

REMOTE ISLANDS OF THE BANDA SEA, INDONESIA TOUR REPORT 2022

17 SEPTEMBER – 5 OCTOBER 2022

by Mark Beaman

Our Banda Sea adventure in September-October 2022 was a great success, turning up all the currently-recognized endemic bird species of the islands, whatever the taxonomic authority followed. Not only did we do very well with the endemics, but we also had a great selection of seabirds including such rarities as Aleutian Tern, Red-tailed Tropicbird, Matsudaira's Storm Petrel, Tahiti Petrel, Heinroth's Shearwater and Masked and Abbott's Boobies, as well as some difficult Lesser Sundas endemics including Flores Green Pigeon, Flores Hawk-Eagle, the endangered Yellow-crested Cockatoo and the local form of the Sunda Grasshopper Warbler. It was certainly one of the most successful Banda Sea expeditions ever in terms of the important birds seen. However, there was something else really remarkable about this expedition and that was the sheer comfort of it all. Birding in remote parts of Indonesia often involves very basic accommodations and pretty simple food, but instead, we explored the Banda Sea on a lovely and very comfortable schooner where the crew greeted us back from birding with cool towels and welcome drinks, and where the food was varied and delicious, the cabins air-conditioned and the seabird and cetacean watching done from the seats and sun-loungers on the upper deck! It was no problem at all getting used to such luxuries, but now I am not sure we can all go back to normality!

Our pre-tour extension to the Tanimbar archipelago ended up being extended by a day owing to a feature of immediately post-pandemic Indonesia, flight cancellations owing to not enough travellers. Of course, having an extra day was great, but it would have been good to have had more notice.

The main island of Yamdena still has plenty of forest, which is obviously the case as one flies over tens of kilometres of pristine forest before approaching the island capital of Saumlaki, although deforestation along the few main roads is an issue. Nonetheless, there is plenty of good habitat not far away and we were soon out exploring the forest trails.

Most of Tanimbar's endemics were easy or at least straightforward to find, including Tanimbar Cuckoo-Dove, the raucous Tanimbar Corella (or Tanimbar Cockatoo), Blue-streaked Lory, Tanimbar Friarbird, Tanimbar Oriole, White-browed (or Tanimbar) Triller, Tanimbar Monarch, Golden-bellied (or Tanimbar) Flyrobin, Tanimbar Bush Warbler, Tanimbar Starling and the pretty Tanimbar Flycatcher. Long-tailed (or Charming) Fantails truly lived up to their name and became a great favourite. In addition, Tanimbar Boobooks put on a great display for us after dark, peering down at us from close range. Two absolutely stunning endemics that we especially enjoyed were

the striking Slaty-backed Thrush, a canopy feeder, and the handsome Fawn-breasted Thrush, which kept low down, often feeding on the ground. We were even fortunate enough to come across two Tanimbar Megapodes (or Tanimbar Scrubfowl) in one section of Yamdena forest, a bird that is nowadays more easily seen on the outlying islands owing to hunting pressure.

We also had good views of the truly stunning, range-restricted Wallace's Fruit Dove, Pied Bronze Cuckoo, which if split is endemic to just Tanimbar and Kai, as well as a very noisy Channel-billed Cuckoo, the *xanthogaster* form of Rose-crowned Fruit Dove that has a silver-white crown (!), Elegant Imperial Pigeon, the lovely Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher, the Tanimbar form of Eclectus Parrot, Banda Sea (or Tanimbar) Myzomela (endemic to Tanimbar if split), Kai Cicadabird (a tough one to find and a species usually restricted to Tanimbar and Kai) and the Tanimbar form of the Wallacean Drongo (another rather uncommon bird on Yamdena). We also encountered our first Barred Doves, Banda Sea Pittas, Scaly-breasted (or Banda) Honeyeaters, Rufous-sided (or Banda Sea) Gerygones, Wallacean Whistlers, Arafura (or Supertramp) Fantails, Black-bibbed (or Banda Sea) Monarchs and Ashy-bellied White-eyes.

Cutover and grassy areas turned up a couple of King (or Blue-breasted) Quails as well as the more expected Australian Pratincole, Tawny Grassbird and Five-coloured Munia. Wetlands are few on Yamdena but we did manage to find, among others, Radjah Shelduck, Black Bittern and Azure Kingfisher, as well as a very unexpected Magpie Goose, a rarity in these parts.

During the extension and the first day of our cruise on the Lady Denok we explored the small islands not far from Saumlaki. The major target here is Tanimbar Megapode, of which we managed to see an extraordinary total of 10 in addition to the two on the mainland! Mind you, they are not the easiest of birds to get good or prolonged views of so the 'extensioners' were very happy with the one that perched in full view for at least five minutes.

Other birds of interest on the 'out islands' included Beach Thick-knee, Pied Oystercatcher (that Australian influence creeping in), groups of migrant Little Curlews, Australian Pelican, Pink-headed and Pied Imperial Pigeons and huge Great-billed Herons.

A rocky islet held numerous Great and Lesser Frigatebirds, Brown Boobies and Bridled, Greater Crested and smart Black-naped Terns, all of which gave awesome close views. We particularly enjoyed the acrobatic pursuits by the frigatebirds, usually after Brown Boobies but sometimes terns.

We had stayed in a very pleasant waterfront hotel in Saumlaki, but on boarding the *Lady Denok*, our chartered phinisi (schooner) the difference was obvious. The smart, uniformed crew, the face towels, the welcome drinks... It was clearly going to be marvellous! It was time to unload our luggage and enjoy our adventurous cruise to come.

After leaving the outermost islands of the Tanimbar archipelago behind, we set sail for distant Babar, which lies to the southwest of Tanimbar. Our first 'seawatching' session was rewarding, with lots of Wilson's Storm Petrels and our first Streaked Shearwaters, Red-footed Boobies and Parasitic Jaegers (or Arctic Skuas). The big highlights of the day included a close Masked Booby, some Tahiti Petrels and two Matsudaira's Storm Petrels. For some reason, in spite of the calm seas, cetacean sightings were few but included Indo-Pacific Bottlenose and Spinner Dolphins.

Babar, like most of the islands on our route, is a remote yet very friendly place, although it was the only place they initially wanted to check our passports as we had been in 'international waters' on the way from Tanimbar, meeting up with heaven knows who out there!

On Babar, even the village area was great for birds. Drab and Uniform Swiftlets fluttered overhead, while Little Bronze Cuckoos of the interesting form *salvadorii* called from the treetops. Banded Fruit Doves were obvious and other columbids included the smart Banded Fruit Dove, Wallace's Fruit Dove and more *xanthogaster* non-Rose-crowned Fruit Doves. Other new birds, or species seen for the first time during the cruise itself, included Variable Goshawk, Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher, Great-billed Parrot, Banda Myzomela, Scaly-breasted Honeyeater, the confiding Rufous-sided Gerygone, Wallacean Whistler, Arafura (or Supertramp) Fantail of the endemic form *reichenowi*, Black-bibbed (or Banda Sea) Monarch, Ashy-bellied White-eye, beautiful Orange-sided Thrushes, Blue-cheeked (or Red-chested) Flowerpeckers and lots of Tricoloured Parrotfinches. Of even more interest were the local Cinnamon-tailed Fantails, which are of an undescribed form and could represent a distinct species, and a lucky find in the form of the endemic *audacis* subspecies of Snowy-browed Flycatcher, an uncommon bird on Babar. The harbour flats added Great Knot and Terek Sandpiper.

Moving farther afield, we soon found the endemic Babar Whistler, a form sometimes treated as a full species or, as per the IOC, lumped in Yellow-throated Whistler in spite of that great big bill and other differences. A nice little bonus was excellent views of the *advena* form of Timor Stubtail.

One Babar speciality did give us the runaround for a time, calling but not showing, and that was the endemic *cinnamomina* form of the Australian Boobook, which may be distinctive enough to be split in future. But with persistence, we eventually had it in the bag!

The sail up to the island of Damar was good for cetaceans, including four Pygmy Killer Whales and no fewer than seven Great Sperm Whales, including some close to the ship. Seabirds included our first Pomarine and Long-tailed Jaegers, loads of Bulwer's Petrels and another Tahiti Petrel.

Damar is a spectacular island with a huge volcano towering above the inlet that leads deep into the southeastern part of the island. Sailing in there is like entering the dragon's mouth, what with big fumaroles belching sulphurous smoke into the air high above, just like a dragon's nostrils!

The bird everyone wants to see on Damar is of course the 'long-lost' Damar Flycatcher that was only relatively recently rediscovered by a BirdLife Expedition. These inquisitive and confiding birds are common enough in the native forest and soon became a group favourite. We had to drag ourselves away to admire the very responsive Banda Sea Pittas and the unusual *dammeriana* form of the Yellow-throated Whistler that is sometimes treated as a subspecies of Golden Whistler. Perhaps the simplest thing would be to treat it as an endemic species. Olive-headed Lorikeet, the sometimes-split Banda Sea form of the Northern Fantail and Black-faced Munia appeared for the first time, we had the first Elegant Imperial Pigeons since Tanimbar and, down on the coast, two Far Eastern Curlews were found alongside other shorebirds.

As we sailed towards Leti we picked up our first Brown Noddies and best of all five Aleutian Terns, already on their wintering grounds after the long journey from northeast Siberia or Alaska. We made a stop at the small island of Terbang Selatan for a spectacular snorkel or, for some, a dive on an extraordinarily beautiful and dramatic coral reef. Myriads of colourful fish enlivened the reef and some of us saw a huge Napoleon Wrasse, both Green and Hawksbill Turtles and even a Grey Reef Shark. It was hard to drag ourselves away.

Leti was the flattest and driest island we visited during the cruise, but it is definitely a 'birdy' spot and, after rapidly finding the *moae* form of Australian Boobook and some 30 Nankeen (or Rufous) Night Herons, we started to look for birds of the daytime. We soon found several Timor Cuckoo-Doves, no fewer than 5 of the rather rare *lettiens* form of Banded (or Black-backed) Fruit Dove, Wallacean Cuckooshrikes of the form *personata* (looking very different from the form *unimoda* in Tanimbar), White-shouldered (or Lesueur's Triller) and Sunda Zebra Finch. The star bird was of course Grey (or Kisar) Friarbird, which is endemic to Leti and two other adjacent islands. Another bird of particular interest was the distinctive *compar* form of the Yellow-throated Whistler. Placing this in Fawn-breasted Whistler, as in *Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago*, seems a better solution.

From Leti, we headed for the island of Wetar, enjoying the many Sooty Terns, Bulwer's Petrels and other seabirds. A big surprise was an Abbott's Booby among a large feeding flock of Red-footed Boobies. There have been a few records from the Banda Sea so it is possibly a regular visitor in very small numbers.

Wetar is a large and scenically spectacular island with a low human population. This is especially true on the north coast, the area we visited, with the result that hunting pressure is unusually low by Indonesian standards. This lack of hunting pressure was reflected every time we headed into the interior, some of the time crossing a shallow river that winds towards the coast in a deep gorge. Columbids were positively numerous, with crazy numbers of Black and Timor Cuckoo-Doves, Pacific Emerald Doves, Banded Fruit Doves, and Pink-headed and Timor Imperial Pigeons. The strange, reverberating songs of the Timor Imperial Pigeons filled the air at times and you could almost feel the weird sound vibrating in your bones! Metallic Pigeons were also seen but only in small numbers. The grailbird on Wetar is the near-endemic Wetar Ground Dove, a species that still hangs on in East Timor. Fortunately, on Wetar they are still rather straightforward to find and it was not long before we found a pair and enjoyed fantastic views, followed by views of three more later in the day.

Wetar's endemics were also easy enough to find and included the smart Wetar Myzomela, the handsome Black-necklaced Honeyeater, Wetar Oriole and Wetar Figbird. Wetar Scops Owl gave wonderful views, including one individual that called back at us from just a few metres away, while its mate peered at us from a bamboo clump. We even found a pair of range-restricted Timor Nightjars in the daytime and this key species also gave great views from just a short distance.

Bonelli's Eagles of the isolated Lesser Sundas form were surprisingly common and there was an excellent variety of psittacids, including Jonquil (or Olive-shouldered) and Red-cheeked Parrots and Iris and Marigold Lorikeets. We also found Plain Gerygone, undisputed Fawn-breasted Whistlers, Yellow-throated Whistlers of the form *calliope*, Tenggara Cicadabird (or Common if you don't follow the split), the Timor form of the Northern Fantail (sometimes split), the likewise sometimes-split Timor Drongo, Timor Leaf Warbler, Timor Stubtails of the nominate form (what amazing views!), Sunda Bush Warbler, a very retiring Sunda Thrush that showed to a few of us, Timor Blue Flycatcher and the distinctive *exquisitus* form of the Flame-breasted Sunbird. The Helmeted Friarbirds on Wetar and elsewhere in the Lesser Sundas are sometimes split as Tenggara Friarbird.

Our arrival at the large and more heavily-populated island of Alor was greeted by two Blue Whales, one of which sounded right beside the *Lady Denok*. Amazing! We wondered why they had penetrated so far into a large bay, but they clearly realised their error and soon were far out to sea. We could see their huge blows from kilometres away! They rather overshadowed the earlier-that-day Aleutian Terns and Wedge-tailed Shearwater.

A short afternoon excursion to a tract of forest turned up Ornate Pitta (they were calling all over Alor after recent rain), Black-fronted Flowerpecker and the uncommon Flores Green Pigeon.

Making our way into the mountainous interior the following morning, we climbed up to one of the highest ridges on the island, the area where the Alor Myzomela was first discovered not that many years ago. This species must have a rather small population as the ridges where their favoured eucalyptus forest occurs occupy just a small part of the island. Fortunately for us, we soon had this endemic speciality on the list, closely followed by Alor Cuckooshrike (still often lumped in Wallacean, but that seems a poor choice) which is endemic to Alor and adjacent Pantar. Our next target was the skulking Sunda Grasshopper Warbler (please don't call it Javan Bush Warbler like the IOC do!). Hearing this bird is pretty easy but seeing one is another matter. It took a bit of coaxing just to get views of the birds hopping across the track but we persisted and eventually, we had prolonged views of a bird singing from a bush. Mission accomplished!

During our sojourn in the mountains, we also enjoyed views of Rusty-breasted Cuckoo, the as-yet-undescribed Eucalypt Cuckoo-Dove, Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker, Spotted (or Indonesian) Kestrel, 'Indonesian Honeyeater' (sadly relumped in Brown Honeyeater), Rusty-breasted Whistler, the sometimes-split Flores Drongo, Sunda Bush Warbler (much better views than on Wetar), Short-tailed Starling and Pale-headed Munia.

We eventually found the Critically Endangered Yellow-crested Cockatoo in a deep valley and not long after a magnificent Flores Hawk-Eagle that gave prolonged views (just as well for me!). It was only later that I realised why those cockatoos further up the valley were flying back and forth so much: they were mobbing a second Flores Hawk-Eagle that was visible in the photos but which we had not detected at the time!

We spent one night on Alor in some homestays in a friendly village inhabited by the indigenous Abui people. This allowed us a glimpse into rural island life and also gave us plenty of time to get to grips with Alor Bookook, endemic to Alor and Pantar. A total of three were seen. We also came across the range-restricted Mees's Nightjar, a nice bonus.

The long run across the Banda Sea/Flores Sea interface to the remote island of Kalaotoa provided some excellent seawatching. Pride of place goes to Heinroth's Shearwater, with no fewer than 11 being recorded. It must be very possible that this rare and little-known species breeds on isolated islands in this area, given the increasing number of records. A rich supporting cast included large numbers of seabirds resident in the area, plenty of jaegers (skuas) of three species, three White-tailed Tropicbirds and our last Tahiti Petrel. We also had a wonderful encounter with eight Risso's Dolphins, watching these much-scarred creatures leaping almost vertically out of the water. A large pod of 50 or more Fraser's Dolphins that came close to the *Lady Denok*, revealing their very short beak and strange head shape, was a major bonus.

Kalaotoa gets few visitors, let alone birders, but we enjoyed our short stay on the island. The endemic forms of the Rufous-sided Gerygone and Arafura Fantail were easy to locate and we had great views of both the regionally endemic Flores Sea Cuckoo-Dove and of Elegant Pitta to round things off nicely. There was even a pair of Ospreys nesting at the pier.

The flat calm sea as we headed for our final ports of call on the islands of Tanahjampea and adjacent Kalao helped with cetacean watching and new species included two Dwarf Sperm Wales and three Humpback Whales.

Verdant Tanahjampea lies to the south of Sulawesi in the Flores Sea. Here we walked from a village to the forest, finding a migrant Oriental Plover and watching smart endemic Tanahjampea (or White-tipped) Monarchs and other birds like Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon, Sulawesi Myzomela and Lemon-bellied White-eye before finding our second major target, the endemic Tanahjampea Blue Flycatcher (or Tanahjampea Jungle Flycatcher). Both the endemics are very smart birds and both put on great performances. We even had a female Black-naped Fruit Dove sitting at close range at eye-level on a flimsy stick nest. Pacific Bazas were common on the island and we also encountered a couple of migrant Crested Honey Buzzards.

From Tanahjampea it was just a short hop over to Kalao and our final birding, but not before a final snorkelling session on yet another wonderful coral reef. Long-tailed Macaques were foraging among the tidal pools as we landed and along the coast, we subsequently found four Malaysian Plovers. Not far inland, where the forest began, we soon found the endemic Kalao Blue Flycatcher (or Kalao Jungle Flycatcher). It is a mystery why the IOC lump this distinctive form in Mangrove Blue Flycatcher.

After our final endemic speciality, it was back on board the *Lady Denok* in time for a glorious sunset as we sailed towards the port of Labuanbajo on Flores. A fitting end to what had been a remarkable voyage that really did produce memories that would last forever.

BIRDS OF THE TOUR

1st: Damar Flycatcher

2nd: Wetar Ground Dove

3rd: Wetar Scops Owl

4th: Flores Hawk-Eagle

5th=: Alor Myzomela and Elegant Pitta

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED

BIRDS

Magpie Goose *Anseranas semipalmata*

Radjah Shelduck (Raja Shelduck) *Radjah radjah*

Tanimbar Megapode ◊ (Tanimbar Scrubfowl) *Megapodius tenimberensis* Endemic

Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt reinwardt*

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora raaltenii*

King Quail (Blue-breasted Quail) *Synoicus chinensis lineatus*

Green Junglefowl ◊ *Gallus varius* heard-only

Red Junglefowl (feral) *Gallus gallus*

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus schlegelii*

Timor Nightjar ◊ *Caprimulgus sp nov*

Mees's Nightjar ◊ *Caprimulgus meesi*

Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis timorensis* heard-only

Tenggara Swiftlet ◊ *Collocalia sumbawae sumbawae*

Drab Swiftlet ◊ *Collocalia neglecta perneglecta*

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta* Subspecies *esculenta* was seen on Yamdena, *minuta* on Kalaotoa, Tanahjampea and Kalao.

Uniform Swiftlet *Aerodramus vanikorensis moluccarum*

Edible-nest Swiftlet *Aerodramus fuciphagus dammermani*

Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus*

House Swift *Apus nipalensis*

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis sarasinorum*

Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopaceus malayanus*

Pacific Koel *Eudynamys cyanocephalus picatus*

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

Little Bronze Cuckoo (Gould's Bronze Cuckoo) *Chrysococcyx minutillus* Subspecies *jungei* was seen on Kalaotoa, *rufomerus* on Damar (and heard Leti) and *salvadorii* on Babar. Forms *rufomerus* and *salvadorii* are sometimes referred to as 'Banda Bronze Cuckoo'.

Little Bronze Cuckoo [Pied Bronze Cuckoo] *Chrysococcyx [minutillus] crassirostris* Endemic. Seen in Tanimbar. The distinctive form *crassirostris* is sometimes split as Pied Bronze Cuckoo (as in *Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago*) and *salvadorii* is sometimes lumped with it.

Brush Cuckoo (Australian Brush Cuckoo) *Cacomantis variolosus variolosus* heard-only

Rusty-breasted Cuckoo [Sunda Brush Cuckoo] *Cacomantis [sepulcralis] sepulcralis* Split by *Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago*.

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus optatus*

Rock Dove (feral) *Columba livia*

Metallic Pigeon *Columba vitiensis metallica*

Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis tigrina*

Timor Cuckoo-Dove ◊ *Macropygia magna*

Tanimbar Cuckoo-Dove ◊ *Macropygia timorlaoensis* Endemic

Flores Sea Cuckoo-Dove ◊ *Macropygia macassariensis longa* Endemic

Eucalypt Cuckoo-Dove ◊ *Macropygia sp nov*

Black Cuckoo-Dove ◊ *Turacoena modesta*

Common Emerald Dove (Asian Emerald Dove) *Chalcophaps indica indica*

Pacific Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps longirostris timorensis*

Barred Dove ◊ *Geopelia maugei*

Wetar Ground Dove ◊ *Gallicolumba hoedtii* Near-Endemic

Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon ◊ *Treron griseicauda pallidior*

Flores Green Pigeon ◊ *Treron floris*

Banded Fruit Dove ◊ (Black-backed Fruit Dove) *Ptilonopus cinctus* Subspecies *everetti* seen on Alor, *cinctus* on Wetar, *lettiensis* on Leti and *otonis* on Babar and Damar.

Wallace's Fruit Dove ◊ *Ptilonopus wallacii* Endemic

Rose-crowned Fruit Dove *Ptilonopus regina* Subspecies *roseipileum* seen on Leti and Wetar and *xanthogaster* in Tanimbar and on Babar and Damar.

Black-naped Fruit Dove *Ptilonopus melanospilus melanauchen*

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

Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon ◊ *Ducula rosacea*

Timor Imperial Pigeon ◊ *Duculua cineracea*

Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor*
Buff-banded Rail *Hypotaenidia philippensis*
White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus leucomelana* heard-only
Australasian Grebe *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae novaehollandiae*
Red-backed Buttonquail *Turnix maculosus*
Beach Stone-curlew (Beach Thick-knee) *Esacus magnirostris*
Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris*
Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*
Grey Plover (Black-bellied Plover) *Pluvialis squatarola*
Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
Malaysian Plover *Charadrius peronii*
Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*
Oriental Plover ◊ *Charadrius veredus*
Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
Little Curlew ◊ *Numenius minutus*
Far Eastern Curlew (Eastern Curlew) *Numenius madagascariensis*
Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*
Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris*
Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*
Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*
Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*
Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella*
Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus*
Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*
Little Tern *Sternula albifrons sinensis*
Aleutian Tern ◊ *Onychoprion aleuticus*
Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus anaethetus*
Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscatus*
Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana*
Common Tern *Sterna hirundo longipennis*
Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*
White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*
Pomarine Jaeger (Pomarine Skua) *Stercorarius pomarinus*
Parasitic Jaeger (Arctic Skua) *Stercorarius parasiticus*
Long-tailed Jaeger (Long-tailed Skua) *Stercorarius longicaudus*
Red-tailed Tropicbird ◊ *Phaethon rubricauda*
White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus*
Wilson's Storm Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*
Matsudaira's Storm Petrel ◊ *Hydrobates matsudairae*
Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*
Tahiti Petrel ◊ *Pseudobulweria rostrata*
Streaked Shearwater ◊ *Calonectris leucomelas*
Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna pacifica*
Heinroth's Shearwater ◊ *Puffinus heinrothi*
Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor*
Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*
Abbott's Booby ◊ *Papasula abbotti*
Masked Booby ◊ *Sula dactylatra*
Red-footed Booby *Sula sula rubripes*

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster plotus*

Australasian Darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae*

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

Nankeen Night Heron (Rufous Night Heron) *Nycticorax caledonicus hilli*

Striated Heron *Butorides striata javanicus*

Javan Pond Heron *Ardeola speciosa*

Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*

Great Egret [Eastern Great Egret] *Ardea [albus] modesta*

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia plumifera*

Pied Heron *Egretta picata*

Pacific Reef Heron (Pacific Reef Egret) *Egretta sacra sacra*

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Crested Honey Buzzard (Oriental Honey Buzzard) *Pernis ptilorhynchus orientalis*

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata timorlaeensis*

Flores Hawk-Eagle ♦ *Nisaetus floris*

Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata renschi*

Variable Goshawk (Varied Goshawk) *Accipiter hiogaster* Subspecies *polionotus* seen on Babar and Damar.

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus* Subspecies *wallacii* seen on Leti and Alor.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus intermedius*

White-bellied Sea Eagle (White-bellied Fish Eagle) *Ichthyophaga leucogaster*

Moluccan Masked Owl ♦ (Lesser Masked Owl) *Tyto sororcula sororcula* This form is lumped in (Australian) Masked Owl in *Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago*.

Eastern Barn Owl *Tyto javanica delicatula*

Australian Boobook ♦ (Southern Boobook) [Babar Boobook] *Ninox [boobook] cinnamomina*
Surely this form is going to get split! What a different voice!

Australian Boobook ◊ (Southern Boobook) *Ninox boobook moae* Endemic subspecies

Alor Boobook ◊ *Ninox plesseni* Endemic

Tanimbar Boobook ◊ *Ninox forbesi* Endemic

Wetar Scops Owl ◊ *Otus tempestatis* Endemic

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris chloris*

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus sanctus*

Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher ◊ *Todiramphus australasia* Subspecies *australasia* was seen on Wetar, *dammerianus* on Babar (also heard on Damar and Leti) and *odites* on Yamdena. The last two are endemic subspecies.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis floresiana*

Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azureus ruficollaris*

Oriental Dollarbird (Common Dollarbird) *Eurystomus orientalis orientalis*

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker ◊ *Yungipicus moluccensis grandis*

Spotted Kestrel ◊ (Indonesian Kestrel) *Falco moluccensis microbalia*

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis hanieli*

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus ernesti*

Tanimbar Corella ◊ (Tanimbar Cockatoo) *Cacatua goffiniana* Endemic

Yellow-crested Cockatoo ◊ *Cacatua sulphurea occidentalis*

Jonquil Parrot ◊ (Olive-shouldered Parrot) *Aprosmictus jonquillaceus wetterensis*

Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus*

Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi* Subspecies *geoffroyi* was seen on Wetar and *timorlaeensis* in Tanimbar.

Great-billed Parrot *Tanygnathus megalorynchos* Subspecies *megalorynchos* was seen on Tanahjampea and Kalao and *subaffinis* in Tanimbar and on Babar.

Iris Lorikeet ◊ *Saudareos iris wetterensis*

Blue-streaked Lory ◊ *Eos reticulata* Endemic

Marigold Lorikeet ◊ *Trichoglossus capistratus flavotectus*

Olive-headed Lorikeet ◊ *Trichoglossus euteles*

Ornate Pitta ◊ (Wallace's Elegant Pitta) *Pitta concinna*

Elegant Pitta ◊ (Temminck's Elegant Pitta) *Pitta elegans virginalis*

Banda Sea Pitta ◊ (Banda Elegant Pitta) *Pitta vigorsii* Endemic

Wetar Myzomela ◊ *Myzomela kuehni* Endemic

Alor Myzomela ◊ *Myzomela prawiradilagae* Endemic

Sulawesi Myzomela ◊ *Myzomela chloroptera eva*

Banda Myzomela ◊ (Tanimbar Myzomela) *Myzomela boiei annabellae* Endemic. The form *annabellae* is split as Tanimbar Myzomela in *Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago*.

Grey Friarbird ◊ (Kisar F) *Philemon kisserensis* Endemic

Tanimbar Friarbird ◊ *Philemon plumigenis* Endemic

Helmeted Friarbird ◊ *Philemon buceroides neglectus*

Helmeted Friarbird ◊ [Tenggara Friarbird] *Philemon [bucerooides] buceroides* This form together with *neglectus* are split in *Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago*.

Brown Honeyeater ◊ [Indonesian Honeyeater] *Lichmera [indistincta] limbata*

Scaly-breasted Honeyeater ◊ (Banda or White-tufted Honeyeater) *Lichmera squamata*
Endemic

Black-necklaced Honeyeater ◊ *Lichmera notabilis*

Golden-bellied Gerygone (Flyeater) *Gerygone sulphurea sulphurea*

Rufous-sided Gerygone ◊ (Banda Sea Gerygone) *Gerygone dorsalis* Endemic. Subspecies *senex* was seen on Kalaotoa, *kuehni* on Damar, *fulvescens* on Babar and Leti and *dorsalis* in Tanimbar.

Plain Gerygone ◊ (Timor Gerygone) *Gerygone inornata*

Wetar Oriole ◊ *Oriolus finschi* Endemic

Tanimbar Oriole ◊ *Oriolus decipiens* Endemic

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis boneratensis* Subspecies *boneratensis* was seen on Kalaotoa and Tanahjampea, *broderipi* on Alor.

Wetar Figbird ◊ *Sphecothebes hypoleucus* Endemic

Fawn-breasted Whistler ◊ *Pachycephala orpheus*

Rusty-breasted Whistler ◊ *Pachycephala fulvotincta* Subspecies *everetti* was seen on Kalaotoa and *fulvotincta* on Alor. There are big differences in the approach to whistlers between authorities. *Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago* does not recognize this species, treating these forms as subspecies of a species not recognized by the IOC, Tenggara Whistler *P. calliope*!

Yellow-throated Whistler ◊ *Pachycephala macrorhyncha* Subspecies *calliope* was seen on Wetar, *compar* on Leti and *fuscoflava* in Tanimbar. Furthermore subspecies *compar* is placed in Fawn-breasted Whistler *P. orpheus* in *Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago* and that seemed to us a more appropriate treatment! See also the next two forms.

Yellow-throated Whistler ◊ [Damar Whistler] *Pachycephala [macrorhyncha] dammeriana* Endemic. Another tricky one. This form is treated as a subspecies of Golden Whistler *P. pectoralis* in *Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago* but is so isolated from that the rest of that species' range that it would be no surprise to find it elevated to endemic species level in the future.

Yellow-throated Whistler ◊ [Babar Whistler] *Pachycephala [macrorhyncha] sharpei* Endemic. This distinctive, large-billed form is treated as a full species in *Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago*, which seems appropriate.

Wallacean Whistler ◊ *Pachycephala arctitorquis* Subspecies *kebirensis* was seen on Babar, Damar and Leti, while *arctitorquis* was seen in Tanimbar.

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus* Subspecies *albiventer* was seen on Alor and Tanahjampea and *musschenbroeki* in Tanimbar and on Babar.

Black-faced Cuckooshrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*

Wallacean Cuckooshrike ◊ [Alor Cuckooshrike] *Coracina [personata] alfrediana* Endemic. This form is treated as a distinct species in *Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago* and this seems the appropriate treatment for this distinctive form with minimal sexual dimorphism.

Wallacean Cuckooshrike ◊ [Timor Cuckooshrike] *Coracina [personata] personata* Seen on Leti and Wetar.

Wallacean Cuckooshrike ◊ [Tanimbar Cuckooshrike] *Coracina [personata] unimoda* Endemic

Kai Cicadabird ◊ *Edolisoma dispar* This species is called Tenggara Cicadabird in *Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago* where the species is enlarged (see note below).

Common Cicadabird *Edolisoma tenuirostre timoriense* This form is lumped in Tenggara Cicadabird *E. dispar* in *Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago*, but this treatment is not recognized by the IOC.

White-shouldered Triller ◊ (Lesueur's T) *Lalage sueuri*

White-browed Triller ◊ (Tanimbar T) *Lalage moesta* Endemic

Long-tailed Fantail ◊ (Charming Fantail) *Rhipidura opistherythra* Endemic

Arafura Fantail (Supertramp Fantail) *Rhipidura dryas* Subspecies *celebensis* was seen on Tanahjampea and Kalao, *mimosae* on Kalaotoa, *semicollaris* on Wetar and Alor, *elegantula* on Damar and Leti, *reichenowi* on Babar and *hamadryas* in Tanimbar.

Cinnamon-tailed Fantail ◊ *Rhipidura fuscorufa* Endemic

Northern Fantail ◊ [Timor Fantail] *Rhipidura [rufiventris] pallidiceps* This form is treated as a full species in *Birds of the Indonesia Archipelago*.

Northern Fantail ♦ [Banda Sea Fantail] *Rhipidura [rufiventris] hoedti* Endemic. This form is treated as a full species in *Birds of the Indonesia Archipelago*.

Wallacean Drongo ♦ [Flores Drongo] *Dicrurus [densus] bimaensis* This form is treated as a full species in *Birds of the Indonesia Archipelago*.

Wallacean Drongo ♦ [Timor Drongo] *Dicrurus [densus] densus* This form is treated as a full species in *Birds of the Indonesia Archipelago*.

Wallacean Drongo ♦ [Tanimbar Drongo] *Dicrurus [densus] kuehni* Endemic. This form is treated as a full species in *Birds of the Indonesia Archipelago*.

Black-bibbed Monarch ♦ (Banda Sea Monarch) *Symposiachrus mundus* Endemic

Spectacled Monarch (Australian Spectacled Monarch) [Wallacean Monarch] *Symposiachrus [trivirgatus] trivirgatus* The Lesser Sundas nominate form may perhaps be treated as distinct from the forms found in NE Australia and adjacent New Guinea in future.

Tanahjampea Monarch ♦ (White-tipped Monarch) *Symposiachrus everetti* Endemic

Island Monarch ♦ *Monarcha cinerascens cinerascens*

Tanimbar Monarch ♦ (Loetoe Monarch) *Carterornis castus* Endemic

Broad-billed Flycatcher (Broad-billed Monarch) *Myiagra ruficollis* Subspecies *ruficollis* was seen on Damar and Wetar and *fulviventris* (an endemic subspecies) on Tanimbar.

Shining Flycatcher (Shining Monarch) *Myiagra alecto longirostris* Endemic subspecies

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius shach bentet*

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchus macrorhynchus* heard-only

Torresian Crow *Corvus orru latirostris* Endemic subspecies

Cinereous Tit *Parus cinereus cinereus*

Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster*

Golden-bellied Flyrobin ♦ (Tanimbar F) *Microeca hemixantha* Endemic

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica gutturalis*

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica javanica*

Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans* Subspecies *timoriensis* was seen on Alor and the migrant *nigricans* in Tanimbar.

Lemon-ringed White-eye ♦ (Lemon-spectacled White-eye, Wallace's Heleia) *Heleia wallacei*

Lemon-bellied White-eye ♦ *Zosterops chloris intermedius*

Ashy-bellied White-eye ♦ *Zosterops citrinella harterti* Subspecies *harterti* was seen on Alor and *albiventris* from Babar to Wetar.

Timor Leaf Warbler ◊ *Phylloscopus presbytes presbytes*

Timor Stubtail ◊ *Urosphena subulata subulata* Subspecies *subulata* was seen on Wetar and Alor and *advena* on Babar.

Tanimbar Bush Warbler ◊ *Horornis carolinae* Endemic

Sunda Bush Warbler *Horornis vulcanius kolichisi*

Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis*

Javan Bush Warbler ◊ (Sunda Grasshopper Warbler) *Locustella montis timorensis* Javan Bush Warbler is not a good name for a *Locustella*!

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis lineocapilla*

Violet-hooded Starling ◊ *Aplonis circumscripta* Endemic. Lumped in Metallic Starling *A. metallica* in Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago.

Tanimbar Starling ◊ *Aplonis crassa* Endemic.

Short-tailed Starling *Aplonis minor minor*

Sunda Thrush *Zoothera andromedae*

Fawn-breasted Thrush ◊ *Zoothera machiki* Endemic

Slaty-backed Thrush ◊ *Geokichla schistacea* Endemic

Orange-sided Thrush ◊ (Orange-banded Thrush) *Geokichla peronii audacis*

Mangrove Blue Flycatcher ◊ [Kalao Blue Flycatcher, Kalao Jungle Flycatcher] *Cyornis [rufigastra] kalaoensis* Endemic. Placing this distinctive form in Mangrove Blue Flycatcher as the IOC does is plain wrong. *Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago* treats it as a full species.

Tanahjampea Blue Flycatcher ◊ (Tanahjampea Jungle Flycatcher) *Cyornis djampeanus* Endemic

Timor Blue Flycatcher ◊ (Timor Warbling-flycatcher) *Cyornis hyacinthina kuehni*

Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophris leucophris*

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni hasselti*

Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra audacis* Endemic subspecies on Babar.

Tanimbar Flycatcher ◊ *Ficedula riedeli* Endemic

Damar Flycatcher ◊ *Ficedula henrici* Endemic

Pied Bush Chat *Saxicola caprata* Subspecies *fruticola* was seen on Alor, *pyrrhonotus* on Wetar and *cognatus* (an endemic subspecies) on Babar.

Black-fronted Flowerpecker ◊ *Dicaeum igniferum*

Blue-cheeked Flowerpecker ♦ (**Red-chested Flowerpecker**) *Dicaeum mauei* Subspecies *splendidum* was seen on Tanahjampea, *mauei* on Damar and Wetar and *salvadorii* on Babar.

Mistletoebird ♦ [**Salvadori's Flowerpecker**] *Dicaeum [hirundinaceum] fulgidum* Endemic. This distinctive form is treated as a distinct species by *Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago* and we felt this was an appropriate treatment.

Brown-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis convergens*

Olive-backed Sunbird [**Ornate Sunbird**] *Cinnyris [jugularis] ornatus* This form is split by *Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago*.

Olive-backed Sunbird ♦ (**Flores Sea Sunbird**) *Cinnyris jugularis teysmanni* This form is considered part of Sahul Sunbird *C. clementiae* by *Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago*.

Flame-breasted Sunbird ♦ *Cinnyris solaris* Subspecies *exquisitus* (an endemic subspecies) was seen on Wetar and *solaris* on Alor.

Sunda Zebra Finch ♦ *Taeniopygia guttata*

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata blasii*

Black-faced Munia ♦ *Lonchura molucca* Subspecies *molucca* was seen on Kalaotoa and Tanahjampea and *propinqua* on Damar, Leti and Alor.

Pale-headed Munia ♦ *Lonchura pallida*

Five-coloured Munia ♦ *Lonchura quincolor*

Tricoloured Parrotfinch ♦ *Erythrura tricolor*

Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava flaviventris*

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus malaccensis*

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis tschutschensis*

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus medius*

MAMMALS

Asian Palm Civet (Common Palm Civet) (introduced) *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*

Grey Flying Fox *Pteropus griseus*

Black-bearded Flying Fox *Pteropus melanopogon*

Long-tailed Macaque (introduced) *Macaca fascicularis*

Blue Whale *Balaenoptera musculus*

Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae*

Great Sperm Whale (Sperm Whale) *Physeter macrocephalus*

Dwarf Sperm Whale *Kogia sima*

Indo-Pacific Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Tursiops aduncus*

Fraser's Dolphin *Lagenodelphis hosei*

Pantropical Spotted Dolphin *Stenella attenuata*

Spinner Dolphin *Stenella longirostris*

Risso's Dolphin *Grampus griseus*

Pygmy Killer Whale *Feresa attenuata*