



INDONESIA'S LESSER SUNDAS TOUR REPORT 2023

7 - 25 August 2023

BY CRAIG ROBSON

Our first Birdquest to The Lesser Sundas for six years was a great success, with more than 100 taxonomy-dependant Tenggaran endemics amongst our healthy trip total of 249 species. There was no birding on Bali this time, apart from at the airport. Some of the top highlights this year included Timor Nightjar, Timor, Eucalypt and Black Cuckoo-Doves, Flores Green Pigeon, Red-naped Fruit Dove, Timor Imperial Pigeon, Sumba, Rote, Timor and Least Boobooks, Flores Scops Owl, Sumba Hornbill, White-rumped and Cinnamon-banded Kingfishers, Yellow- and Citron-crested Cockatoos, Sumba Eclectus, Iris, Olive-headed, Marigold and Leaf Lorikeets, Wallace's Hanging Parrot, excellent perched views of both Ornate and Elegant Pittas, Sumba, Rote and Black-breasted Myzomelas, Flame-eared Honeyeater, Little Minivet, the vocally well-endowed Bare-throated Whistler, Brown-capped, "Rote", "Timor" and "Supertramp" Fantails, Flores Monarch, Flores Crow, Russet-capped Tesia, Timor Stubtail, Flores, Timor and Rote Leaf Warblers, Buff-banded Thicketbird, 5 endemic Heleias, Orange-sided, Chestnut-capped and Chestnut-backed Thrushes, Flores Shortwing, Black-banded Flycatcher, White-bellied Bush Chat, all 7 endemic flowerpeckers (taxonomy-dependant), Apricot- and Flame-breasted Sunbirds, both Tricolored and the recently discovered Mount Mutis Parrotfinch (including adult males), and Timor Sparrow.

The tour began with an afternoon group rendezvous at Denpasar Airport, and we were joined by local bird-guide Hery Kusumanegara. Due to the late timing of the flight and its further delay, there was no time for any birding when we disembarked on Sumba. We were up bright and early the next morning however, and very keen to get going! Yumbu Grasslands was our first port of call, in search of our first endemic, Sumba Buttonquail. The first sweep was successful, and we ended up with several pretty good and close flight views. A small number of Brown Quail and Singing Bush Larks were also flushed. We moved on to the freshwater wetlands of Menggitimbe. Wet areas were extensive this year, and we logged our first Wandering Whistling and Pacific Black Ducks and a few Sunda Teal. Also of interest were Australian Swampphen, Javan Plover, our first "Supertramp" (Arafura) Fantail and Sunda Zebra Finches, and Pale-headed Munia. After a quick turn-around at our hotel, we drove north to Londa Liru Beach, where Malaysian Plover eventually showed up, before continuing west to Lewa, where a simple homestay was our home for the next three nights.

We had two days and an afternoon to find the remainder of our targets on Sumba. Early morning at an excellent vantage point, with views over extensive forest, was the premier venue for the non-passerine specialities. Here we scoped the recently split Citron-crested Cockatoo and Sumba Eclectus, as well as Sumba Hornbill, Red-naped Fruit Dove and the more widespread Great-billed Parrot, Wallacean Cuckoo-shrike, and Broad-billed Flycatcher. Nearby, the main road winds down

through some nice forest, and here there were good numbers of Marigold Lorikeets, Sumba Myzomelas and "Sumba" (Blood-breasted) Flowerpeckers, and we also noted Eucalypt Cuckoo-Dove, Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher, Chestnut-backed Thrush, Sumba Brown Flycatcher, Apricot-breasted Sunbird, and "Tenggara" (Thick-billed) Flowerpecker. The roadsides at Langgaliru were as productive as always, with several Sumba Jungle Flycatchers and our only Sumba Flycatcher. Our nocturnal activities were extensive. After a six-year hiatus, there were new challenges involved with finding the endemic owls, but we persevered, and eventually had fantastic views of both Sumba and Least Boobooks. The local form of Eastern Barn Owl was a heard-only.

The following morning, we had an early flight to Kupang in West Timor, and we began our explorations in earnest with an afternoon visit to Bipolo. The heat of the day was beginning to wane as we walked a track between remnant lowland forest and Teak plantations. A nice introductory selection of birds included "Gould's" (Little) Bronze Cuckoo, Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove, Fawn-breasted Whistler, Red-chested Flowerpecker, Black-breasted Myzomela, Streak-breasted and Flame-eared Honeyeaters, "Timor" (Northern) Fantail, and Flame-breasted Sunbird. In the nearby fields Australian Pratincole, a distant Brown Goshawk, White-shouldered Triller, a good number of Tree Martins, and Pale-headed Munia were the highlights. Back at the forest edge, not long after nightfall, we eventually had great views of a pair of Timor Boobooks, after a lengthy effort.

The neighbouring island of Rote was our destination the next morning, as we made our way to the ferry port. After a smooth journey of less than two hours, we disembarked and were transported to a comfortable hotel. After lunch, we headed off for our first foray into the field. Three of the four endemics were found close to Lake Sotimori, "Rote" (Northern) Fantail and Rote Leaf Warbler and, after nightfall, an obliging wing-drooping Rote Boobook. Other goodies included Black Cuckoo-Dove, Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon, and Timor Oriole. We were out for dawn the next morning, and exploring new areas, where we caught up with Rote Myzomela, and also added great looks at Pacific Emerald Dove and Red-backed Buttonquail, Jonquil Parrot, a couple of surprisingly obliging Timor Stubtails, Orange-sided Thrush, and Timor Blue Flycatcher. After lunch, we caught a return ferry back to Kupang.

Our first full day in the field in west Timor saw us heading first for Camplong, an easy drive of less than an hour from our hotel in Kupang. The main targets were quite hard work, but by lunchtime we had managed Spot-breasted Heleia, our first brief views of Buff-banded Thicketbird, leader-only Black-banded Flycatcher, and several very obliging Tricolored Parrotfinches feeding on seeding bamboo. In the afternoon we switched locations to Bipolo. Starting at the back of the fields, we were able to quite quickly locate a large group of Timor Sparrows, and also had our best views of Pale-headed and Five-coloured Munias. Taking a trail north of Bipolo, we found Banded Fruit Dove, more Pink-headed Imperial Pigeons, and had much better views of the Thicketbird.

After just over two hours of driving early the next morning, thanks to a new road development, we were able to easily reach Lelogama, on the lower slopes of Gunung Timau. The lovely peaceful Eucalypt forests here were full of birds at dawn, and we enjoyed great views of the elusive Timor Imperial Pigeon, both Iris and Olive-headed Lorikeets, many Flame-eared Honeyeaters, Timor Friarbird, "Timor" (Yellow-throated) Whistler, "Timor Spangled" (Wallacean) Drongo, and Timor Leaf Warbler. At a somewhat lower level, Black-banded Flycatcher showed brilliantly, as did a male "Timor" (Blood-breasted) Flowerpecker. We continued onwards to our hotel in Soe, in time for lunch.

The afternoon was spent at nearby Oelnasi, an area of monsoon forest 15km back towards Kupang. It wasn't long before we heard the distinctive wolf-whistle of a Timor Cuckoo-Dove, and it was eventually coaxed into view. Another Black Cuckoo-Dove was noted. As it got dark, we positioned ourselves in a small clearing in time to hear the recently split Timor Nightjar when it began to utter its unique territorial call. Great views were had by spotlight of a male, as it floated above us and, just to round things off nicely, a couple of Eastern Barn Owls gave some illuminated flight views, and another Timor Boobook was spotted.

West Timor's highest mountain, Gunung Mutis was our next port of call, as we left in the dark in our comfortable 4-wheel drive vehicles. We started the day with a parrotfinch hunt near Fatumnasi. I pair of rare (and still yet to be formally described) Mount Mutis (or Timor) Parrotfinches were spotted by the guides but remained elusive as the day heated-up. A dependant fledged Sunda Cuckoo was watched being fed by a pair of Timor Leaf Warblers, and we had repeat sightings of Black Cuckoo-Dove, Banded Fruit-Dove, and Timor Imperial Pigeon. Moving to higher levels we checked-out the local form of Pygmy Cupwing (sadly now a lost cause as far as a split is concerned, it seems), as well as several "Timor" Island Thrushes. After lunch we returned to the parrotfinch task and, after some serious hard work, ended up getting some good views of around ten Mount Mutis Parrotfinches, including some smart males. A few Tricolored Parrotfinches were also seen. The sun had gone by now, so we headed back to Soe well satisfied.

Our last day on Timor began with an early morning walk at Oelnasi, where we finally tracked down Green (Timor) Figbird, and also had better views of a pair of Timor Cuckoo-Doves and, for some, three Jonquil Parrots. After lunch at the hotel in Soe, we drove back to Kupang, with a detour to Pan Muti, near Bipolo en route. A small selection of shorebirds here included a group of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, and we also noted a single unexpected Sunda Collared Dove, Ruddy-breasted and White-browed Crakes, and Australian Tern. At this point, we said goodbye to Martin Klau who, along with his son Rocky, had done a great job of guiding us on Sumba, Rote and Timor.

Our flights to Ruteng the following morning were cancelled and we had to re-route the group, and separately the two leaders, due to a shortage of available flights. The group all managed to get on a flight to Bajawa where they were met by

local guide Samuel and taken birding at Kisol in the late afternoon. Highlights were good views of White-rumped Kingfisher and Ornate Pitta (recently split from Elegant) and, at nightfall, Mees's Nightjar. Craig and Hery had to fly to Labuan Bajo via Surabaya in E Java, and then drive over five hours to the guest house. The whole of the following day and much of the next morning were spent birding at Kisol. Many hours scanning the slopes of Gunung Pacandeki for Flores Hawk-Eagle turned up nothing, apart from several Crested Honey-buzzards, a Short-toed Eagle and Variable Goshawk. Our best birds were our first Orange-footed Scrubfowl, around nine Flores Green Pigeons that showed exceedingly well, Moluccan Scops Owl, Little Minivet, 'Bima' (Rusty-breasted) Whistler, the whacky Flores Crow, Thick-billed Heleia, Golden-rumped and Black-fronted Flowerpeckers, and Flame-breasted Sunbird.

Moving on up into the hills, we paused for a birding break at Rana Mese, before continuing to our accommodation in Ruteng in time for lunch. The trail to the lake turned up our first "Tenggara" (Blyth's) Paradise Flycatcher, Crested White-eye, and Flores Jungle Flycatcher. After lunch we drove up to Golo Lusang. The southern side of the range was fog-bound so we birded where possible on the north side. We had some very good views of Flores Shortwing, and also added Flores Leaf Warbler, as well as a couple more Flores Jungle Flycatchers. After dark, we only managed silhouette flight views of Flores and Wallace's Scops Owls. We were back again predawn and were further frustrated by the owls. After a quick breakfast at the pass. We walked downhill while listening to the dawn-chorus from the amazing Bare-throated Whistlers. There seemed to be good numbers singing, and a couple of them thankfully perched out long enough to be admired by all of us. A string of good sightings followed, as we gradually descended in altitude: Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon, Rufous-bellied Eagle, a greatly appreciated pair of Wallace's Hanging Parrots, Scaly-crowned Honeyeater, Brown-capped Fantail, a brief Russet-capped Tesia, Yellow-breasted Warbler, Cream-browed White-eye, "Flores" (Ashy-bellied) White-eye, and "Flores" (Blood-breasted) Flowerpecker. The afternoon was a bit of a wash-out apart from our best views yet of Russet-capped Tesia, and our third owling session only resulted in a brief leader-only view of Flores Scops Owl.

The next morning was spent along a minor road north of Ruteng, that skirts the forested slopes from near Pagal down to Gapong. Having already seen most of our targets, we spent yet more hours scanning for eagles, but still to no avail. The best birds were a pair of Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon (building a nest), Red-cheeked Parrot, a flyby Leaf Lorikeet, and "Tenggara Golden" (Black-naped) Oriole. The afternoon at Rana Mese was terribly quiet but we had a further sighting of Cream-browed White-eye and our first Rufous-chested Flycatcher. Our fifth owling session in the mountains finally bore fruit, with superb lengthy spotlight views of a calling Flores Scops Owl. The mixture of excitement and relief was almost tangible.

There was another early start the next morning, as we travelled west for a dawn visit to Puarlolo, in search of the endemic Flores Monarch. The monarch performed well this year, in two different spots, and it was nice to be able to observe them feeding unperturbed. Two other good birds showed exceedingly well, Chestnut-capped Thrush and Rufous-chested Flycatcher, as well as some foraging Black-faced Munias. Further along the highway at a regular spot for feeding Leaf Lorikeets, we succeeded in getting scope views of this scarce endemic. Continuing on to Labuan Bajo we had lunch and checked-in to our comfortable hotel. The afternoon was spent along the Potawangka Road. A distant "Rensch's" (Bonelli's) Eagle had us going for a while as it circled up on broad wings, and a pair of Great-billed Parrots were good for west Flores.

On our last day in the Lesser Sundas, we made the journey to Komodo National Park. We boarded our boat before dawn and grabbed a couple more hours of sleep as we cruised across the straits. We awoke in time to enjoy a beautiful sunrise and glorious views, on the way to the island. As we neared the jetty, a hulking Beach Thick-knee flew across and alighted on the beach ahead of us. After being allotted our park guides, we were soon staring at several huge Komodo Dragons. A walk through the dry woodlands enabled us to get great views of Orange-footed Scrubfowl and Green Junglefowl, as well as Komodo's most important bird, the critically endangered Yellow-crested Cockatoo. Other good birds included a couple of tame Sunda Collared Doves, Pied Imperial Pigeon, and Wallacean Cuckooshrike. Heading back to Labuan Bajo with our eyes glued to the sea, we added Bulwer's Petrels and Red-necked Phalaropes. In the hotel garden, a small flock of Lemon-bellied White-eyes were welcome.

Our last birding of the tour was done in the lower hills on the way to Puarlolo. A good selection of nice birds rounded-off the trip for us before we all headed off to the airport and went our separate ways.

TOP 5 BIRDS OF THE TOUR

Flores Scops Owl
Bare-throated Whistler
Mount Mutis Parrotfinch
Ornate Pitta
Chestnut-capped Thrush

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED

BIRDS

Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata* 50 at Menggitimbe, Sumba and 120 at L. Sotimori, Rote.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

Sunda Teal ◊ *Anas gibberifrons* Four at Menggitimbe and nine at Pan Muti, Timor.

Orange-footed Scrubfowl ◊ *Megapodius reinwardt* Best seen as usual on Komodo.

Green Junglefowl ◊ *Gallus varius* Ditto.

Red Junglefowl (introduced) *Gallus gallus*

Brown Quail *Synoicus ypsilophorus* Ten on Sumba (*pallidior*), and a couple on Timor (*raaltenii*).

Timor Nightjar ◊ *Caprimulgus sp. nov.* Endemic. Lovely flight views of a male near Soe, Timor.

Mees's Nightjar ◊ (Sunda N) *Caprimulgus meesi* Endemic. Showed best at Kisol, Flores.

Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis* Seen briefly on Rote; heard a couple of times on Timor (*timorensis*).

Tenggara Swiftlet ◊ *Collocalia sumbawae* Endemic.

Drab Swiftlet ◊ (Timor S) *Collocalia neglecta* Endemic.

Cave Swiftlet ◊ *Collocalia linchi* At Denpasar Airport.

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

House Swift *Apus nipalensis*

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*

Asian Koel (Common K) *Eudynamys scolopaceus* Single *malayanus* near Labuan Bajo, Flores.

Pacific Koel *Eudynamys orientalis* Heard-only.

Shining Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus* One near Lewa, Sumba.

Little Bronze Cuckoo ◊ [Gould's B C] *Chrysococcyx [minutillus] russatus* Endemic. Seen well on Timor & Flores.

Brush Cuckoo (Australian B C) *Cacomantis variolosus*

Rusty-breasted Cuckoo (Sunda B C) *Cacomantis sepulcralis*

Sunda Cuckoo ◊ *Cuculus lepidus* Sightings included Timor Leaf Warblers feeding a juvenile at Fatumnasi.

Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon) (introduced) *Columba livia*

Metallic Pigeon ◊ *Columba vitiensis*

Sunda Collared Dove *Streptopelia bitorquata* An unexpected bird at Pan Muti, Timor; another on Komodo.

Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis*

Ruddy Cuckoo-Dove ◊ (Parzudaki's C-D) *Macropygia emiliana* Non-leader. Pagal to Gapong Road, Flores.

Timor Cuckoo-Dove ◊ (Barred-necked C-D) *Macropygia magna* Endemic. Three seen well near Soe.

Eucalypt Cuckoo-Dove ◊ *Macropygia sp. nov.* Endemic. A handful seen on Sumba.

Black Cuckoo-Dove ◊ (Slaty C-D) *Turacoena modesta* Endemic. Seven were seen on Rote & Timor.

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

Pacific Emerald Dove (Green-winged Pigeon) *Chalcophaps longirostris*

Barred Dove ♦ *Geopelia maugeus*

Flores Green Pigeon ♦ *Treron floris* Endemic. A good year, with at least nine seen at Kisol.

Banded Fruit Dove ♦ (Black-backed F D) *Ptilinopus cinctus* Endemic. Timor (*cinctus*) & Flores (*albocinctus*).

Red-naped Fruit Dove ♦ *Ptilinopus dohertyi* Endemic. Around eight seen on Sumba, and others heard.

Rose-crowned Fruit Dove ♦ *Ptilinopus regina* Many sightings of the lovely *flavicollis* subspecies.

Black-naped Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus melanospilus*

Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea*

Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon ♦ *Ducula rosacea* Seen very well on Rote and Timor.

Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon ♦ *Ducula lacernulata* 4 seen Flores; nesting pair high in strangler fig at Pagal.

Timor Imperial Pigeon ♦ *Ducula cineracea* Endemic. Great views at Lelogama, then another at Fatumnasi.

Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor* Two on palm fruits on Komodo.

Buff-banded Rail *Hypotaenidia philippensis*

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Australasian Swamphen *Porphyrio melanotus*

Ruddy-breasted Crane *Zapornia fusca*

White-browed Crane *Poliolimnas cinereus*

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

Tricolored Grebe ♦ *Tachybaptus tricolor*

Red-backed Buttonquail ♦ *Turnix maculosus* A pair showed well on Rote (nominate).

Sumba Buttonquail ♦ *Turnix everetti* Endemic. Several were flushed at Yumbu, as usual.

Beach Stone-curlew (B Thick-knee) *Esacus magnirostris* One on the beach as we arrived at Komodo.

Pied Stilt (White-headed S) *Himantopus leucocephalus*

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

Javan Plover ♦ *Charadrius javanicus* Four on Sumba, and another near Labuan Bajo.

Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*

Malaysian Plover ♦ *Charadrius peronii* After some effort, we found three on Londa Liru Beach, Sumba.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* Non-leader.

Eurasian Whimbrel [Siberian W] *Numenius [phaeopus] variegatus*

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* 15 at Pan Muti, Timor.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

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

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella*

Australian Tern (A Gull-billed T) *Gelochelidon macrotarsa* Three breeding-plumaged birds on Timor.

Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus* Over 100 were estimated during the return journey from Rote.

Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana*

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii* Four passing through the deep channel on the way back from Komodo.

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* At least nine close inshore at Rote.

Little Pied Cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleucos*

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* A write-in: 1 L. Sotimori & 50 Bendungan Tilong, Timor.

Nankeen Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus* At least five at Bendungan Tilong, Timor.

Striated Heron (Little H) *Butorides striata*

Javan Pond Heron *Ardeola speciosa*

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana* Non-leader.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Great Egret [Eastern G E] *Ardea [alba] modesta*

Intermediate Egret [Plumed E] *Ardea [intermedia] plumifera*

Little Egret [Black-footed E] *Egretta [garzetta] nigripes*

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

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

Crested Honey Buzzard (Oriental H-b) *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata* One at Camplong (*timorlaensis*).

Short-toed Snake Eagle (S-t Eagle) *Circaetus gallicus* Two or three on Flores (*sacerdotis*).

Rufous-bellied Eagle (R-b Eagle) *Lophotriorchis kienerii*

Bonelli's Eagle ◊ [Rensch's E] *Aquila [fasciata] renschi* One 'had us going' along the Potawangka Road.

Variable Goshawk ◊ [Tenggara G] *Accipiter [hiogaster] sylvestrus* Endemic. One at Kisol.

Brown Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus* A few on Sumba (*tjendanae*) and Timor (*hellmayri*).

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

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Eastern Barn Owl *Tyto javanica* Two seen at Oelnasi, Timor (*delicatula*).

Eastern Barn Owl ◊ [Sumba B O] *Tyto [javanica] sumbaensis* Heard-only. Endemic. Two heard near Lewa.

Sumba Boobook ◊ (Great S B) *Ninox rudolfi* Endemic. Fantastic views of one near Lewa.

Rote Boobook ◊ *Ninox rotiensis* Endemic. Super views of one on Rote.

Timor Boobook ◊ (Streaked B) *Ninox fusca* Endemic. A pair at Bipolo, and another at Oelnasi.

Least Boobook ◊ (Little Sumba B) *Ninox sumbaensis* Endemic. Terrific views of a pair near Lewa.

Flores Scops Owl ◊ *Otus alfredi* Endemic. Fantastic views for all, at the fifth attempt!!

Moluccan Scops Owl ◊ *Otus magicus* Easily seen at Kisol.

Wallace's Scops Owl ◊ *Otus silvicola* Endemic. Elusive this year, with just one or two silhouettes in flight.

Sumba Hornbill ◊ *Rhyticeros everetti* Endemic. Great views, with nine logged.

White-rumped Kingfisher ◊ (Glittering K) *Caridonax fulgidus* Endemic. Not uncommon on Flores.

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis* Two *floresiana* noted on Flores.

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris*

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*

Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher ◊ *Todiramphus australasia* Near-endemic. 2 seen on both Sumba & Timor (nominate).

Common Kingfisher ◊ (Hispid K) *Alcedo [atthis] hispidoides* Scattered sightings.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker *Yungipicus moluccensis* Several sightings on Flores (*grandis*).

Spotted Kestrel ◊ (Indonesian K) *Falco moluccensis*

Peregrine Falcon [Australasian P] *Falco [peregrinus] ernesti*

Yellow-crested Cockatoo ◊ *Cacatua sulphurea* Excellent views on Komodo; ten or so in total.

Citron-crested Cockatoo ◊ (Orange-c C) *Cacatua citrinocristata* Endemic. 8-10 seen on Sumba.

Jonquil Parrot ◊ (Olive-shouldered P) *Aprosmictus jonquillaceus* Endemic. 6 on Rote and 3 on Timor.

Sumba Eclectus ◊ *Eclectus cornelia* Endemic. Probably at least three scoped; a recent split.

Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi* Sumba & Flores (*floresianus*); Timor (nominate).

Great-billed Parrot ◊ *Tanygnathus megalorynchos* 3-5 on Sumba (*sumbensis*) & encouragingly 2 near Labuan Bajo (nominate).

Iris Lorikeet ◊ *Saudareos iris* Endemic. At least 15 of these little beauties near Gunung Timau, Timor.

Olive-headed Lorikeet ◊ *Trichoglossus euteles* Endemic. Small numbers seen in the mountains of Timor.

Marigold Lorikeet ◊ *Trichoglossus capistratus* Endemic. At least 18 seen and others heard on Sumba. Great views.

Leaf Lorikeet ◊ (Flores L) *Trichoglossus weberi* Endemic. Small numbers on Flores, with nice scope views.

Wallace's Hanging Parrot ◊ *Loriculus flosculus* Endemic. A pair were seen exceedingly well near Ruteng.

Ornate Pitta ◊ (Wallace's Elegant P) *Pitta concinna* Endemic. Two seen and many heard on Flores.

Elegant Pitta ◊ (Temminck's E P) *Pitta elegans* Endemic breeder. One scoped and many heard on Sumba (*maria*).

Scaly-crowned Honeyeater ◊ (Sunda H) *Sugomel lombokium* Endemic. Frequently seen on Flores.

Sumba Myzomela ◊ *Myzomela dammermani* Endemic. Some great close sightings.

Rote Myzomela ◊ *Myzomela irianawidodoae* Endemic. Several seen well.

Black-breasted Myzomela ◊ (Timor M) *Myzomela vulnerata* Endemic. Not uncommon on Timor.

Timor Friarbird ◊ *Philemon inornatus* Endemic. Ditto.

Helmeted Friarbird ◊ [Tenggara F] *Philemon [bucerooides] buceroides* Endemic. Widespread sightings.
Brown Honeyeater ◊ [Indonesian H] *Lichmera [indistincta] limbata*
Flame-eared Honeyeater ◊ (Yellow-e H) *Lichmera flavicans* Endemic. Particularly in the Timor mountains.
Streak-breasted Honeyeater ◊ (Timor Meliphaga) *Territornis reticulata* Endemic. Locally common.
Golden-bellied Gerygone (Sunda G) *Gerygone sulphurea*
Plain Gerygone ◊ (Timor G) *Gerygone inornata* Endemic. Quite common on Timor.
White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*
Wallacean Cuckooshrike ◊ [Timor C] *Coracina [personata] personata* Endemic. Heard-only. Once on Rote.
Wallacean Cuckooshrike ◊ [Flores C] *Coracina [personata] floris* Endemic. One at close range on Komodo.
Wallacean Cuckooshrike ◊ [Sumba C] *Coracina [personata] sumbensis* Endemic. Several seen well on Sumba.
Pale-shouldered Cicadabird ◊ *Coracina doherthyi* Endemic. A couple close overhead on Sumba.
White-shouldered Triller ◊ *Lalage sueurii*
Little Minivet ◊ (Flores M) *Pericrocotus lansbergei* Endemic. This little beauty was quite common on Flores.
Fawn-breasted Whistler ◊ *Pachycephala orpheus* Endemic. Several sightings of this drab endemic.
Rusty-breasted Whistler ◊ [Bima W] *Pachycephala [fulvotincta] fulvotincta* Endemic. The Golden-type on Flores.
Rusty-breasted Whistler ◊ [Sumba W] *Pachycephala [fulvotincta] fulviventris* Endemic. Frequent on Sumba.
Yellow-throated Whistler ◊ [Timor W] *Pachycephala [macrorhyncha] calliope* Endemic. A few seen on Timor.
Bare-throated Whistler ◊ *Pachycephala nudigula* Endemic. One of the birds of the trip, with its amazing voice.
Green Figbird ◊ (Timor F) *Sphecotheres viridis* Endemic. Several seen, with the best two females at Oelnasi.
Timor Oriole ◊ *Oriolus melanotis* Endemic. Several good sightings on Rote and Timor.
Black-naped Oriole ◊ [Tenggara Golden O] *Oriolus [chinensis] broderipi* Endemic. Particularly common on Flores.
Wallacean Drongo ◊ [Flores Spangled D] *Dicrurus [densus] bimaensis* Endemic. Common.
Wallacean Drongo ◊ [Sumba Spangled D] *Dicrurus [densus] sumbae* Endemic. Pretty common.
Wallacean Drongo ◊ [Timor Spangled D] *Dicrurus [densus] densus* Endemic. Always scarce, with just 2 Lelogama.
Brown-capped Fantail ◊ (Trumpeting F) *Rhipidura diluta* Endemic. Frequent in Flores, mainly mountains.
Northern Fantail ◊ [Rote F] *Rhipidura [rufiventris] tenkatei* Endemic. Common.
Northern Fantail ◊ [Timor F] *Rhipidura [rufiventris] rufiventris* Endemic. Common.
Arafura Fantail ◊ [Supertramp F] *Rhipidura [dryas] semicollaris* 2 forms: *sumbensis* (Sumba); *semicollaris* (Flores & Timor).
Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* Frequent on Flores (*symmixta*).
Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher ◊ [Tenggara P F] *Terpsiphone [affinis] floris* Endemic. Many seen Sumba & Flores.
Flores Monarch ◊ *Symposiachrus sacerdotum* Endemic. Four seen, including a pair with a fledged juvenile.
Spectacled Monarch (Australian S M) *Symposiachrus trivirgatus* Widespread singles (nominate).
Broad-billed Flycatcher (B-b Monarch) *Myiagra ruficollis* Well seen on Sumba and Timor (nominate).
Flores Crow ◊ *Corvus florensis* Endemic. Some good looks at this clever sneak.
Large-billed Crow [Southern Jungle C] *Corvus [macrorhynchos] macrorhynchos*
Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis* A couple on Sumba (*connectens*).
Cinereous Tit *Parus cinereus*

Singing Bush Lark (Australasian Bushlark) *Mirafra javanica* Particularly at Yumbu (*parva*); also Bipolo (*timornesis*).

Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster*

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*

Striated Swallow *Cecropis striolata*

Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans* Seen quite often on Timor (*timoriensis*).

Pygmy Cupwing *Pnoepyga pusilla* One performed at G. Mutis (*timorensis*); heard on Flores (*everetti*).

Aberrant Bush Warbler ◊ [Sunda B W] *Horornis [flavolivaceus] vulcanius* Seen well on Timor (*everetti*).

Russet-capped Tesia ◊ *Tesia everetti* Endemic. Easily seen on Flores; an obliging member of the genus.

Timor Stubtail ◊ *Urosphena subulata* Endemic. Seen well early on, on Rote. Frequently heard on Timor.

Yellow-breasted Warbler *Seicercus montis* A few seen well in montane Flores (*floris*).

Flores Leaf Warbler ◊ *Phylloscopus floresianus* Endemic. Quite common in the mountains.

Timor Leaf Warbler ◊ *Phylloscopus presbytes* Endemic. Ditto on Timor.

Rote Leaf Warbler ◊ *Phylloscopus rotiensis* Endemic. Several seen very well.

Australian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus australis*

Buff-banded Thicketbird ◊ (Timor T, B-b Bushbird) *Cincloramphus bivittatus* Endemic. One showed particularly well near Bipolo.

Tawny Grassbird *Cincloramphus timoriensis* Several seen on Sumba (*inquirendus*).

Zitting Cisticola [Double-zitting C] *Cisticola [juncidis] tinnabulans*

Cream-browed White-eye ◊ (Eyebrowed Heleia, White-b W-e) *Heleia superciliaris* Endemic. Just a couple on Flores.

Crested White-eye ◊ (C Heleia, Dark-crowned W-e) *Heleia dohertyi* Endemic. Quite common on Flores.

Spot-breasted Heleia ◊ (Timor H, Timor White-eye) *Heleia muelleri* Endemic. A good year; many seen on Timor.

Thick-billed Heleia ◊ (Flores White-e) *Heleia crassirostris* Endemic. Frequent on Flores

Yellow-ringed White-eye ◊ (Wallace's Heleia) *Heleia wallacei* Endemic. Common enough on Sumba and Flores.

Warbling White-eye [Mountain W-e] *Zosterops [japonicus] montanus* Common in montane Flores; also Timor (*neglectus*).

Lemon-bellied White-eye ◊ *Zosterops chloris* A few in the hotel garden near Labuan Bajo (*sumbavensis*).

Ashy-bellied White-eye ◊ *Zosterops citrinella* Endemic. Common on Sumba and lowland Timor.

Ashy-bellied White-eye ◊ [Flores W-e] *Zosterops [citrinella] unicus* Endemic. The yellow-bellied white-eye of Flores.

Short-tailed Starling *Aplonis minor*

Javan Myna (introduced) *Acridotheres javanicus*

Orange-sided Thrush ◊ (Orange-banded T) *Geokichla peronii* Endemic. Easily seen on Rote and Timor.

Chestnut-capped Thrush ◊ *Geokichla interpres* Great views of at least six individuals on Flores.

Chestnut-backed Thrush ◊ *Geokichla dohertyi* Endemic. Seen on Sumba, Timor and Flores; best on the former.

Island Thrush ◊ [Timor I T] *Turdus [poliocephalus] schlegelii* Endemic. Small numbers at Gunung Mutis, Timor.

Sumba Brown Flycatcher ◊ *Muscicapa segregata* Endemic. A good year, with at least five noted and seen well.

Timor Blue Flycatcher ◊ (T Warbling-flycatcher) *Eumyias hyacinthinus* Endemic. Common.

Flores Jungle Flycatcher ◊ (F Warbling-flycatcher) *Eumyias oscillans* Endemic. Three seen and others heard.

Sumba Jungle Flycatcher ◊ (S Warbling-flycatcher) *Eumyias stresemanni* Endemic. Five seen. Easy this time.

Flores Shortwing ◊ *Brachypteryx floris* Endemic. Several seen well on the way to Golo Lusang.

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni* Small numbers on Timor (*mayri*).

Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra* Three at Gunung Mutis, Timor (*clarae*).

Rufous-chested Flycatcher *Ficedula dumetoria* On Flores: one at Rana Mese and several at Puarlolo (nominate).

Sumba Flycatcher ◊ *Ficedula harterti* Endemic. Thankfully, Martin found us one at Langgaliru.

Black-banded Flycatcher ◊ *Ficedula timorensis* Endemic. Best seen near Lelogama, lower slopes of G. Timau.

Pied Bush Chat *Saxicola caprata* Sumba (*francki*); Rote & Timor (*pyrrhonotus*); Flores & Komodo (*fruticola*).

White-bellied Bush Chat ◊ (Timor Bushchat) *Saxicola gutturalis* Endemic. Pretty common on Rote and Timor.

Golden-rumped Flowerpecker ◊ *Dicaeum annae* Endemic. Common on Flores.

Thick-billed Flowerpecker ◊ [Tenggara F] *Dicaeum [agile] obsoleta* Endemic. Three individuals on Sumba (*tincta*).

Black-fronted Flowerpecker ◊ *Dicaeum igniferum* Endemic. Common on Flores.

Blue-cheeked Flowerpecker ◊ (Red-chested F) *Dicaeum maugei* Endemic. Common on Timor.

Blood-breasted Flowerpecker ◊ [Flores F] *Dicaeum [sanguinolentum] rhodopygiale* Endemic. 5 at Golo Lusang.

Blood-breasted Flowerpecker ◊ [Sumba F] *Dicaeum [sanguinolentum] wilhelminae* Endemic. Common.

Blood-breasted Flowerpecker ◊ [Timor F] *Dicaeum [sanguinolentum] hanieli* Endemic. A male at Lelogama.

Brown-throated Sunbird (Plain-t S) *Anthreptes malacensis* Sumba (*rubrigena*) and Flores (*convergens*).

Olive-backed Sunbird [Ornate S] *Cinnyris [jugularis] ornatus*

Apricot-breasted Sunbird ◊ *Cinnyris buettikoferi* Endemic. Common enough on Sumba.

Flame-breasted Sunbird ◊ *Cinnyris solaris* Endemic. Common on Timor and Flores.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Sunda Zebra Finch ◊ *Taeniopygia guttata* Endemic. Widespread.

Timor Sparrow ◊ *Padda fuscata* Endemic. 40-50 seen on Timor, with many juveniles.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata* Sumba (*sumbae*); Timor & Flores (*blasii*).

Black-faced Munia ◊ *Lonchura molucca* Two on both Timor and Flores (*propinqua*).

White-headed Munia ◊ *Lonchura maja* Non-leader. A dozen at Denpasar Airport.

Pale-headed Munia ◊ *Lonchura pallida* Good numbers on Sumba and Timor.

Five-colored Munia ◊ *Lonchura quincolor* Near-endemic. Small numbers on Sumba and Timor.

Tricolored Parrotfinch ◊ *Erythrura tricolor* Near-endemic. Seen well on Timor on multiple occasions.

Mount Mutis Parrotfinch ◊ (Timor P) *Erythrura sp. nov.* Endemic. c.10 at Fatumnasi, with some smart males.

Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava* Small numbers at Bipolo, Timor (*flavidiventris*).

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis* Heard-only. One at L. Sotimori.

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*

MAMMALS

Wild Boar (Indian W B) *Sus scrofa* Several on Komodo, where it is considered native.

Timor Deer *Rusa timorensis* Small numbers on Komodo.

Spinner Dolphin *Stenella longirostris* One off Rote, and a few probables en route to Komodo.

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

Brown Rat (introduced) *Rattus norvegicus*

Sumban Leaf-nosed Bat *Hipposideros sumbae* Appears to be the only bat of this size on Sumba.

Large Flying Fox *Pteropus vampyrus* The typical flying fox seen on Sumba and Rote, at least.

REPTILES

Green Sea Turtle *Chelonia mydas* One during the return from Komodo.

Boschma's Gliding-lizard (B Flying Dragon) *Draco boschmai* Two on Komodo.

Tokay Gecko *Gekko gekko* Regularly heard throughout and seen several times.

Flat-tailed House Gecko *Hemidactylus platyurus* Sumba at least.

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

AMPHIBIANS

Asian Common Toad (introduced) *Duttaphrynus melanostictus* Seen on Sumba and Flores, at least.

Paddy Field Frog *Fejervarya limnocharis* Timor.

BUTTERFLIES

Haliphron Birdwing *Troides haliphron naias* Sumba.

Silver Birdwing *Troides plato* Timor.

Peranthus Peacock *Papilio peranthus*

Common Mormon *Papilio polytes* Kisol.

Tailed Jay *Graphium agamemnon* Sumba.

Common Grass Yellow *Eurema hecabe* Mount Mutis.

Orange Gull *Cepora judith* Kisol.

Timor Gull *Cepora laeta* Fatumnasi.

Caper Gull *Cepora perimale* Komodo.

Psyche *Leptosia nina*

Common Red Flash *Rapala iarbus* Sumba.

Common Pierrot *Castalius rosimon* Kisol.

Pea Blue (Long-tailed B) *Lampides boeticus*

Transparent 6-line Blue *Nacaduba kurava*

Silver Forget-me-not *Catochrysops panormus* Timor.

Common Sailer *Neptis hylas* Kisol.

Short-banded Sailer *Phaedyma columella* Komodo.

Common Sargeant *Athyma perius* Sumba.

Commander *Moduza procris* Sumba.

Club Beak *Libythea myrrha* Sumba.

Northern Argus *Junonia erigone* Timor.

Chocolate Pansy *Junonia iphita* Flores at least.

Blue Tiger *Tirumala limniace* Kisol at least.

Swamp Tiger *Danaus affinis*

Striped Tiger *Danaus genutia*

'Timor' Lacewing *Cethosia lamarcki*

Staudinger's Nawab *Polyura alphius* One; Pagal-Gapong Road.

Malay Cruiser *Vindula dejone*

Long-branded Blue Crow *Euploea algea* Timor.

Dart *Taractocera sp.* Kisol.

Spotted Demon *Notocrypta feisthamelii* Kisol.

DRAGONFLIES

Red Sprite *Pseudagrion pilidorsum* Camplong.

Damsel *Rhinocypha pagenstecheri* Camplong. Lesser Sundan endemic.

Slender Skimmer *Orthetrum sabina*

Orange Skimmer *Orthetrum testaceum* Timor and Komodo.

Indigo Dropwing *Trithemis festiva* Camplong.

Chalky Percher *Diplacodes trivialis* Sumba at least.

Swampwatcher *Potamarcha congener* Timor.

GRASSHOPPERS

Migratory Locust *Locusta migratoria* An amazing swarm near Lewa, Sumba.



Timor Leaf Warbler feeding Sunda Cuckoo (image by Graeme Wright)



Timor Blue Flycatcher (image by Graeme Wright)



Tenggara Golden (Black-naped) Oriole (image by Graeme Wright)



Sumba Myzomela (image by Graeme Wright)



Pied Imperial Pigeon (image by Graeme Wright)



Migratory Locust swarm, Sumba (image by Graeme Wright)



Black-naped Fruit Dove (image by Graeme Wright)



Broad-billed Flycatcher (image by Graeme Wright)



Flame-breasted Sunbird (image by Graeme Wright)



Flores Green Pigeon (image by Graeme Wright)



Little Minivet (image by Graeme Wright)



Malaysian Plover (image by Graeme Wright)



Black-naped Fruit Dove (image by Graeme Wright)



Birding Bipolo (image by Dawn Brown)



Staudinger's Nawab (image by Craig Robson)



Red-naped Fruit Dove (image by Craig Robson)



Komodo Dragon (image by Craig Robson)



Golo Lusang, Flores (image by Craig Robson)



Red Sprite (image by Craig Robson)



Slender Skimmer (image by Craig Robson)



Yellow-crested Cockatoos (image by Craig Robson)



Black-fronted Flowerpecker (image by Graeme Wright)



Black-banded Flycatcher (image by Graeme Wright)



Australian Pratincole (image by Graeme Wright)



Montane Flores (image by Dawn Brown)



Komodo Beach (image by Dawn Brown)



Sunda Collared Dove (image by Craig Robson)



'Timor' Lacewing (image by Craig Robson)



Timor Sparrow (image by Craig Robson)



West Timor (image by Craig Robson)



Scanning for eagles (image by Craig Robson)



Mount Mutis Parrotfinch (image by Craig Robson)



Flores Shortwing (image by Craig Robson)



Flame-eared Honeyeater (image by Craig Robson)



Migratory Locust (image by Craig Robson)



Rote Ferry (image by Craig Robson)



Lelogama, Timor (image by Craig Robson)



Black-naped Fruit Dove (image by Craig Robson)



Rote Fantail (image by Craig Robson)



Rote Fantails (image by Craig Robson)



Komodo (image by Craig Robson)