motorbike at about 12.30. It turned out he'd got a flat tyre a few km back. We eventually got back to Pagal where he got the tyre fixed. It was now very hot and we also renewed our drinking water supplies there. It was 2.30pm before I finally got back to the accommodation in Ruteng, much later than I had planned for.



Local kids near Pagal, Flores pose for a photo.

After lunch with Iren in a nearby restaurant, I got him to drop me at the pass at Golo Lusang, to the south of Ruteng. I had heard that nightbirding might alright here, so I would wait until 8.30/9pm before getting Iren to pick me up again. I had a few other target birds to see here and I picked these up quite quickly: 'Flores' **White-browed Shortwing** gave some views right by the edge of the road; **Scaly-crowned Honeyeater** and **Yellow-browed Dark-eye** also showed as well. More unexpected was seeing a **Bare-throated Whistler**, without actually hearing it sing. Golo Lusang is famous for its dawn chorus of **Bare-throated Whistler**, but I would not have time to experience it here on this trip. After I'd walked a number of km down the winding road I waited for dusk, before slowly making my way back up the road. Although a much smaller and narrower road than the road at Danau Rana Mese, there were quite a lot of noisy motors bikes and cars moving in both directions, which was not good. I put in quite a bit of effort for owls, regularly playing the Ipod and listening for a response. Disappointingly I heard no night birds whatsoever here. I arrived back at the pass earlier than I expected and started walking the road back to Ruteng. Eventually around 9pm Iren arrived on his bike and dropped me back to the Susteran MBC. Iren told me had to go to college the following morning for an exam, so we agreed that a friend of his would collect me at 4am to bring me to Danau Rana Mese for a final try for **Flores Scops Owl**. However his friend was not willing to give me the bargain price that I was paying Iren. He wanted 100k IDR for a return trip, which was double what I was paying Iren. Since it was my last chance at **Flores Scops Owl**, I decided to go with it. Also and very surprisingly, I still needed to see **Flores Leaf Warbler**, having not seen it at Danau Rana Mese on my first afternoon visit.

12th June

I was pleased when Iren's friend Andreas arrived just after 4am. I had stressed to Iren that there was no point in me going on the journey to look for nightbirds if Andreas arrived late. Arrived at Danau Rana Mese just after 4.30am and arranged for Andreas to be back around 12.00hrs. from Ruteng to collect me.

In the dark I walked up and down the road occasionally playing the Ipod, but surprisingly not a single **Flores Scops Owl** was heard. I had hoped that my chances of seeing one would be better at this time of the night, with less traffic disturbance, but it was not to be. As the dawn approached and still not a sign, I knew that my last chance of getting this species had gone.

A good morning's birding was had however. Highlights included an impressive dawn chorus from **Bare-throated Whistler**, which I wouldn't experience at Golo Lusang. I managed to get up a slope and get good views of this elusive bird as it belted out its amazingly loud and powerful song. Soon after dawn I saw my first **Flores Leaf Warblers** and a **White-rumped Kingfisher** gave some nice views.



A full bus makes a pit-stop at Danau Rana Mese!



The lake at Danau Rana Mese, Flores.

At noon, I headed back on the ojek to the Susteran MBC. I packed up. When I told the nuns I was heading on the public bus to Labuanbajo, they said that they could arrange for a vehicle to bring me there at a cost of 70k IDR. It would be more comfortable than going by public bus. A phone call was made and I was told to be ready at the gate at 1.30pm. I had a quick nasi goreng lunch in the small restaurant up the road and was back at the gate for 1.30. But the mini bus was late and in the end it was 2.20pm before we left for Labuanbajo. There were quite a few others on the bus, but I had plenty of space and comfort, unlike the public bus.

A long journey to Labuanbajo followed, made longer by getting a flat tyre on the way. We all had to get out and wait while the driver replaced the wheel. We passed the forest at Puaralolo and I noticed the large telecom tower with satellite dishes on it. I would be heading back to this same area in a few days to try for **Flores Monarch**.

Finally at 7.30pm we arrived at Labuanbajo. The bus brought me to the Wisata Hotel, (recommended by Martin Klau as an ok place to stay). It was fairly reasonably priced at 150k IDR. I left my gear in the room and walked back up the main street towards the harbour to see about arranging a trip to Komodo Island over the next few days. I was quickly approached by many looking for my business, but one guy at Suarmanik Cruise Co. was offering an overnight trip boat trip to Rinca and Komodo Island, leaving at 8am next morning for 600k IDR. Apparently they had already got 3 or 4 people signed up and were looking for a few more to share costs. I wasn't that pushed on visiting Rinca, as there was nothing special for me to see there, but it looked like the best option if I was to get to Komodo for a reasonable price. I paid 300k IDR to book a place and would pay the balance tomorrow. Got some food at a nearby restaurant.

13th June

I checked out of the Wisata hotel but arranged to leave my larger bag in a storeroom there as I would be staying there again after the Komodo trip. Arrived at the office of Suarmanik office at about 7.40am Soon I met a Czech couple and a Japanese back-packer who would also be on the boat trip with me. We went to the harbour and were pulling away into a bright blue sea from Labuanbajo at about 8.30am. There was not much in the way of bird-life to be seen as we made our way to Rinca Island. A few distant **Frigatebirds** were probably Lesser.



Viewing towards Labuanbajo, from the boat.

On Rinca we disembarked and were brought to the Park HQ where we paid for our tickets for entry to both Komodo & Rinca N.P., guide fees, camera fees etc. We were then brought on a short guided walk. The only Komodo Dragons we saw here were a large group hanging around the HQ area, where they are fed to keep the tourists happy, if they don't have an encounter with a 'wild' individual on the walk.

Back on the boat we made our way towards Komodo and arrived in the afternoon at the Pink Beach (Pantai Merah). The boat was anchored and those who wanted to snorkel could. I went ashore in a tiny punt with one of the locals. The boat was quickly surrounded by locals in small punts trying to sell pearls and locally made souvenirs. Best birds were a **Lesser Frigatebird** and a **Great-billed Heron**. After a few hours we sailed on and arrived at an area where we saw some fruit bats leaving their roost towards dusk. A short while later we were on the way again. We anchored for the night. A fine meal was prepared by the boat crew. Mattresses were made up for us and we slept out on deck.



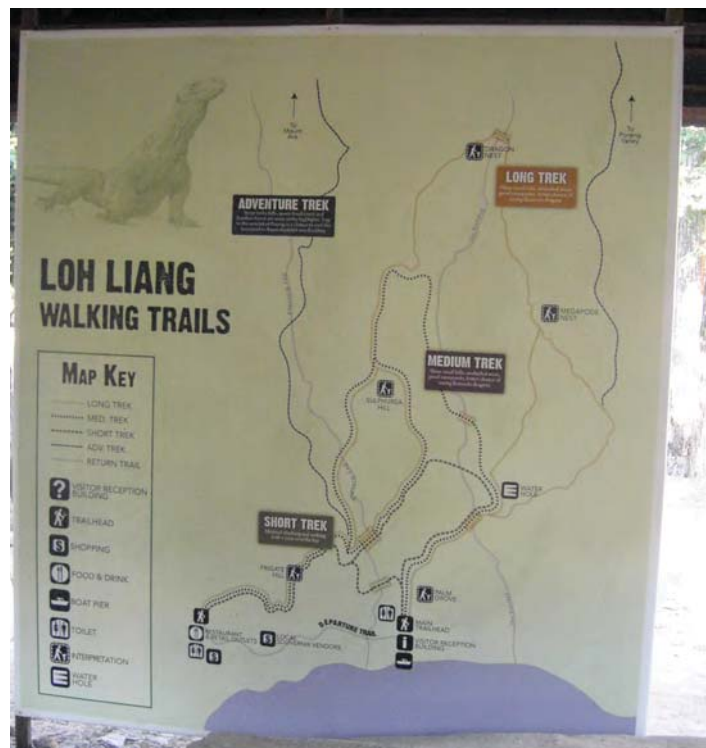
The Pink Beach (Pantai Merah), Komodo.



View from the Pink Beach, and our boat offshore.

14th June

We were up for dawn on the boat and after a breakfast prepared by the crew, we sailed past the village of Komodo and on to the Park HQ area at Loh Liang beach. We were assigned a guide and the general agreement was to do the Medium length trek. In hindsight we agreed afterwards that we should have done the Long trek as the Medium one was a little short for everyone.



Walking Trail map at Loh Liang, Komodo.

I was anxious that the guide would prioritise looking for **Yellow-crested Cockatoo**, my main reason for visiting Komodo. I enquired about the possibility of hiring a guide just by myself and paying the relatively modest guide fee of 50k IDR. Our assigned guide then went to ask his boss if I could take another guide myself, and this is where the tourist rip off culture showed itself again. His boss approached me and said that looking for birds was a specialist interest and that hiring a guide to do this on the walk would cost me 350k IDR!!! I argued that it was the same walk and I would also be looking for birds on the original walk too! Since they weren't willing to do the walk for me at 50k IDR, I decided to take my chances and stick with the others where we would just have to pay 50k IDR between the four of us for our compulsory guide.

It turned out to be a good move. I needn't have worried about getting to see the Cockatoo. We started the trek and went up on the viewpoint of Bukit Sulphurea. Although not birders, the others in the group were happy to give it some time waiting and scanning for the Cockatoo. I didn't have to wait too long. After about 10 minutes the first birds appeared in flight in the distance. Then we spotted a few closer birds perched up and feeding in a fruiting tree. We stayed about half an hour and all were able to watch the Cockatoos in my scope. In total we probably saw about 10 **Yellow-crested Cockatoos**. We then continued the walk.

Because there is no hunting or trapping here, birds were much tamer here than on the other islands. **Black-naped Orioles** were tame and showed very well as we continued on the track. Good views were obtained of a group of female **Green Junglefowls** feeding unconcerned by our presence, just off the track. We then came across a large male **Komodo Dragon** sunning itself in a clearing along the track. Being deep in the forest, this was better than seeing the ones at the HQ on Rinca Island.

By 9am it was starting to get hot, and we were heading back to the boat to leave Komodo. It was definitely good that we had visited in the early morning to get the Cockatoos at the optimum time. We then visited two more areas for snorkelling and were back in Labuanbajo by 2.30pm. A few birds were noticed from the boat but generally it was fairly quiet. Most notable were another **Great-billed Heron**, a **Brown Booby** and quite a few **Black-naped Terns**. Later I visited the Wings Air office at Labuanbajo and re-confirmed by flight to Denpasar for 16th.

At the office cruise co. office, I organised transport by ojek to bring me to Puaralolo early next morning. They wanted payment in advance, so I was a bit worried that the ojek driver would show up in time. But they seemed a fairly professional company and assured me he would.

After checking back into the Wisata hotel, I later arranged to meet the Czech couple in an Italian Restaurant near the harbour for pizza. A welcome change from rice and noodles!

15th June

The ojek driver actually arrived early and knocked on my room at 04.10am(!), twenty minutes early. We left about 4.25am and it took just over an hour before we reached the Telecom tower at Puaralolo. In the dark I walked a few hundred metres back down the road towards Labuanbajo and found the small track leading from the road into the forest. The dawn chorus began with **Elegant Pittas** and **White-rumped Kingfishers** calling. This would be my last chance to experience a dawn chorus in a Flores woodland. Soon afterwards I heard the distinctive song of my main target bird, **Flores Monarch**. This rare bird was only discovered as new to science in 1971. After a while I managed to obtain some nice views and managed a few photos. Once I'd seen the main bird I could relax and just enjoy the birding. I walked quite a bit down the track through various clearings before slowly heading back. Birding highlights were up to six **Flores Monarchs**, a **Golden-rumped Flowerpecker** displaying and actually flaring up its golden rump for a change, a perched view of an **Elegant Pitta** and two **Flores Crows**, a few **Dark-crowned** and **Flores White-eyes** and a **Thick-billed Flowerpecker**.



The roadside sign at Puarlolo forest, Flores.

At 1pm I was back on the road and walked the short distance to the gate of the telecom tower. I waited in a shaded part to get a lift towards Labuanbajo from any vehicle that might pass. Eventually an old mini bus pulled up and took me to the junction of the Potawangka Road for 10k IDR. At the junction I was quickly approached by a guy with a motorbike and took a lift with him about 3km up the road towards the forest. I gave him 12k IDR, although he seemed to expect more! Walked up the road a few km. The habitat improved a bit as I walked, so I should have done a much longer distance on the ojek. Birding was fairly quiet overall. The best habitat seemed to be on distant forested ridges well away and inaccessible from the road. I had no sign of **Flores Green Pigeon**, of which I thought there might be a chance here.

The highlight was nice views of an **Orange-footed Scrubfowl** feeding close to the roadside in the forest. The bird wasn't aware of my presence for some time. This was new for the trip, as I'd missed the species on Rinca and Komodo.

At 5.30pm I decided it was time to start back down the road and try to flag down the next passing bike or car to get back to the main road. Of course when I wanted to see a vehicle on the road, they weren't there! A few bikes passed but with two people on them. Eventually one guy on a bike gave me a lift to the road. I gave him 10k IDR. Luckily, a bemo/bus was parked at the junction and heading to Labuanbajo. After dropping other passengers at various spots around Labuanbajo, it dropped me back at the Wisata Hotel for my last night in Flores. Good value at 10k IDR. Ate up the road at the Mati Hari Restaurant, where an excellent garlic butter chicken was had.

16th June

Had a breakfast of pancake and tea just before 6.30am. By 6.45am I'd checked out and quickly flagged down an ojek outside the hotel to bring me to the airport. The Wings Air flight left on time and I arrived back in Denpasar just before 10am. Changed some money and after some haggling over the price I took a taxi to the Ubung Bus Station (100k IDR), where I caught a bus to Gilimanuk on the far west of of Bali. I paid 50kIDR for this journey, again I think I was probably ripped off a bit. I don't think the locals were paying anything near that price. It was a long, slow journey to Gilimanuk. However a close fly-by **Javan Kingfisher** near some paddyfields was a welcome site. I had missed this species at Uluwatu a few weeks earlier and had not seen it in Java ten years earlier. Eventually I arrived at the Dewi Warsiki Hotel, where local guide and Bali Bharat N.P. ranger Hery Kumanegara had made a reservation for me. It was clean and comfortable but relatively overpriced at 300k IDR compared to what I'd been paying in the Lesser Sundas. I texted Hery and he soon arrived at the hotel to meet me.

We had a few hours before dusk so we headed off in his jeep towards the forest near Terima Bay, in the Bali Barat N.P. After some effort I got views of two **Javan Banded Pittas** here, getting better views of the female. A **Javan Kingfisher** also showed briefly too and a few **Fulvous-breasted Flycatchers** showed. We spent much time looking for a calling **Javan Barred Owlet** until well after dark, but in the end we failed to get a sighting. Back just after 8pm to the hotel for some food then bed.

17th June

Breakfast at 05.30hrs. Hery arrived around then and we headed off to the Bali Barat N.P. again. Firstly we headed back to Terima Bay to try again for the Owlet and to get better views of the Pitta. We succeeded in getting some better views of the Pitta, this time a male, but only got a blip view of the Owlet as it shot off its perched. All I saw was a shape so not tickable. We then headed on to the Menjangan Resort area where we would be seeking out the main target bird here, the **Bali Starling**. Fairly soon Hery heard one calling, and we followed the source of the call through the trees. Unfortunately all I got onto was a bird flying away. After a while we heard some birds again and this time I got some views of this beautiful species perched up. This individual had no ring. Whether it is an original wild bird or the unringed offspring of some released birds, I do not know. Shortly afterwards we visited the nearby breeding cages where some captive Bali Starlings were being housed. A few free flying birds appeared in the vicinity. Some were ringed and one was unringed. Again I don't know if this was the same bird I had seen a short time earlier. Either way I was glad I glad seen the species earlier in the forest rather than around the cages!

After a while we headed for the tower not too far from the beach. It was starting to get hot now however and bird activity was slowing. We noted a **Coppersmith Barbet**, but little else.

On our way out of the Menjangan resort, we had brief views of another of my target birds, **Javan Cuckooshrike**. We then visited the Tegal Bunder area, where we had some more views of a **Javan Cuckooshrike**. After lunch at a roadside restaurant, we headed to some salt pans near Banyuwedang near the Mimpi resort. Three **Javan Plovers** were present at the salt pans, but unfortunately the **Streaked Weavers** had all finished breeding and had left their nests.



Bali Starling, Bali Barat N.P.

By 3pm we were back on the main road and I said goodbye to Hery. My intention was to catch a bus on to Singaraja. However a local man negotiated with a truck driver, who was going to Singaraja, to take me there for 30k IDR. At Singaraja, I took an ojek south to Bedugal Botanical Gardens, where I arrived about 6pm, as the park gates were closing. Hery had told me that it might be possible to get accommodation inside the park, but the security guys on the gate said there was none available. I checked into the Melati homestay, also recommended by Hery. This was good value at 125k IDR, with food also available on site.

18th June

Nobody was up at the Melati home-stay when I wanted to leave at about 6am. I left my bags in the room and a note saying I'd be back in the afternoon to collect them. I walked the short distance to the Botanical Gardens. After entering the gates I headed to the left towards the small compost area, which Hery had said was a site sometimes for **Sunda Thrush**. There seemed to be too much disturbance from park workers here however. A few **Crescent-chested Babblers** in nearby bushes were nice to see however. I headed onward around the track to the Tropical Forest trail. Two **Sunda/Javan Whistling Thrushes** showed but unfortunately no **Sunda Thrush**. Other good birds were **Sunda Warbler**, **Lesser Shortwing**, a feeding group of **Chestnut-backed Scimitar Babblers**, **Javan Grey-throated White-eyes**, **Fulvous-chested Flycatchers**, **Olive-backed Tailorbirds**, **Bar-winged Prinias**, **Indonesian Honeyeaters**, **Flame-fronted Barbets** and **Grey-cheeked Green Pigeons**. **Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon**, which I'd already seen in Flores, was only heard.

By 4pm I was back at the Melati homestay. I haggled a price of 200k IDR for a private car and driver to bring me to Sanur beyond Denpasar for my last night in Bali. I knew that there were some mangroves near Sanur beach and the plan was to spend a short while birding here before heading to the airport the next morning. The driver was not very familiar with Sanur hotel and eventually dropped me off there to find my own one. I quickly found a fairly decent hotel, the Puri Sindhu Mertha and haggled the price down to 300k IDR. They initially wanted 400k IDR. Went out to a nearby restaurant for some food.

19th June

A lie-on until 6.30am (!), and then at 7am a breakfast of pancakes and tea at the hotel. I then took a walk just with my bins to the beach and along the coast towards some mangroves, in the direction of the Merta Sari temple. Tide was almost full, so not a huge number of birds. A few **Small Blue Kingfishers** in the mangroves were new for the trip and great views were had of a **Barred Buttonquail** on some rough ground. I was back at the hotel by 9.10hrs. Soon afterwards I shared a taxi to the airport with another guest. My flight to Kuala Lumpur departed on time at 12.50hrs. Then it was onwards to Abu Dhabi with Etihad.

20th June

Arrived into Dublin from Abu Dhabi at 07.30hrs and straight back into work!

Annotated Species List

This List follows Clements taxonomy.

- 1. Pacific Black Duck** *Anas superciliosa* Seen on both visits to the small lake at Danau Rana Mese, Flores, with a maximum count of 35 noted.
- 2. Orange-footed Scrubfowl** *Megapodius reinwardt* Just one bird seen well at Potawangka Road, Flores.
- 3. Brown Quail** *Coturnix ypsilophora* Two birds flushed from scrub and rough ground near the forest at km51, Sumba. Another two flushed from similar habitat at km68.
- 4. Green Junglefowl** *Gallus varius* One seen perched up in a tree along a ridge at Uluwatu, Bali. Heard regularly on Sumba and Flores in the forest. Fairly easily seen on Komodo Island and at Bali Barat at the end of the trip.



Green Junglefowl, Bali Barat N.P., Bali.

- 5. Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* One bird seen on the lake at Danau Rana Mese, Flores.
- 6. White-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon lepturus* About five birds seen offshore at Uluwatu, Bali. Mostly a bit distant but a few gave good scope views.
- 7. Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster* One seen from the boat on the trip to Komodo.
- 8. Little Black Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* About 40 birds counted at the fish ponds near Bipolo, Timor.
- 9. Little Pied Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos* Two birds noted at the fish ponds near Bipolo, Timor.
- 10. Lesser Frigatebird** *Fregata ariel* Total of about five birds noted on the trip to Komodo.
- 11. Great-billed Heron** *Ardea sumatrana* About four birds noted at various spots during the boat trip to Komodo, mostly on small rocky islands.
- 12. Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* Three birds noted near Kuta, Bali. One seen at wet paddyfields east of Yumbu, Sumba.

- 13. Great Egret** *Ardea alba modesta* A few recorded in Bali and 4 seen near paddyfields east of Yumbu, Sumba. The eastern subspecies *modesta*, is sometimes regarded as a separate species, **Eastern Great Egret**.
- 14. White-faced Heron** *Egretta novaehollandiae* One seen at the fish ponds near Bipolo, Timor.
- 15. Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* Two birds recorded on Bali.
- 16. Pacific Reef Heron** *Egretta sacra* Two seen while on the trip to Rinca and Komodo.
- 17. Pied Heron** *Egretta picata* One seen in wet paddyfields east of Yumbu, Sumba.
- 18. Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis coromandus* Commonly observed in suitable habitat. The *coromandus* subspecies is sometimes regarded as a separate species **Eastern Cattle Egret**.
- 19. Javan Pond Heron** *Ardeola speciosa* A small number recorded at roadside wetlands/paddyfields on Sumba.
- 20. Striated Heron** *Butorides striata* Just one recorded at the mangroves at Sanur, Bali.
- 21. Pacific Baza** *Aviceda subcristata* One seen well perched in the big clearing in the forest near km51 on Sumba.
- 22. Osprey** *Pandion heliaetus* One seen during the boat trip to Rinca and Komodo.
- 23. Oriental Honey Buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus* Two recorded on Sumba, four on Timor and one on Flores.
- 24. Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* Just one bird seen near km51 on Sumba.
- 25. Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur Indus* Recorded on three dates on Sumba, with a maximum count of four birds one day.
- 26. White-bellied Sea Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster* Two seen near the fishponds at Bipolo, Timor. A few seen around Labuanbajo and on the boat trip to Komodo.
- 27. Short-toed Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus* One recorded on Sumba, one on Timor and two seen on Flores.
- 28. Spotted Harrier** *Circus assimilis* One seen briefly over a paddyfield at Lewa, Sumba.
- 29. Variable Goshawk** *Accipiter hiogaster* A few seen at Kisol, Flores, where an active nest was also found. A few also seen on Komodo.
- 30. Brown Goshawk** *Accipiter fasciatus* About five birds in total recorded around Lewa and Watumbelar, Sumba. At Lewa I found a bird that would vigorously defend its nest in a tree along the trail, by dive-bombing me every time I passed. An active nest was also seen near Fatumnasi, Timor.



Brown Goshawk, Sumba.



The same Brown Goshawk dive-bombing from its nesting tree.

31. Flores Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus floris* One seen soaring nearing Mt. Pokandeki, Kisol Flores and it or another bird seen perched distantly on the forested slopes a few hours later.

This species is classed as **Critically Endangered**, with a total population of less than 100 pairs.

32. Spotted Kestrel *Falco moluccensis* Three different birds seen on Sumba, one at Yumbu and two near Lewa.

33. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* One seen at Yumbu, Sumba.

34. White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus* Four birds recorded on Bali.

35. (Small Buttonquail *Turnix sylvaticus*) At Bali Barat N.P., with Hery, we saw two birds cross the track ahead of us from the moving vehicle. Views were very brief and at a long distance with the naked eye, so not enough to add to the Life List.

36. Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator* One seen very well at Sanur Bali in a relatively open grassy area with limited cover.

37. Sumba Buttonquail *Turnix everetti* Seen on both visits to Yumbu grasslands, Sumba with two birds seen on first visit and eight on second visit. All views were of flushed birds, but the views on the second visit were a lot better. This species is classed as **Vulnerable** by Birdlife International

38. Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* Just one bird seen on Danau Rana Mese lake, Flores.

39. Javan Plover *Charadrius javanicus* Four seen at some wet and flooded paddyfields west of Yumbu, Sumba. Three birds also seen at salt pans near Banyuwedang, Bali Barat N.P.



Javan Plover, Sumba.

40. Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus* Four birds seen at fishponds at Bipolo, Timor.

- 41. Pied Stilt** *Himantopus leucocephalus* About 20 counted at wet paddyfields east of Yumbu, Sumba. Approx. 30 noted at fishponds at Bipolo, Timor.
- 42. Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* Five seen at fishponds at Bipolo, Timor.
- 43. Australian Pratincole** *Stiltia isabella* About a dozen seen from the aeroplane on the grassy edges of the runway at Kupang, Timor. Better views obtained of about 10 birds at paddyfields east of Yumbu, Sumba.
- 44. Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* About 10 noted at the fishponds at Bipolo, Timor.
- 45. Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida* Five seen at wet paddyfields east of Yumbu, Sumba.
- 46. Black-naped Tern** *Sterna sumatrana* A total of about 30 birds noted during the boat trip to Rinca and Komodo from Labuanbajo.
- 47. Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii* Three birds seen distantly off Uluwatu, Bali.
- 48. Great Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bergii* Four seen off Uluwatu, Bali. One single bird seen off Kupang, Timor.
- 49. Rock/Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia* Only a few recorded at Ruteng, Flores.
- 50. Metallic Pigeon** *Columba vitiensis* Total of six birds noted over two days at Gunung Mutis and Fatumnasi, Timor.
- 51. Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis* Common on Bali where seen daily. A few seen near Camplong on Timor.
- 52. Barred Cuckoo Dove** *Macropygia unchall* One seen at Danau Rana Mese, Flores.
- 53. Dusky Cuckoo Dove** *Macropygia magna* Two seen at Ole Nasi, Timor and then two heard there on second visit. This species is also known as **Bar-necked Cuckoo Dove**.
- 54. Slaty Cuckoo Dove** *Turacoeana modesta* One bird eventually seen at Ole Nasi, Timor on second visit there. This species is also known as Timor Black Pigeon. This species is regarded as **Near-threatened** by Birdlife International.
- 55. Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica* Two birds seen at Bali Barat N.P., Bali. A few seen on Sumba, Flores and Timor. The race in Timor is *chrysochlora* and is sometimes grouped with other eastern races *longirostris* and *sandwichensis* as a separate species, **Green-winged Dove** *C. longirostris*.



Emerald Dove race *chrysochlora*, Camplong, Timor.

56. Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata* One seen near Kuta, Bali.

57. Barred Dove *Geopelia maugei* Two seen at Yumbu, Sumba. One seen near Bipolo Timor, one near Kisol, Flores, and then seen in large numbers at Rinca and Komodo.



Barred Doves, Rinca Island.

58. Pink-necked Pigeon *Treron vernans* About 6 birds seen at Uluwatu, Bali.

59. Grey-cheeked Pigeon *Treron griseicauda* 10 birds seen at Bedugul Botanical Gardens, Bali.

60. Sumba Green Pigeon *Treron teysmannii* About 15 birds seen at Watumbelar, Sumba. Two birds seen next day at the clearing at km51 near Lewa, Sumba. This species is regarded as **Near-threatened** by Birdlife International.

61. Black-backed Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus cinctus* One seen very briefly on first visit to Ole Nasi, Timor. Two birds seen well there on second visit and a few others heard. The *albocinctus* race was only heard calling at Danau Rana Mese, Flores.

62. Red-naped Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus dohertyi* Single birds seen well perched at the clearing in the forest at km51 near Lewa, Sumba on two different visits. One also seen briefly flying through the canopy there too. This Sumba endemic is regarded as **Vulnerable** by Birdlife International.



Red-naped Fruit Dove, Sumba.

63. Rose-crowned Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus regina* Up to ten seen on both visits to Camplong and a similar number at Bipolo. Others also heard.

64. Black-naped Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus melanospilus* A few seen at the clearing in the forest at km51 near Lewa, Sumba. About four also recorded at Kisol, Flores.

65. Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea* A few seen daily in forest habitat on Sumba. Common on Komodo where over 20 noted. Three seen near Puaralolo, Flores. Four seen at Bali Barat N.P., Bali.

66. Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula lacernulata* One seen at Kisol, Flores. Another two seen at Golo Lusang, Flores. Heard at Bedugul Botanical Gardens, Bali, but not seen.

67. (Timor Imperial Pigeon) *Ducula cineracea* Almost certainly heard calling at Gunung Mutis, Timor in dense fog, but not seen. This species is classed as **Endangered** by Birdlife International.

68. Yellow-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua sulphurea* Ten birds seen on Komodo Island. One seen in flight at dusk at the forest edge at Bipolo, Timor, is possibly of captive origin. It has apparently been present here for a number of years. Four birds of the *citrinocristata* race, sometimes split as **Citron-crested** or **Sumba Cockatoo** were seen at Watumbelar, Sumba. Both races of this species are regarded as **Critically Endangered** by Birdlife International.



Yellow-crested Cockatoos, Komodo Island.

69. Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus (capistratus) fortis* and *weberi*

Birds seen in both Sumba and Flores do not look like **Rainbow Lorikeet** at all, and are now regarded by many authorities as separate species:-

Marigold Lorikeet *Trichoglossus (capistratus) fortis* Two birds seen well in a fruiting tree near km69, Lewa area (Sumba). Eight seen in flight at Watumbelar, Sumba.

Flores/Leaf Lorikeet *Trichoglossus (capistratus) weberi* Four birds seen well perched near Pagal, Flores. Four others seen in flight that same evening at Golo Lusang.

70. Olive-headed Lorikeet *Trichoglossus euteles* Good numbers (100+) seen on the forested lower slopes of Gunung Mutis,

71. (Iris Lorikeet) *Psitteuteles iris* Unfortunately this species was heard only in the fog on the lower slopes of Gunung Mutis with local guide Mateos Anin. This species is regarded as **Near-threatened** by Birdlife International.

72. Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi* up to six seen daily in forested areas visited on Sumba. Three seen at Pagal and two at Puaralolo, Flores.

73. Olive-shouldered Parrot *Aprosmictus jonquillaceus* Two seen at Bariti, near Bipolo, Timor. Three further encounters of birds on the lower slopes of Gunung Mutis and around Fatumnasi. This species is regarded as **Near-threatened** by Birdlife International.

74. Wallace's Hanging Parrot *Loriculus flosculus* Excellent views of a pair at Pagal, Flores. This species is classed as **Endangered** by Birdlife International.



Wallace's Hanging Parrot, Pagal, Flores.

75. Yellow-throated Hanging Parrot *Loriculus pusillus* One single bird heard at Bali Barat N.P., Bali.

76. Sunda Cuckoo *Cuculus lepidus* Heard regularly at Danau Rana Mese, Flores, and three birds also seen here. Heard also at Pagal and Golo Lusang, Flores. Three heard at Bedugul Botanical Gardens, Bali.

77. Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus variolosus* One seen at Camplong, Timor.

Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis (variolosus) sepulcralis*

Often treated as a separate species to Brush Cuckoo. One seen well perched near km69 near Lewa. Heard regularly in Sumba forest habitat. Also heard at Kisol and Pagal, Flores.

78. Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx basalis* One seen in forest near km51, Lewa area, Sumba.

79. Gould's Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx russatus* Three birds seen at Ole Nasi, Timor and some more heard.

80. Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopaceus* One bird heard on Rinca Island.

81. Australian Koel *Eudynamys cyanocephalus* Two seen and two heard on Sumba

82. Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis* One bird seen at Bali Barat N.P., Bali.

83. Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis* Two seen at Uluwatu, Bali. One also seen on Rinca Island.

84. Sunda Scops Owl *Otus lempiji* Two birds flushed from daytime roost at Bali Barat N.P. gave only fleeting views.

85. Flores Scops Owl *Otus alfredi* Unfortunately remained heard only at Danau Rana Mese, Flores. Three birds were heard calling, and one came very close but remained invisible in the very dense vegetation of the canopy. This species is classed as **Endangered** by Birdlife International.

86. Wallace's Scops Owl *Otus silvicola* One seen briefly pre-dawn in the torchlight at Kisol, Flores, after hearing it in the same area the previous night.

87. Moluccan Scops Owl *Otus magicus* Three sightings in the torchlight at Kisol, and another four heard.

88. Javan Owlet *Glaucidium castanopterum* Heard at both Bali Barat and Bedugul Botanical Garden. A very brief uncountable view was obtained at Bali Barat as a shape flew out of a tree.

89. Sumba Boobook *Ninox rudolfi* Heard at km68 near Lewa, Sumba. Eventually one seen at the clearing in the forest at km51 near Lewa, on my last morning in the Sumba forests. This species is regarded as **Near-threatened** by Birdlife International.

90. Southern Boobook (Timor/Streaked Boobook) *Ninox boobook (fusca)* About four heard at Camplong, Timor but none seen. One seen and another heard at Bipolo, Timor. One seen well at Ole Nasi. This Timor race *fusca* is probably best treated as a separate species, **Timor/Streaked Boobook** from Southern Boobook.

91. Little Sumba Hawk Owl *Ninox sumbaensis* Up to three seen at km51 forest near Lewa, Sumba. One also heard at the forest at km69.

92. Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus* One heard near Uluwatu, Bali. On Timor at Ole Nasi, the race *schlegelii* which is a proposed separate species, **Timor Nightjar**, unfortunately remained a heard-only.

93. Mees's Nightjar *Caprimulgus meesi* Heard at forest edge at km51 and km68 near Lewa, Sumba and eventually seen well at km51. Seen well also at Watumbelar, Sumba. Seen and heard at dawn and dusk along the track at Kisol, Flores.

94. Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis* A number of birds heard near Kuta, Bali.

95. Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*. Seen on Timor where birds are of the race *neglecta* and are sometimes considered a separate species, **Timor Swiftlet**.

96. Linchi/Cave Swiftlet *Collocalia linchi* A few recorded on Bali, Sumba and Flores.

97. Edible-nest Swiftlet *Aerodramus fuciphagus* Recorded at Camplong, Timor and a few noted in Flores.

98. House Swift *Apus nipalensis* A few seen around the cliffs at Uluwatu, Bali. Four seen in Kupang, Timor.

99. Grey-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocne longipennis* Two seen at Bali Barat N.P., Bali.

100. Small Blue Kingfisher *Alcedo coerulescens* Two or three seen near some mangroves at Sanur, Bali.

101. Javan Kingfisher *Halycon cyanoventris* One seen from the bus to Gilimanuk from Denpasar, Bali. Another seen at Bali Barat N.P.

102. Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris* A few seen daily in Bali. Four seen in Sumba and one recorded on the Komodo boat trip.

103. Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher *Todiramphus australasia* Two birds seen well near the clearing in the forest at km51, Sumba. This species is regarded as **Near-threatened** by Birdlife International.



Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher, Sumba.

104. Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus* Two seen at Yumbu, Sumba. One seen near Bipolo, Timor.

105. White-rumped Kingfisher *Caridonax fulgidus* Heard regularly at dawn in forest habitat in Flores. One seen well at Kisol, Flores and others seen well at Danau Rana Mese, and Puaralolo, Flores.



White-rumped Kingfisher, Danau Rana Mese, Flores.

106. Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus* Seen fairly regularly on Sumba and Timor. A few seen on Flores.

107. Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaulti* Six birds seen at Uluwatu, Bali. Two more noted at Bali Barat N.P., Bali.

108. Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus* A few recorded on Timor.

109. Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis* Total of five birds seen around forest edge in the Lewa region of Sumba.

110. Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris* One heard and seen briefly at Bali Barat N.P., Bali.

111. Sumba Hornbill *Aceros everetti* Two gave bad views flying away to a distant ridge at km69, Lewa area, Sumba. Up to eight birds gave much better views next day at Watumbelar, Sumba. This species is classed as **Vulnerable** by Birdlife International.



Pair of Sumba Hornbills, Watumbelar, Sumba.

112. Flame-fronted Barbet *Megalaima armillaris* A few seen well feeding in a fruiting tree at Bedugul Botanical Gardens, Bali.



Flame-fronted Barbet, Bedugul Botanical Gardens, Bali.

113. Coppersmith Barbet *Magalaima haemacephala* A few recorded at Bali Barat N.P. on both dates there.

114. Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos macei* One seen at Uluwatu, Bali, and one noted at Bali Barat N.P. Bali. This race *analisis* is often split as a separate species **Spot-breasted Woodpecker**.

115. Brown-capped Woodpecker *Dendrocopos moluccensis* Two birds seen at Pagal, Flores.

116. Laced Woodpecker *Picus vittatus* One seen at Bali Barat N.P., Bali.

117. Javan Banded Pitta *Pitta guajana* A pair seen at Bali Barat N.P. Birds in Bali and in Java were formerly lumped in the Banded Pitta group as the nominate race *guajana*. The Bornean (*schwaneri*) and Malaysian (*irena*) races are now officially split on the Clements List as of August 2012.

118. Elegant Pitta *Pitta elegans* Heard regularly in forests on both Sumba and Flores, especially at dawn and dusk. On sighting at km69 in the Lewa area of Sumba. The race here is *maria*. Three birds seen on Flores (two at Kisol and one at Puaralolo.) Birds here are of the race *concinna*. The *maria* race birds have a three call note compared to the *concinna* birds which have a two call note. In addition the *maria* birds have no black between the scarlet rear and buff belly, as well as a uniform golden buff eyebrow. The *concinna* birds have a broader eyebrow, which is white at the rear turning bluish. They also have the black throat extending to a point.



Elegant Pitta *concinna* race, Kisol, Flores.

119. Sunda Honeyeater *Lichmera lombokia* Three birds seen at Golo Lusang and two the next day at Danau Rana Mese, Flores.

120. Indonesian Honeyeater *Lichmera limbata* First seen at the mangroves at Yumbu, Sumba, where good numbers were also heard. About ten recorded at Bipolo, Timor. A few more heard and seen at Bedugul Botanical Gardens on Bali.

121. Yellow-eared Honeyeater *Lichmera flavicans* A few seen at Camplong, Timor. One seen at Ole Nasi on each visit, and about ten recorded in the Fatumnasi/Gunung Mutis area.

122. Sumba Myzomela *Myzomela dammermani* Eventually one seen near km69 in the Lewa area, Sumba. Another also seen along the road at this site the next day.

123. Black-breasted Myzomela *Myzomela vulnerata* A few seen at both Camplong and Bipolo, Timor.

124. Streak-breasted Honeyeater *Meliphaga reticulata* Seen at both Camplong and Bipolo, Timor. Also recorded at Ole Nasi, Timor, where an adult was seen feeding a recently fledged juvenile.

125. Timor Friarbird *Philemon inornatus* Poor views at first at Bipolo, Timor. Better views obtained near Gunung Mutis /Fatumnasi area. One also seen at Ole Nasi on second visit there.

126. Helmeted Friarbird *Philemon buceroides* Fairly frequently seen in forest habitat on Sumba, Timor and Flores.

127. Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* One seen near Bipolo and another in the clearing at Ole Nasi, Timor. A few also noted on Bali.

128. Wallacean Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina personata* Three seen at Watumbelar, Sumba. One seen at Camplong and another at Bipolo, Timor.

129. Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae* One seen at Ole Nasi, Timor.

130. Javan Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina javensis* Two birds seen at Bali Barat N.P., Bali.

131. Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris* One female seen near Bipolo, Timor.

132. Sumba Cuckoo-shrike/ Pale-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina dohertyi* Up to two seen on three dates in forest around Lewa at km69 and km51. Two also recorded at Danau Rana Mese, Flores.

133. White-shouldered Triller *Lalage sueurii* Two juvs. seen around Uluwatu, Bali. Also one at Bali Barat N.P. About ten seen around Yumbu, Sumba. A few seen near Bipolo, Ole Nasi, Camplong, Timor. Two seen near Pagal, Flores.

134. Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus* A pair seen at Uluwatu, Bali and another pair at Bali Barat N.P.

135. Flores/Little Minivet *Pericrocotus lansbergei* In Flores, first seen at Danau Rana Mese with a pair in foggy conditions. About five noted at Pagal and then six at Danau Rana Mese on second visit there. One seen at Puaralolo.

136. Racket-tailed Treepie *Crypsirina temia* One seen at Uluwatu, Bali.

137. Flores Crow *Corvus florensis* Heard only on first visit to Kisol Flores. Eventually two seen next afternoon there. About four seen on last visit there. Two also recorded at Puaralolo. This species is classed as **Endangered** by Birdlife International.

138. Large-billed Crow/Southern Jungle Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos* A few seen daily on Sumba. Recorded also at Bipolo and Ole Nasi. Two seen on Komodo Island.

139. Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* One seen at Kisol and another at Pagal, Flores. Three seen at Puaralolo, Flores.

140. Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi* A few noted most dates in Sumba and Flores forests.

141. Spectacled Monarch *Monarcha trivirgatus* About 10 birds in total recorded in Sumba, Timor and Flores.

142. Flores Monarch *Monarcha sacerdotum* A total of six birds seen at Puaralolo, Flores. This species is classed as **Endangered** by Birdlife International.



Flores Monarch, Puaralolo, Flores.

143. Broad-billed Flycatcher *Myiagra ruficollis* One bird seen at Bipolo, Timor.

144. Australian Bushlark *Mirafra javanica* Seen in fairly good numbers on both visits to the grasslands at Yumbu, Sumba.

145. Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* One seen at Uluwatu, Bali.

146. Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica* About 10 seen at Sanur, Bali..

147. Striated Swallow *Cecropis striolata* Three birds seen near Pagal, Flores.

148. Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans* Three birds seen distantly at Bipolo, Timor. Six recorded at Camplong, Timor.

149. Great Tit *Parus major cinereus* Six noted in forest on Sumba. Eight birds noted in forest on Flores. The race *cinereus* is sometimes treated as a separate species to Great Tit, **Cinereous Tit** or **Grey Tit**.

150. Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster* Seen at Uluwatu and Bali Barat N.P., Bali.

151. Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier* Common at Uluwatu and Bali Barat, Bali. A few seen at Camplong, Bipolo and Ole Nasi, Timor.

152. Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* Seen in fairly good numbers on both visits to the grasslands at Yumbu, Sumba.

153. Russet-capped Tesia *Tesia everetti* Heard fairly regularly in forests on Flores. About six birds seen.

154. Timor Stubtail *Urosphena subulata* A few heard giving their extremely high pitched call first day at Camplong, Timor but, not seen. One finally seen on second day here. One also seen and a few heard at Ole Nasi, Timor.

155. Sunda Bush Warbler *Cettia vulcania everetti* One seen and two more heard at Camplong, Timor.

156. Mountain Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus trivirgatus* One seen at Bedulgul Botanical Gardens, Bali.

157. Timor Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus presbytes* One seen and two more heard at Gunung Mutis, Timor. Birds in Flores look and sing different and are probably best regarded as a Separate species, *P. floris*.

Flores Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus (presbytes) floris* About eight birds seen and heard at Danau Rana Mese, Flores.

158. Sunda Warbler *Seicercus grammiceps* Two seen at Bedulgul Botanical Gardens, Bali.

159. Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris* A few seen at Uluwatu, Bali.

160. Olive-backed Tailorbird *Orthotomus sepium* One seen at Uluwatu, Bali. Also a few seen on Bali Barat N.P. and at Bedugul Botanical Gardens, Bali.

161. Bar-winged Prinia *Prinia familiaris* A few seen at Uluwatu, Kuta, Bali Barat N.P. and Bedugul Botanical Gardens, Bali.



Bar-winged Prinia, Kuta, Bali.

162. Buff-banded Thicketbird/Bushbird/Thicket-Warbler *Buettikoferella bivittata* About eight birds seen and more heard. Recorded at both Camplong and Ole Nasi, Timor. This Timor endemic species proved easier to see than I had expected.



Buff-banded Thicketbird, Ole Nasi, Timor.

163. Flores Jungle Flycatcher *Rhinomyias oscillans* One seen on each visit to Danau Rana Mese and another heard. Birds in Sumba look and sing different and are probably best regarded as a separate species, *R. stresemanni*.

Sumba Jungle Flycatcher *Rhinomyias (oscillans) stresemanni* Total of three birds seen in forest near km51, Lewa area, Sumba.

164. Fulvous-chested Jungle Flycatcher *Rhinomyias olivaceus* Three seen at Bali Barat N.P. and another four at Bedugul Botanical Gardens, Bali.



Fulvous-chested Jungle Flycatcher, Bedugul Botanical Gardens, Bali.

165. Sumba Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa segregata* Total of four birds seen in forest near km51, Lewa area, Sumba. This species is regarded as **Near-threatened** by Birdlife International.



Sumba Brown Flycatcher, Lewa area, Sumba.

166. Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra* A male seen at Gunung Mutis and a pair near Fatumnasi, Timor the next day. A pair also seen at Danau Rana Mese, Flores.

167. Rufous-chested Flycatcher *Ficedula dumetoria* A pair seen well in low undergrowth at Danau Rana Mese, Flores.

168. Sumba Flycatcher *Ficedula harterti* Total of four birds seen in forest at km51 and km69, Lewa area, Sumba.

169. Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni* A male seen at Danau Rana Mese, Flores, and a female identified there on second visit.

170. Black-banded Flycatcher *Ficedula timorensis* One seen at Camplong and another seen at Ole Nasi, Timor. This species is regarded as **Near-threatened** by Birdlife International.



Black-banded Flycatcher, Camplong, Timor.

171. Timor Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis hyacinthinus* Recorded in small numbers on most days in Timor forest habitat.

172. Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis* Total of six recorded in Sumba forest habitat. Two also seen at Pagal, Flores. Two seen at Bedugul Botanical Gardens, Bali.



Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher, Sumba, race *connectens*.

173. Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata* Frequently recorded in open and degraded habitat throughout.

174. Timor Bushchat *Saxicola gutturalis* Four birds seen at Camplong on first afternoon there. Another male seen near Fatumnasi.

175. Chestnut-capped Thrush *Zoothera interpres* At least three birds seen at Kisol, Flores. This species is regarded as **Near-threatened** by Birdlife International.



Chestnut-capped Thrush, Kisol, Flores.

176. Chestnut-backed Thrush *Zoothera dohertyi* In Sumba, just one seen feeding in a fruiting tree in the forest near km51, Sumba. One seen in flight at Danau Rana Mese, Flores.

177. Orange-banded Thrush *Zoothera peronii* About four noted at Bipolo, Timor and another one at Camplong. One also seen at Ole Nasi. This species is regarded as **Near-threatened** by Birdlife International.



Orange-banded Thrush, Bipolo, Timor.

178. Island Thrush *Turdus poliocephalus* Common around Gunung Mutis and Fatumnasi with 20 plus recorded on both dates in the area.

179. Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys* One seen well at Bedugul Botanical Gardens, Bali. Another three heard here.

180. White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx (montana) floris* One seen at Golo Lusang and another the next day at Danau Rana Mese. The race on Flores looks and sounds different to other races and is probably best regarded as a separate species **Flores Shortwing** *Brachypteryx floris*.

181. Javan/Sunda Whistling Thrush *Myophonus glaucinus* Three birds seen at Bedugul Botanical Gardens, Bali.

182. Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris* Seen daily in small numbers in Timor forest habitat.

183. Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica* A few seen in Bali at both Uluwatu and Bali Barat N.P.

184. Brown-capped Fantail *Rhipidura diluta* Regularly seen in small numbers in Flores forest habitat.

185. Arafura Fantail *Rhipidura dryas* Regularly seen in small numbers in Sumba and Timor forest habitat.



Arafura Fantail, Timor.

186. Fawn-breasted Whistler *Pachycephala orpheus* On Timor a few seen at Camplong, Bipolo and Ole Nasi.

187. Rusty-breasted Whistler *Pachycephala fulvotincta* Recorded on Sumba, Flores and Komodo. One seen at Bedugul Botanical gardens, Bali. This species has just been split by Clements (August 2012) in the **Golden Whistler** complex.

188. Yellow-throated Whistler *Pachycephala macrorhyncha* The race *calliope* was commonly recorded on Timor. This species has just been split by Clements (August 2012) in the **Golden Whistler** complex.

189. Bare-throated Whistler *Pachycephala nudigula* A male seen on an evening visit to Golo Lusang, Flores, not singing. Next day many heard giving their amazingly loud and rich song at Danau Rana Mese and one seen very well here, singing with inflated bare throat.



Bare-throated Whistler, Danau Rana Mese, Flores.

190. Pygmy Wren Babbler /Cup-wing *Pneopyga pusilla*

The Pygmy Wren Babblers on both Timor and Flores may better be treated as separate species.

‘Timor’ Pygmy Wren Babbler/Cupwing: *Pneopyga (pusilla) timorensis* Three seen and about four more heard at Gunung Mutis and the Fatumnasi area, Timor.

‘Flores’ Pygmy Wren Babbler/Cupwing: *Pneopyga (pusilla) everetti* One seen and another heard at Danau Rana Mese. One seen at Golo Lusang and a few more heard. Heard also on second visit to Danau Rana Mese.

191. Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus* A few recorded on Flores. The race *unicus* has yellowish underparts.

192. Mountain White-eye *Zosterops montanus* Fairly frequent in higher areas of Timor and Flores.

193. Yellow-bellied White-eye *Zosterops chloris* A few seen briefly on Komodo Island.

194. Ashy-bellied White-eye *Zosterops citrinella* About ten birds seen in forest near km68, Lewa area, Sumba.

195. Yellow-spectacled White-eye *Zosterops wallacei* Seen regularly in forested sites on Sumba and also on Flores.



Yellow-spectacled White-eye, Sumba.

196. Javan Grey-throated White eye *Lophozosterops javanicus* About five seen at Bedugul Botanical Gardens, Bali.

197. White-browed White-eye *Lophozosterops superciliaris* About six recorded at Golo Lusang, Flores. Four seen at Danau Rana Mese, Flores on morning visit there. This species is also known as Yellow-browed Dark-eye.

198. Dark-crowned White-eye *Lophozosterops dohertyi* Five seen near Pagal, Flores, and two seen next day at Danau Rana Mese, Flores on morning visit there. Four seen at Puaralolo. This species is also known as Crested Dark-eye.

199. Flores White-eye *Heleia crassirostris* One seen well at Kisol. Three seen near Pagal. Two seen at Puaralolo. This species is also known as Thick-billed Dark-eye.

200. Timor White-eye *Heleia muelleri* Two seen eventually at Camplong after a bit of effort. Another one seen at Ole Nasi. This species is also known as Spot-breasted Dark-eye.

201. Crescent-chested Babbler *Stachyris melanothorax* Eight birds seen at Bedugul Botanical Gardens, Bali.

202. Chestnut-backed Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus montanus* A group of about seven birds gave very good views at Bedugul Botanical Gardens, Bali.



Chestnut-backed Scimitar Babbler, Bedugul Botanical Gardens, Bali.

203. Golden-bellied Gerygone *Gerygone sulphurea* One seen at Danau Rana Mese, Flores and three at Pagal, Flores. Two seen at Bali Barat N.P.

204. Plain Gerygone *Gerygone inornata* A few recorded at Camplong and Ole Nasi, Timor.

205. Plain-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis* A few noted in Sumba and two seen in Flores.

206. Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis* Recorded at Uluwatu, Bali Barat N.P. and near Sanur on Bali. One seen in Sumba and six noted on Flores.

207. Apricot-breasted Sunbird *Cinnyris buettikoferi* A few seen at forested sites on Sumba.

208. Flame-breasted Sunbird *Cinnyris solaris* Four recorded on Timor and over 20 noted on Flores. Two also seen on Komodo.

209. Golden-rumped Flowerpecker *Dicaeum annae* One seen at Kisol and about three at Pagal. One seen briefly displaying its golden rump (normally not visible) at Puaralo.



Golden-rumped Flowerpecker, Puaralolo, Flores.

210. Thick-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum agile* Seen in large numbers at a fruiting tree near km68 in the Lewa area of Sumba. A few also seen at km51, Sumba. On Timor one seen at Bipolo and another at Ole Nasi of the race *obsoletum*, with largely unstreaked underparts. One seen at Bedugul Botanical Gardens, Bali.



Thick-billed Flowerpecker, Ole Nasi, Timor, race *obsoletum*.

211. Black-fronted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum igniferum* First seen at Pagal, Flores where five birds noted. Another four seen at Puaralolo, Flores.

212. Red-chested Flowerpecker *Dicaeum maugei* A total of six birds logged at Bipolo, Camplong and Ole Nasi, Timor.

213. Blood-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum sanguinolentum* A female recorded at Bedugul Botanical Gardens, Bali. A total of 13 birds of the race *wilhelminae* noted in Sumba Forests. This distinctive race is probably better treated as a separate species, **Sumba Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum wilhelminae*.

214. Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trochileum* Single males observed at Uluwatu, and Kuta, Bali.

215. Timor Oriole *Oriolus melanotis* Heard and seen briefly at Bipolo, Timor. Pair seen well at Camplong and two also recorded at Ole Nasi.

216. Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis* About six noted at Bedugul Botanical Gardens, Bali. A few recorded in forest habitat on both Sumba and Flores. A few fairly tame individuals also seen on Komodo.

217. Timor Figbird *Sphecotheres viridis* About six recorded at Bipolo, and another three noted at Ole Nasi, Timor.



Timor Figbird, Ole Nasi, Timor.

218. Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* One noted at Uluwatu, Bali.

219. Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus* A few noted at Bali Barat N.P. and at Bedugul Botanical Gardens, Bali.

220. Wallacean Drongo *Dicrurus densus* Birds in Timor are usually look and sound different and are usually regarded as a separate species:

Greater Wallacean Drongo *Dicrurus (densus) densus* Two seen at Camplong and another two at Gng. Mutis/Fatumnasi, Timor.

Lesser Wallacean Drongo *Dicrurus (densus) bimaensis/sumbae* Commoner and easier to see than the birds on Timor. Regularly seen in forest habitats on Sumba and Flores. Also seen on Komodo.

221. White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus* Two seen at Bipolo, Timor. Three also noted on Bali.

222. Black-faced Woodswallow *Artamus cinereus* One seen distantly at Bipolo, Timor.

223. Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia* Three birds noted at Uluwatu, Bali.

224. Short-tailed Starling *Aplonis minor* 30+ noted in forest habitat on Sumba, especially near a fruiting tree near km69, Lewa area. Two seen near Bipolo, Timor. 11 birds noted near Pagal, Flores. Eight seen at Bedugul Botanical Gardens, Bali.

225. Black-winged Starling *Acridotheres melanopterus* Total of about six birds noted at Uluwatu, Bali. This species is now regarded as **Critical** by Birdlife International.

226. Bali Starling/Myna *Acridotheres rothschildi* Seven birds seen at Bali Barat N.P. Two unringed individuals seen. This species is regarded as **Critical** by Birdlife International.



Bali Myna, Bali Barat N.P., Bali.

227. Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus* An immature bird was seen at Uluwatu, Bali. This is well outside the species's normal range so it is likely that this was an escaped cage bird.



Rose-coloured Starling, Uluwatu, Bali.

228. White-vented Myna/Javan Myna *Acridotheres javanicus* About 10 noted at Uluwatu, Bali. Another 16 or so seen at Yumbu, Sumba, where they are probably introduced.

229. Oriental Pipit *Anthus rufulus* A few seen in open habitats on Sumba and Timor. One also seen at Rinca. Island.

230. Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* Regularly seen near human habitation throughout.

231. Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava* Two seen in flight in paddyfields at Lewa, Sumba.

232. Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata* 20+ recorded at Yumbu and at paddyfields east of there. Two seen at Camplong and about 10 at Bipolo, Timor. This is probably a good split from Australian birds *castanotis*, **Chestnut-eared Finch.**

233. Tricolored Parrotfinch *Erythrura tricolor* On Timor, a male seen at Camplong and another male at Bipolo. A female seen in foggy conditions near Fatumnasi. Another final sighting of a bird in flight at Ole Nasi.

234. Javan Munia *Lonchura leucogastroides* One seen near Sanur, Bali.

235. Black-faced Munia *Lonchura molucca* About 10 seen near km71, Lewa area, Sumba. Four seen near km51, Lewa area, Sumba. Two seen at Bipolo, Timor.

236. Nutmeg Mannikin *Lonchura punctulata* Commonly seen on Bali at Uluwatu, and Bali Barat N.P.

237. Five-coloured Munia *Lonchura quincolor* Two seen at forest edge at km51, Lewa area, Sumba.

238. Pale-headed Munia *Lonchura pallida* About five birds seen on two consecutive dates at Lewa, Sumba.



Pale-headed Munia, Lewa , Sumba.

239. White-headed Munia *Lonchura maja* Seen in good numbers going to roost in a small reed bed near Kuta, Bali.



White-headed Munia, Kuta, Bali.

240. Java Sparrow *Padda oryzivora* Three adults and a juv. seen near Kuta, Bali. This species is regarded as **Vulnerable** by Birdlife International, due to relentless trapping for the cage bird trade.



Java Sparrows, near Kuta, Bali.



Java Sparrow, juvenile, near Kuta, Bali.

241. Timor Sparrow *Padda fuscata* A pair seen gathering nest material along the road which cuts through the forest patch at Bipolo, Timor. About eight also noted at Bariti, Timor. This species is regarded as **Near-threatened** by Birdlife International.



Timor Sparrows, Bariti, Timor.
