

Moluccas

15 July to 14 August 2013

Henk Hendriks

INTRODUCTION

It was my 7th trip to Indonesia. This time I decided to bird the remote eastern half of this country from 15 July to 14 August 2013.

Actually it is not really a trip to the Moluccas only as Tanimbar is part of the Lesser Sunda subregion, while Ambon, Buru, Seram, Kai and Boano are part of the southern group of the Moluccan subregion.

The itinerary I made would give us ample time to find most of the endemics/specialties of the islands of Ambon, Buru, Seram, Tanimbar, Kai islands and as an extension Boano.

The first 3 weeks I was accompanied by my brother Frans, Jan Hein van Steenis and Wiel Poelmans.

During these 3 weeks we birded Ambon, Buru, Seram and Tanimbar. We decided to use the services of Ceisar to organise these 3 weeks for us. Ceisar is living on Ambon and is the ground agent of several bird tour companies. After some negotiations we settled on the price and for this Ceisar and his staff organised the whole trip. This included all transportation (Car, ferry and flights), accommodation, food and assistance during the trip. On Seram and Ambon we were also accompanied by Vinno. You have to understand that both Ceisar and Vinno are not really bird guides.

They know the sites and from there on you have to find the species yourselves.

After these 3 weeks, Wiel Poelmans and I continued for another 9 days, independently, to the Kai islands, Ambon again and we made the trip to Boano.

The excellent trip reports of George Wagner and the 2 trip reports of Jon Hornbuckle were the main source of info and these gave us the inspiration to make this trip in the first place.

Additional information was obtained from the website of [Burung Nusantara](#).

In retrospect our itinerary worked out fine but our birding was severely hampered by extremely bad weather, especially on Buru, Seram and Ambon.

VISA

On arrival in Indonesia you are issued a 30-day tourist visa for which you have to pay US\$25.

As prior to this trip I spent another 2 weeks on Bali I had to apply for a 60-day visa at home.

GETTING THERE – FLIGHT

We all had different flights to Ambon.

I flew with Cathay Pacific from Amsterdam to Denpasar, via Hong Kong. (950 € return ticket)

I used Lion Air for the flights Denpasar – Surabaya – Ambon (230 € return ticket)

Frans and Wiel flew with Emirates from Amsterdam to Jakarta and with Lion Air to Ambon.

Jan Hein with KLM to Jakarta and on to Ambon.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Take enough time to reach your point of embarkation of your international flight.

Domestic flights suffer from delays, sometimes weather related and sometimes unexplained and even cancellations of certain flights occur.

Frans had a lot of problems getting a flight from Saumlaki (Tanimbar) to Ambon, to connect in time with his Lion Air flight to Jakarta. Express Air suddenly decided to change the departure time of the booked flight from 8.30 am to 16.00 pm.!!

Jan Hein had a 6,5 hour delay of his Lion Air flight from Ambon to Jakarta, which meant that he would have missed his KLM flight from Jakarta to Amsterdam if not the KLM flight also was delayed.

MONEY

The currency used in Indonesia is the Rupia.

During our stay the exchange rate was: 100.000 RP = €7.80
Nowadays it is easy to obtain cash from ATM machines.

GETTING AROUND

The first 3 weeks all our transportation was arranged by Ceisar.
When travelling independently we bought a ticket Teluar (Kai) – Ambon for 740.000 RP.
We also used ferries, fishing boats, bemos, ojek and taxis to get around.
Hiring a car cost between 600.000 and 750.000RP a day. If you are with 3 to 4 people this could be an interesting option. A 4x4 wheel-drive car which you need on Buru to bird the Wamlana Logging Rd is more expensive but I do not know the exact amount.

ACCOMMODATION, FOOD & DRINKS

On Kai Kecil we stayed at Coastal Cottages at Ohoililer beach. 200.000 RP for a double room.

For 3 excellent meals we paid another 100.000 RP.

Great location right at the beach and just next to a small patch of coastal forest which held all the endemics

On Kai Besar we stayed in the kampong Soinrat, just outside the village of Elat, where the ferry arrives. 100.000 RP. and 50.000 for a meal.

On Ambon we stayed at Baguala Beach Resort. 385.000 RP for a double room. This hotel is far from the airport but conveniently located near the ferries and the Tulehu Rd.

(*Ambon White-eye*)

At Masika (the village, departure site for the boat trip to Boano) we paid 100.000 for staying at the house of the boats man and meals.

LANGUAGE

Very few people speak English so some basic knowledge of Bahasa Indonesia comes in very handy.

I had a little phrasebook with me but this was obviously not sufficient.

So we arranged that we had somebody with us who spoke some English and could help us arranging things.

On Kai we got help from Budy and his friend Adolof. On Kai Besar we stayed at the house of Adolof. He and his brother Aki also know the best sites of the *White-eye* and the *Leaf Warbler*.

The contact with Budy was arranged through Ceisar.

For the trip to Boano we asked Vinno to accompany us.

HEALTH & SAFETY

During my stay in the Moluccas I was never sick and experienced no food related problems.

Malaria occurs and you are strongly advised to take malaria profilaxis.

The people on these islands are very friendly and we were never bothered during our trip.

There have been clashes between the moslims and the christians in the past and though there are still tensions we never experienced real problems between these groups during our stay.

WEATHER

I can only conclude that we were very unlucky with the weather conditions encountered during our trip. If possible I would advise to visit this region later in the year, say September/Oktober.

We knew beforehand that we would experience some wet weather during our stay but both Vinno and Ceisar told us that the weather during our stay was exceptionally wet.

On Buru roads and bridges were washed away which meant that one day we were unable to drive to the Wamlana Logging Road and also that we were unable to travel to Bara during our stay.

As a consequence we missed species like *Buru Green Pigeon* and *Lesser Masked Owl*.

On another day water levels of the stream at the beginning of the Wamlana Logging road were too high to be safely crossed by our 4-wheel drive vehicle. Both on Buru and Seram we lost valuable birding time because of heavy rainfall. One day on Seram it rained for 24 hours which made birding impossible.

Many planned spotlight sessions in the evening had to be cancelled.

We had to come back to Ambon several times and most of the time we encountered (heavy) rain.

The weather on Tanimbar was sunny and hot and we had rain only on one late afternoon. On Kai the weather was fine.

BIRDING

Looking back on this trip I can only conclude that our itinerary was fine but that the weather was a major disrupting factor. We had planned plenty of time at the different sites to find the specialties but we lost valuable birding time, because of the wet weather. Despite this we still did remarkably well and we saw a nice set of rare and endemic species.

Notable species missed where: *Buru Green Pigeon*, *Lesser Masked Owl*, *Rufous-throated Dark-eye* on Buru, *White-throated Pigeon*, *Purple-naped Lory*, *Grey-hooded Dark-eye* and *Seram Bush-Warbler* on Seram.

On Tanimbar we only heard the *Tanimbar Scrubfowl* and missed *Lesser Masked Owl*. The taxonomy of several genus in the Moluccan region is constantly evolving and most likely several subspecies will be elevated to species level in the near future. Therefore it is important to try to observe all the different subspecies occurring in the region.

EQUIPMENT

Jan Hein brought a scope with him and this scope was extremely useful when scoping birds in treetops along wide tracks.

We all collected a nice selection of vocalisations on MP-3 players. The main source came from the Xeno-Canto site.

We all brought rubber boots with us which we frequently used.

NOTE: it is advisable to buy an Indonesian sim-card for your mobile phone when arriving in the country. This way you can cheaply phone local contacts.

REFERENCES

Books

Maluku chapter of the Lonely Planet guide of Indonesia – 10th edition, May 2013

A Guide to the Birds of Wallacea by B. Coates & D. Bishop – 1997

Trip reports & articles

-**Maluku, Indonesia** 19 July – 5 August 2009 by Jon Hornbuckle

-**Eastern Indonesia** 26th September – 25th October 2012 by Jon Hornbuckle

-**Islands of the Lesser Sundas and Remote Moluccas**

12 August – 7 October and 27 October – 7 November 2009 by George Wagner

-East Indonesia 5th-20th August 2006 by Mehd Halaouate

-Remote Eastern Indonesia 9 November-1 December 2012 by Birdquest

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-The website of www.burung-nusantara.org

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the first place I like to thank Ceisar for organising the first 3 weeks of our trip. He tried his utmost to make this a hassle-free trip. Every day the car was ready at 4.00 – 5.00 am, breakfast was arranged, if necessary a packed lunch was made, always water, coffee, tea and biscuits in the field and when we encountered logistic problems he solved them for us. Also his companions Jannes and Vinno (he accompanied us on Seram and on the trip Wiel and I made to Boano) were very cooperative.

Jan Hein for providing GPS coordinates of some interesting sites on Buru and Tanimbar.

USEFUL CONTACTS.

CEISAR. He is the person to contact if you are planning a trip to this part of Indonesia. He can organise the whole trip for you or he can provide you with info how to organise things on your own.

He has contacts on the different islands who can assist you. Normally you have to pay 400.000 RP a day for a person who speaks English and assist you.

I found him slow in answering e-mails but he reacts fast on a text message to his mobile phone.

He is also closely working with VINNO, who generally assist on Ambon and Seram. But it is best to contact Ceisar Riupassa.

Ceisar: E-mail: likestours@yahoo.co.id
mobile phone: 0062(0)81344902298

Vinno: 0062(0)81353876858

Unu: driver of hotel Haripan Indah on Tanimbar. He knows the places to go birding but speaks no English.

Budy: contact on Kai Kecil, who speaks English – 0062(0)81343312704

Adolof, friend of Budy – speaks English and can help you on Kai Besar. You can stay at his house.

Hamza: boatsman in Masika (boat trip to Boano) – speaks no English -
0062(8)1247900584

Tum: brother of Hamza – speaks no English – 0062(0)81247285815

SITES

Most of the information of sites is given in the reports of especially George Wagner, Jon Hornbuckle and info from the [Burung Nusantara](#) website.

Especially the maps, provided in George Wagner's report, are accurate and very useful. A short overview about our experiences and some additional info

BURU

When we arrived at Buru we drove to an area called **Waslabi**, which is about an 1 hour drive west of Namlea. This is supposed to be a reliable area for the endemic ***Black-tipped Monarch*** and to a lesser extend of ***Buru Green Pigeon***. The afternoon we birded the area was partly rained out and we missed both species at this site. Rather degraded forest.

We stayed 6 nights at a resort at **Waspait**. This is a rather new complex on the coast near the village of Wamlana. During our stay it turned out that we were the only visitors. I can hardly believe that this resort is profitable in the future. It was our base for visiting the so-called Old Logging Road (probably Waipoti or Wae Putih Logging Road) and the Wamlana Logging Road.

We birded the first couple of km. of the Old Logging Road and here we scored on ***Black-tipped Monarch*** and unexpectedly ***Forsten's Scrubfowl***.

The higher part (900 – 1250 m. alt.) of the Wamlana Logging Road is where you connect with most of the other endemics of Buru. We drove several times to the highest part of the road (with obvious antennes) and birded the areas (several kilometres) before and after the pass.

We had also planned to spend 2 days at **Barra** but because the main road to Barra was impassable as roads and bridges were washed away, we missed this site.

SERAM

On Seram we had our base at a nice guesthouse in the picturesque village of **Sawai**. This village is a 3 to 4 hour drive from Masohi, and Amahai, where the ferry from Ambon arrives.

From Sawai we birded mainly along the Trans Seram Highway which transects Manusuela NP. The highest point of the Trans Seram Highway (1250 m/ alt.) which goes through Manusuela NP can be reached within 1 hour from Sawai.

TANIMBAR

We stayed at Harapan Indah hotel in Saumlaki. All the birding areas can be reached within 45 minutes to 1 hour from this hotel. We birded along the main road from Saumlaki to Larat at several places.

The stream trail at Kebun 45 (about 22 km. from Saumlaki) and several trails from the main road, mentioned by Wagner and Hornbuckle. Wagner mentions a walk of 1 km from the main road to reach some nice forest (the Old Logging Road), it is now more likely 2 to 3 km.

Some 10 km. past Kebun 45 the main road goes steeply downhill. In the late afternoon this is a good spot for flying Pigeons and parrot species.

Another birding area is along a side road of the main road to Larat. It is signposted as Yonif 734.

This road leads to an army camp. A few km past this army camp the dirt road goes down a slope and reaches a bridge. Just before the bridge (right hand side) a muddy trail goes to some nice but small forest patches which gave us some interesting species. The main road continues but soon after the bridge the road was blocked by some big machines. Apparently further along the road is the site where Rob Hutchinson found the *Lesser Masked Owl*, a few years ago. According to Ceisar the Owl is also a few times observed, along the main road, just near the army camp.

KAI KECIL

We stayed at Coastal Cottages at Ohoililer beach on Kai Kecil. It is 30 minutes by bemo /ojek from the airport to this site. (13 km. west of Langur) Just outside Coastal Cottages a short trail starts along the shore line and finally peters out.

Some small indistinct trails branches of into the forest. No need to climb up on the hill. During one afternoon and one early morning we found all the endemics in this small area.

KAI BESAR

We took the ferry to Kai Besar with a local guy called Adolof and stayed at his place at kampong Soinrat the outskirts of Elat.

Just outside his house we scored the *White-eye* and in the evening we went spotlighting with him as he knew where to find *Kai Boobook*. Unfortunately it was very windy that evening and no birds were calling. Random spotlighting along the road gave us a Boobook in flight.

Early next morning we took ojek to Bukit Indah Mission and ascended the trail just behind Bukit Indah. We were accompanied by Adolof's brother Aki, who knew exactly at which altitude we have to look for the *Leaf-warbler*. In less than half an hour we found the species.

AMBON

The only endemic species of Ambon, the *Ambon White-eye*, can be found along the Tulehu Rd. George Wagner mentions a different site in his report.

At the opposite site of the Tulehu ferry port, a road branches of inland. After 1 km. the main road goes left but take the road which goes straight in that left turn. After a few km. you reach the area where we found the White-eye.

We used the services of a driver, called Semmy, to visit this site. Ceisar uses Semmy for driving birders to and from the airport and to the different ferry ports.

BOANO

The information we had for visiting this island to try for the critical endangered *Black-chinned Monarch* was found on the Nusa Tenggara website, provided by Nick Brickle. Unfortunately phone numbers of contacts (guide and boatsman) were no longer correct. Vinno agreed to accompany us to Boano and act as interpreter and organiser for transport.

We took the ferry from Ambon (Liang) to Seram (Kairatu – 1 hour), continued by taxi to Piru (1 hour) and by Ojek (1 hour) to the village of Masika, where we arrived at 15.00

pm. We had problems finding the boatsman Hamza, mentioned by Nick Brickle, but finally connected with his brother, Tum. Because of huge waves he did not want to continue to Boano the same day but was willing to try the next day in the early morning. The "birding guide" from the village Boano Untaro on Boano mentioned by Nick Brickle was unknown to them. After some negotiating he was willing to go by boat straight to the other side of the island to the small village of Huahua, where we had to report to the village head to obtain permission to bird in his area. After a full morning of birding we would travel back to Masika. For this we had to pay 1.000.000 RP. We agreed and he also offered us to stay at his house for the night and to provide a meal for us.

The next day, it took almost 2 hours to reach Huahua (also because the first boat broke down, just 100 meter from Masika harbour) and it was a rather rough crossing. The village head gave us a local guide (called Nordin) and after a gentle 20 minute up-hill walk along the main track from the village of Huahua towards the village of Boano Untara, we arrived in the general area where the Monarch occurs. The local guide accompanied James Eaton and Nick Brickle when they found/observed the Monarch. If you reach an obvious vertical rock cliff face with a small fresh water pool at the bottom of it, at the right hand side of the trail, you have arrived at the exact spot where we observed ***Black-chinned Monarch***. We paid the local guide a small fee and also made a donation to the village.

I guess, if you speak Bahasa, you could do this trip without a local person, who speaks English and act as organiser and interpreter, but we were happy that Vinno could help us out.

Some gps coordinates

Buru

- A02 -03.26464,127.08819 (Namlea, hotel)
- A04 -03.07562,126.68288 (start Wae Putih "Old Logging Road")
- A05 -03.09908,126.57248 (partly logged lowland forest near Waspait)
- A06 -03.06976,126.58499 (Buru Island Resort near Waspait)
- A07 -03.09443,126.69073 (Wae Putih Old Logging Road)
- A09 -03.09666,126.36623 (broken bridge)
- A10 -03.15023,126.58150 (junction Wamlana logging roads)
- A12 -03.17811,126.57033 (1300 m) (antenne, right turn from junction)
- A15 -03.21573,126.57277 (1164 m) (junction, right hand turn to good forest)
- A19 -03.24821,126.57045 (1064 m) (as far as we walked from A15)

Tanimbar

- A25 -07.98089,131.29597 (0 m) (accommodation Tanimbar)
- A26 -07.85064,131.25329 (51 m) (forest patch Yonif 734)
- A27 -07.85019,131.25801 (43 m) (forest patch Yonif 734, Slaty-backed Thrush)
- A29 -07.85217,131.25545 (51 m) (forest patch Yonif 734, entrance river trail)
- A31 -07.90041,131.33054 (144 m) (junction towards Yonif 734)
- A32 -07.83401,131.35046 (103 m) (Kabun 45)
- A33 -07.81258,131.37039 (136 m) (site of flyway parrots and pigeons)
- A35 -07.83621,131.34949 (111 m) (entrance Lorulunfarm)

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Sunday July 14. Denpasar – Surabaya – Makassar – Ambon.

I left Denpasar at 19.30 pm (delay of almost 3 hours) on a Lion Air flight to Surabaya. Around midnight I had another Lion Air flight from Surabaya to Ambon with a stop at Makassar.

Day 2: Monday July 15. Surabaya – Makassar – Ambon.

Tulehu Rd. on Ambon – night ferry to Nemlea, Buru

During the stop at Makassar I met Jan Hein van Steenis, who came from Jakarta. At 6.30 am we landed at Ambon. Half an hour later my brother Frans landed on a Lion Air flight from Jakarta. We met Ceisar, Vinno and Wiel Poelmans, who arrived yesterday. It had rained for days and it was still raining when we drove to Baguala Beach hotel where we dropped our gear. We quickly drove to the nearby Tulehu Rd. to start our birding on Ambon. The rain ceased a little for the next hour or so before the heavens opened again.

During the few hours we birded along the road we scored our first endemics.

Pale Cicadabird, a single **Seram Golden Bulbul** with its distinctive yellow tail band, several **Seram Drongos** and also **Slaty Flycatcher**, **Spectacled Flycatcher**, **Island Monarch**, **Ashy Flowerpecker** and poor views for some of us of a single **Ambon White-eye** just before the rain started.

We drove back to our hotel for lunch and in the afternoon we returned to the Tulehu Rd. again where we birded most of the time in the rain.

No White-eye but nice views of a perched **Meyer's Goshawk** at the highest point of the road, our first **Moluccan Red Lory's**, small flocks of **Red-cheeked Parrots**, **Moluccan Cuckoo**, more **Island Monarchs** and a few **Northern Fantails**.

After dinner we drove to the harbour where we boarded the ferry at 20.00 pm. We had a small airconditioned cabin and at 22.00 pm we were fast asleep. It turned out later that we actually left Ambon after midnight.

Day 3: Tuesday July 16. Nemlea – Waslabi forest patch – Nemlea.

When I woke up at 8.00 am I found Wiel and Frans still fast asleep while Jan Hein was already outside on deck, seawatching. I joined him and within 10 minutes I had my first **Matsudaira's Storm-petrel**. The next hour we observed many more and some of them passed closeby and gave excellent views. The diagnostic whitish patch at the base of the outer primaries was clearly seen. We also saw **Lesser Frigatebirds**, **Red-footed Booby**, **Brown Booby**, **Bridled Tern** and Jan Hein saw an imm. **Masked Booby** before I got on deck.

Around noon we arrived at the harbour of Namlea. After a quick lunch we drove 1½ hour west of Namlea, where we birded a small remnant lowland forest patch near Waslabi. Unfortunately shortly after we started our birding it started to rain, a nasty drizzle.

We failed to find our targets **Buru Green Pigeon** and **Black-tipped Monarch** but did see **Moustached Treeswift**, **Pale Cicadabird**, **Buru Golden Bulbul**, **White-naped Monarch**, **Buru Friarbird**, **Black-breasted Sunbird**, **Buru Flowerpecker** and a single **Buru White-eye**.

We birded until 17.30 pm, after we drove back to our hotel (hotel Awista) in Nemlea. A **Spotted Harriër** was observed hunting in the fields along the road and some herons/egrets like **Purple Heron**, **Great Egret**, **Intermediate Egret**, **Eastern Cattle Egret** and a single **Yellow Bittern**.

Day 4: Wednesday July 17. Nemlea – Waspait – Old Logging Road.

We left Nemlea at 04.30 in the morning and drove straight to the start of the Old Logging Road, a short distance of Waspait, where we arrived at 6.30 am. We birded the first couple of km. of this track until 10.00 am. We encountered rain from time to time.

Interesting species seen were our first **Buru Racquet-tails** in flight, **Buru Golden Bulbul** was common, **Buru Drongo**, **Island Monarch**, **White-naped Monarch**, **Slaty Flycatcher**, **Buru Friarbird** and **Buru Flowerpecker**.

Late morning we drove to our resort along the coast at Waspait. It turned out that we were the only visitors, staying at this luxurious resort which looked way out of place at this site. After lunch and a short rest we decided to bird a small patch of lowland forest nearby. It was rather birdless and at 16.00 pm it started to rain heavily and this was only the prelude of what was going to follow. We were lucky to wear rubber boots as we were hardly able to cross the stream (shallow on our way in) back to the car. The rain became heavier and heavier, the wind was picking up and in the early evening we had a real heavy storm on our hand.

Day 5: Thursday July 18. Old Logging Road.

Before daylight (05.00 am) we left in great anticipation for our short drive to the start of the Wamlana Logging Road. This was supposed to be our first full birding day along this road, which would give us access to the higher levels of large stretches of untouched forest.

The storm was over and the weather was fine.

But just before the junction towards the start of the Wamlana Logging Road we bumped into a small traffic jam. The cause of this traffic jam was the fact that at this point the main road was completely washed away! Ofcourse we were extremely disappointed and decided to bird instead the Old Logging Road again. This road/track can only be accessed by foot or occasionally by motorcycle. So on foot we were only able to bird the lower levels along this track. When we started to walk we heard a **Buru Boobook** call but it was already getting light so we were unable to locate the bird. A fruiting tree held **Claret-breasted Fruit-Doves**, **White-breasted Fruit-Doves** and we had good views of a scoped **Buru Oriole**. Also nice views of **Buru Racquet-tails**, both in flight as well as of perched birds. We also observed our first **Buru Cuckoo-Shrikes** but highlight was the observation of a pair of the endemic **Black-tipped Monarch** which gave great views. Or maybe the highlight was the unexpected observation of a pair of **Forsten's Scrubfowl**. We heard the species call and when we played its call we scanned the heavily vegetated slope downwards and fortunately the bird(s) showed itself at the only, small, open patch of that slope. Only Jan Hein failed to see the birds. We birded the area until 11.00 am after which we returned to our accommodation for lunch. After lunch we birded the same stretch again from 15.30 – 19.00 pm in glorious sunshine.

We saw again a pair of **Black-tipped Monarchs** and we had good views of several **Moluccan King Parrots** along the trail. **Buru Golden Bulbul** and **Buru Drongo** were common and we also saw a few **Buru White-eyes**.

We spent some time at the fruiting tree where we had a good overview over the valley. From this view point we saw **Brown Goshawk**, **Variable Goshawk** of the *ssp.pallidiceps*, very striking bird with a contrasting pale head, **Pied Imperial Pigeon**, a single **Spectacled Imperial-Pigeon** and **Great-billed Parrot**.

At dusk we heard several **Moluccan Scops Owls** call and we had great views of a taped-in bird. But not a sniff of the Boobook.

Meantime we received news that the main road was provisionally fixed, so we could bird the Wamlana Logging Road the next day.

Day 6: Friday July 19. Direction of Bara – Wamlana Logging Road.

At 05.00 we left again for the Wamlana Logging Road but this time we were unable to cross the stream at the start of the Wamlana Logging Road, mainly because of the high water level of the stream but also because the crossing was blocked by several huge logs, washed down from the mountain. We decided to change our program and to drive to Bara for 2 days to bird the lowland forest around this village.

While driving to Bara we suddenly came to an abrupt halt as part of a bridge was completely destroyed and again we were unable to continue our trip. This time we became rather desperate and we were in low spirits when we drove back to Waspait. Meanwhile the logging company had cleared the river crossing from fallen trees and after lunch we finally were able to cross the stream and to enter the Wamlana Logging Road. We birded the area before the pas until 15.00 pm when again it started to rain heavily.

During our short stay near the pas we observed at a fruiting tree small flocks of **Spectacled Imperial Pigeon** and **Buru Mountain-Pigeon**. Other notable species were **Buru Oriole**, **Drab Whistler** and **Buru Friarbird** but generally the birding was disappointing.

Ceisar urged us to drive down quickly as he was afraid that later on we were unable to cross back again over the river because of the risen water levels.

At 16.30 we arrived at the crossing and we barely made it to the other side. One time the car started to drift in the river but our driver managed to gain grip again just in time.

Day 7: Saturday July 20. Wamlana Logging Road

At 05.00 am we drove straight to the start of the Wamlana but we decided to wait until 07.00 before we dared to cross the river. We continued to the highest point of the road (antennas area) but when we arrived it was raining heavily. We still birded from under our umbrellas and Wiel was the lucky one to observe a rare **Buru Honeyeater** which we could not relocate. After some time it cleared. We birded from the highest point about 3 to 4 km down until 15.30 pm.

The fruiting tree held numbers of both **Spectacled Imperial Pigeon** and **Buru Mountain-Pigeons**. We saw **Red-cheeked Parrot**, **Buru Raquet-tail**, **Moluccan Red Lory**, **Moluccan King-Parrot** and Ceisar claimed a flyby **Blue-fronted Parakeet**, which we did not see as we were hiding inside the car for the rain at that time.

Other notable species seen were **Mountain Tailorbird**, **Buru Leaf-Warbler**, **Streak-breasted Jungle-Flycatcher**, **White-naped Monarch**, **Northern Fantail**, **Yellow-throated Whistler**, **Drab Whistler** and **Buru White-eye**.

It was again a difficult crossing of the stream at the start of the road. Heavy rain during the night.

Day 8: Sunday July 21. Road to Bara – Old Logging Road

At 05.00 am we drove again to the start of the Wamlana Logging road but were unable to cross because of the high water level of the stream.

And again we decided to drive to Bara to bird the area around that village. Ceisar had arranged that we could cross the destroyed bridge on foot and that a bemo would be waiting for us at the other side of the bridge to transport us to Bara.

But on the way to that particular bridge we encountered 2 other tricky points where the water was running over the main road and the road was about to be washed away as well. When we arrived at the bridge, we discussed our options and when Ceisar told us that he was afraid that we could get stuck for days at Bara, we decided to take our losses and to return again to Waspait.

In the afternoon we birded again along the Old Logging Road but we were rained out again once more. Jan Hein went on his own to the spot where we had observed the **Forsten's Scrubfowl** three days ago and he managed to see it.

The fruiting tree held besides some **Claret-breasted Fruit-doves** a single **Superb Fruit-dove**. Again we observed a pair of **Black-tipped Monarchs**, **Slaty Flycatchers** and most of the common species seen three days before.

Day 9: Monday July 22. Wamlana Logging Road

At 05.00 am we drove to the start of the Wamlana Logging Road. The waterlevel had fallen a bit and our driver would try to cross it. Because we did not want to get trapped inside our car, if he would not make it, we all climbed on the back of the car.

Fortunately we crossed the stream without problems and we birded all day (until 20.00 pm) along this road. The weather today was fine!

We started at the highest point and first birded the area a few km beyond this point.

We saw several **Black Eagles** soaring above the pass and a few **Spotted Kestrels**.

Finally we connected with **Tawny-backed Fantail**, which had eluded us until now. We saw one bird very well and briefly a second bird. These turned out to be the only ones of the trip. We heard several **Buru Bush-Warblers** and had very good views of a tape

responsive bird. Several (**Buru**) **Red-bellied Pittas** were heard but these were not cooperative.

Other species recorded were **Streak-breasted Jungle-Flycatcher**, **Buru White-eyes**, **Buru Cuckoo-Shrike**, **Buru Golden Bulbul** and **Buru Drongo**. A **Cinnamon-chested Flycatcher** was heard. But we did not locate one of the rarer species like **Buru Honeyeater** or the even more rare **Rufous-throated Dark-eye**. I think that for the latter you have to get to the higher areas of the region but I have no idea how one should get there.

After lunch we birded from the pass down and in the afternoon we saw more or less the same species.

At dusk we heard several **Moluccan Scops Owl** and briefly a **Buru Boobook**.

When it was dark a flock of very noisy parrots flew over our heads and when we compared these calls with the ones we had on our I-pod of **Black-lored Parrots**, we found these calls remarkably similar! Last year a Birdquest group found and photographed a **Black-lored Parrot** at the highest level along the Wamlana Logging Road in broad daylight. It was thought that this species was mostly nocturnal.

Day 10: Tuesday July 23. Wamlana Logging Road – Danau Sawah – Ferry Buru to Ambon.

We spent our last morning along the Wamlana Logging Road (05.30 – 12.00 am)

Before dawn we were on a location where Ceisar had found **Buru Boobook** before.

Though we heard the species, it did not respond to the tape.

Most of the time we birded around the pass area. Our targets were **Buru Honeyeater** and also **Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrot**. But it was not to be.

After lunch we drove back to Nemlea and we made a stop at Danau Sawah.

Along the shore **Dollarbird**, **Willie Wagtail** and on the lake 20+ **Little grebes** of the *ssp. tricolor*, **Little Black Cormorant**, **Purple Heron**, **Little Egret**, **Great Egret** and a single **Striated Heron**.

We had dinner at hotel Awista and at 09.30 pm we boarded the ferry. The sea was rather rough and, with recent ship/ferry disasters fresh in our memories, when we noticed that our cabin was blocked by a large truck, we decided to leave our cabin and to go up to the main deck where we bought a ticket for a bed in a communal room. We thought that if ,because of rough seas, this truck starts to move, we were trapped in our cabin.

Well I think we all will remember this night. It was hot (only some useless fans) and people were throwing up all over the place.

Day 11: Wednesday July 24. Ambon to Seram – Manusela NP – Sawai

We arrived in the early morning at a rainy Ambon at Galala port. We quickly drove to another ferry port (Tulehu port) for our ferry trip to Seram. First some consternation as Wiel thought he had lost his passport on the Buru-Ambon ferry. When we drove back to Galala port he discovered that his passport had fallen through a hole in his pocket and got stuck down his pants!!

At 09.00 am we left Tulehu port for the 2-hour trip to Seram.

During the crossing we observed 4 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels**, and a single **Brown Booby**. We arrived at 11.00 am at Amahai port and drove the short distance to the HQ of Manusela NP in Masohi. Here we got our permits for the national park and after lunch we drove through Manusela NP towards Sawai, where we would stay for 5 nights.

During a stop at a road side restaurant, just before the road starts to ascend, we observed a pair of **Lazuli Kingfishers**, which could be studied in the scope. A most wanted species in the bag. Several stops along the Trans Seram Highway gave us 2 **Seram Imperial Pigeons**, a single **Claret-breasted Fruit-Dove**, **Moluccan Red Lory**, **Rainbow Lorikeet** and our first **Salmon-crested Cockatoo**, although a bit distant.

Blyth's Hornbills were observed several times and also **Moluccan Cuckoo-Shrike**, a single **Seram Oriole**, **Seram Crow**, **Seram Friarbird** and our first **Seram White-eye**.

We arrived at the very scenic village of Sawai at 19.00 pm. Our rustic accommodation at the far end of the village, was built above the bay and our rooms were connected with a board walk, which gave nice views of the coral reef beneath it.

It all gave a very relaxed impression. The outside sitting area and dining area gave great views of the surrounding bay.

Day 12: Thursday July 25. Trans Seram Highway

We spent the whole day along the Trans Seram Highway. In the morning we birded the area around the pass (1250 m. alt.) from where we walked down for several hours. We had absolutely great views of several perched **Salmon-crested Cockatoos**. A few of us (not me) saw a single **Seram Mountain-Pigeon** in flight.

Several times we encountered small flocks which we searched for the rarer species. Large roaming flocks of **Mountain White-eyes** were seen and other species seen around the pass area were **Great-billed Parrot, Moluccan King-Parrot, Red-cheeked Parrot, Sacred Kingfisher, Blyth's Hornbill, Moluccan Cuckoo-Shrike, Seram Golden Bulbul, Seram Leaf-Warbler, Island Flycatcher, Spectacled Monarch, Slaty Flycatcher, Streaky-breasted Fantail, Yellow-throated Whistler, Drab Whistler, Seram Friarbird**, several **Seram Honeyeaters** and **Drab (Seram) Myzomelas, Seram White-eye** and best of all twice a **Rufescent Dark-eye**.

While walking down we suddenly heard the call of **Purple-naped Lory**. We tried to get closer but did not realise that the bird was in fact much closer than we thought and was perched, concealed in the mid canopy some 30 meters inside the forest, up the slope. We found that out as all we saw was suddenly a flash of red, flying up the slope into the forest.

All in all we had a very productive morning.

In the afternoon we drove down towards Wahai to an altitude of 600 m.

A small flock of **Long-crested Mynas** near the turn-off towards Sawai was the highlight.

In the evening we did some spotlighting near the parrot rehabilitation centre.

We heard several **Moluccan Scops Owls** and briefly **Seram Boobook**.

Day 13: Friday July 26. Trans Seram Highway

Before dawn we did owling in the same area as last night. Again **Moluccan Scops Owl** and **Seram Boobook** but too far to tape the boobook in. **Common Paradise Kingfisher** was also heard.

We drove to the pass area where we did some birding until 8.30 am, but the rain made birding almost impossible. We drove back to our accommodation where we just did some reading as it was raining constantly.

In the afternoon we drove to the lowlands where we did some birding from under our umbrellas and we visited the parrot rehabilitation centre. Heavy rain in the evening but we did hear both species of owl and also **Large-tailed nightjar**.

Day 14: Saturday July 27. Trans Seram Highway.

As it was still raining we stayed at our accommodation until 14.00 pm when the rain ceased. We birded the pass area until 20.00 pm. From time to time it rained.

We concentrated on the species we missed so far, **Seram Mountain-Pigeon, Rufous-necked Sparrowhawk, Purple-naped Lory, Grey-hooded Dark-eye, Seram Bush-Warbler** and the very rare **Seram (Moluccan) Thrush**.

We did have excellent views of several small flocks of **Seram Mountain-Pigeons**.

Small forays inside the forest gave twice a singing male **Cinnamon-chested Flycatcher**. We failed to find any of the other targets but the absolute highlight of the day was the unexpected observation of an adult **Japanese Night-Heron**, flushed from the roadside and which flew across the road in full view at a distance of less than 20 meters!

As it was dry in the evening we went out for owling but despite the fact that we heard both the Scops Owl as well as the Boobook, no views.

Day 15: Sunday July 28. Trans Seram Highway

All day along the Trans Seram Highway. Again a lot of rain with short periods of dry weather. We discussed our options for our last full day. We could do a boat trip to some of the small island just outside the bay or up the river or we could again focus on the

endemics along the Trans Seram Highway. The specialties of the islands are *Forsten's Scrubfowl* and *Olive Honeyeater*. The former we had seen all on Buru and the latter was seen by three of us on an island of the coast of West Papua, so we decided to focus once again on the Trans Seram Highway.

Several *Seram Mountain-Pigeons*, a single *Seram Imperial Pigeon*, *Salmon-crested Cockatoo*, *Moluccan King-Parrot*, *Blyth's Hornbill*, a single *Seram Golden Bulbul*, *Seram Oriole*, *Seram Leaf-Warbler*, *Little Pied Flycatcher*, *Spectacled Monarch*, *Slaty Flycatcher*, *Streaky-breasted Fantail*, *Yellow-throated Whistler*, *Drab Myzomela*, *Wakolo Myzomela*, *Seram White-eye* and no less than 3 *Rufescent Dark-eyes*.

In all the days spent along the highway we never heard a single *Seram Bush-Warbler* and despite scanning all the canopy flocks, moving through the forest, we never located a *Grey-hooded Dark-eye*.

Lower down we found an *Oriental Hobby*, 2 *Long-crested Mynas* and we saw a single *Rufous Night-Heron* in flight near a river.

In the evening we heard a *Seram Boobook* call close to the rehabilitation centre, but no views.

Day 16: Monday July 29. Trans Seram Highway – Masohi – Amahai – Ferry Buru to Ambon.

Before dawn we tried for the *Seram Boobook* again near Sawai. We came close but no views. Jan Hein finally taped in a *Paradise Kingfisher*, which could just be observed through a gap in the foliage. We birded the pass area along the Trans Seram Highway until 10.00 am. Glorious sunshine when we left the area! We added *Rufous-necked Sparrowhawk* to our list. Drive to Masohi and Amahai where we had lunch. We took the ferry back to Ambon at 14.00 pm and arrived at Ambon 2 hours later.

We drove to our hotel (Baguala Beach resort). It rained all night.

Day 17: Tuesday July 30. Flight Ambon – Saumlaki (Tanimbar) – Kebun 45.

At 04.00 am we left our hotel for the 40 minute drive to the airport. It rained extremely heavily and we had problems getting to the airport as the road to the airport was partly flooded. It was a complete chaos at the airport and because of the rain all flights were delayed and all we could do was waiting for the rain to stop. Luckily the rain ceased and at 09.15 our flight with Express Air left Ambon and at 10.30 we arrived at the small airport of Saumlaki on the island of Yamdena (Tanimbar). The weather was nice and sunny for a change. Several *Australian Pratincoles* were observed on the runway. After a 5 minute drive we dropped our gear at hotel Harapan Indah, which is nicely situated at the harbour of Saumlaki. From the deck overlooking the harbour we scoped a group of *Australian Pelicans*. Other species seen in the harbour include a single *White-faced Heron*, 2 *Pacific Reef-Herons*, *Little Black Cormorants*, *Lesser Frigatebird*, *Black-naped Tern* and *Whiskered Tern*. Up to 5 *Tree Martins* were flying around in the harbour. After lunch we drove (40 minutes) to the start of the trail at Kebun 45. We had a very good afternoon at this site and it was nice to score lifers in good weather.

Along the road we observed the endemic *Tanimbar Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove*, *Wallacean Whistler* and *Scaly-breasted Honeyeater*, which was very common. I was the only one to observe briefly a *Tanimbar Bush-Warbler*. When entering the trail itself we observed in quick succession the gorgeous *Wallace's Fruit-Dove*, *Tanimbar Dusky Cuckoo-Dove*, *Pacific Emerald Dove*, *Tanimbar Oriole*, a single *Loetoe Monarch*, several endemic *Black-bibbed Monarchs*, *Broad-billed Flycatcher*, endemic *Cinnamon-tailed* and *Long-Tailed Fantail*, *Golden-bellied Flyrobin*, *Yellow-throated Whistler*, *Tanimbar Friarbird*, *Black-breasted Myzomela*, *Mistletoebird* and *Ashy-bellied White-eye*. Later we moved on along the main road to a site which is a flyway for parrots and pigeons and birded at this spot until dusk. Our first *Tanimbar Corellas* gave great views and we also observed *Yellow-eyed Imperial –Pigeons*, *Pink-headed Imperial-Pigeons*, *Blue-streaked Lory*, *Eclectus Parrot*, *Red-cheeked Parrot*, *Variable Goshawk* and *Tanimbar Triller*.

After this productive afternoon we returned to our hotel and had some well deserved beers in the evening.

Day 18: Wednesday July 31. Birding sites around Saumlaki

At dawn we started birding along the road called "Yonif 734", past the army camp. We drove until the dirt road was blocked by bulldozers. We walked further along this road but found the habitat rather degraded. We did find a flock of *Tricolored Parrotfinches* with some *Five-colored Munias*. We entered a small forest patch along the road where we observed our first *Slaty-backed Thrush*. In the same patch we observed a nice male *Tanimbar Flycatcher*. Wiel and Jan Hein were lucky to bump into an *Elegant Pitta* in some scrubby habitat along the road.

Later we drove some distance back to a bridge and explored a very muddy trail which lead to some more patches of good forest.

Here we had again good views of *Slaty-backed Thrush* and Frans was lucky to have brief but good views of a perched *Fawn-breasted Thrush*. When we taped the bird it only showed twice briefly perched but mostly in flight. Several *Rufous-sided Gerygones* showed nicely in the same patch and when walking back to the main road we got 2 *Wallacean Cuckoo-Shrikes*. We also added *Arafura Fantail* to our list.

At noon we drove back to our hotel for a lunch break and in the afternoon we birded another side trail which starts shortly after Kebun 45 from the main Saumlaki – Larac road. Along this track we scored our first *Tanimbar Starling* which turned out to be rather scarce. We finally reached a stream where we observed a flyby *Azure Kingfisher*.

On our way back we saw our only *Pied Bronze Cuckoo* of the trip.

We stayed out until 20.00 for some spotlighting, mainly near the army camp.

We heard *Seram Boobook* and had views of a pair near the bridge, beyond the army camp. *Large-tailed Nightjar* was heard and seen along the road.

Day 19: Thursday August 1. Birding sites around Saumlaki

At 05.30 am we started to walk with a local guide along a completely overgrown old logging trail to an area where this guy knew the location of an active mound of *Tanimbar Scrubfowl*. The walking was rather arduous because of the high grass and thorny bushes and most of the time our guide had to hack his way through the forest. It took us almost 2 hours to get to the mound, where we stayed for another 2 hours to try for the scrubfowl. Though we heard the birds call several times we never saw one. Disappointed we walked back to the main road at 09.30 am. and when we arrived back at the car we were pretty exhausted.

After a lunch break we birded Kebun 45 area again from 15.00 – 17.30 pm.

At the end of the trail we had a perched *Pacific Baza*. We found more or less the same species as yesterday but had again great views of a singing male *Tanimbar Flycatcher*, several *Tanimbar Bush-Warblers* and a female *Shining Flycatcher*.

Spotlighting from the car in the evening along the Yonif 734 road. We heard a *Eastern Barn Owl* and saw one in flight. Wiel was the only who had briefly an owl in the spotlight which he identified as a *Lesser Masked Owl*, mainly because of its dark, greyish upperparts. *Seram Hawk-Owl* was also heard.

Day 20: Friday August 2. Birding sites around Saumlaki

In the early morning we started again at the so-called bridge trail, along the Yonif 734 road. We birded along this trail until 11.30 am.

Frans had to stay behind because together with Ceisar he had to try to get on the afternoon flight of Express Air from Saumlaki to Ambon.

Originally Frans had booked a flight to Ambon at 08.30 am on August 3 with Express Air but they suddenly changed the schedule to 16.00 pm. As a result Frans would miss his connecting flight from Ambon to Jakarta and also the international flight from Jakarta to Amsterdam!

Luckily Ceisar succeeded to get him on the afternoon flight from Saumlaki to Ambon.

Meanwhile we mainly focussed on getting better views of *Fawn-breasted Thrush* this morning.

In the same area as 2 days earlier we observed 2 *Wallacean Cuckoo-Shrikes* and in the forest, displaying *Shining Flycatchers*, gave a great show.

Slaty-backed Thrush was again easily located but *Fawn-breasted Thrush* only glimpsed. *Tanimbar Flycatcher* was seen twice, just as single *Loetoe Monarch* and *Black-bibbed Monarch*.

After a lunch break it started to rain heavily and this ruined our afternoon birding.

We birded/scoped from the deck, behind our hotel. A single *Australian Hobby* was observed and at least 5 *Royal Spoonbills* were scoped.

In the evening it was dry and we went out spotlighting from 19.30 – 21.30 pm.

Nice views of a *Seram Boobook* in the spotlight but no *Lesser Masked Owl*.

Day 21: Saturday August 3. Birding sites around Saumlaki.

The early morning was spent at Kebun 45 and along the main road just passed Kebun 45. Our main target was *Tanimbar Crow* which had eluded us until now.

We stayed a while at the viewpoint along the road but besides parrots and pigeons, no crows. When we slowly drove back, checking the roadside fields I suddenly discovered a *Tanimbar Crow* just next to the road. Unfortunately the bird flew off and only me and Wiel saw the bird. We also recorded a small flock of 5 *Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrikes* along the road.

At 10.30 am we returned to Saumlaki and said goodbye to Jan Hein who flew back to Ambon in the afternoon.

Wiel and I birded Kebun 45 area again from 15.00 – 17.00 pm. Our main aim was again to obtain better views of *Fawn-breasted Thrush*. And again we had only poor views of one.

Day 22: Sunday August 4. Flight Saumlaki to Tual – Coastal cottages area.

After breakfast Unu drove us to the airport. When checking in with Trigana Air, we were charged extra because they allowed only 10 kg. of luggage. I knew my luggage was about 16/17 kg. but they tried to rip us off by saying my luggage was 20/21 kg. Finally they gave in, we paid only extra for 6 kg. and at 10.00 am we flew from Saumlaki to Tual, where we arrived at 11.30 am. Ceisar had contacted a guy called Budy, who would come to the airport to assist us during our stay. As he did not turn up, I phoned Ceisar and he told me that he was still in church.

After half an hour Budy and his friend arrived on motorcycle and together we drove to Coastal Cottages, near the village of Ohoililer. It took us 45 minutes.

We were given a very nice, cheap room, only 50 meters from a beautiful, unspoilt beach. After some negotiating we agreed that the next day, we would travel to the harbour with his friend Adolof, where we would take the 14.00 pm ferry to Kai Besar and stay at his home for one night.

After a nice lunch, together with a French couple, we birded the coastal forest patch, just next to the Coastal Cottages. It was hot and we had difficulties in finding access to the interior of the forest and to climb up to the escarpment. The going was difficult because of the sharp limestone stones. But in the end it turned out that it is not really necessary to go far inside from the ill-defined, coastal trail and slowly we found some of our targets.

A fruiting tree held several *Wallace's Fruit-Doves*, *Tanimbar Rose-crowned Fruit-Doves*, *Yellow-eyed Imperial-Pigeon*, *Pied Imperial Pigeon* and in that same tree we found *Wallacean Cuckoo-Shrike* and a single *Kai Cicadabird*. Other birds in that area include *Varied Triller*, and *Greater Wallacean Drongo*. On our way back we found several *Island Monarchs*, *Island Whistler*, *Grey-headed Whistler*, *Tanimbar Friarbird* and our first *Kai Coucal*.

A short stroll around our cottage in the late afternoon gave us *Orange-footed Scrubfowl* and a very vocal *Brush Cuckoo*.

Day 23: Monday August 5. Coastal Cottages area – ferry to Kai Besar – Kai Besar

From dawn to 09.00 am we birded again the small forest patch just outside our cottages.

This time we found our remaining endemics, a single **White-tailed Monarch** and a single **Little Kai White-eye**. Other species were **Australasian Figbird**, **Pacific Emerald Dove**, **Arafura Fantail** and **Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike**.

At noon we were picked up by Budy and Adolof and we drove to the harbour.

On the way we visited an travel agency to book our flight from Tual to Ambon.

We took the speed boat ferry at 14.00 pm. We made the mistake to go deep inside and as it was a rather rough crossing, which meant that they had to close the doors because water was gulfing inside and therefore it was unbearable hot. People got sick and it was not a very nice experience and we were glad to arrive at Elat on Kai Besar at 16.00 pm.

At the back of some ojek, arranged by Adolof, we drove the short distance to Kampung Soinrat near Elat. Here we got a room at Adolof's place. After dropping our daypack we started to bird the small hill side just outside the village. A pair of **Osprey** had a huge nest in the top of a bare tree in the middle of the village. It did not take long before we scored our first **Greater Kai White-eye**. A perched **Red-flanked Lorikeet** was also nice.

In the evening we drove with Adolof and his brother Aki to a site where according to them **Kai Boobook** is regularly observed. Unfortunately it was rather windy and no bird replied to its call. While spotlighting along the road nearby I flushed a **Kai Boobook** which I only observed in flight.

We had a rather uncomfortable night in our room with many mosquitos. Unfortunately I had not taken my mosquito net with me to the island.

Day 24: Tuesday August 6. Bukit Indah Mission – ferry to Kai Kecil – Danau Iblel

First light we took ojek for the 20 minute drive to Bukit Indah Mission (A huge statue of Christ on a cross and a statue of Maria in a niche) With the brother of Adolof as our local guide we climbed up on the rocky trail behind the mission to the altitude where the **Kai Leaf Warbler** occurs. When we reached the right habitat/altitude it did not take long before we had great views of 2 birds. A **White-tailed Monarch** also made an appearance. As we found our target so fast we decided to try to leave the island as soon as possible. The reason was that rough seas could prevent us from crossing back today in the afternoon and all boat transfers were cancelled for the next 2 days because of Idul fitru (end of the Ramadan).

So we walked down and drove back to our accommodation and at 09.00 am we boarded the speed boat ferry again. This time the crossing went smoothly. We returned to Coastal Cottages and in the afternoon we birded a nearby lake, called Danau Iblel. At the lake itself we saw **Australasian Grebe**, **Little Black Cormorant**, **Little Pied Cormorant**, 3 **Australian Pelicans** and along the shore a **Little Kingfisher** in flight and unexpected a single **Tanimbar Corella**.

After dinner we were picked up by Budy and his driver and we drove to an area which is supposed to be excellent for **Kai Boobook**. This area is called Taman Antrek. We spent until 22.00 pm but we got no respons.

Day 25: Wednesday August 7. Coastal Cottages.

As we had seen all our targets on Kai Kecil, we took it easy today. Early morning I birded the nearby forest patch again and observed the local form of **Northern Fantal**. We drove to Tual to get some money, we swam in the sea and did some reading. Like a real holiday.

Day 26: Thursday August 8. Flight Tual to Ambon – Ferry to Seram – Masika village.

At 05.50 we left Tual on a Wings flight to Ambon, where we arrived an hour later in pouring rain. After collecting our luggage we met Vinno and drove to his house to discuss our options. We decided to take our chances to travel to Masika on Seram today.

We left our main luggage at Vinno's place, took a taxi to the harbour of Ambon and took the 09.00 ferry to Kairatu on Seram. When we arrived we first tried to take a bemo to the town of Piru but it took too long before they got the bemo filled with passengers and instead, after some negotiating, we took a taxi to Piru. All taxis refused to drive further

to the village of Masika because of the horrible road conditions between Piru and Masika. So we arranged a couple of ojekes and drove to Masika where we arrived around 15.00 pm.

At first nobody knew Hamza, the boatsman mentioned in Nick Brickle's report but finally they got the message and after half an hour we met Tum, his brother. Because of the rough seas he refused to do the crossing today but he was willing to take us the next morning, when the waves were much calmer. After some negotiating we agreed on the price.

We could also stay at his place and his wife would prepare a meal for us in the evening. Later we met his brother Hamza and discussed the trip with him. As we were unable to contact the local guide on the main village of Boano (Boano Utara), we decided to travel straight to the other side of the island to the village of Huahua. From here we could easily walk to the area where the ***Black-chinned Monarch*** occurs. In the evening the brothers decided to use the bigger boat, which had a cabin, to do the trip. This boat was slower but also safer in the rough sea

Day 27: Friday August 9. Masika – Huahua (Boano) – Masika – Ambon

Before dawn we were up as we were supposed to leave at dawn. But it took another hour before we left the small harbour of Masika. Then disaster. Just 200 meters from the shore the boat broke down. The complete screw was lost. At that time we thought the mission was over but Tum quickly prepared the smaller, open boat and another hour later we finally left for Huahua. First we crossed over to Boano, towards Boano Utara Village and then we followed the coast line to the other side of the island. Especially when we rounded the cape to the other side, the sea was quite rough. But finally we arrived at Huahua at 8.45 am. We were escorted to the village head and after drinking tea with him he gave us a guide to accompany us to the area of the monarch. This guide (Nordin) also was with James Eaton and Nick Brickle when they rediscovered the species on Boano.

After a short walk we arrived at the core area of the monarch. After a short wait we heard the species calling down in a valley and when we walked down we heard it again, low down in thick bushes. But we failed to obtain views. Vinno who stayed behind on the main trail meanwhile saw the bird several times. So we quickly walked up to that spot. When we finally observed a flycatcher it turned out to be a ***Slaty Flycatcher*** but shortly afterwards a ***Black-chinned Monarch*** flew in and gave great views. Mission completed! We observed the bird a second time and then we walked back to the village as we intend to leave the area before the sea would get too rough in the afternoon.

We arrived back at the village at 11.00 am only to find out that Tum had left for a nearby village to get petrol! So we just had to sit it out.

Finally at 13.00 he returned and we immediately left Huahua for the return trip to Masika.

The sea was rough but after we rounded the cape the sea became very rough and at one time we had to take shelter at some anonymous, little village at the shore of Boano.

Tum told us that the high waves were caused by some reefs, just before the coast and that we had to wait for another hour to try again to cross over. I told him that if it was too dangerous we would spend the night on the island and cross over the next day.

But at 15.15 pm we crossed over without big problems but we did get wet.

As soon as we arrived at Masika we arranged ojekes for the trip to Piru and Vinno phoned the same taxi driver we used yesterday to transport us from Piru to Kairatu, where the ferry boat leaves. Without problems we reached Kairatu and we took the early evening boat back to Ambon.

When we arrived we took a taxi to our hotel, after collecting our gear at Vinno's place.

Day 28: Saturday August 10. Ambon – Tulehu Road

We had arranged a taxi (Semmy) to drive us to the nearby Tulehu road as we would like to try for better views of the ***Ambon White-eye***. The weather was hot and sunny for the first time on Ambon. We birded for an hour along the Tulehu Road and had fantastic views of a pair of ***Ambon White-eyes***.

The afternoon was spent hanging around at our accommodation. It rained all afternoon. In the evening Vinno visited us and I asked him if he could arrange a visit the next day to Hariku to try for the *Moluccan Scubfowl*.

Day 29: Sunday August 11. Ambon

It rained all day and from time to time heavily. We just did some reading and went to an internet café to read and send emails.

In the afternoon Vinno came around to tell us that he had arranged transport to the island of Hariku and a guide and permission to try for the Scubfowl in the early evening. But at the end of the afternoon it was still raining so we cancelled the deal.

We said goodbye to Vinno and arranged for Semmy to drive me to the airport at 5.00 am for my flight home and again Wiel at 10.00 am, who had a different flight home.

Day 30: Monday August 12. Ambon – Suarabaya – Denpasar

Semmy picked me up at 05.00 am in pouring rain for the 45 minute drive to the airport. At 08.00 am I flew with Lion Air from Ambon to Surabaya and on to Denpasar where I arrived at 14.30pm. Took a taxi to Sanur and after some shopping around took a room in Abian Kokoro hotel, close to the beach. In the evening I had a nice dinner on the beach at a place where I had been before with Danielle, 4 weeks ago. After that to the Irish Pub to enjoy the music and the beer.

Day 31: Tuesday August 13. Denpasar – Hongkong – Amsterdam

In the morning I picked up my laundry, so I had clean clothes for my return trip and went to the beach to have a massage and a swim in the swimming pool of Mercure Resort.

At 13.00 I checked out and took a taxi to the airport. At 16.10 I flew with Cathay Pacific to Hong Kong. When I checked in I got news that the flight might be cancelled at the last moment because of a typhoon, approaching Hong Kong, but fortunately that did not happen. Just after midnight I flew from Hong Kong to Amsterdam.

Day 32: Wednesday August 14. Amsterdam – home

Arrived at Schiphol airport at 07.00 am and took the train home, where I arrived at 10.00 am.

Henk Hendriks

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SHORT ITINERARY

- Day 1: Sunday 14 July. Flight Denpasar – Suarabaya.
- Day 2: Monday 15 July. Flight Suarabaya – Makassar – Ambon. Early morning arrival. Visit Tulehu RD. Night Ferry to Nemlea, Buru
- Day 3: Tuesday 16 July. Arrival Nemlea at noon. Afternoon birding at Waislabi. Hotel Nemlea.
- Day 4: Wednesday 17 July: Early morning drive to Waspait. Birding Old Logging Road in the morning. Small Lowland patch in the afternoon.
- Day 5: Thursday 18 July: Old Logging Road until 11.00 am. And again from 15.30 – 19.00 pm.
- Day 6: Friday 19 July: River crossing to Wamlana Rd. blocked. Birding along the road towards Barra. Afternoon top of Wamlana Logging Rd. 13.00 – 15.00 pm
- Day 7: Saturday 20 July: All day Wamlana Logging Road.
- Day 8: Sunday 21 July: River crossing to Wamlana Logging Rd. blocked by high water level. Road to Barra blocked by bridge washed away. Afternoon Old Logging Road.
- Day 9: Monday 22 July: Wamlana Logging Road all day.
- Day 10: Tuesday 23 July: Wamlana Logging Rd. 5.30 – 12.00 am. Lake Danau Sawah 15.30 – 16.30 pm. Evening ferry (21.30 pm) from Buru – Ambon.
- Day 11: Wednesday 24 July: Ferry Ambon – Seram (9.00 – 11.00 am), roadside birding through Manusela NP towards the village of Sawai (arrival at 19.00 pm)
- Day 12: Thursday 25 July: All day along the Trans Seram Highway in Manusela NP.
- Day 13: Friday 26 July: All day rain. Short visit to Trans Seram Highway.
- Day 14: Saturday 27 July: Morning rained out. Trans Seram Highway pas in afternoon.
- Day 15: Sunday 28 July: Trans Seram Highway all day. Again a lot of rain.
- Day 16: Monday 29 July: Pass area of Trans Seram Highway. Drive to Amahai. Afternoon ferry to Ambon.
- Day 17: Tuesday 30 July: Flight Ambon – Saumlaki (Yamdena/Tanimbar). Afternoon birding at Kebun 45. Hotel Harapan Indah, Saumlaki.
- Day 18: Wednesday 31 July: Morning along the road beyond army camp (Yonif 734) Afternoon birding along old logging track near Lolurum village.
- Day 19: Thursday August 1: Early morning visit to Tanimbar Scrubfowl mound with local Guide. Afternoon at Kebun 45.
- Day 20: Friday August 2: Morning along road beyond army camp (Yonif 734) Afternoon rain. Owling in the evening.
- Day 21: Saturday August 3: Morning at Kebun 45 and road beyond. Afternoon Kebun 45.
- Day 22: Sunday August 4: Early morning flight from Saumlaki – Tual (Kai Kecil). With ojek to Coastal Cottages. Late afternoon birding forest patch next cottages.
- Day 23: Monday August 5: Morning at forest patch next to cottages. Ferry to Kai Besar and on to village of Leta. Birding and owling around village.
- Day 24: Tuesday August 6: Early morning on trail behind Bukit Indah mission. Ferry back to Kai Kecil. Afternoon birding at Danau Iblel. Owling in the evening.
- Day 25: Wednesday August 7: Relax day. Ojek to Tual for ATM. Some birding near cottages.
- Day 26: Thursday August 8: Early morning flight from Tual – Ambon. With Vino we took ferry Ambon – Seram. With taxi and ojek to village of Masika. Night at boatsman's house.
- Day 27: Friday August 9: speedboat to Huahua on Boano. Birding near Huahua until 11.30. speedboat back to Masika (Seram). Afternoon with ojek, taxi and ferry back to Ambon. Night at Resort.
- Day 28: Saturday August 10: morning visit to Tulehu Rd. Afternoon relax.
- Day 29: Sunday August 11: Rain all day so cancelled trip to for Moluccan Scrubfowl in the evening.
- Day 30: Monday August 12: Flight Ambon – Surabaya – Denpasar. Night at pension at Sanur.
- Day 31: Tuesday August 13: Morning swimming and relaxing on beach. Afternoon flight from Denpasar to Hongkong and further to Amsterdam (Cathay Pacific)
- Day 32: Wednesday August 14: morning arrival at Amsterdam

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF OBSERVATIONS

CASUARIIDAE

Southern Cassowary *Casuaris casuaris*

29-07: While driving back from Sawai to Amahai (Seram) Jan Hein observed an adult bird just next to the Trans-Seram highway. It is generally accepted that the species is introduced 200 years !! ago from the mainland of PNG.

HYDROBATIDAE

Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanitus oceanicus*

24-07: 4 from the ferry Ambon – Seram

29-07: 1 from the ferry Seram – Ambon.

Matsudaira's Storm-Petrel *Oceanodroma matsudairae*

16-07: 50+ In the early morning from the ferry Ambon – Buru (Namlea)

PODICIPEDIDAE

Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

06-08: 10 Danau Iblel, Kai Kecil

Little (tricoloured) Grebe *Tachybaptus (ruficollis) tricolor*

23-07: 20+ Danau Sawah, Buru.

FREGATIDAE

Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor*

16/17-07: 5+1 ex along coast, hotel Awista, Buru

21/13-07: 4 along coast, hotel Awista, Buru.

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*

Up to 30 daily along coast, hotel Awista, Buru.

02-08: 1 Saumlaki harbour, Tanimbar

Up to 10 daily along coast, Kai Kecil.

08-08: 50 at Masika.

09-08: 20 Boano.

PHALACROCORACIDAE

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

23-07: 1 Danau Sawah, Buru.

Small numbers on 4 dates on Tanimbar.

Up to 30 daily on Kai Kecil & Kai Besar.

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

Single birds on 3 dates on Buru.

29-07: 10 ferry Seram – Ambon.

02-08: Single bird Tanimbar.

Single birds along coast of Kai Kecil on 2 dates.

06-08: 4 Danau Iblel. Kai Kecil.

SULIDAE

Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra* *Ssp. personata*

16-07: 1 immature ferry Ambon-Buru.

Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*

16-07: 10 ferry Ambon - Buru

Up to 10 daily along coast, hotel Awista, Buru.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

16-07: 30 ferry Ambon – Buru.

Up to 20 daily along coast, hotel Awista, Buru.

24-07: 1 ferry Ambon – Seram.

PELECANIDAE

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

30-07: 30+ Saumlaki, Tanimbar.

06-08: 3 Danau Iblel, Kai Kecil.

ARDEIDAE

Purple Heron *Ardea purpureus*

16-07: 1 near Namlea, Buru.

23-07: 1 Danau sawah, Buru.

Great Egret *Casmerodius (alba) modestus*

A total of 4 on 3 dates, Buru.

A total of 10 on 2 dates, Tanimbar.

09-08: 10 Boano.

Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia*

16-07: 3 exx near Namlea, Buru.

White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*

30-07: 1 Saumlaki, Tanimbar.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Single birds near Sawai, Seram.

29-07: 10 Trans Seram Highway, Seram

02-08: 2 Tanimbar.

Pacific Reef-Egret *Egretta sacra*

Up to 2 daily near hotel Awista, Buru.

Up to 4 daily near Sawai, Seram.

Up to 3 daily Saumlaki harbour, Tanimbar.

Single birds along coast Kai Kecil.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus (ibis) coromandus*

16-07: Common near Namlea, Buru.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

23-07: 1 Danau Sawah, Buru.

05-08: 1 Coastal Cottages, Kai Kecil.

09-08: 1 Boano.

Rufous Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

28-07: 1 lowlands of Trans Seram Highway.

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*

16-07: 1 ex near Namlea, Buru.

Japanese Night-Heron *Gorsachius goesaga*

27-07: 1 adult at close range flushed along the Trans Seram Highway (1100 m. alt.)

The biggest surprise of the trip.

THRESKIORNITHIDAE

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*

02-08: 5 scoped from the Saumlaki harbour, Tanimbar.

PANDIONIDAE

Eastern Osprey *Pandion (haliaetus) cristatus*

05-08: 1 pair nesting in the village of Elat, Kai Besar.

06-08: 1 along the coast of Kai Besar.

ACCIPITRIDAE

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*

27-07: 1 near Sawai, Seram. *Ssp.reinwardtii*

01-08: 1 Kabun 45, Tanimbar. *Ssp.polionotus*

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

Observed on 13 dates on Buru, Seram, Tanimbar and Kai.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

19-07: 1 near Waspait, Buru.

24-07: 1 from ferry Ambon – Seram.

31-07: 1 imm. Saumlaki harbour, Tanimbar.

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

16-07: 1 near Namlea, Buru

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*

18-07: 1 Old Logging Rd., Buru.

Variable Goshawk *Accipiter hiogaster*

18-07: 1 Old Logging Rd., Buru. *Ssp. pallidiceps*

This is a very striking bird with its obvious pale head.

30-07/01-08: Single birds on Tanimbar. *Ssp. polionotus*

Rufous-necked Sparrowhawk *Accipiter erythrauchen*

29-07: heard and at least 2 seen along Seram Highway, Seram.

Meyer's Goshawk *Accipiter meyerianus*

15-07: 1 adult bird perched at the highest point of the Tulehu Rd., Ambon.

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*

A total of 9 on 2 dates along the Wamlana Logging Rd., Buru.

25+29-07: 2 along the Trans Seram Highway, Seram.

FALCONIDAE

Spotted Kestrel *Falco moluccensis*

A total of 12 on 7 dates on Buru, Seram and a single bird on Tanimbar.

Oriental Hobby *Falco severus*

28-07: 1 along Trans Seram Highway, Seram

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis*

02-08: 1 harbour of Saumlaki, Tanimbar.

03-08: 1 airfield, Saumlaki, Tanimbar.

MEGAPODIIDAE

Tanimbar Scrubfowl *Megapodius tenimberensis*

01-08: During an early morning visit to an active mound on Tanimbar, we heard several times at least 2 different birds call.

Forsten's Scrubfowl *Megapodius forstenii ssp. buruensis*

18-07: 2 seen along Old Logging Rd., Buru.

21-07: 1 seen in the same area.

20/23-07 heard along Wamlana Logging Rd., Buru.

Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt*

04/07-08: 1 seen near Coastal Cottages, Kai Kecil.

RALLIDAE

Rufous-tailed Bush-hen *Amauornis moluccana*

08-08: 1 along the road between Kairuta – Piru, Seram.

SCOLOPACIDAE

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

26-07: 1 near Sawai, Seram.

05-08: a flock of 12 along the coast, Kai Kecil.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

23-07: 1 Danah Sawah, Buru.

08-08: 1 Masika, Seram.

Beach Thick-knee *Esacus magnirostris*

09-08: 1 along coast, Boano.

GLAREOLIDAE

Australian Pratincole *Stiltia Isabella*

30-07: 7 airfield Saumlaki, Tanimbar.

STERNIDAE

Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana*

26-07: 10 near Sawai, Seram.

Up to 4 daily at 4 harbour Saumlaki, Tanimbar.

09-08: 20+ during crossing to Boano

Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus*

16-07/24-07: 10 and 2 during ferry crossing Ambon – Buru.

09-08: 30+ during crossing to Boano.

Great Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*

Up to 10 daily along the coast near Waspait, Buru.

24-07: a single bird during the ferry crossing between Ambon – Seram.

07-08: 2 along coast Kai Kecil.

09-08: 4 during crossing to Boano.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrid*

Daily 1 to 3 at Saumlaki harbour, Tanimbar.

Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus*

09-08: 1 during crossing to Boano.

COLUMBIDAE

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

A total of 4 on 2 dates on Buru.

Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis*

Daily observed (up to 10 daily) on Ambon, Buru and Seram.

On 05-08 2 on Kai Besar. This is ssp. *keyensis*

Tanimbar Dusky Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia (magna) timorlaoensis*

A total of 13 on 5 dates on Tanimbar.

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

18-07: 2 near Waspait, Buru.

Pacific Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps (indica) longirostris*

A total of 11 on 4 dates on Tanimbar.

05-08: 1 on Kai Besar.

Barred Dove *Geopelia maugei*

A total of 17 on 4 dates on Tanimbar.

Wallace's Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus wallacii*

A total of 8 on 3 dates on Tanimbar.

On 30-08: 6 along the Kebun 45 trail. Excellent views.

A total of 7 on 3 dates on Kai Kecil, coastal forest near Coastal Cottages.

Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbis*

21-07: A single bird along the Old Logging Rd., Buru.

Tanimbar Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus (regina) xanthogaster*

A total of 34 on 5 dates on Tanimbar.

A few on 3 dates on Kai Kecil.

White-breasted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus rivoli*

A total of 32 on 5 dates on Buru, along the Old Logging Rd. and Wamlana Logging Rd.

Claret-breasted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus viridis*

A total of 18 on 4 dates on Buru.

Spectacled Imperial Pigeon *Ducula perspicillata*

Up to 20 daily on Buru.

Seram Imperial Pigeon *Ducula (perspicillata) neglecta*

Rather scarce. A total of 5 on 4 dates on Seram.

Yellow-eyed (Elegant) Imperial Pigeon *Ducula concinna*

Up to 20 daily on Tanimbar.

A total of 6 on 2 dates on Kai Kecil.

Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula rosacea*

A total of 7 on 4 dates on Tanimbar.

Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor*

17/18-07: 4 + 8 along the coast near Waspait, Buru.

Daily along the coast near Sawai, Seram.

On 26-07 a flock of 40 at Sawai, early evening.

Evening flocks of 30 daily along the coast of Kai Kecil.

Buru Mountain-Pigeon *Gymnophaps mada*

A total of 100 on 4 dates along the Wamlana Logging Rd., Buru.

On 20-07: A flock of 50+ birds.

Seram Mountain-Pigeon *Gymnophaps (mada) stalker*

A total of 30 on 4 dates along the Trans Seram Highway, Seram.

PSITTACIDAE

Blue-streaked Lory *Eos reticulate*

A total of 45 on 5 dates on Tanimbar.

Moluccan Red Lory *Eos bornea*

15-07: 8 along Tulehu Rd., Ambon.

A total of 9 on 4 dates on Seram.

A total of 30 on 4 dates on Buru. *Ssp. cyanonothus*

Rainbow (Coconut) Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus*

Up to 20 daily on Seram.

08/09-08: A few near Masika (Seram) and Huahua. (Boano)

Purple-naped Lory *Lorius domicella*

25-07: Heard twice along the Trans Seram Highway, Seram.

One of the birds called close to the road but was flushed before we could obtain good views.

Red-flanked Lorikeet *Charmosyna placentis Ssp/placentis*

05-08: great views of a perched bird on Kai Besar.

Salmon-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua moluccensis*

A total of 18 on 6 dates. Nice views of some perched birds.

Tanimbar Corella *Cacatua goffini*

Up to 10 daily on Tanimbar.

06-08: 1 on Kai Kecil near Danah Iblel.

Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus*

A total of 12 on 4 dates on Seram. *Ssp.roratus*

A total of 10 on 3 dates on Tanimbar. *Ssp. riedeli*

Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi*

Daily recorded on all islands.

Buru Racquet-tail *Prioniturus mada*

A total of 27 on 5 dates on Buru.

[Black-lored Parrot] *Tanygnathus gramineus*

20-07: Just after dusk a very noisy group of parrots flew over the Wamlana Logging Rd.

Believed to be this species as we immediately checked the calls on our Ipod.

Great-billed Parrot *Tanygnathus megalorhynchus*

A total of 4 on 3 dates on Buru. *Ssp.affinis*

A total of 63 on 6 dates on Seram.

Moluccan King-Parrot *Alisterus amboinensis*

18-07: 4 along Old Logging Rd., Buru. *Ssp.buruensis*

20/23-07: 2 along Wamlana Logging Rd., Buru.

Single birds on 2 dates along the Trans Seram Highway, Seram. *Ssp.amboinensis*

CUCULIDAE

Moluccan Cuckoo *Cacomantis (sepulcralis) aeruginosus*

15-07: 2 seen along Tulehu Rd. Ambon.

Daily heard on Buru and Seram.

22-07: 2 seen along Wamlana Logging Rd., Buru.

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus ssp.infaustus*

04-08: 1 near Beach Cottages, Kai Kecil.

05-08: heard in the same area, Kai Kecil.

Pied Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx (minutillus) crassirostris*

31-07: 1 observed along logging trail, Tanimbar.

Asian Koël *Eudynamys scolopaceus*

27/28-07: heard near Sawai, Seram.

Australian Koël *Eudynamys cyanocephalus*

03-08: 1 Tanimbar.

06/07-08: Heard Kai Kecil, near Beach Cottages.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*

Heard and seen on Ambon, Buru, Seram and Tanimbar.

Kai Coucal *Centropus spilopterus*

Daily heard and 4 seen on 3 dates on Kai Kecil.

TYTONIDAE

Eastern Barn Owl *Tyto (alba) delicatula*

01-08: 2 heard and seen near army camp, Yonif 734, Tanimbar.

Lesser Masked Owl *Tyto*

While spotlighting from the car, Wiel briefly spotlighted an owl in flight which he identified as this species, mainly because of his dark, greyish upperparts.

STRIGIDAE

Moluccan Scops Owl *Otus magicus*

18-07: heard and 1 spotlighted along Old Logging Rd., Buru.

Heard on 3 other nights, Buru.

Heard on 5 nights near Sawai, Seram.

Tanimbar Hawk-Owl *Ninox forbesi*

31-07: heard and 1 pair spotlighted along the Yonif 734 Rd., past army camp, Tanimbar

01-08: heard in the same area.

02-08: 1 spotlighted along the same road.

Seram Hawk-Owl *Ninox squampila*

Several birds heard on 5 nights near Sawai, Seram. We came close once but frustratingly just missed the bird.

Buru Hawk-Owl *Ninox (squampila) hantu*

18+23-07: heard along the Wamlana Logging Rd., Buru.

Kai Hawk-Owl *Ninox (novaeseelandiae) remigalis*

05-08: 1 spotlighted in flight on Kai Besar.

CAPRIMULGIDAE

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*

Heard on 3 nights on Buru, mainly Wamlana Logging Rd.

22+23-07: 2 seen along the Wamlana Logging Rd., Buru.

26-07: 1 seen near Sawai, Seram.

31-07: 1 seen along the Yonif 734 Rd., Tanimbar.

APODIDAE

Uniform Swiftlet *Aerodramus vanikorensis*

Commonly observed Buru, Seram.

30+31-07: A few only on Tanimbar and Kai.

Seram Swiftlet *Aerodramus (infuscatus) ceramensis*

Commonly observed on Buru and Seram.

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*

Observed Ambon, Buru, Seram, Tanimbar and Kai.

HEMIPROCNIDAE

Moustached Treeswift *Hemiprocne mystacea*

Daily 1 to 2 along the Wamlana Logging Rd., Buru.

29-07: 1 Trans Seram Highway, Seram.

ALCEDINIDAE

Common Paradise Kingfisher *Tanysiptera galatea*

Heard on 3 dates near Sawai, Seram.

29-07: 1 seen near Sawai, Seram.

Lazuli Kingfisher *Todiramphus lazuli*

24-07: Great views of 1 pair along the lower stretches of the Trans Seram Highway, Seram.

25-07: Heard along the same road.

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris*

A total of 12 on 5 dates on Buru.

23-07: 7 birds along the coast, Buru.

A total of 5 on 4 dates near Sawai, Seram.

A total of 15 on 4 dates, Tanimbar.

3 on 2 dates on Kai Kecil.

05-08: 1 on Kai Besar.

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*

18-07+21-07: 2+1 on Buru, near Waspait.

Single birds on 2 dates on Seram.

05-08: 1 on Kai Kecil.

Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azureus*

31-07: 1 along forest stream, Tanimbar.

Little Kingfisher *Ceyx pusillus*

06-08: 1 in flight at Danau Eblil, Kai Kecil.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

26-07: 1 along river, Seram.

MEROPIDAE

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

Up to 10 daily on Buru.

2 to 3 daily on Seram.

31-07: 1 near Saumlaki, Tanimbar.

CORACIDAE

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

23-07: 2 at Danau Sawah, Buru

24-07: 1 Trans Seram Highway near Amahai, Seram

BUCEROTIDAE

Blyth's Hornbill *Aceros plicatus*

A total of 24 on 4 dates on Seram.

PITTIDAE

(Buru) Red-bellied Pitta *Erythropitta erythrogaster ssp. rubrinucha*

23-07: At least 3 heard along Wamlana Logging Rd., Buru.

(Seram) Red-bellied Pitta *Erythropitta erythrogaster ssp. piroensis*

25-07: 1 heard near the pass, Trans Seram Highway, Seram.

Elegant Pitta *Pitta elegans ssp. vigorsii*

31-07: 1 observed along the Yonif 734 Rd., Tanimbar (Jan Hein and Wiel)

HIRUNDINIDAE

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*

Observed on Ambon, Buru, Seram and Tanimbar.

Tree Martin *Hirundo nigricans*

30-07+02-08: 5+2 in the harbour of Saumlaki, Tanimbar.

CAMPEPHAGIDAE

Wallacean Cuckooshrike *Coracina personata*

31-07+02-08: 2 on Tanimbar. *Ssp. unimodus*

04-08: 2 on Kai Kecil. *Ssp. pollens*

Black-faced Cuckooshrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*

03-08: 5 on Tanimbar.

A total of 3 on 2 dates on Kai.

Buru Cuckooshrike *Coracina fortis*

A total of 13 on 3 dates along Wamlana and Old Logging Rd., Buru

Moluccan Cuckooshrike *Coracina atriceps*

A total of 4 on 3 dates on Seram.

Common Cicadabird *Edolisoma tenuirostre*

15-07: 2 along Tulehu Rd., Ambon.

Single birds on 5 dates on Buru.

24-07: 1 on Seram.

Kai Cicadabird *Edolisoma dispar*

04-08: 1 forest patch near Coastal Cottages, Kai Kecil.

Pale Cicadabird *Edolisoma ceramense*

15-07: 1 along Tulehu Rd., Ambon.

A total of 9 on 5 dates on Buru.

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*

A total of 6 on 3 dates on Kai.

Tanimbar Triller *Lalage (atrovirens) moesta*

Common on Tanimbar.

PYCNONOTIDAE

Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster*

24-07: Galala harbour, Ambon

Seram Golden Bulbul *Alophoixus affinis*

15-07: 1 along Tulehu Rd., Ambon. *Ssp. flavicaudus*

25-07: 15 along Trans Seram Highway, Seram. Lowlands. *Ssp. affinis*

28-07: a single bird in same area.

Buru Golden Bulbul *Alophoixus (affinis) mystacalis*

Up to 10 daily on Buru.

22-07: 50+ along Wamlana Logging Rd., Buru.

DICRURIDAE

Buru Drongo *Dicrurus (bracteatus) buruensis*

A total of 19 on 6 dates on Buru.

Seram Drongo *Dicrurus (bracteatus) amboinensis*

15-07: 6 along Tulehu Rd., Ambon.

28-07: 3 along Trans Seram Highway, Seram.

(Greater) Wallacean Drongo *Dicrurus densus*

Up to 2 daily on Kai. *Ssp. megalornis*

ORIOLIDAE

Australasian Figbird *Sphecotheres vieilloti*

05-08: 2 in forest patch, Coastal Cottages, Kai Kecil.

Seram (Grey-collared) Oriole *Oriolus forsteni*

24+28-07: 1 Trans Seram Highway, Seram.

Heard on 2 other dates on Seram.

Buru (Black-eared) Oriole *Oriolus bouroensis*

A total of 16 on 6 dates on Buru.

Tanimbar Oriole *Oriolus (bouroensis) decipiens*

Daily heard on Tanimbar and 8 seen on 3 dates, Tanimbar.

CORVIDAE

Seram Crow *Corvus (enca) violaceus*

27+28-07: 1+4 near Sawai, Seram.

Tanimbar Crow *Corvus (orru) latirostris*

03-08: a single bird near Kebun 45, Tanimbar.

TURDIDAE

Slaty-backed Thrush *Geokichla schistacea*

A total of 6 on 3 dates on Tanimbar. Fantastic views of this beautiful thrush.

Fawn-breasted Thrush *Zoothera machiki*

31-07: 1 along river track at the Yonif 734 Rd., Tanimbar.

01-08: heard at Kebun 45 trail.

02+03-08: 1+2 Kebun 45 trail. Only poor flight views.

ACANTHIZIDAE

Rufous-sided Gerygone *Gerygone dorsalis*

A total of 20 on 4 dates, Tanimbar.

SYLVIIDAE

Tanimbar Bush-Warbler *Cettia (horornis) carolinae*

Daily heard on Tanimbar.

A total of 6 seen on 4 dates

Buru Bush-Warbler *Bradypterus (castaneus) disturbans*

22-07: twice heard along the Wamlana Logging Rd., Buru.

1 bird showed brilliantly after playback.

Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cucullatus*

Regularly heard on Buru and Seram. *Ssp. dumasi*

Single birds seen on 3 dates on both islands.

Buru Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus (poliocephalus) everetti*

A total of 17 on 4 dates on Buru.

Seram Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus (poliocephalus) ceramensis*

Daily and commonly observed along the Trans Seram Highway, Seram.

Kai Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus (poliocephalus) avicola*

06-08: Great views of 2 birds along the Bukit Indah trail on Kai Besar.

Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis*

02-08: heard singing in the pouring rain near Saumlaki, Tanimbar.

CISTICOLIDAE

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis ssp. rustica*

A total of 7 on 3 dates on Buru.

MUSCICAPIDAE

Streak-breasted Jungle-Flycatcher *Eumyias additus*

A total of 8 on 3 dates along the Wamlana Logging Rd., Buru.

Island (Turquoise) Flycatcher *Eumyias panayensis ssp. harterti*

25-07: 4 along Trans Seram Highway, Seram.

Tanimbar Flycatcher *Ficedula (dumetoria) riedeli*

A total of 7 on 4 dates on Tanimbar.

Cinnamon-chested Flycatcher *Ficedula buruensis ssp. ceramensis*

Heard on 2 dates and a total of 4 seen on 2 dates along Trans Seram Highway, Seram.

ssp. buruensis heard on two dates along Wamlana Logging Rd

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*

A total of 5 on 3 dates along the Trans Seram Highway, Seram.

MONARCHIDAE

Island Monarch *Monarcha cinerascens*

15-07: 4 along Tulehu Rd., Ambon.

17-07: 1 along Old Logging Rd., Buru
04+05-08: 3 forest patch, Beach Cottages, Kai Kecil.

White-naped Monarch *Carterornis pileatus*

A total of 6 on 5 dates on Buru.

Loetoe Monarch *Carterornis (pileatus) castus*

A total of 11 on 4 dates on Tanimbar.

Black-bibbed Monarch *Symposiachrus mundus*

A total of 7 on 4 dates on Tanimbar.

Black-chinned Monarch *Symposiachrus boanensis*

09-08: Excellent views of this rare endemic on Boano.

Spectacled Monarch *Symposiachrus trivirgatus*

15-07: 4 along The Tulehu Rd., Ambon.

A total of 14 on 3 dates along the Trans Seram Highway, Seram.

Black-tipped Monarch *Symposiachrus loricatus*

18-07: 2 pairs along Old Logging Rd., Buru.

21-07: 1 pair along Old Logging Rd., Buru.

White-tailed Monarch *Symposiachrus leucurus*

05+07-08: 1 at forest patch, Coastal Cottages, Kai Kecil.

06-08: 2 along Bukit Indah trail, Kai Besar.

Moluccan (Slaty) Flycatcher *Myiagra galeata*

15-07: 2 along Tulehu Rd., Ambon. *Ssp.goramensis*

A total of 11 on 3 dates on Buru. *buruensis*

A total of 5 on 4 dates on Seram.

09-08: 2 on Boano.

Broad-billed Flycatcher *Myiagra ruficollis ssp.fulviventris*

A total of 13 on 4 dates on Tanimbar.

Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*

A total of 10 on 3 dates on Tanimbar.

RHIPIDURIDAE

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

16-07: 2 near Namlea, Buru.

23-07: 6 at Danau Sawah, Buru.

26-07: 2 near Sawai, Seram.

09-08: 2 at Huhua, Boano.

Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris*

15-07: 4 along Tulehu Rd., Ambon. *Ssp.cinerea*

A total of 29 on 7 dates on Buru. *Ssp.bouruensis*

05+07-08: 2+1 at forest patch, Coastal Cottages, Kai Kecil. *Ssp.assimilis*

09-08: 1 at Boano.

Cinnamon-tailed Fantail *Rhipidura fusciorufa*

A total of 27 on 5 dates on Tanimbar.

Streaky-breasted Fantail *Rhipidura dedemi*

A total of 33 on 5 dates on Seram.

Tawny-backed Fantail *Rhipidura superflua*

22-07: 2 along the Wamlana Logging Rd. Highest point of road.

Long-tailed Fantail *Rhipidura opisterythra*

A total of 9 on 4 dates on Tanimbar.

Arafura Fantail *Rhipidura dryas*

A total of 14 on 3 dates on Tanimbar. *Ssp.hamadryas*

05-08: 1 single bird at forest patch, Coastal Cottages, Kai Kecil.

PETROICIDAE

Golden-bellied Flyrobin *Microeca hemixantha*

A total of 18 on 4 dates on Tanimbar.

PACHYCEPHALIDAE

Yellow-throated Whistler *Pachycephala macrorhyncha*

20+22-07: 1+3 along Wamlana Logging Rd., Buru. *Ssp. buruensis*

A total of 21 on 5 dates on Seram. *Ssp. macrorhyncha*

Single birds daily on Tanimbar. *Ssp. fuscoflava*

Wallacean Whistler *Pachycephala arctotorquis*

A total of 18 on 3 dates on Tanimbar.

Island Whistler *Pachycephala phaionota*

A total of 4 on 2 dates forest patch, Kai Kecil.

Grey-headed Whistler *Pachycephala griseiceps ssp.*

A total of 5 on 2 dates behind Beach Cottages, Kai Kecil.

Drab Whistler *Pachycephala griseonota*

A total of 13 on 4 dates along Wamlana Logging Rd., Buru. *Ssp. examinata*

A total of 6 on 3 dates on Seram.

ARTAMIDAE

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

A total of 17 on 4 dates on Tanimbar.

05-08: 10 Kai Besar.

07-08: 10 Kai Kecil.

08-08: 4 on Ambon.

STURNIDAE

Tanimbar Starling *Aplonis crassa*

A total of 17 on 3 dates on Tanimbar.

Moluccan Starling *Aplonis mysolensis*

Observed Buru and Seram.

Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica*

Observed Ambon, on 2 dates on Buru and on Kai.

Long-crested Myna *Basilornis corythaix*

25-07: 12 along Trans Seram Highway, Seram.

28-07: 2 near Sawai, Seram.

MELIPHAGIDAE

Seram Friarbird *Philemon subcorniculatus*

A total of 40 on 6 dates on Seram.

Buru (Black-faced) Friarbird *Philemon moluccensis*

Daily and commonly recorded on Buru.

5 on 2 dates on Kai Kecil.

Tanimbar Friarbird *Philemon (moluccensis) plumigenis*

Daily and commonly recorded on Tanimbar.

Scaly-breasted Honeyeater *Lichmera squamata*

Common on Tanimbar.

Seram Honeyeater *Lichmera monticola*

25-07: 5 at the pas along the Trans Seram Highway, Seram.

29-07: Heard in the same general area.

Buru Honeyeater *Lichmera deningeri*

20-07: a single bird in the pouring rain at the highest point (antennas area) along the Wamlana Logging Rd, Buru. (Wiel only)

Drab Myzomela *Myzomela blasii*

25-07: 3 at the pas along the Trans Seram Highway, Seram.

26+28-07: single birds in the same area.

Black-breasted Myzomela *Myzomela boiei*

A total of 14 on 4 dates Tanimbar.

Wakolo Myzomela *Myzomela wakoloensis*

A total of 7 on 4 dates on Buru. *Ssp. wakoloensis*

A total of 5 on 3 dates on Seram. *Ssp. elisabethae*

NECTARINIIDAE

Black Sunbird *Leptocoma sericea*

Observed Ambon, Buru, Seram, Kai and Boano.

Black-breasted Sunbird *Cinnyris (jugularis) clementiae*

A total of 21 on 6 dates on Buru. *Ssp.buruensis*

28-07: 1 Seram. *Ssp.clementiae*

05-08: 1 Kai Kecil. *Ssp.keiensis*

DECAEIDAE

Ashy Flowerpecker *Dicaeum vulneratum*

15-07+10-08: 20+ along Tulehu Rd., Ambon.

A total of 30 on 6 dates on Seram.

Buru (Flame-breasted) Flowerpecker *Dicaeum erythrothorax*

Up to 10 daily on Buru.

Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

A total of 12 on 4 dates on Tanimbar. *Ssp.fulgidum*

05-08: a single bird on Kai Kecil and Kai Besar. *Ssp.keiense*

ZOSTEROPIDAE

Mountain White-eye *Zosterops montanus*

Very common (flocks of 100) along the Trans Seram Highway, Seram. *Ssp.obstinatus*

Ashy-bellied White-eye *Zosterops citronella*

Up to 20 daily on Tanimbar.

Seram White-eye *Zosterops stalker*

A total of 20 on 5 dates along the Trans Seram Highway, Seram.

Buru White-eye *Zosterops buruensis*

A total of 44 on 6 dates on Buru.

Ambon White-eye *Zosterops kuehni*

15-07: poor views of 1 in the rain along the Tulehu Rd., Ambon

10-08: Excellent views of 2 birds along the Tulehu Rd., Ambon.

Great Kai White-eye *Zosterops grayi*

A total of 7 on 2 dates on Kai Besar.

Little Kai White-eye *Zosterops uropygialis*

05-08: A single bird in forest patch, Coastal Cottages, Kai Kecil was the only sighting.

Rufescent Dark-eye *Tephrozosterops stalker*

A total of 6 on 3 dates at the pass area of the Trans Seram Highway, Seram.

PASSERIDAE

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Observed Ambon, Buru, Seram and Tanimbar.

ESTRELDIDAE

Tricolored Parrotfinch *Erythrura tricolor*

31-07: 10+ along the Yonif 734 Rd., Tanimbar.

Black-faced Munia *Lonchura molucca*

Recorded on 45 dates near Waspait in scrubby habitat, Buru.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*

A total of 8 on 3 dates on Tanimbar.

Five-colored Munia *Lonchura quincolor*

31-07: 3 with the Tricolored Parrotfinches along the Yonif 734 Rd., Tanimbar.

03-08: 2 near Kabun 45, Tanimbar.