



*Sumba Buttonquail (Craig Robson)*

## **THE LESSER SUNDAS**

**18 AUGUST – 5 SEPTEMBER 2014**

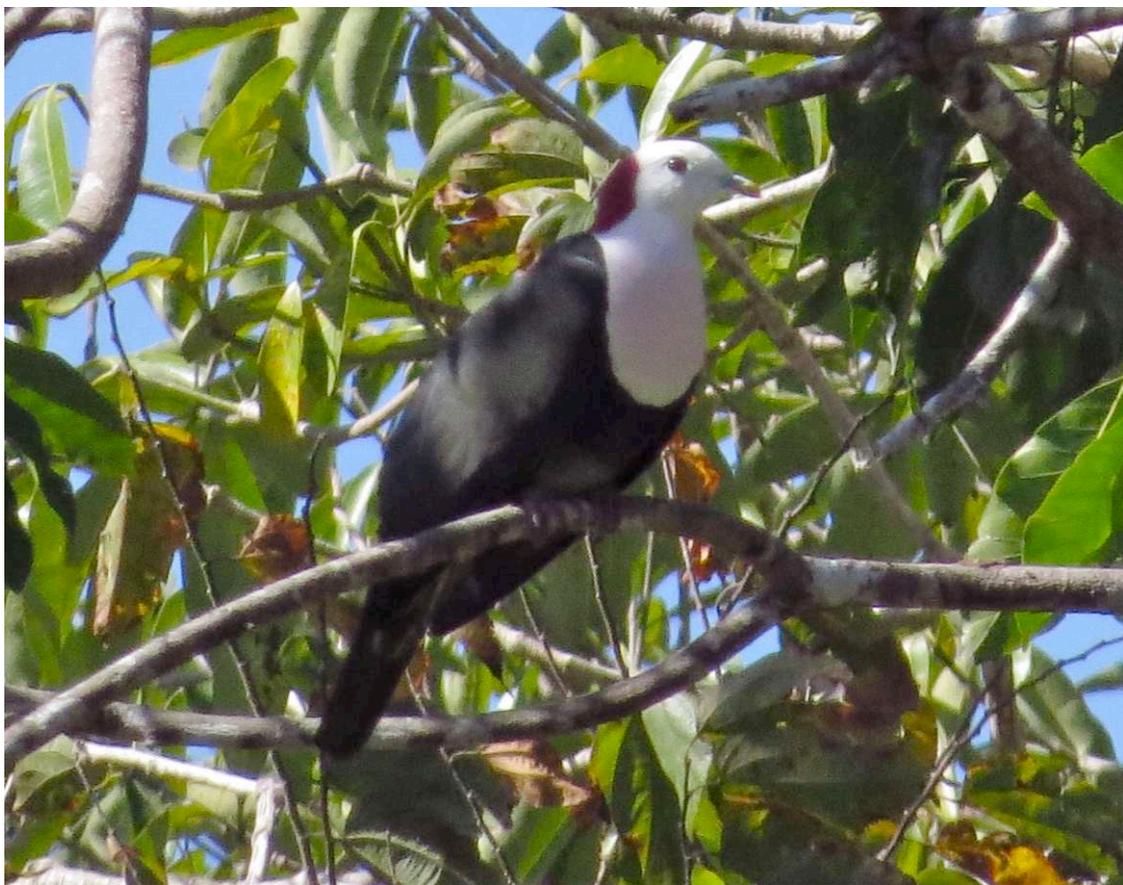
**LEADER:** CRAIG ROBSON

Highlights during the tenth Birdquest to this little visited part of Indonesia included Flores Hawk-eagle, Sumba Buttonquail, Timor Black Pigeon, Barred-necked Cuckoo-dove, Flores Green-pigeon, both Flores and Wallace's Scops-owls, Citron- and Yellow-crested Cockatoos, Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon, Wallace's Hanging-parrot, Olive-shouldered Parrot, Iris Lorikeet, Sumba Hornbill, Cinnamon-banded and White-rumped Kingfishers, Elegant Pitta, Chestnut-capped, Chestnut-backed, Orange-sided and Sunda Thrushes, Black-banded Flycatcher, Flores Monarch, Bare-throated Whistler, Tricoloured Parrotfinch, and Timor Sparrow. Additionally, for the second year running, we observed several tailorbirds along the Sumba coast near Waingapu. They were discovered by us on the 2013 tour, and resemble Olive-backed (which is known to occur only as far as Lombok in Wallacea), but appear to show at least some minor vocal differences. The

weather was remarkably sunny, with virtually no rain at all during birding hours, and we recorded a record 276 bird species for this tour.

We all assembled at the hotel in Kuta, and began the tour with a visit to the Uluwatu area, at the southern tip of Bali. Our primary target here was the increasingly threatened Black-winged Myna, and it has been rather elusive here during recent visits. This time we were in for a treat however, with an unprecedented pre-roosting flock of at least 20 birds, including at least one juvenile. Terns gathering offshore included several Bridled, and a Brown Booby was seen flying past by some. A few species were on show that we would not see later during the trip, including Chestnut-headed Bee-eater and Freckle- (or Spot-) breasted Woodpecker.

The next morning, we had a relatively early flight to Sumba, but we still managed to wedge-in around 100 minutes birding at Bena Harbour, which was enough time for this keen group to notch-up nearly 50 species. Highlights this year included four Far Eastern Curlews, several Australian Gull-billed Terns (split from Gull-billed), Barred Buttonquails, Sacred and Small Blue Kingfishers, a glimpse of a Javan Kingfisher, Golden-bellied Gerygone, Pied Fantail, White-shouldered Triller, Olive-backed Tailorbird, Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker and White-headed Munia.



*The lovely Red-naped Fruit-dove (Craig Robson)*

Once on Sumba, we headed straight for the hotel and got settled in. After lunch we had plenty of time for birding in the afternoon, so we began with an exploratory visit to Waingapu Mudflats. The tide was out and we enjoyed a pretty good variety of birds for the time of year, notably Pacific Reef Egret, plenty of Javan Plovers, Grey (or Black-bellied) Plover, Sanderling, Grey-tailed Tattler, and fleeting views of a Red-backed Buttonquail. From here we continued to Yumbu grasslands. Forming a well-organized line, it only took a single sweep before a Sumba Buttonquail was flushed, and we were then exceptionally fortunate to get good views of it on the ground, even through the scope. There was not much else to hold our attention here, so we moved on to Menggitimbe in search of wetland specialities. A healthy load of rain in May and June had turned a larger than usual area into marshland, and access proved difficult. There was a nice resident race

Peregrine, Cinnamon Bittern and a few Australian Swampheens, but we were soon out of time and had to return to Waingapu for the night. The following morning saw a more thorough examination of wetlands in the Menggitimbe area. With the early morning sun behind us, we enjoyed great scope views of Pacific Black Duck, Yellow Bittern, Australian Swampheens, Buff-banded Rail, and White-browed Crake, and we also noted our first Brown Quails, Wandering Whistling Ducks, Short-toed Eagle (or Snake Eagle), White-headed Stilts, Australian Reed Warblers, and Ashy-bellied White-eyes of the tour. We returned to the hotel relatively early, packed-up, and drove the fairly short distance to our homestay in Lewa. After a great lunch and welcome break (the first of many here!) we went west to Langgaliru National Park and got into our first endemic-filled session! A rapid succession of goodies included an Orange-footed Scrubfowl lumbering up from the roadside, large numbers of Marigold Lorikeets, four Eclectus Parrots, the vocally distinct local race of Little Cuckoo-Dove, a pair of Sumba Green Pigeons, Black-naped Fruit Dove, our first brief views of Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher and Sumba Flycatcher, Pale-shouldered Cicadabirds, a confiding pair of Sumba Jungle Flycatchers, the neat Yellow-spectacled White-eye, Sumba Flowerpecker (the distinctive local form of Blood-breasted), and Apricot-breasted Sunbird. At dusk a pair of Sumba Barn Owls (the unique local form of Australian) and some Elegant Pittas called loudly, before Sumba Boobook was tempted into full view at the top of a dead tree. Little Sumba Boobook proved more elusive, with one being seen-off by one of the Sumba Boobooks which gave further good views. A great start! During the following two days we successfully tracked-down all of the islands endemic bird species. At an excellent vantage point with beautiful early morning views at Langgaliru, we found no fewer than 11 Citron-crested Cockatoos - a tour record for us -, a sunning pair of Sumba Hornbills, a couple of perched but rather distant Red-naped Fruit Doves, Great-billed Parrot, a covey of King (or Blue-breasted) Quails, Brown Goshawk, our first Thick-billed Flycatchers and Rusty-breasted Whistler (split from Common Golden), Tawny Grassbird, a male Sumba Myzomela (or Red-headed Honeyeater) for one of us, and Five-coloured Munia. Further birding at Langgaliru yielded good



*Malaysian Plover near Waingapu (Craig Robson)*

looks at two different Sumba race Elegant Pittas, a Chestnut-backed Thrush, and a scoped male Sumba Myzomela for all of us. Predawn on one morning a Sumba Barn Owl was seen perched by the roadside, before flying up into the forest, and the fields behind the homestay in Lewa held a sizeable flock of Pale-headed Munias. A forest patch to the east of town was also quite birdy. Here we got very good night-time views of Little Sumba Boobook and Sunda Nightjar. During the day there, Sumba and Sumba Brown

Flycatchers showed well for all, and we had really good views of Green Junglefowl, Red-naped Fruit Dove, Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher, and Lesser Wallacean Drongo.

En route to the airport, we visited Londa Liru Beach, north-west of Waingapu. The main purpose of visiting this site was two-fold. Most important was the small population of tailorbirds that Birdquest discovered here in 2013, inhabiting coastal trees and scrub. We heard them as soon as we exited the vehicles!! They are similar to Olive-backed but the voice, at least, appears slightly different. Olive-backed is the only true tailorbird species that crosses Wallace's Line, reaching distant Lombok only. Could this be an undescribed form, or is this population derived from released Olive-backed's of captive origin? On the nearby beach, we enjoyed a very tame family party of Malaysian Plovers, and there were a couple of very distant Wilson's Storm Petrels feeding offshore. Another 30 minutes found us at the airport, our flight left pretty much on time, and we landed in Kupang at lunchtime.

We didn't have a lot of time left to get to a good birding area after lunch, so we explored a wooded ravine near Tilong Dam, ESE of town. It was much more birdy than expected, with the stream that runs through the site attracting a wide variety of species. There were several surprises this close to Kupang, including Timor Figbird (split from Green), Timor Friarbird, and several Timor Sparrows. We also enjoyed our first views of Northern Fantail, Fawn-breasted Whistler, Streak-breasted Honeyeater, Red-chested Flowerpecker and Flame-breasted Sunbird, and we heard Plain Gerygone (or Fairy Warbler).



*Olive-shouldered Parrot at Bariti, Timor (Craig Robson)*

Our first full day in the field on Timor began at Bipolo, and was a very busy and full one as usual. Walking through the lowland forest remnants, we added Rose-crowned Fruit Dove, Timor Blue Flycatcher, Greater Wallacean Drongo, Black-chested Honeyeater (or Myzomela), Yellow-eared Honeyeater, Olive-brown (or Timor) Oriole, and Timor Friarbird, to name but a few. Best of all, was a male Tricoloured Parrotfinch feeding right out in the open in the middle of a road. At the edge of the dry, harvested ricefields, we soon found a

number of adult and juvenile Timor Sparrows and we scoped our first Black-faced Munias. Scanning more distantly, we noted a flock of Australian Pelicans, some rather distant Royal Spoonbills, a family of four Rensch's Eagles (a potential split from Bonelli's), a few Australian Pratincoles, and a pair of Black-faced Woodswallows. Before lunch we walked around the fish-ponds and saltworks, where we found the resident Red-capped Plovers, Sharp-tailed and Curlew Sandpipers, and Long-toed and Red-necked Stints. Sunda Teal were in good number, and we also lucked-in on two Hardheads, as well as some Wandering Whistling Ducks. The Australian Pelicans were admired at much closer range, before taking to flight against a clear blue sky. After eating our box lunch in a local dwelling, much to the entertainment of local folk, we headed for nearby Bariti. This is the location where we have been able to rely on finding Olive-shouldered Parrot in recent years, and it was not long before we encountered a group of five, which proceeded to show very nicely. We drove to another area north of Bipolo, where we discovered a small population of Pink-headed Imperial Pigeons last year. One soon responded to playback, flying into trees close by and we had a quick scope view, then four gathered together for a more distant but lengthy study. On the way back to the cars, we watched our first Orange-sided Thrush feeding on open recently burnt ground. Quickly returning to Bipolo we positioned ourselves for a boobook once more and, as night fell, we immediately had great looks at Streaked (or Timor) Boobook in the spotlight.

Our second full day on Timor started at Camplong, where we had a much reduced number of target birds. It wasn't long before we had our first glimpses of the elusive Timor Stubtail - a tiny bird with extremely high-pitched calls and a restless nature. Another bird later on, added more collective sightings. Around some dense bamboo clumps we had very nice close-ups of Black-banded Flycatcher, as well as the more widespread Sunda Bush Warbler. The usual Spot-breasted Dark-eyes were proving most difficult (perhaps they were breeding already) and only showed for some. Our first White-bellied (or Timor) Chats were more obliging, and some Timor Leaf Warblers were unexpected. After lunch, we returned to Bipolo, where we caught up with a pair of Greater Wallacean Drongos hunting bees around a large fig tree, in the company of the local Rainbow Bee-eaters. A recce through ricefields and other open habitats to the east of Kupang Bay



*Black-banded Flycatcher at Camplong (Craig Robson)*

produced some huge flocks of munias, particularly Five-coloured, with some Timor Sparrows mixed-in, but there was little else of note apart from a fly-over Pacific Golden Plover. We visited Camplong again for a couple of hours on the following morning. We had better luck with Timor Stubtail this time, but the Spot-

breasted Dark-eyes were difficult again. We headed inland and uphill to Soe, arriving at our hotel in time for an early lunch.

In the afternoon we paid our first visit to Oelnasi, an area of monsoon forest 15km back towards Kupang. Buff-banded Thicket-warbler abounds here, and it wasn't long before we were getting our first views of this inveterate skulker. A little further on, a small noisy party of Spot-breasted Dark-eyes decided to perform for all of us. There were loads of lovely Black-backed Fruit Doves as well as the more widespread Rose-crowned's, but two calling Timor Black Pigeons proved difficult to lure in. As it got dark we returned to a small clearing, in time to hear the recently split Timor Nightjar begin to utter its unique territorial call. Great views were had by spotlight as two birds flicked around above our heads. Streaked Boobooks and two Australasian Barn Owls also called around the clearing but the latter was unfortunately too distant to see. For our visit to West Timor's highest mountain, Gunung Mutis, we had to leave very early in our four-wheel drive vehicles, in order to negotiate the very bad road. Weather conditions were clear, sunny and hot for the second year running, so we made rapid progress along the summit trail through impressive *Eucalyptus* forests. Numerous Island Thrushes, and regular groups of Mountain White-eyes were encountered along the way and a number of Olive-headed Lorikeets zapped through the tree-tops. Around some rocky outcrops we lured-in several entertaining little Timor Cupwings (a likely future split from Pygmy). We listened and scanned for any sign of the elusive Timor Imperial Pigeon, but not a sniff! There were many encounters with



*Iris Lorikeets at Gunung Mutis (Craig Robson)*

Metallic Pigeon as usual, a pair of Greater Wallacean Drongos were unexpected, and we found plenty of Timor Leaf Warblers. After a picnic lunch, we moved to a different area. Several Tricoloured Parrotfinches gave us the run-around, including one or two full males, there was another pair of Greater Wallacean Drongos, and both Metallic Pigeon and Black-backed Fruit Dove. As the sun began to sink our guide,

Martinus, beckoned us for a Timor Black Pigeon, a real bonus here after struggling with it at Oelnasi. We scoped it as it called back at us from an epiphyte encrusted bough. Then some harsh shrill squawks revealed the presence of some rare Iris Lorikeets and, after a bit of encouragement, these excellent little parrots performed really well for us over a lengthy spell.

Our last day on Timor started with a return visit to Oelnasi. We still needed to find Barred-necked Cuckoo Dove, and we had to walk some way before we actually heard our first, giving its distinctive wolf-whistle coo. Tricky in the beginning, it finally sat right out for us. Several other nice highlights during the morning included a pair of Olive-shouldered Parrots, Brush Cuckoo, Black-banded Flycatcher, White-bellied Chat, and Timor Sparrow. On the way back to Kupang we made further unsuccessful searches of the ricefields where staging Oriental Plovers would be expected during the coming fortnight. Scanning the exposed mud-flats and sea-watching from the Kristal Hotel in Kupang produced Brown Booby, Lesser Frigatebird and Grey-tailed Tattler.

A very early morning flight transported us across to Ruteng in the mountains of Flores, from where we drove across to our accommodation at the Catholic Seminary in Kisol. Stopping for some introductory highland birding along the way, we scanned the placid crater-lake of Danau Rana Mese. A single Eurasian Coot amongst the Little Grebes and Pacific Black Ducks was a local rarity, and we enjoyed our first endemics: Little (or Flores) Minivets, tail-wagging Brown-capped Fantails, and Crested and Yellow-browed Dark-eyes. White-breasted Waterhen, Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker, and a lovely Spectacled Monarch were also of interest.



*Flores Green-pigeon is one of the tougher endemics to find (Craig Robson)*

From our base at Kisol, we made our first trip out to the forest below Gunung Pacandeki. On arrival at our viewpoint, a Flores Hawk-Eagle was already on show, perched in a large tree on a distant slope of the mountain, where it remained in scope view for the rest of the afternoon. This was a big stroke of luck, and there was to be another in the form of a feeding group of around 15 Flores Green Pigeons in a fruiting fig. Before dark, we also had our first views of Flores Crow calling back at us from a tree-top. Flores Lorikeet,

very unusual at this site, was only heard shooting over the tree-tops. Owling produced calling Moluccan Scops Owls and Sunda Nightjars, but no sign of Wallace's Scops Owl. The following day, we paid morning and afternoon visits to the forest, and although a little slow at times, we succeeded in getting good views of Flores Green Pigeons feeding and displaying, perched White-rumped Kingfisher and Elegant Pitta, a close fly-over Wallacean Cuckooshrike, a nutty Russet-capped Tesia, and Thick-billed Dark-eye. Nocturnal adventures in search of Wallace's Scops Owl produced a couple of close shaves, but there was no cigar. Leaving Kisol behind, we headed back up into the hills and our accommodation in Ruteng. Birding along the roadside at Rana Mese was pleasant and quite eventful. Ruddy Cuckoo-Dove showed quite well, Flores Jungle Flycatchers, Flores Leaf Warblers and Scaly-crowned Honeyeater performed, there was another showy Russet-capped Tesia, and there were further views of Yellow-browed Dark-eye. Sunda Cuckoo was



*Variable Goshawk at Kisol (Craig Robson)*

responsive and flew in to a dead tree to be scoped. After checking into our spotless accommodation at a convent, we headed for the forested slopes surrounding the town. There was only little cloud for a change, helping us get some initial views of the local form of Black-backed Fruit Dove and, for some, Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon. Yellow-breasted Warbler appeared by the road and we had a good encounter with Flores Shortwing (a unique local form currently lumped in White-browed). Several Flores Lorikeets zapped around but could not be pinned-down. As darkness fell, we tried our luck with both Flores and Wallace's Scops Owls. The former was eventually located in the spotlight, but in a rather tricky location for some of us, while the latter was seen by some of us emerging, illuminated from roadside vegetation. It wasn't too bad for a first attempt, so we headed back to town for dinner.

As usual, the next morning was spent along a minor road north of Ruteng, that skirts the forested slopes from near Pagal down to Gapong. Unfortunately there was no sign again of Wallace's Hanging Parrot this

year and, with none of the fig trees in fruit, and few of their preferred flower trees in bloom, there seemed little hope of tracking one down. Flores Lorikeets zapped by invisibly. Repeat views of several endemics were welcome however, with Little Minivet, Russet-capped Tesia and lots of Crested as well as Thick-billed Dark-eyes. In the afternoon, we returned to the forested highlands. Scope views of Barred Cuckoo Dove and a lovely Chestnut-backed Thrush and welcome perched and flight views of Flores Lorikeet preceded our second bash at the scops owls. Wallace's was seen in flight only, but Flores Scops Owl performed much better, with a clear and fully illuminated view for most of us.



*Flores Monarch (Craig Robson)*

Our last full day in the Flores highlands began with the incredible dawn chorus of Bare-throated Whistlers at Golo Lusang. They were singing everywhere at dawn and it didn't take long to get one in the scope for a good long look, showing off its bulging red throat-skin as it belted-out its amazingly powerful and unbelievably constant song. We had some pretty good looks at the local form of Pygmy Cupwing (or Wren-babbler) as well as more flying and perched Dark-backed Imperial Pigeons, before an extraordinary run of good fortune at lower levels. First an adult and juvenile Rufous-bellied Eagle glided slowly overhead and then some thin calls revealed the presence of a Sunda Thrush which was seen twice flying across the road. Unfortunately, it quickly skulked away. Finally, while standing below a massive fig tree, two Wallace's Hanging Parrots appeared out of nowhere and spent the next 10-15 minutes slowly creeping around the branches above us. The local and distinctive form of Blood-breasted Flowerpecker was also seen well. The afternoon was slower and the owls, although still around, seemed wiser to our presence, revealing nothing new.

Early the next morning, Ruteng was two hours behind us, and we were exploring the forest reserve of Puarlolo, the best known site for the endemic Flores Monarch. The monarch performed quit well in the end, as usual, and we all had satisfying views. Chestnut-capped Thrushes were also very vocal and active, with numerous views as we all managed to get satisfactory looks at this stunning bird. Two male Rufous-chested Flycatchers also put in brief appearances, as did Chestnut-backed Thrush and Flores Crow. We headed off for a bit of luxury in the Bintang Flores Hotel in Labuan Bajo. In the afternoon we birded the Potawangka Road which branches-off at the outskirts of Labuan Bajo. The highlight was undoubtedly the great scope views of a brilliant little Rufous-backed Kingfisher, parked by a small forest stream.

Komodo Island and its remarkable dragons provided the setting for the final full day of the tour. Boarding our charter boat well before dawn, we cruised across the ocean to this strange island, enjoying a beautiful sunrise and a number of Lesser Frigatebirds and Red-necked Phalaropes along the way. Once ashore, we first took in several hulking great Komodo Dragons, before taking a walk into the dry forests to admire the lovely Yellow-crested Cockatoo, safe here, at least for the time being, in perhaps its best remaining refuge on earth. We also managed to stumble across a rather confiding and vocal group of three Orange-footed Scrubfowls, a species that has been harder to see on the island in recent years. The roosting Moluccan Scops Owls had decided to go AWOL on this particular day, so there were no daytime views this year. The boat journey back included not only a nice lunch, but record numbers of Great-billed Herons, lots of Bulwer's Petrels, and quite a few Black-naped Terns. A river mouth south of Labuan Bajo supported two Australian Pelicans amongst other water birds and we finished off the day with a return to the Potawangka road. Several Moluccan Scops Owls started calling as soon as darkness approached and it wasn't long before we had one fixed in the spotlight, showing its huge long ear-tufts.

Our return flight to Denpasar was not until mid-day, so we had one more two-hour visit to the Potawangka Road. During a superb finale, we saw a Flores Hawk Eagle carrying prey, two Wallace's Hanging Parrots, another neat Chestnut-capped Thrush and, best of all, a calling Flores Monarch. It really had been non-stop action all the way.



*Gunung Pacandeki, Kisol, Flores (Craig Robson)*

## SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

**Bulwer's Petrel** *Bulweria bulwerii* About 25 during the Komodo journey, and some great views.

**Wilson's Storm-petrel** *Oceanites oceanicus* Two distant birds on Sumba.

**Little Grebe (Red-throated L G)** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

**Lesser Frigatebird** *Fregata ariel* Small numbers in Kupang and on the way to Komodo.

**Little Black Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

**Little Pied Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

**Brown Booby** *Sula leucogaster* One off Uluwatu, Bali, and two off Kupang.

**Australian Pelican** *Pelecanus conspicillatus* 13 at Pan Muti, Bipolo and two at Labuan Bajo, Flores.



*Australian Pelicans on Timor (Craig Robson)*

**Great-billed Heron** *Ardea sumatrana* No fewer than 12 were counted during Komodo boat trip. It was low tide.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

**Eastern Great Egret** *Ardea modesta* Coates & Bishop lump this in Western G E, and call it Great Egret *Egretta alba*.

**Intermediate Egret** *Egretta intermedia*

**White-faced Heron** *Egretta novaehollandiae* Just five at Bipolo-Pan Muti.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

**Pacific Reef-egret (P Reef Heron)** *Egretta sacra sacra*

**Eastern Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus coromandus*

**Javan Pond-heron** *Ardeola speciosa*

**Little Heron (Striated H)** *Butorides striatus*

**Black-crowned Night-heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

**Yellow Bittern** *Ixobrychus sinensis* Two at Menggitimbe, Sumba.

**Cinnamon Bittern** *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* Several at Menggitimbe, Sumba.

**Woolly-necked Stork** *Ciconia episcopus* 12 were noted to the east of Puarlolo, Flores.

**Royal Spoonbill** *Platalea regia* A flock of four at Pan Muti.

**Oriental Honey-buzzard (Crested H B)** *Pernis ptilorhynchus* Many sightings: Timor (8) and Flores (4).

**Black-winged Kite (B-shouldered K)** *Elanus caeruleus*

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans affinis* A few on Sumba and Timor.

**Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus intermedius*

**White-bellied Sea-eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

**Short-toed Eagle (S-t Snake E) *Circaetus gallicus*** Regular sightings throughout.  
**Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*** Two on Sumba.  
**Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*** Five on Sumba (*tjendanae*) and five on Timor (*hellmayri*).  
**Variable Goshawk *Accipiter hiogaster sylvestris*** Two or three at Kisol, and one on Komodo.  
**Rensch's Eagle *Aquila [fasciata] renschi*** On Timor & Flores. A likely future split from Bonelli's Eagle.  
**Rufous-bellied Eagle (R-b Hawk-E) *Lophotriorchis kienerii***  
**Flores Hawk-eagle *Nisaetus floris*** 1 at Gunung Pacandeki, Kisol, and another with prey along the Potawangka Rd.  
**Spotted Kestrel (Moluccan K) *Falco moluccensis microbalia***  
**Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus ernesti*** One at Menggitimbe, Sumba, and another near Kupang.  
**Wandering Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*** 160 at Menggitimbe and eight at Pan Muti.  
**Sunda Teal *Anas gibberifrons***  
**Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa***  
**Hardhead (White-eyed Duck) *Aythya australis*** Two were flushed and seen well in flight at Pan Muti.  
**Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt reinwardt*** 1 at Langgaliru, Sumba, & 3 on Komodo. Others heard.  
**Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora*** Seen on Sumba (*pallidior*) and Timor & Flores (*raaltenii*), latterly at high elevation.  
**Blue-breasted Quail (King Q) *Excalfactoria chinensis*** A covey of around six near Langgaliru, Sumba.  
**Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus* (H)** Apparently introduced. Heard on Timor.  
**Green Junglefowl *Gallus varius*** Seen very well on Sumba, Flores and Komodo.  
**Red-backed Buttonquail *Turnix maculosus*** One on Sumba (*sumbanus*), and four on Timor (*maculosus*).  
**Sumba Buttonquail *Turnix everetti*** Great perched views of one at Yumbu.  
**Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator suscitator*** One on Bali.  
**Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis philippensis*** Three at Menggitimbe, Sumba, and one on Timor.  
**White-browed Crake *Poliolimnas cinerea*** Four at Menggitimbe.  
**White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus leucomelana***  
**Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus orientalis***  
**Australian Swamphen *Porphyrio melanotus*** 20+ at Menggitimbe, Sumba. Split from Purple *P. porphyrio*.  
**Common Coot (Eurasian C) *Fulica atra*** One lonely bird at Danau Rana Mese. A vagrant here.  
**White-headed Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus***  
**Grey Plover (Black-bellied P) *Pluvialis squatarola*** Two at Waingapu mudflats.  
**Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva***  
**Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius***  
**Javan Plover *Charadrius javanicus*** 10 at Waingapu Mudflats, 3-4 at Menggitimbe, and 1 near Labuan Bajo.  
**Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*** 40 or so at Pan Muti, near Bipolo.  
**Malaysian Plover *Charadrius peronii*** A pair with two fledged young at Londa Liru Beach, near Waingapu.  
**Mongolian Plover (Lesser Sand-plover) *Charadrius mongolicus***  
**Greater Sand-plover *Charadrius leschenaultii***  
**Eurasian Whimbrel (Whimbrel) *Numenius phaeopus***  
**Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*** Two at Benoa Harbour, Bali.  
**Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*** Four at Benoa Harbour, Bali.  
**Common Redshank *Tringa totanus eurhinus***  
**Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis***  
**Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia***  
**Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola***  
**Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos***  
**Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes***  
**Rufous-necked Stint (Red-n Stint) *Calidris ruficollis*** Three at Waingapu Mudflats, and 25 at Pan Muti.  
**Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*** 18 on Sumba and 25 at Pan Muti.  
**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*** 15 at Pan Muti.  
**Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*** Four at Pan Muti.  
**Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*** 30 or so during the Komodo boat trip.  
**Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella*** Only on Timor (14).  
**Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*** Three at Pan Muti.  
**Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*** <20 at Benoa Harbour and 7-10 on Timor. See notes.  
**Australian Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon macrotarsa*** Several at Benoa Harbour. See notes.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo* One at Kupang.

**Black-naped Tern** *Sterna sumatrana* About 16 distant birds on the way back from Komodo.

**Bridled Tern** *Onychoprion anaethetus* Several off Uluwatu and one that Bengt-Eric saw off Kupang.

**Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*

**Greater Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bergii*

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia*



*The sultry Metallic Pigeon (Craig Robson)*

**Metallic Pigeon** *Columba metallica* Frequent on Timor, and a single on Flores. Split from *vitiensis* (White-throated P).

**Island Collared Dove** *Streptopelia bitorquata* Four at Benoa, and one on Komodo.

**Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis tigrina*

**Barred Cuckoo-dove** *Macropygia unchall unchall* One scoped at fruits near Golo Lusang.

**Ruddy Cuckoo-dove** *Macropygia emiliana* One at the forest edge on the outskirts of Ruteng.

**Barred-necked Cuckoo-dove (Bar-n C D, Dusky C D)** *Macropygia magna magna* 1 seen and 1 heard at Oelnasi.

**Little Cuckoo-dove** *Macropygia ruficeps orientalis* Small numbers on Sumba and Flores.

**Timor Black Pigeon (B Dove, Slaty Cuckoo-Dove)** *Turacoena modesta* 1 scoped at G. Mutis, 2 heard at Oelnasi.

**Emerald Dove (Common E D)** *Chalcophaps indica* Regularly seen on Sumba and Flores.

**Green-winged Pigeon (Pacific Emerald Dove)** *Chalcophaps timorensis* Frequent on Timor.

**Zebra Dove** *Geopelia striata* One on Bali.

**Barred Dove** *Geopelia maugeus*

**Pink-necked Green-pigeon** *Treron vernans vernans*

**Sumba Green-pigeon** *Treron teysmannii* 12 in total.

**Flores Green-pigeon** *Treron floris* At least 15 at Kisol, a record total for us.

**Black-backed Fruit-dove (Banded F D)** *Ptilinopus cinctus* 20-30 on Timor (*cinctus*), & eight on Flores (*albocinctus*).

**Red-naped Fruit-dove** *Ptilinopus dohertyi* At least ten of these lovely birds on Sumba.

Rose-crowned Fruit-dove *Ptilinopus regina flavicollis* Common on Timor.

Black-naped Fruit-dove *Ptilinopus melanauchen melanauchen* Common on Sumba and Flores.

Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea polia*

Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula rosacea sasakensis* Four scoped at our new site on Timor.

Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula lacernulata sasakensis* Not uncommon on Flores, but mainly seen in flight.



Black-backed Fruit-dove in the Timor highlands (Craig Robson)

Marigold Lorikeet *Trichoglossus capistratus fortis* 30-40 on Sumba; a great year.

Flores Lorikeet (Leaf L) *Trichoglossus weberi* A handful seen, with some scope views.

Olive-headed Lorikeet *Trichoglossus euteles* About 15 at Gunung Mutis; in flight only this time.

Iris Lorikeet *Psitteuteles iris* A noisy and quite showy gathering of at least 12 birds at Gunung Mutis.

Yellow-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua sulphurea parvula* At least 8 on Komodo, and well distributed in the area visited.

Citron-crested Cockatoo (Sumba C) *Cacatua citrinocristata* A record count, for us, of 11 on Sumba.

Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus cornelia* A male and 3 females on Sumba.

Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi* Many sightings. Nominate on Timor; *floresianus* on Sumba and Flores.

Great-billed Parrot *Tanygnathus megalorhynchos* Three *sumbensis* on Sumba, and a single nominate on Flores.

Olive-shouldered Parrot (Jonquil P) *Aprosmictus jonquillaceus* On Timor: at Bariti (five), and Oelnasi (two).

Wallace's Hanging-parrot *Loriculus flosculus* Our best year ever, with two near Ruteng and 2 near Labuan Bajo.

Sunda Cuckoo *Cuculus lepidus* Four seen on Flores. Often heard during the latter part of the trip.

Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus* (H)

Rusty-breasted Cuckoo (Indonesia C) *Cacomantis sepulcralis sepulcralis*

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus whitei* One seen and another heard on Timor.

Gould's Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx russatus* A few on Timor; 1 heard on Komodo. Split from Little C. *minutillus*.

Common Koel (Asian K) *Eudynamys scolopacea malayana* (H) Heard on Komodo.

Australian Koel *Eudynamys cyanocephala* A male showed on Sumba.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*

**Australasian Barn Owl (Eastern B O) *Tyto delicatula delicatula*** (H) A pair at Oelnasi, Timor remained out of reach.

**Sumba Barn Owl *Tyto [delicatula] sumbaensis*** One perched by the roadside near Lewa, and 2 others heard.

**Flores Scops-owl *Otus alfredi*** Spotlighted on consecutive nights and seen well once again.

**Moluccan Scops-owl *Otus magicus albiventris*** Two at dusk near Labuan Bajo. Heard at Kisol.

**Wallace's Scops-owl *Otus silvicola*** Several flight views near Ruteng, in and out of the spotlight. Heard at Kisol.

**Sumba Boobook *Ninox rudolfi*** A pair performed very well as usual.

**Little Sumba Boobook (L S Hawk-Owl, Least B) *Ninox sumbaensis*** Excellent views (2 seen in total). Many heard.

**Streaked Boobook (Timor B) *Ninox fusca*** A pair on Timor; great views as usual.

**Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*** (NL) Bernard had the one by the hotel near Labuan Bajo ('*schlegelii*').

**Timor Nightjar *Caprimulgus sp. nova*** A right pair of performers at Oelnasi.

**Sunda Nightjar (Mees's N) *Caprimulgus meesi*** Two seen very well on Sumba and others heard on Flores.

**Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis*** Just one on Timor.

**Edible-nest Swiftlet (White-nest S) *Aerodramus fuciphagus dammermani***

**Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta sumbawae***

**Timor Swiftlet *Collocalia [esculenta] neglecta*** Common on Timor. A potential split from Glossy.

**Linchi Swiftlet (Cave S) *Collocalia linchi dedii*** Only on Bali.

**House Swift *Apus nipalensis furcatus*** Widespread but scarce. The tail is very well-notched.



*Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher (Craig Robson)*

**White-rumped Kingfisher (Glittering K) *Caridonax fulgidus*** Easily seen on Flores, at Kisol and the Potawangka Rd.

**Javan Kingfisher *Halcyon cyanoventris*** Rather fleeting views this year at Benoa.

**Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris chloris***

**Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sancta sancta***

**Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher *Todiramphus australasia australasia*** Three seen on Sumba and one on Timor.

**Rufous-backed Kingfisher *Ceyx rufidorsa rufidorsa*** One was scoped along the Potawangka Road, Flores.

**Small Blue Kingfisher *Alcedo coerulescens*** Quite common at Bali wetlands.

**Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis floresiana*** Two at Pan Muti and one at Camplong. A potential split.

**Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus***

**Rainbow Bee-eater** *Merops ornatus* Widespread, including Flores.  
**Chestnut-headed Bee-eater** *Merops leschenaulti* Five at Uluwatu.  
**Sumba Hornbill** *Rhyticeros everetti* Just a pair scoped on Sumba.  
**Spot-breasted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos analis analis* Three on Bali.  
**Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos moluccensis grandis* Flores and Komodo only.  
**Elegant Pitta** *Pitta elegans* Seen by us all on Sumba (two *maria*), and on Flores (one *concinna*).  
**Australasian Bushlark (Horsfield's B L)** *Mirafra javanica parva* Common in grasslands on Sumba.  
**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica gutturalis* Just four on Sumba.  
**Pacific Swallow** *Hirundo tahitica javanica*  
**Striated Swallow** *Cecropis striolata striolata*  
**Tree Martin** *Petrochelidon nigricans timoriensis* Frequently seen on Timor.  
**Paddyfield Pipit (Oriental P)** *Anthus rufulus* Common. On Timor (*medius*) and Sumba and Komodo (*albidus*).  
**Wallacean Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina personata* 1 for most of us at Kisol (*floris*). Bernard saw 1 on Timor (*personata*).  
**Pale-shouldered Cicadabird** *Coracina dohertyi* Small numbers on Sumba and Flores.  
**White-shouldered Triller** *Lalage sueurii* A few on Bali; common on Sumba and Timor.



*Little (or Flores) Minivet is a common endemic (Craig Robson)*

**Little Minivet (Flores M)** *Pericrocotus lansbergei* Common.  
**Common Iora** *Aegithina tiphia scapularis* Quite common on Bali.  
**Sooty-headed Bulbul** *Pycnonotus aurigaster aurigaster* Common on Bali; locally common but introduced on Timor.  
**Yellow-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus goiavier analis* Common on Bali.  
**Lesser Wallacean Drongo** *Dicrurus bimaensis* On Sumba (*sumbae*) & Flores (*bimaensis*). Split from next species.  
**Greater Wallacean Drongo** *Dicrurus densus densus* A very good year, with 6-8 on Timor.  
**Olive-brown Oriole (Timor O)** *Oriolus melanotis melanotis* Quite frequent on Timor, with some nice views.  
**Black-naped Oriole** *Oriolus chinensis broderipii* Frequent on Sumba and Flores.  
**Timor Figbird (Green F)** *Sphecotheres viridis* Fairly common on Timor.  
**Flores Crow** *Corvus florensis* Small numbers of this gap-billed weirdo on Flores.  
**Southern Jungle Crow** *Corvus macrorhynchos* Widespread throughout.

**Grey Tit (Cinereous T) *Parus cinereus cinereus*** Widespread. Fledged young noted on Flores.  
**Pygmy Cupwing (P Wren-babbler) *Pnoepyga pusilla everetti*** Regularly heard and one good sightings on Flores.  
**Timor Cupwing (T Wren-babbler) *Pnoepyga [pusilla] timorensis*** 3 seen & c.5 heard on Timor. Likely to be split.  
**Flores Shortwing *Brachypteryx [montana] floris*** One seen well at Golo Lusang. A good split from White-browed.  
**Chestnut-capped Thrush *Geokichla interpres*** 3 seen at Puarlolo, and another along the Potawangka Road.  
**Chestnut-backed Thrush *Geokichla dohertyi*** Sumba, Timor, and Flores. Frequent sightings.  
**Orange-sided Thrush (O-banded T) *Geokichla peronii*** 10 or so seen on Timor.  
**Sunda Thrush *Zoothera andromedae*** One seen twice in flight at Golo Lusang.  
**Island Thrush *Turdus poliocephalus schegelii*** Common on Gunung Mutis, Timor.  
**Pied Chat (P Bush C) *Saxicola caprata*** Common: Sumba (*francki*), Timor (*pyrrhonota*), and Flores (*fruticola*).  
**White-bellied Bushchat (Timor B) *Saxicola gutturalis*** Common enough, with 14 logged.



*Timor Cupwing is a likely future split (Craig Robson)*

**Flyeater (Golden-bellied Gerygone) *Gerygone sulphurea sulphurea*** Seen on Bali and Flores.  
**Plain Fairy Warbler (P Gerygone) *Gerygone inornata*** Common on Timor.  
**Russet-capped Tesia (R-c Stubtail) *Tesia everetti*** Some excellent views for all, in the Flores highlands.  
**Timor Stubtail *Urosphena subulata*** Seen by us all eventually; about 5 birds in all. Many others heard.  
**Sunda Bush-warbler *Horornis vulcanius everetti*** Somewhat more easily seen on Timor.  
**Australian Reed-warbler *Acrocephalus australis lentecaptus*** Four seen and others heard on Sumba.  
**Olive-backed Tailorbird *Orthotomus sepium*** Several seen on Bali.  
**Tailorbird *Orthotomus* sp.** Three, and another heard, near Waingapu, Sumba. See notes.  
**Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cuculatus everetti*** Flores highlands. Not a tailorbird but closer to *Abroscopus*.  
**Timor Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus presbytes*** Mainly in the uplands but also seen at Camplong.

**Flores Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus floris*** Common montane endemic. Split from the latter species.



*White-bellied Bushchats (Craig Robson)*

**Yellow-breasted Warbler *Seicercus montis floris*** Two seen and several heard in the Flores highlands.

**Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis inquirendus*** Three on Sumba; good views.

**Buff-banded Thicket-warbler (B-b Thicketbird, B-b Bushbird) *Buettikoferella bivittata*** 7+ were seen on Timor.

**Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis fuscicapillus*** On Sumba and Timor.

**Golden-headed Cisticola (Bright-capped C) *Cisticola exilis lineocapilla*** A few on Sumba, Timor and Komodo.

**Bar-winged Prinia *Prinia familiaris*** (H) A couple heard on Bali.

**Flores Jungle-flycatcher *Cyornis oscillans*** At least eight in the Flores highlands.

**Sumba Jungle-flycatcher *Cyornis stresemanni*** Four on Sumba.

**Sumba Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa segregata*** Another good tour for this species, with four seen well.

**Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra clarae*** Four seen at Gunung Mutis.

**Rufous-chested Flycatcher *Ficedula dumetoria dumetoria*** Two at Puarlolo.

**Sumba Flycatcher *Ficedula harterti*** Two near Lewa, with one showing very well. Clearly not a *Ficedula*!

**Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*** Frequent on Timor (*mayri*) and Flores (*hasselti*).

**Black-banded Flycatcher *Ficedula timorensis*** At least three seen on Timor, with good views again.

**Timor Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis hyacinthinus*** Frequent. Not a *Cyornis*! Song sounds like distant bee-eater flock.

**Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea prophata*** On Flores.

**Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*** Frequent on Sumba (*sumbaensis*) and Flores (*floris*).

**Flores Monarch *Symphysichrus sacerdotum*** 4 seen this year at Puarlolo. 1 at the Potawangka Rd was a surprise.

**Spectacled Monarch *Symphysichrus trivirgatus trivirgatus*** Seen on Sumba, Timor and Flores this year.

**Broad-billed Flycatcher** *Myiagra ruficollis ruficollis* Frequent on Sumba and Timor.  
**Pied Fantail (Malaysian P F)** *Rhipidura javanica javanica* A couple on Bali.  
**Northern Fantail** *Rhipidura rufiventris rufiventris* Common on Timor.  
**Brown-capped Fantail** *Rhipidura diluta* 18 waggletails on Flores.  
**Arafura Fantail** *Rhipidura dryas* Common on Sumba (*sumbensis*) and Timor (*semicollaris*).  
**Grey-headed Flycatcher (G-h Canary-flycatcher)** *Culicicapa ceylonensis* Sumba (*connectens*) & Flores (*sejuncta*).



*Bare-throated Whistler, during the dawn chorus on Flores (Craig Robson)*

**Fawn-breasted Whistler** *Pachycephala orpheus* Common on Timor.  
**Rusty-breasted Whistler** *Pachycephala fulvotincta* Seen on Sumba (*fulviventris*) and Flores (*fulvotincta*).  
**Yellow-throated Whistler** *Pachycephala macrorhyncha calliope* Several on Timor.  
**Bare-throated Whistler** *Pachycephala nudigula* Great scope views of several at Golo Lusang. Great dawn chorus.  
**White-breasted Wood-swallow** *Artamus leucorhynchus albiventer*  
**Black-faced Wood-swallow** *Artamus cinereus perspicillatus* Two scoped at Bipolo.  
**Long-tailed Shrike** *Lanius schach bentet*  
**Short-tailed Starling** *Aplonis minor minor* Widespread.  
**Black-winged Myna (B-w Starling)** *Acridotheres melanopterus tertius* 20 at Uluwatu, Bali. A record count for us.  
**Javan Myna** *Acridotheres javanicus* Small numbers on Bali, Sumba, and at Bipolo/Pan Muti, Timor.  
**Common Myna (introduced)** *Acridotheres tristis* One at Uluwatu.  
**Timor Friarbird** *Philemon inornatus* Commonly heard, but few seen this year.  
**Helmeted Friarbird** *Philemon buceroides* Common on Sumba, Flores & Komodo (*neglecta*), and Timor (*buceroides*).  
**Streak-breasted Honeyeater** *Meliphaga reticulata* Common on Timor.  
**Scaly-crowned Honeyeater (Sunda H)** *Lichmera lombokia* Locally common on Flores.  
**Indonesian Honeyeater** *Lichmera limbata* Widespread on Sumba and Timor.  
**Yellow-eared Honeyeater (Flame-e H)** *Lichmera flavicans* Fairly common on Timor.  
**Sumba Red-headed Honeyeater (S Myzomela)** *Myzomela dammermani* 2 at Langgaliru, with a male for us all.  
**Black-chested Honeyeater (B-breasted Myzomela)** *Myzomela vulnerata* Small numbers on Timor.  
**Brown-throated Sunbird (Plain-t S)** *Anthreptes malacensis* A few. Sumba (*rubrigena*) & Flores (*convergans*).  
**Olive-backed Sunbird** *Cinnyris jugularis ornata*  
**Apricot-breasted Sunbird** *Cinnyris buettikoferi* Common Sumba endemic.

**Flame-breasted Sunbird** *Cinnyris solaris solaris* Timor and Flores. Also common.  
**Golden-rumped Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum annae* Frequent on Flores.  
**Thick-billed Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum agile* Five on Sumba (*tinctum*) and six on Timor (*obsoletum*). Potential splits.  
**Black-fronted Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum igniferum* Common on Flores.  
**Red-chested Flowerpecker (Blue-cheeked F)** *Dicaeum maugei maugei* Nine on Timor.  
**Blood-breasted Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum sanguinolentum rhodopygale* Two males in the Flores highlands.  
**Sumba Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum [sanguinolentum] wilhelminae* A likely split from Blood-breasted. Common.  
**Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum trochileum* Five on Bali.  
**Flores Yellow White-eye** *Zosterops [palpebrosus] unicus* Common in Flores uplands. See note.  
**Mountain White-eye** *Zosterops montanus montanus* In the highlands of Timor and Flores.  
**Yellow-spectacled White-eye (Y-ringed W-e)** *Zosterops wallacei* Common on Sumba and Flores. Neat.  
**Lemon-bellied White-eye** *Zosterops chloris* Two at the hotel near Labuan Bajo, and six on Komodo.  
**Ashy-bellied White-eye** *Zosterops citrinella citrinella*  
**Yellow-browed Dark-eye (Cream-b White-eye, White-b W-e)** *Lophozosterops s. superciliaris* Frequent on Flores.  
**Crested Dark-eye (C White-eye, Dark-crowned W-e)** *Lophozosterops dohertyi subcristatus* Common on Flores.  
**Spot-breasted Dark-eye (S-b Heleia, Timor White-e)** *Heleia muelleri* Four sightings on Timor, totalling ten birds.  
**Thick-billed Dark-eye (T-b Heleia, Flores White-e)** *Heleia crassirostris* Regular on Flores.  
**Tree Sparrow (Eurasian T S)** *Passer montanus malaccensis*  
**Red Avadavat** *Amandava amandava flavidiventris* Good numbers on Sumba and Timor.  
**Zebra Finch** *Taeniopygia guttata* Widespread sightings.  
**Tricoloured Parrot-finch (Tricolored Parrotfinch)** *Erythrura tricolor* 1 at Bipolo, 1 at Camplong, and 3 at G. Mutis.  
**Black-faced Munia** *Lonchura molucca* A few on Timor and Flores.  
**Scaly-breasted Munia** *Lonchura punctulata* On Bali (*nisoria*), Sumba (*sumbae*), & Timor (*blasii*).  
**Five-coloured Munia** *Lonchura quinticolor* A few on Sumba, then over 600 on Timor.  
**White-headed Munia** *Lonchura maja* 15 on Bali.  
**Pale-headed Munia** *Lonchura pallida* 30+ on Sumba, and 20 near Kupang Bay.  
**Timor Sparrow** *Lonchura fuscata* Seen on five days, with 30+ seen in total.



*Crested Dark-eye is a common upland Flores endemic (Craig Robson)*

## MAMMALS

**Brown Rat** *Rattus norvegicus*

**Asian Palm Civet (Common P C)** *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus* 1 briefly at Kisol.

**Long-tailed Macaque (Crab-eating M)** *Macaca fascicularis*

**Eurasian Wild Boar (Wild B, Indian W B)** *Sus scrofa* One on Komodo, where introduced.

**Timor Deer (Rusa D)** *Cervus timorensis floresiensis* 15 or so on Komodo.

## NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

**Mongolian Plover (Lesser Sand-plover)** *Charadrius mongolicus*

The *atrifrons* group of subspecies are sometimes split off as *C. atrifrons*, retaining the common name Lesser Sand Plover. The *mongolus* group (the form seen on this tour) is then renamed Mongolian Plover.

**Rufous-necked Stint (Red-n Stint)** *Calidris ruficollis*

One bird at Pan Muti had a plain orange flag above the right knee, and a metal band above the foot on the left leg. The record was submitted to the Australasian Wader Studies Group (AWSG).

**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*

**Australian Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon macrotarsa*

Some authorities are now splitting off *macrotarsa* as a distinct species. At Benoa Harbour, Bali, we found both species side by side. The expected Gull-billed (race *affinis*) with a relatively small bill and small blackish ear-patch in non-breeding plumage, was compared directly with Australian, with its extensive black ear-patch and heavier bill. It is not clear whether the latter has been recorded in Bali before.



A photo taken previously on Timor, shows a Gull-billed Tern (third from right) with a flock of Australian's (Craig Robson)

**Australasian Barn Owl** *Tyto delicatula*

**Sumba Barn Owl** *Tyto [delicatula] sumbaensis*

Coates & Bishop lump Australasian Barn Owl in Eurasian Barn Owl using the name Barn Owl for the enlarged species. Additionally, the results of recent DNA work suggest that *sumbaensis* may warrant full species status.

**Southern Jungle Crow** *Corvus macrorhynchos*

Some authors lump this form, together with others, in Large-billed Crow, using the same scientific name for the enlarged species.

**Pygmy Cupwing (P Wren-babbler)** *Pnoepyga pusilla*

**Timor Cupwing (T Wren-babbler)** *Pnoepyga [pusilla] timorensis*

Recent DNA based taxonomic studies have clearly shown that *Pnoepygas* are not related at all to the babblers, and are best placed in their own family; Pnoepygidae, Cupwings. The *timorensis* form of Pygmy Cupwing is a likely future split, based on its voice, morphometrics and range.

**Australian Reed-warbler *Acrocephalus australis***

In this case, the form *lentecaptus* is aligned with this species, rather than Clamorous *A. stentoreus* or Indian *A. brunnescens*.

**Tailorbird *Orthotomus sp.***

Olive-backed Tailorbird is officially the only tailorbird that occurs east of Wallace's Line, reaching Lombok. The birds seen on Sumba appeared similar to that species but appeared to show at least minor vocal differences. Time will tell whether our birds represent an undescribed form or relate to a population of Olive-backed Tailorbirds derived from captive origin.

**Flores Jungle-flycatcher *Cyornis oscillans***

**Sumba Jungle-flycatcher *Cyornis stresemanni***

Some authors are still lumping these two distinct species; and some have mistakenly placed them in the genus *Cyornis*. They are not even closely related to this genus

**Flores Yellow White-eye *Zosterops [palpebrosus] unicus***

Bizarrely, this very distinctive form has been lumped in Oriental White-eye, to which it bears scant resemblance, morphologically or vocally.



*Flores Yellow White-eye Zosterops [palpebrosus] unicus (Craig Robson)*

## APPENDIX 2 – Other fauna & flora recorded

### REPTILES

**Komodo Dragon** *Varanus komodoensis* At least five of these famous giant monitor lizards on Komodo.

**Tockay Gecko** *Gekko gekko* Widespread.

**Flat-tailed Gecko** *Cosymburus platyurus* On Sumba at least.

**Boschma's Gliding-lizard** *Draco boschmai* 1-2 on Komodo.

**Timor Gliding-lizard** *Draco timorensis*



*A hulking great Komodo Dragon, soaking-up the sun (Craig Robson)*

### AMPHIBIANS

**Asian Common Toad** *Duttaphrynus melanostictus* Common throughout, but probably non-native.

### BUTTERFLIES

**Haliphron Birdwing** *Troides haliphron naias* Several on Sumba.

**Peranthis Peacock** *Papilio peranthis* Beautiful green swallowtail on Flores; particularly Kisol.

**Great Orange Tip** *Hebomoia glaucippe flavomarginata* Kisol.

**Common Wanderer** *Pareronia valeria tryphenam* Common at Kisol.

**Psyche** *Leptosia nina* Timor and Flores. Related to the European Wood White.

**Blue Pansy** *Junonia orithiya*

**Chocolate Pansy** *Junonia iphita* Kisol.

**Grey Pansy** *Junonia atlites* Common in the fields at Bipolo.

**Black-and-white Tiger** *Danaus affinis* At Benoa.

**Yellow Costa** *Acraea issoria* An unusual-shaped rufous butterfly on Sumba.

**Rustic** *Cupha erymanthis*

**Cruiser** *Vindula dejone*

#### DRAGONFLIES

**Pale-spotted Emperor** *Anax guttatus* Danau Rana Mese.

**Slender Skimmer** *Orthertrum sabina* Widespread.

**Blue Percher** *Diplacodes trivialis* Sumba.

#### PLANTS

**Gebang Palm** *Corypha utan* Native. India to Australia.

**Tamarind** *Tamarindus indica* Introduced to southern and south-eastern Asia 1000s of years ago.

#### TOP 5 BIRDS

Wallace's Hanging-parrot

Iris Lorikeet

Elegant Pitta

Bare-throated Whistler

Flores Scops-owl



*Gunung Mutis, Timor (Craig Robson)*