

# **Birding Nusa Tenggara**



**Timor, Sumba, Flores, Komodo, Bali and Java  
2005**

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## **Introduction**

Having spent two months birding Indonesia during 2004, taking in Sumatra, Java, Sulawesi and Halmahera, I had been longing to come back to Indonesia ever since returning to Sweden. The Nusa Tenggara seemed like the ideal place to go for getting another fix of everything what this great country has to offer. With a great number of endems, most of them still relatively easily accessible at a low cost, the islands of Timor, Sumba and Flores offered a nice adventure, doable even for somebody trapped in the shackles of working life. Having witnessed the destruction that is going on in other parts of Indonesia I felt that this was most likely a destination to visit as soon as possible to have good chances of finding its spectacular avian treasures.

There is not a load of information on birding the Nusas available on the internet but a couple of informative trip reports can be found via [www.travellingbirder.com](http://www.travellingbirder.com) and of course the book Birding Indonesia is a true gold mine for anybody venturing to Indonesia for birding. However I was very fortunate to receive a ton of information from James Eaton and Rob Hutchinson who had just got back from a two month visit in the region. Having birded with them in Sulawesi and Halmahera in 2004 I knew that they are some of Asia's sharpest birders and of course it was a pity that I couldn't find the time to once more join them in the field, however the information they sent me was invaluable and I am very indebt for all the help and especially for the kindness of providing me with some unique sound recordings they had made during their trip. I'm also very grateful to George Sangster for providing me with recordings of Mee's Nightjar, a species he recently described as well as a number of other nightbirds. Mark Schekelness also helped me out with information prior to my trip.

All in all my trip was very successful, I recorded most of the regions endemics including Flores Scops Owl – a bird only seen about five times before and some very threatened birds like Yellow-crested Cockatoo and Black-winged Starling. However as always you miss some birds and it was frustrating to miss the Thicket-warbler on Timor despite hearing many and I also missed a couple of doves on Timor and Flores, Timor Sparrow and Sumba Flycatcher. On Timor I was fortunate to record two species being very rare to the islands, Masked Lapwing – only recorded for the first time on Timor earlier the same year and a Swamp Harrier – a potential first for the island. Both records are to be submitted for review by the editorial board of the Kukila Journal who functions as a rarities committee for Indonesia.

To anybody interested in Asian birding I can recommend the Nusa Tenggara very warmly, the birding is great, traveling is cheap and easy and the people are extremely hospitable and welcoming. In case you have any questions feel free to mail me on rhabdornis (at) yahoo (dot) se.

## **Itinerary**

12.8 Transport day, flying Bangkok-Jakarta-Kupang.

13.8 Morning at Bipolo then Camplong Forest in the afternoon.

14.8 Camplong Forest in the morning and then onto Fatumnasi via Soe. Some brief birding above Fatumnasi before dusk.

- 15.8 Summiting Gunung Mutis.
- 16.8 Birding forest below Fatumnasi in the morning then transport to Kupang.
- 17.8 Birding in the rice paddies at Bipolo till ten and then a flight to Waingapu and transport to Lewa, nightbirding west of Lewa.
- 18.8 Birding in the forest patch west of Lewa.
- 19.8 Cockatoo-chasing in Watumbela in the morning and early afternoon and then the forest west of Lewa.
- 20.8 Birded the forest west of Lewa till noon and then transport to Waingapu and birding at Yumbu till dusk.
- 21.8 Flight to Bali and transport to Gilimanuk.
- 22.8 Birding at Bali Barat NP and then transport to Denpasar.
- 23.8 Flight to Labuanbajo, transport to Danau Ranamese for some late birding.
- 24.8 Birding at Danau Ranamese and then on to Kisol.
- 25.8 Full day birding at Kisol.
- 26.8 Birding at Kisol till noon and then back to Danau Ranamese.
- 27.8 Danau Ranamese till just after dawn then transport to Golo Losang and birding there till noon. Transport to Labanbajo.
- 28.8 Birding at Puarlolo for an hour and then birding along the Potanwanka Road till one pm. Some late birding around New Bajo Beach Hotel.
- 29.8 Potanwanka Road fro dawn till four pm.
- 30.8 Boat Trip to Pulau Rinca and then on to Pulau Komodo.
- 31.8 Visit to Pulau Komodo and then back to Labuanbajo.
- 1.9 Birding at "Dolat", the wetland area south of Labuanbajo in the early morning then a flight to Bali and on to Jakarta and Bogor.
- 2.9 Transport to Gunung Halimun and birding in the afternoon
- 3.9 Birding at Gunung Halimun till noon and then transport to Bogor and on to Jakarta.
- 4.9 Birding at Muara Anke till 11 am then transport to airport for a 12.30 flight to Bangkok and then on to Copenhagen.

## **Sites**

### **Bipolo**

A tiny patch of forest is still left close to the village Bipolo situated close to the coast north of Kupang. Being very degraded this area still holds some of Timor's Jewels like Orange-banded Thrush and Olive-shouldered Parrot, add to that a good chance for Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher and Black-banded Fruit-Dove and you'll understand that Bipolo is not just an easy introduction to the Timorese monsoon forest birds but an almost essential stop on your quest for this island's avian gold. I birded along the main road which was pretty good and some of the small tracks which didn't turn out to be very rewarding. The main road offers better view of the canopy and you often have a good chance of picking up distant parrots or doves. On one early morning I had an Orange-banded-thrush hopping on the road! Just on the northern edge of the forest there is a track that leads west, follow this for about a km and you'll get to an area with rice-fields and several salt-ponds. The ponds are great for water birds and many species with mainly Australasian distribution can be found here such as Royal Spoonbill and White-faced Heron. The rice-fields are a stake out for munias and the tricky Timor Sparrow.

**Access:** Bipolo is situated north of the main trans-Timor road about 55 km from Kupang or a bit closer from Camplong. The last 15 km after having left the main road is on rather bad road and takes quite a while. Keep on driving till you reach the first area with extensive forest. I hired an ojek in Kupang where most people seemed to know about Bipolo.

**Accommodation:** Since Bipolo is easily accessible from both Kupang and Camplong there is no need trying to find accommodation in the villages close to the forest. Those still interested in crashing there should probably not have too much trouble finding a family happy sharing their house for a small fee. Needless to say, some Bahasa will come handy if you try.

### **Camplong**

As the Kupang-Soe road starts to climb the hills you reach Camplong, just after the seminary there is a patch of forest which still holds a good variety of lowland Timorese endemics. At this site you should have good chances at all forest birds except some of the pigeons and it is a nice place to bird since it is easily accessible and most birds seem to be rather common. Some endemics are difficult at Bipolo these days and species like Black-banded Flycatcher and White-bellied Chat are not likely to be seen there but both of them are not too difficult at Camplong. All of the forest was productive but less disturbed areas are found about a kilometer along the gravel road that leads away from the village. Try the numerous small cattle trails to increase your chances for some of the more skulking birds. Just strolling around in the general area around the small concrete house I connected with almost all of my target birds in just one afternoon. Southern Boobook seemed to be rather numerous, I had several calling but never managed to see one at this site, mainly because of furious dogs!

**Access:** Camplong forest is situated right on the Kupang-Soe road. Any bus heading east out of Kupang should get you here. The seminary is on the north side of the road at about 50 km from Kupang and at the small recreational area there is a swimming pool which seems to be well known to all Timorese... About hundred meters after the seminary, take a right where there is a small ojek stand and then after about hundred meters take a left at the two way fork, this will get you on to the best forest in the area.

**Accommodation:** The seminary has several rooms but also seems to be a popular place and was full when I arrived. However the nuns working there arranged a room for me with the family of one of the gardeners. This family was very kind and hospitable and even though this is not a very luxurious alternative I'd recommend everybody having trouble getting a room at the seminary to ask the locals for help rather than returning to Kupang.

### **Gunung Mutis**

The general lack of extensive primary forest is very striking on Timor and Gunung Mutis was the only place I visited that had any sizable amounts of untouched forest. This is also the site to catch up with Timor's high altitude birds. Timor Imperial Pigeon is the main target and then there are also a

number of good mid-elevation birds available in the more open forest. I was fortunate enough to find Tricolored Parrotfinch here and a variety of endemic parrots, doves and the difficult to see Sunda Cuckoo. Island Thrush is very common and the local race of Pygmy Wren-babbler (the easternmost babbler in the world?) is very distinct and might be up for a split. I climbed the summit one day to check the higher forests in search for the unknown bush-warbler but found zip. Birding wise it is only necessary to get up on to the first big clearing after the good patch of forest along the summit trail, this seemed to me like the best place to catch up with the Imperial Pigeon.

**Access:** Take a bus along the trans-Timor highway to Soe and then pick up a bemo to Kapan. From here there are infrequent bemos on to Fatumnasi. If you find yourself stranded pick up an ojek which should not be too expensive.

**Accommodation:** Matius homestay is quite far up along the road through the village. Just ask around. In his house there are a number of beds and they also have a couple of bungalows further up the road.

### **Lewa**

Only about ten percent of Sumbas original forest cover is still standing and much of that is in a bad shape, this makes many of Sumbas endemics increasingly endangered, however still there is a reasonable good chance of finding all of them if you just go to a large patch of relatively intact forest. A very easily accessible area is the patch of forest about ten kilometers west of Lewa along the main Trans-Sumba Highway. Here there is a relatively small but still excellent patch of forest left which the road transects. Birding is easy, just walk the main road, and you'll bump into most of the species. There is a small clearing at km 69 and a larger one at km 69,5 which both held the boobooks and Mee's Nightjar. I encountered Red-naped Fruit-Dove at several sites along the road and Elegant Pitta is common by voice. Both Sumba Hornbill and Yellow-crested Cockatoo occurs but are more common in the forest close to Watumbela. I spent one half day in this area and finally connected with both. I got a guide in the village which probably is not necessary but he seemed to have a good knowledge about where to find the Cockatoo. If you are staying with the Harys in Lewa ask them to organize you Watumbela trip and you'll have everything sorted. The only bird that I struggled with was Sumba Flycatcher which I actually missed all together strangely; well, you can't have it all. Still the birding is great and the forest feels superb if you have just been to Timor!

**Access:** Lewa is situated half-way on the trans-Sumban Highway, just get on any bus traveling across the island and you'll get there. The forest is another ten kilometers west of Lewa. The Harys organized an ojek driver for me who took me to the forest and picked me up after owling every night, this worked extremely well and the driver must have been the most reliable ojek driver I ever had, always showing up early in the morning and very helpful. Watumbela is located about an hour south of Lewa by ojek. You'll most likely need somebody to take you there or at least good knowledge in Bahasa to find the way.

**Accommodation:** I stayed in the house of the most hospitable family Hary, who lives in the west end of Lewa, just ask around. If they are not willing to cater for you, there is a church which has a number of small bungalows which probably could take a big number of guests.

### **Yumbu**

By sight not more than some grassy fields this patch outside of Waingapu has earned its fame in the birding world since it offers good chances of finding the only Sumba endem not possible to find in the forest sites – Sumba Buttonquail. As one might expect from a buttonquail getting good views is easier said than done. Reading trip reports from Birdquest and Kingbird Tours it might seem like this is a tame critter offering close up views, freezing in the open for ages. However most other birders seem to have to put in quite some effort even just flight views... The problem is that IDing it is not all that easy and you have get good views of the facial pattern to be sure of the identity. To add to that the buttonquail seems very tricky to reflush, so if you find one be sure to get good views of it at once, It might be a couple of hours before you flush the next one! However the site also offers a chance at nice birds like Brown Quail and Red-backed Buttonquail. The mangroves are a good place to catch up with Indonesian Honeyeater if you missed that one so far.

**Access:** Asking around in Waingapu everybody should know about Yumbu, but they'll most likely be very surprised that you want to go there! The field which most people go to is located less than half an hour east from Waingapu. I got an ojek to the bridge over the small creek at km 18 and walked back a couple of hundred meters and then birded the fields to the north.

**Accommodation:** There are a number of excellent options in Waingapu which is just about twenty minutes away.

### **Danau Ranamese**

On the northeastern slope of Poco Ranaka the crater lake; Danau Ranamese is located. The lake itself is albeit scenic not all that interesting from a birding point of view. However the forest in the area is in a very good state and there is excellent birding to be done both along the main road and the trail that leads to Poco Ranaka. All the highland specialties of Flores and Sumbawa are present and seemingly not all that rare and can be seen without too much effort. In addition this is the site for Flores Scops Owl, previously only known from a single sight record and the collection of a specimen from the area. Flores Scops will probably get discovered from more localities following the description of the vocalisations by Rob Hutchinson and James Eaton. I managed to record all my target birds at Danau Ranamese in one morning simply by walking the main road at dawn and then doing the Poco Ranaka trail for a couple of hours. The owl took me a couple of nightbirding sessions to lure into view though.

**Access:** Danau Ranamese is located about twenty kilometers east of Ruteng along the mail trans-Flores highway and is easily reached by any bus

traveling across the island. There seems to be a load of busses that pass by so getting a ride there and away should be no problems.

**Accommodation:** At the lake there is a small Park Headquarters with several small bungalows for accommodation. However the whole headquarters is in a very bad shape and all the bungalows seems to be closed. Nevertheless the ranger working at the station let me stay in one of the rooms but this was probably an unofficial arrangement. If you prefer some kind of comfort and the possibility of getting some food, staying in Ruteng is a better option but this would make nightbirding a bit tricky since it takes about half an hour to go between Ruteng and Danau Ranamese.

### **Golo Losang**

Famed as the home of one of earths most impressing morning chorus – a incredible number of Bare-throated Whistlers, this site will not make you disappointed even though it does not have all that much else to offer. Dark-backed Imperial Pigeons are easier here than at Danau Ranamese since you have a good view to scan distant trees. I bumped into a Flore Jungle-Flycatcher but it seemed to me that all endems were more common at Danau Ranamese. I simply walked down on the southern slope along the main road, there seems to be very few trails so this might indeed be the best option.

**Access:** The forest starts on the southern slope after the pass which is about seven kilometers south of Ruteng along the main road leading south. I got an ojek there which took me about fifteen minutes. There are a few trucks taking people to Ruteng along this road but if you want to be sure to have a ride, ask your ojek to pick you up again when you are returning.

**Accommodation:** There are several options in Ruteng but keep in mind that many people traveling overland across Flores end up here at the end of the day so you might end up in a tight spot finding a room if you arrive very late.

### **Kisol**

Finding good lowland forest is not easy these days in Indonesia and although the forest patch close to Kisol is neither large nor in primary condition it is the easiest accessible place to catch up with the lowland birds of Flores and Sumbawa. There is a small dirt road that leads out of the village towards the sea which passes thru a stretch of forest good for birds like Flores Crow, Elegant Pitta and White-rumped Kingfisher. It is probably also the best site for Flores Hawk-eagle along the classic Flores-birding trail. Just as you exit the good forest there is a lookout towards the mountain, this was where I saw the eagle twice. The Crow, Pitta and Kingfisher are all reasonably common. This was the only site I saw Thick-billed Dark-eye. For those who are fans of nightbirding, Kisol offers a chance to find both Wallace's Scops Owl and Moluccan Scops Owl. I found the first one in the plantation area just before the good forest but it took me quite an effort to manage to see it. Mee's Nightjar seems easy in the same area.

**Access:** Take any bus out of Ruteng heading east along the trans-Flores highway. Kisol is about three hours away, situated along the main road.

**Accommodation:** The seminary in the middle of the village offers excellent rooms to visitors and they also serve plenty of food, a great place but if you are up for a Bintang sneak out to the priest living just outside the seminary!

### **Puarlolo**

Most of the forest on the hills above Labuanbajo has been cleared and although the road to Ruteng passes through many lush green areas it is mainly secondary forest and the bird life seems to be rather dull. However, around the Telecommunication station at Puarlolo there is a small patch of decent forest. Probably mainly regrowth, this area still holds quite a few good birds including the legendary Flores Monarch. Not discovered until 1975 this monarch is thought to be limited to sub-montane forest in western Flores and Puarlolo is the most easily accessible site for this charming bird.

**Access:** Puarlolo is situated on the main trans-Flores highway about forty kilometers from Labuanbajo. The telecommunication tower is visible from far away and should guide you not to go too far. At the turn off there is a sign for the tower. I got an ojek from Labuanbajo early in the morning and picked up at truck taking people on the back returning to Labuanbajo.

**Accommodation:** Since Puarlolo is easily accessed from Labuanbajo there is really no reason not to stay in L'bajo. However if you want to do some more thorough exploration you'll most likely be able to find some friendly locals who are willing to have you staying with them in one of the tiny villages in the vicinity of Puarlolo.

### **Potanwanka**

Much of the easily accessible lowland forest around Labuanbajo has been logged but along the Potanwanka road there is still a relatively large amount of good forest. Sadly all the forest close to the road has been heavily degraded and one can only imagine what this site must have been like when the intact forest visible in a distance went all the way up to the road. Nevertheless birding is productive and probably all the lowland species are present if only a bit tricky to see. I birded this site simply by walking the stretches of the road which looked the most interesting – i.e. that had the best forest nearby and scored pretty good during a couple of mid-day hours and two thirds of another day. Most importantly this is probably the most accessible site to connect with Wallace's Hanging Parrot which seems to be a rather widespread but tricky Flores endemic. I finally found mine by waiting by a fruiting tree. Many other interesting lowland birds were also seen including Flores Crow, Flores Minivet, White-rumped Kingfisher, Elegant Pitta and Bonelli's Eagle.

**Access:** From Labuanbajo go east along the main road till about five hundred meters after the bus station. Here make a left and go north on the road to Potanwanka, about three kilometers up along this road the scrub along the road becomes worthwhile to bird. I picked up an ojek going here and the walked back to the bus station to get back to Labuanbajo.

**Accommodation:** Plenty of options are to be found in Labuanbajo.

### **Labuanbajo**

South of the small fishing village of Labuanbajo there are some areas worthwhile to bird if you are waiting for your Komodo trip or the plane to Bali. Just north of New Bajo Beach Hotel, which is less than a kilometer south of the village there is a tiny patch of forest which seems to be good for Moluccan Scops Owl. Continuing south along the road you will get to an area with some small ponds and some grassland, here I had Javan Plover and Sunda Teal amongst a couple of other nice birds but nothing extraordinary.

**Access:** Just walk or hitch south along the road out of Labuanbajo.

**Accommodation:** Plenty of options in Labuanbajo.

### **Pulau Komodo**

The island of Komodo is world famous for its Dragons, these days there are several semi-tame beasts that hang out close to the landing points on both Pulau Komodo and Pulau Rinca. However, Komodo also offers probably the best chances in the world to connect with a Yellow-crested Cockatoo. Also there are good populations of Orange-footed Scrubfowl and Green Junglefowl around. I spent most time on my Komodo/Rinca trip snorkeling and only went on land for two quick visits. Rinca I visited during the hottest hours of the day and birding was quite dull. Komodo I birded during the second morning and the highlight was a number of Cockatoos at a roosting area not far away from the Ranger Station. On both islands it is required to have a guide and although they don't know much about birds they surely should be able to show you this roosting tree. Seabirding was surprisingly uneventful with only a phalarope as the reward.

**Access:** Several dive clubs organize two-day trips to Komodo and one-day trips to Rinca. By Indonesian standards they are pricy but I thought that it was good value.

**Accommodation:** I slept on the boat under a marvelous starlit sky.

### **Bali Barat NP**

Home of the last Bali Mynas, Bali Barat is world famous and even apart from the main attraction a nice place to bird. Most of the original wild birds are gone there days and the park rangers told me only three wild birds still lingered, however only two unbanded birds had been seen in the last couple of months. The situation is further complicated by the fact that one of the birds released last year breed with one of the wild ones and managed to raise one offspring. However, of the big group of captive-raised birds released last year only a few have been seen around the normal site lately and their whereabouts seem to be a mystery. All in all, if you really want to see a 100 % wild bird you are up to a tricky task, my guide had only seen one once during the month prior my visit. However the odds for seeing released birds seems pretty good. The main site for seeing the starling is the ranger's station located on the northern shore in the park. It is only accessible by a bumpy motorbike ride or by an

expensive boat ride. To go into the park it is compulsory to have a guide accompanying, most of them seems to know some about the birds and all should know where to find the Bali Mynas. Organizing the guiding is easy; just ask around when you have reached Gilimanuk. However it is extremely costly, I paid about 600.000 Rp, expect more if you want to go by boat. But there is not much of an option if you want to see the bird and if at least some of it goes towards conservation it is not too bad. I spent most time in the close vicinity of the ranger's station, the hills just above it and the look out tower and my guide seemed very reluctant to venture any further. Besides the Bali Myna this area also holds Black-winged Myna which is a superb bird, sadly facing a similar fate as the Bali Myna. Other possibilities in the area are Beach Thick-knee, Savanna Nightjar, Black-thighed Falconet and Green Junglefowl. There are several other areas to explore with more moist forest for the ones who have time to spend.

**Access:** Gilimanuk is the point where Java-bound ferries leave Bali, it is about three hours depending on traffic from Denpasar. There should be no problem to catch a bus going along this route since there are lots of people heading for Java. Once in Gilimanuk you are only allowed access inside the park in company with a guide, who can fix transport, you should be settled for starling spotting.

**Accommodation:** There are several options in Gilimanuk, I stayed at Sampurna Hotel, which was rather expensive but had good rooms.

### **Gunung Halimun**

Pristine forest is something very rare on Java today, there are just a few patches left on some of the volcanoes and the birds in these are under a high hunting pressure. Most birders visiting Java venture to the well known Gunung Gede to pick up their Javan endems but there are some birds which are very difficult at Gede and those who want to give White-bellied Fantail and White-chested Babbler a shot should seriously consider Gunung Halimun. This site boasts large extents of forest and even healthy populations of some larger mammals! Both the two main target birds are rather easy walking the road or the short trail. To add to these two Halimun is also an excellent site for both Javan Hawk-eagle and Javan Trogon, two species some birders find tricky at Gede. This site also holds some low elevation species you normally would not find at Gede. I simply walked the main road and the trail that starts in the small village and which runs to the research center. Nightbirding is supposed to be good but I was rained out. Beware that this is one of the wettest areas on Java and that a visit during the wet season would be difficult to arrange.

**Access:** From Bogor (about an hour by train from Jakarta) take a microlet to Ciawi – simply ask Parung Kuda bus terminal, there I asked for Gunung Halimun and got a bemo which dropped me off at the main HQ. Once the permit business was sorted I did the ride to Citalahab and the losmen by ojeking.

**Accommodation:** There is an excellent small lodge in Citalahab, it is simple and a bit pricey but since it is run by the village it offers a way for them to cash in from the forest by not cutting it down. There is also a camp site next to the lodge and it might be possible to stay at the research station a couple of kilometers back along the road.

### **Maura Anke**

A tiny wetland situated on the coast and now totally enclosed by Jakarta. Recent development have spoiled much of the surroundings which used to hold stuff like Javan Plover but it is still possible to see the threatened Javan Coucal along with more common but restricted range species like Caerulean Kingfisher and Bar-winged Prinia. On my visit I was fortunate to find two surprise birds, a Black-winged Starling, a very rare bird these days, and a small flock of Black-headed Ibises showing that the site still have a lot of potential. The state of the boardwalk was nothing but a joke but I was told that it was up for a big repair. During my visit on a Sunday, the site was visited by a lot of young Jakartans who were guided by a local birder – so even if the rare birds disappear this site has an educational value in area where natural habitat is becoming very rare.

**Access:** On this and previous visits I have taken a cab to Maura Anke, although the drivers have never known where to go – asking for Maura Anke will most likely take you to the neighboring residential area, I have always managed to find the way by asking some of the people living in that part of town. A cab from the Jalan Jaksa area (close to Gambir station) is about 20.000 Rp and it is about the same to go from there to the airport. Probably not too difficult to get here on public transport but it will most likely take you quite some time.

**Accommodation:** There is most likely places close to Maura Anke but leaving pre dawn it will not take you long to get there from anywhere in downtown Jakarta so it's probably less of a hustle to stay in the more touristy areas.

### **Diary**

**12.8** Reached Bangkok early in the morning after an uninspiring flight from Copenhagen, after a couple of hours wait I finally caught a plane to Jakarta. Arriving in Jakarta I only found one flight for Kupang – a late evening flight calling in Surabaya and not arriving until 10 pm. With no choice really I had to spend the remainder of the day at Soekarno-Hatta airport and arrived in Kupang feeling pretty naked after having traveled for more than thirty hours, to find all Hotels in town either closed or full. Finally found a room at 150 000 Rp, a total robbery with no value of money. Nevertheless, the receptionist knew a friend who could take me to Bipolo early next morning so everything was fine.

**13.8** Far too predictable, the guy who was supposed to pick me up was an hour late and I only arrived at Bipolo almost an hour after dawn. Still it felt great to be back birding in Asia again, almost a year since last time and of course it is always a special feeling the first morning in a total new area.

Starting somewhat slow with a couple of honeyeaters, I was thrilled to find one of my main targets for Bipolo – a Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon. First perched fairly distant and then flying over me this individual was the only bird I saw during my whole trip of this species specializing mainly on small islands. The morning progressed with good views of an Olive-shouldered Parrot and slowly I started to get familiarized with the new birds. When the sun had reached too high for any good bird activity I headed for the ponds which are situated just west of the forest. In the dried out paddies Australian Pratincoles were abundant and flocks of munias moved between the small bushes. In the ponds a number of species mainly occurring in Australia were noted, a flock of Royal Spoonbills, several White-faced Herons and a couple of Red-capped Plovers. Despite spending a lot of time walking through the paddies I failed in connecting with my main target, Timor Sparrow, a bird which has become scarce due to hunting, it is a popular pet and also seen as a pest to the crops. However it was nice to see my first Five-colored Munias. The main reward however birding at the paddies were a flock of three Masked Lapwings – a vagrant from Australia, with only a handful records in Asia. Mid-day I decided to move on to Camplong. Just at the foot of the hills this area still has some rather nice forest even though it has been disturbed. Arriving at the seminary which most people stays at I was informed that it was full at the moment, housing some government conference. However, the nuns asked around and found one of the gardeners who was happy to have me crashing in his place. It turned out that he and his family were some of the most hospitable hosts you could think of, not wanting anything for the room they lent me. Being really eager to explore this new area I spent the whole afternoon in the forest. Birding was excellent; several times I connected with Orange-banded Thrush, a superb stunner, good to see that there are still some areas where *Zootheras* are reasonably common. Recognizing one of the few calls I had studied up on, I was able to tape-lure a Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher, this would turn out to be my only sight of this interesting kingfisher. Other excellent birds included Black-banded Flycatcher and White-bellied Chat. While birding in the forest I met a man who came up to me and said “Burung Hantu” - owl! With a mix of Indonesian and a few words of English he explained that he had a pair of Southern Boobooks living next to his house and that he would be happy to show them to me at nightfall. Showing up at his house at dusk, really eager to see some owls I was met by the man being just as eager to show his owls. However, he was joined by a pack of dogs who were not happy to see a whitey in their territory and despite numerous attempts from my Indonesian friend to scare away his dogs they followed us barking and thus the Boobooks would not show. Instead I decided to go owling closer to the seminary but once again, just when having located a pair of Boobooks I managed to attract a pack of dogs. Feeling very disappointed, the Boobooks had seemed almost guaranteed, I went to bed hoping to have better luck in the morning.

**14.8** Woke up shortly after midnight as a Boobook was calling from a garden up the road. I quickly slipped into my clothes to pursue the owl, came very close to the bird but I could not spot it through the dense foliage. When I tried to tape it out it stopped calling abruptly and despite waiting it out for long time it wouldn't start calling again nor show itself, so I had to get back to bed

hoping for better luck in the morning. Got up two hours before dawn and walked the gravel road trying for owls. Had a couple calling but again my attempts to approach them was futile due to a pack of dogs, very frustrating, especially when you have spent some time trying to detour the dogs just to have them find you again. Had to give up the owls at dawn and birded mainly the same area as the day before, seeing mainly the same birds but after a while I connected with a small flock of Spot-breasted Dark-eyes which I had missed the day before. Put a lot of effort into seeing Buff-banded Thicket-warbler but the birds only called very rarely and no bird would respond to tape. Late in the morning I got bored from chasing the Thicket-warbler and I decided to keep up the flow and to go on to Gunung Mutis. A couple of ojeks and buses later saw me arriving in the small village of Fatumnasi where with the help from the villagers located Matiu and old man who keeps a losmen and guides people to the summit. After a quick meal we set off for some exploring of the lower slopes of the mountain, soon connecting with the abundant Island Thrush, often occurring in small flocks, I have never seen any other races this common of this widespread *Turdus*. The skies were darkening but just before the rain started we found a Black-backed Fruit-dove, an excellent fruit-dove and one of my target birds. As soon as the rain started the birding became very slow and the slopes covered in mist. However Matiu kept on running over the hills chasing parrots. As the time passed we decided to head back through a small valley which had more undergrowth than the other parts of the forest which was mainly very open in a strange park like fashion. Birding didn't improve though and I had probably not seen a single bird for twenty minutes when I put my bins on something moving quietly in a bush. I was almost shocked by the look of the bird, a splash of green and blue with a red tail – A Tricolored Parrotfinch! This was a bird I really did not expect to see and certainly made up for the lousy weather. The rest of the walk back to the village was uneventful but took quite a while since we had to cross a small stream several times and we arrived back at the losmen well after dark.

**15.8** This was the day for the summit and I had planned for an early start to reach the good forest, about four kilometers above Fatumnasi, by dawn. However it soon became obvious that we were not going to get going in time, first I had to wait for ages before Matiu had his breakfast, then for him to get his packed-lunch ready and finally we had to wait for two of his sons who apparently were also coming along. When we left Fatumnasi it was well after dawn and much good birding time was lost at the lower slopes where the forest is quite degraded. However Matiu kept a good pace, good for somebody of my age, incredible for someone who is almost 70! After little less than an hour of walking we reached the more interesting areas and soon connected with several small flocks of Olive-headed Lorikeets. In the dense undergrowth I spotted a Pygmy Wren-babbler. The birds here being of a very distinct race with a massive bill and a very different call. Most time was spent looking for pigeons but generally the birds were very wary and flew off just as you had spotted them. However I soon had got good views of several Metallic Pigeons but never managed more than bad flight views of a presumed Timor Black-pigeon. After a while we reached a big clearing and after that the trail started to climb more steeply, in this first big clearing I had a distant Timor Imperial Pigeon and Paddyfield Pipit was abundant. The higher parts of the

mountain gave very little birdwise and my hopes to try to tape-lure a Bush-warbler, using calls from the Russet type bird on Java, was nothing but a failure. Descending the summit however I connected once more with Timor Imperial Pigeon this time getting very good views. Otherwise the birding was uneventful and Matiu and his sons seemed eager to get back to the village. Once back I decided to spend the rest of the day's birding the lower slopes of the Mountain and had another Tricolored Parrotfinch and a Southern Boobook which came in to tape just above Fatumnasi – a great bird to see after having struggled in Camplong.

**16.8** Early morning saw me and Matiu chasing parrots on the slopes below Fatumnasi. Matiu believed that this area would be good since he had seen fruiting and flowering trees here. Very much so we soon found several groups of Iris Lorikeet and a couple of Olive-shouldered Parrots. Another highlight was three different Sunda Cuckoos seen – having heard several on higher altitudes this area seemed ideal actually see a bird since the forest was more open and easier to scan. Feeling happy having seen almost all of the target birds I said farewell to Matiu and his family who had been very hospitable to me (even though I didn't agree with his sons hunting honeyeaters with a slingshot during our summit trek) and left for Kupang. The trip back to Kupang went well and I spent the afternoon picking up a ticket for the next day to Waingapu, Sumba.

**17.8** I had arranged transport with a friend of a guy working in the reception at my hotel, unfortunately it turned out that his motorbike was one of the old really slow ones and it took much more time than I had anticipated reaching Bipolo. Still we arrived about half an hour after dawn and I went pretty much straight for the paddies picking up a stunning Orange-banded Thrush and a Black-backed Fruit-dove on the way. I then spent the next couple of hours running through the fields chasing munia flocks in hope of finding a Timor Sparrow amongst them. Birding was good with a couple of Broad-billed Flycatcher, a flock of Brown Quails and even more Masked Lapwings – this time a total of thirteen birds but not a sign of any Timor Sparrows. While looking for the Sparrows I spotted a raptor flying relatively low over the more wet areas. Getting good views of the bird I quickly identified it as a harrier mainly on its jizz, flying low with typical harrier style positioning of the wings. However the bird did not look like the resident Spotted Harrier, rather so, being all dark brown with paler brown in the primaries. Not finding anything in the book, I seemed to remember seeing birds like this in Australia several years back but could not remember their plumage 100%. Getting back to Sweden I subsequently IDed this bird with help of my Australian field guide and different books covering the raptors of the world as a Swamp Harrier, an intra-Australian migrant also resident in New Guinea. If accepted by the Indonesian rarities committee it will represent the first record for Timor and maybe also the first for Asia. However I struggled with the Sparrows and running short on time for my flight I had to get back to Kupang. An uneventful flight via Maumere saw me arriving in Waingapu where I immediately picked up transport on to Lewa. Arriving in Lewa I asked around for the house of the Harys whose home James Eaton and Rob Hutchinson had stayed at. After a while I found the place and when mentioning James and Rob to Kati she

welcomed me with a big hug and it didn't take long before there was a small meal waiting for me! Eager to get some birding done I picked up an ojek to the forest west of Lewa to do a couple of hours of nightbirding. Starting at the crash barrier at km 69 I tried the tape of Sumba Boobook – bang! On my first try there was a Sumba Boobook coming in to an open branch just ten meters away allowing superb views. However Little Sumba Boobook proved more difficult and I despite much hard work I never managed to spot any of the two birds calling from up in the dense foliage not far away from where I had seen the Sumba Boobook. Still happy with my mega views of one of the owl I went back to the Harys for a well deserved sleep.

**18.8** Eager to get my first daytime encounter with the Sumban avifauna, I left Lewa for the forest patch west of the village to arrive at km 69 for an hour and a half of owling before dawn. On the way to the forest, in the fields of high grass scrubs I had an Eastern Grass Owl which came flying silently, giving close views. In the forest I once again connected with Sumba Boobook but was still struggling with Little Sumba Boobook, only hearing a pair calling very close to me. However once the first sunlight came I soon forgot the frustration from the owls and was fully loaded up for some hard-core birding. As it turned out the first bird I found was a small flycatcher waiting to get heated up by the sun. Sitting on a relatively low exposed branch it gave excellent views and I was happy to id my first diurnal Sumba endemic – a Sumba Brown Flycatcher – the endem I thought was going to be the most difficult to find. The morning proceeded and after a somewhat slow start I began to pick up target bird after target bird, the ubiquitous Apricot-breasted Sunbirds and Yellow-spectacled White-eyes zipped between flowering trees and after some tense minutes an Elegant Pitta came hopping in to check out my imitations. In a tree with a few small fruits hanging over the road I spotted two Sumba Green Pigeons feeding silently and recognizing a call I was able to tape in a Red-necked Fruit-dove, probably one of my best doves of all time – absolutely fantastic plumage! Luckily I was to see several later in the day. Once the sun had climbed well over the trees the heat picked up and bird activity dropped drastically. A pair of Short-toed Eagles soared over the forest and small groups of Rainbow Lorikeet zipped by. In a high tree I spotted a Sumba Myzomela. During the day I also made several encounters with Chestnut-backed Thrushes – a stunning bird and also had to single Eclectus Parrots – a parrot that I only saw here at Lewa. Otherwise I picked up most target birds and by nightfall I was ready for another try for the owls. First I tape lured two Mee's Nightjar – a recently described species, originating from the Large-tailed complex. However the owls were still causing a lot of trouble and it took me the full evening to get some brief views and I still felt quite disappointed going back to Lewa at ten.

**19.8** To increase my chances for Sumba Hornbill and Yellow-crested Cockatoo I setted off for the more extensive forests around Watumbela. Traveling south on smaller gravel roads, the hour long motorbike trip was interrupted by several stops to look at Savanna Nightjars perching on the road. In total we saw no less than twelve birds along the road and arrived in Watumbela just before dawn. A relative to Cornelis living in the village agreed to guide me to go look for the Cockatoos, and after the usual long wait for

everything to get ready, the welcome coffee drunk, we left for the forest. Going straight to a clearing quite far away in the forest we hardly picked up any birds at all. Just as we arrived at a large clearing, the staked-out site to see the cockatoos in the morning, a single bird came flying over the forest far away. Eager to get better views we rushed across the clearing to see if it had perched, crossing the grassy clearing we flushed a Red-backed Buttonquail which gave decent flight views, a much unexpected bonus. We then continued chasing the Cockatoo, hearing it call further in the forest we darted in. But as we were making our way towards the calling bird we heard it fly off and failed in relocating it. We then spent a lot of time in the clearing trying to spot some more Cockatoos but without any luck. A Red-necked Fruit-dove put in a short appearance and after a while a Sumba Hornbill came flying across the clearing giving close flight views but no perched views. After about two hours we decided to try another clearing but still scored no luck despite a couple of hours on look-out. As the sun was getting really hot and since we had not brought any food we decided to go back to the village to fill up. After lunch we tried a different part of the forest and the guide showed me an old nesting tree, complete with cut out holds – the locals had taken the young – a Cockatoo makes a huge income for the poor farmers in the area and it is no wonder they have become so scarce. After a couple of hours hiking through the forest we both suddenly spotted a Cockatoo flying rather distantly, luckily it perched visible this time and we were able to approach it rather close and had prolonged views. Feeling satisfied from finally getting good views after a lot of hard work under the hot sun we headed back to the village and ironically picked up another Cockatoo on the edge of the forest this one also giving good views. Driving back towards Lewa I decided to spend the rest of the day in the forest west of Lewa and I had a couple of hours of nice birding although not connecting with my final target – Sumba Flycatcher. However night birding was very rewarding again with good prolonged views of Mee's Nightjar and Sumba Boobook but also I finally managed to get good views of Little Sumba Boobook, one of the birds of a duetting pair perched low in a dense shrub – a great relief after having spent so much time trying to spotlight this owl and never succeeding despite being very close to the calling birds several times. Feeling like I had deserved a good night's sleep I filled up on Kati's superb food before crashing in bed.

**20.8** Having got good views of all nightbirds I felt like sleeping in and did not arrive in the forest west of Lewa until just at dawn. Birding was quite similar to the last visits I had made. A few sightings of Red-naped Fruit-dove, one Myzomela and a few Rainbow Lorikeets but no sign of my last target bird at Lewa, Sumba Flycatcher. Still I had had some excellent birding and feeling very happy with all the birds I had seen I decided to leave for Waingapu around noon. A quick farewell from the Harys, who seemed very sad having me leaving, I boarded one of the boat-like busses screaming along the trans-Sumban highway. Arriving in Waingapu I still had about three hours of daylight left so I decided to leave directly for Yumbu to try for its avian grail, Sumba Buttonquail. After an hour of walking the grassy fields at Yumbu I had not flushed anything but a Purple Heron which had been standing in a dense shrub in the middle of the field (!) and tons of Australian Bushlarks so I was starting to lose my hopes for finding this elusive endem. However suddenly I

flush a buttonquail at close range which gave prolonged flight views, showing the typical facial pattern of Sumba Buttonquail. Further searching in the fields yielded a flock of Brown Quails but no more Buttonquails. Just before dusk I birded the mangroves on the coast which held Indonesian Honeyeater and a Green Heron. Spent the night exploring a lively market in Waingapu stocking up on some betel nut.

**21.8** Having the plan to catch the morning plane to Maumere, Flores, I did a hike to try finding the mud banks situated just outside Waingapu which have previously held some nice migrant waders during this time of the year. Somehow I must have misunderstood the directions however, because despite a long walk along the seashore I did not find any areas looking any good for waders. So I had to leave for the airport without having seen hardly any birds during the morning. Arriving at the airport I was informed that the plane to Kupang via Maumere was fully booked but with luck I might get a stand-by seat. However the luck I had had birding Sumba did not seem to help me with this and it turned out that the flight actually got filled up. After some quick thinking I decided to change plans and leave Sumba on the afternoon flight to Denpasar to do a smash-and-grab for Bali Myna. However it turned out that also the Denpasar flight was full, this made me feel a bit uneasy, I didn't really have any good birding to do close to Waingapu and there was a risk that the flights the next day also were going to be full. I decided to linger at the airport and again try to get a stand-by seat. After a couple of hours reading and chatting to the curious locals I was relieved to finally get a ticket just minutes before take off and arrived in Denpasar late in the afternoon. A quick ojek to the bus station and then a shakey bus ride, turning out to take much more time than my anticipated two hours, saw me arriving in Gilimanuk just before midnight. My fears about having problems organizing guiding at this time of the day were luckily not materialized, taking an ojek to a local hotel my driver asked me if I wanted to see the starlings and then did a stop by at his friend's place who turned out to work as a ranger and we decided to leave next morning at five.

**22.8** Against all odds, both I and the guide got up in time despite the late night the day before and in the dark we did the fairly rough dirt track to the starling hotspot by motorbike. At first I started to doubt if it really was going to be possible to travel on the dirt track in the dark, Many times my guide lost his direction among the many small tracks in the dry forest and a couple of times we got stuck in roots and I had to get off and walk several times. However the track got better as we made progress and we arrived at the ranger station shortly before dawn. Just before the first sunlight several Savanna Nightjar were calling and a pair of Collared Kingfisher called out at a maximum noise level. With very high expectations we began scanning the trees around the station for Bali Mynahs and Black-winged Starlings. Without any luck we pushed through the rather dense shrub which almost lacked anything resembling a trail. My guide's motivation, which seemed to be something like "If the birds are round we'll see them if they aren't we will not" bugged me a bit, if you pay that much money for half a day of guiding you expect somebody to really put in an effort. Instead I constantly had to try to motivate my guide that we should keep on searching. The first hours of birding still yielded some

nice birds like Black-thighed Falconet, Lemon-bellied White-eye and an unidentified Button-quail which only gave fleeting views. The after spending the early morning on the hill above the ranger station we descended and soon after returning to the ranger station we heard the very distinct calls of Bali Mynah. After a while we located two birds, both sadly banded birds, released earlier this year. Still it was superb to watch two free flying bird and both gave prolonged views, to me the Bali Mynah is a brilliant and very unique bird. Although it was somewhat of an anticlimax to see released birds after having dreamt of this bird for so long, I guess it is in principle not very different than seeing some of New Zealand's rare endemics which many of them have been relocated and kept in captivity or seeing Peregrine Falcons in Northern Europe where all young birds was raised in captivity during the eighties and early nineties. The next couple of hours we birded around the rangers station and the look out tower but sadly the wind picked up quite a bit and it was soon very windy and nothing more of note was seen. Thanks to some negotiating I managed to prolong my stay in the park till two in the afternoon instead of noon but eventually it was time to turn back to Gilimanuk. The ride back was less strenuous than going the other way in the dark and we had three Green Junglefowl males giving nice views along the way. Back in Gilimanuk I settled my bills and took the first bus heading for Denpasar, where I stayed at a cheap but rather nice losmen away from the touristy areas and had some cooked food for the first time in two days, birding in the fast lane is not like the usual vacation!

**23.8** Having already picked up a ticket for Labuanbajo on my arrival to Bali I had little to worry about and arrived at the airport at eight after a reviving sleep. Once in Labuanbajo I picked up an ojek for the bus station, determined to make it to Kisol before nightfall. Having hardly got more than a kilometer from the airport we were stopped by a Kijang which was taking two loaded Javanese lawyers to Ruteng and offered me to tag along for 40.000 Rp, a decent price for a comfortable ride and a ride most likely to be faster than the bus (Note that Kijangs most likely are much more expensive, the two Javanese paid quite a lot to charter the car). With one stop for some excellent Masakan Padang and one for changing a flat tire we arrived in Ruteng around half past two and I started to realize that it would be difficult get any cheap transport to Kisol and still make it before sunset. So instead I changed my plans and settled for Danau Ranamese. A quick ojek ride saw me arriving at the lake, everything being covered in thick mist. After a quick chat with the guy working as some kind of caretaker at the totally worn out concrete resort, I had managed to get hold of a draughty room for the night at a mere 20.000 Rp, not exactly value for money but I was not planning to spend much time sleeping, I had an *Otus* to look for. Birding along the road till sunset gave me a quick introduction to Flores birding but the thick mist made birding very frustrating, silhouettes were the only thing visible of birds just twenty meters away. Yet the last hours of the day yielded my first White-rumped Kingfisher and excellent views of one Flores Jungle-flycatcher, two findings which kept my spirit high while waiting for the dark to come and for some serious owling. Soon after dusk a distant Wallace's Scops-owl started calling. But despite several tries with playback it would not budge and never came close. However after a while the holy grail of Danau Ranamese made its presence

clear, just a couple of hundred meters away from the resort a Flores Scops-owl was calling. A mystery bird only seen about five times before and with a very odd, almost non-birdlike call only first identified and recorded by Robert Hutchinson and James Eaton a couple of months before my visit, the Flores Scops-owl is without doubt one of the least known Indonesian birds. Having very kindly been provided the first ever recordings by Rob Hutchinson, this owl was one of my main targets of the trip and I was determined to give it a good try. But, hearing an owl and seeing one is two separate stories and despite several hours trying to lure two different pairs of owls out from the extremely dense low trees I never got even a glimpse of them. So well into the night I decided to call it a day and give up for the moment.

**24.8** Not feeling too down from the failure of last night I got up at four to give the owl a second chance. However the same pattern as last night occurred once more, several times the two birds of a pair I had located would come in close to playback but never come out on any good perches. To add to the blues, my batteries were running out and I could only use the torch for short intervals. So still without any views of the Scops I saw dawn come and this time the skies were all clear and the forest soon started to boil with activity from numerous species. Several Brown-capped Fantails flickered past and the superb calls of Bare-throated Whistlers echoed from the slopes of Gunung Ranaka. An energetic Russet-capped Tesia was moving in the undergrowth close to the road and several small groups of Flores Minivets and Yellow-browed Dark-eyes moved through the canopy. A hike of a couple of kilometers along the trail to Gunung Ranaka yielded a White-browed Shortwing, plenty of Metallic Pigeons and a White-rumped Kingfisher. Flores Leaf-warbler was rather common and several Cuckoo-doves were seen, sadly however most of them escaped not giving any chances for IDing. A Common Coot was swimming in the crater lake, a sighting which must be quite remarkable this time of year. Around lunch-time I felt very happy with what I had caught up with so far and decided to keep up the momentum and move on to Kisol for some lowland birding and to stock up with batteries for some more owling! So I flagged down one of the ubiquitous buses screaming past along the trans-Flores Highway and after riding for two hours hanging on the side of the bus I found my self in the charismatic village of Kisol. Having heard that the Seminary is the place to stay at, I was glad to find that I had been dropped off next to the church. I walked up to it and was warmly welcomed by the priest who within a couple of minutes had offered me to stay in his house and had poured me a cold Bintang! However when he understood that I was to spend early mornings and late nights looking for Burung Hantu, he pointed out that maybe it was better that I stayed in the Seminary which was situated just next-door, where there was several people speaking good English. The priests working at the seminary actually turned out to be superb hosts, they offered me a very nice room with a private mandi, provided me with ample amounts of excellent food and were all very interested in hearing everything about Sweden, my views of Indonesia and about the birds in the area. However being extremely eager to go explore the Kisol birding I set off through the village picking up some batteries for my torch along the way and headed for the patch of lowland forest that is still present just outside of the village. During the last hours of the day I caught up with a couple of Flores Crows and

a Short-toed Eagle. Along the trail I met two men with a mist net and a freshly caught Chestnut-capped Thrush – a sad sight and something that felt like a bad omen, this was one of my target birds at Kisol. Some quick owling was futile and I decided to head back to the seminary to join the evening meal and instead give the owls a good try next morning.

**25.8** Dodging the pack of dogs sleeping just outside my room and climbing the fence enclosing the seminary I set off for an early start and headed straight for the forest. The first hour I tried a clearing to the north of the banana plantation but without any luck. With still about an hour before the daylight I decided to try the area just where the road meets the forest and picked up both Moluccan and Wallace's Scops Owls calling but sadly none of them were being cooperative and I ended up not getting any views despite the fact that one of the seemed to come rather close. However just before dawn I picked up a Mee's Nightjar perched on the road which gave excellent views and soon the dawn chorus with White-rumped Kingfishers and Elegant Pittas set in. Overall the early morning birding was pretty good with tesias, kingfishers, several minivets and a couple of Pale-shouldered Cicadabirds. Some Variable Goshawks gave excellent views and a couple of hours of watch-out for raptors yielded two distant views of a Flores Hawk-eagle and rather casual birding during the afternoon gave a couple of Golden-rumped Flowerpeckers and a Black-fronted. As dusk was coming I picked up my third Elegant Pitta for the day and went back to the most promising area from the mornings owling. After a tape-dueling a bit with a Wallace's Scops-owl I actually managed to get some brief views of one bird and although they weren't very good I still felt happy having seen it even briefly and hiked back to the seminary for a filling evening meal.

**26.8** Still wanting better views of Wallace's Scops Owl I decided to once more force my self to get up painfully early and hike back to the area where I had seen the owl yesterday. However once more the owl eluded me and dawn saw me once more without any owls spotlighted during my early morning adventures. Since I already had seen most specialties of the area I focused on finding the three birds I thought were most important, Flores Green Pigeon, Chestnut-capped Thrush and Thick-billed Dark-eye. However this proved to be quite some tricky birds. The morning slowly passed and since I had decided to leave Kisol for Danau Ranamese I was getting a bit stressed to at least come up with something. At about ten I finally connected with a small flock of Dark-eyes which gave excellent views, at least one new bird for the day! Other good birds during the morning included my only seen Flyeater of the trip and several Flores Crows. Feeling quite happy with my accomplishment, I knew beforehand that the two other birds were going to be tricky, I said farewell to the priests at the Seminary and boarded at Ruteng-bound bus. A couple of hours later I had left the heat of Kisol behind and was once more back to the chilly slopes above Danau Ranamese. However this afternoon the fog was just about to give way for splendid sunshine and I decided to bird the main road. This was amply rewarded with no less than six (!) White-rumped Kingfishers, one Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon and a superb juvenile Rufous-bellied Eagle passing low overhead several times. The juveniles are almost as pale as a Flores Hawk-eagle and are nothing but

extraordinary raptors. Other nice birds during the afternoon included a cooperative Pygmy Wren-babbler, the first Little Pied Flycatcher of the trip and a Flores Jungle-flycatcher. Armed with fresh batteries I once more gave the Flores Scops a shot but again this try ended up futile despite getting at least one bird of a pair to perch in a big tree next to the road several times, I was losing my motivation after a total of six nightbirding sessions yielding only a brief view of Wallace's Scops. Still there was one more chance and I crashed to bed to catch some sleep before my next owling session.

**27.8** A chilly night-breeze met me as I dragged myself up for one last try for the owl. Again a pair of Flores Scops responded quite quickly to my recording but this time none of the two birds seemed very eager to check me out and stayed quite far from the road. With about half an hour left before dawn I gave up and decided to try some other place, slowly I started to walk up the road and after a while reached the place where I had heard a distant pair calling on my first night. Here I got an immediate response to my playback and I was thrilled to get another chance after having first given up. After a while however it became clear to me that the bird calling the closest just wouldn't budge, it seemed to be calling from not very deep inside the dense bush but still deep enough to make it impossible to spot. Getting desperate with the sky already fairly light I decided to dive into the undergrowth and just hope to strike. When looking for a good place to dart into from I was chocked to actually find a small overgrown trail that led into the dense trees, from the path you actually had a good view of the lower canopy of the short trees and still hearing the owl calling in front of me I put on my spot, it was just a matter of minutes before it was going to be too light to use it and my pulse was pumping like German rave music. Soon after I started to scan the trees I suddenly found a small rufousish owl staring at me. Perched relatively low only about ten meters away from me I gave brilliant views for a couple of minutes before it got bored and shot off into the bush. Being perhaps only the tenth person or so seeing a living Flores Scops Owl I felt very privileged and even if I would not see a single new bird on the rest of the trip it would still feel like a success. Having seen most other birds that Danau Ranamese had to offer I quickly packed my stuff and hitchhiked to Golo Losang to witness the famed morning chorus of Bare-throated Whistlers and to get better views of Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon which I had only got fleeting views of flying past so far. After a little more than an hour riding on a motorbike in the morning chill I arrived at the pass and started to walk down on the southern slope which holds more forest. Still the whole area has been very degraded and the area does not come close to Danau Ranamese in terms of bird richness and natural beauty. However, the architecture of the southern slope, being somewhat like a huge amphitheater makes it a spectacular place to take in the spectacular song of Bare-throated whistler. Probably not having a higher density here, than in for example Danau Ranamese, the openness of the forest makes it possible to hear birds from far away. During the morning I heard lots of whistler but only saw one bird well. The good views of the forest give a good opportunity to scan the canopy of doves and during the morning I picked up a few Dark-backed Imperial Pigeons, another highlight of the morning was a Flores Jungle-Flycatcher. Having been lucky with getting a ride quickly in the morning it was out of luck when trying to get back to Ruteng and ended up

walking back up the pass and all the way back to the town. After having filled up with some Masakan Padang I picked up a bus to Labuanbajo and spent the rest of the day traveling over the hills of western Flores. Due to numerous stops fixing punctures, picking up cattle etc. we did not arrive in Labuanbajo until nine in the evening and almost every place in town was sold out due to a installation ceremony of the local government but after having sneaked around town for about an hour I finally found a nice but expensive bungalow at one of the diving places in town.

**28.8** Despite the success with the Flores Scops I still had two endemics left to see on Flores. The main goal of the morning was the Flores Monarch, a bird only discovered as recently as 1975. Mainly distributed in the lower mountains of western Flores, the only easily accessible site is at Puarlolo. Being situated just on the trans-Flores highway this is however a very easy site to reach and almost everybody seems to have little problem finding the Monarch. My plan for the morning was to ojek to Puarlolo and then spend as much time needed to connect with the Monarch. However I directly got into some problem, it turned out that none of the frequent ojek drivers normally harassing you to get a job were interested in going up the mountains, it took me quite some time before I found a young guy who finally agreed at taking me. However arriving at Puarlolo I quickly found one of the faint trails leading down into the forest from the access road to the telecommunication tower and when playing the tape a distant monarch immediately replied. But it seemed like I was too far away to lure the bird to come check me out and since the forest seemed almost impenetrable I decided to try a different trail instead. This time I was more fortunate and when playing the tape I got an upset Flores Monarch come show itself very well. After a while it was joined by another adult bird and one juvenile. All three gave excellent views and after a while a small group of Crested Dark-eyes moved through, a bird that I had missed so far. Happy with the results of the morning, having seen both my target birds in less than an hour I walked back to the main road and had some breakfast while waiting for a ride. My plan was to head back towards Labuanbajo and bird the Potanwanka road which is situated about ten kilometer outside L'bajo. Close to this stretch of road there is still some nice forest and even though it is only secondary forest next to the road some nice birds still linger close to it and it is nowadays a good place to catch up with Wallace's Hanging Parrot, a bird which although probably not all that rare still is quite tricky to catch up with. Arriving a bit late at about nine the activity was pretty low and the heat was quite pressing. After a couple of hours I had picked up a White-rumped Kingfisher, an Elegant Pitta and the first Dollarbird for the trip but not even a sniff of any Hanging-parrots. Some time between one and two in the afternoon I ran out of energy, the sun having finished me totally and I decided to go back to L'bajo to organize with my Komodo trip and to book a flight to Bali four days later. Some leisurely evening birding along the road leading south to the Dolat area was rather uneventful and I only made a short try for nightbirds close to the New Bajo Beach Hotel and picked up a Mee's Nightjar.

**29.8** Having booked a trip to Komodo for the following two days and a flight to Bali the day after this was my last full day birding on Flores and therefore also my last chance at seeing Wallace's Scops Owl. My plan was to return to the

Potanwanka road and simply walk it back and forth till I bumped into one. Once again I had some trouble getting an ojek but still arrived in time just before dawn. Even though the roadside forest is very degraded the presence of a lot of intact forest further away still makes the early hour quite exciting with calling White-rumped Kingfishers and Elegant Pittas as well as Great-billed Parrot flybys. However the morning passed rather uneventful, a nice male Green Junglefowl being the main highlight as well as three Flores Crows, but not a sniff of any Hanging-parrots. By lunch-time I ran into a big group of locals having a picnic on the road, they were very intrigued by finding a westerner walking along the road and invited me to join their feast, not wanting to disappoint them I grabbed some tasty rice-in-banana-wraps but told them that I couldn't stay long, had to go look for burung nuri kecil – the small parrot! After a couple of hours in the unforgiving sun I decided to have a rest in the shade by a tree with small fruits, The bird activity was close to zero and this seemed like a good spot and at the same time I could get out of the sun for a while. At first the fruiting tree was quite dead except for a couple of sunbirds and flowerpeckers zipping by, but then suddenly a small plump bird flew into the tree and started to climb around on the branches chasing fruit, a Hanging-Parrot! The lone bird gave good views for about ten minutes before it took off again and zoomed away into the valley below. Feeling very happy having got great views of this somewhat tricky endem and relieved not having to chase it during the morning before the Bali flight, I was totally filled with energy again and did not feel any of the tiredness from the sun any longer. I started to walk back to the main road and it turned out I was on somewhat of a roll, scoring both a pair of Hill Mynahs a quite rare bird in the Nusas these days and always a nice bird to see as well as a displaying pair of Bonelli's Eagles which gave superb views flying overhead of me several times. Feeling I had deserved a cold drink I hitched back to Labuanbajo had a couple of beers on my terrace watching the sun set over the Flores Sea.

**30.8** Having organized a two-day trip to Komodo and Rinca, I was feeling eager to go exploring the reefs, search for dragons and cockatoos and to look for seabirds on the way when I boarded the small fishing boat which I had chartered for the trip. Having paid 700.000 Rp for the trip it felt like a lot of money but on the other hand having a boat for two days including three (!) people taking care of it seemed like quite a luxury so I guess the value was pretty good for the deal. Passing out of the harbor I scanned frantically for my first seabird, this time of the year should be good in these waters but besides terns I only spotted a couple of groups of Lesser Frigatebirds during the day, quite a disappointment. However on arriving to Rinca Island I had several superb views of the Dragons. Arriving around mid day the heat was pretty bad and it made the dragons quite passive allowing some nice photo opportunities. A walk around the island yielded a few Orange-footed Scrubfowl and Green Junglefowls but was otherwise fairly quiet. Feeling happy with the dragons I spent the rest of the day snorkeling in the waters between Rinca and Komodo and we then set anchor just outside Komodo next to a small mangrove islet which held a Common Sandpiper and a juvenile White-bellied Sea-eagle, and I spent the night contemplating my trip so far under a mind-blowing starlit sky.

**31.8** Starting just at dawn we sailed the short distance to the rangers' station on Komodo and I registered and was given a ranger as a guide for the morning, which is compulsory. Being asked if I wanted to do a long walk or a short I naturally chose a long one and my guide set off on a walk to one of the big hills. When telling him that I really wanted to see Burung Kakatua he just replied oh no problem, so I figured that he'd take me to a good area. However when after having walked for over an hour and there had been no sign from any Cockatoos and my guide started telling me that maybe we'll see the bird I felt a bit uneasy, and asked him if there was not a good place where roosting birds hung out during the morning. Then he suddenly changed his mind and said that there is a place where you are guaranteed to see the Cockatoos but said it was in the opposite direction. So after having politely but in a very determined way pointed out that I really wanted to see the Cockatoos we changed direction and hiked back again. This time we headed for a small hill not too far away from the rangers station and once there we soon spotted several Cockatoos flying around. After a while we managed to approach a small group and got excellent views. The morning also yielded several huge dragons, junglefowls, scrubfowls, several Black-naped Orioles and an unidentified buttonquail. After some final views and photos of an impressive dragon we took off again and spent a couple of hours at a nearby reef for some snorkeling before it was time to head back for Labuanbajo again. The trip back was quite uneventful despite much work being put on seabirds. However a Red-necked Phalarope was a nice surprise. Feeling happy about the last two days adventure we arrived back in the harbor around four and I hung out on my terrace for the rest of the day refilling my water-levels and packing my stuff for next day's flight.

**1.9** Having had a lazy evening the night before I got up early to try the nightbirding around New Bajo Beach Hotel in the morning instead of in the evening hoping that there would be less traffic on the road by then. Luckily the area was totally deserted and when playing my prerecorded Moluccan Scops Owl I immediately got a response. Relatively quickly I managed to locate the bird and got good views of it calling from a relatively high branch. This felt like a nice ending to my Nusas trip and when the sun rose I already felt happy with my last day of birding in the Lesser Sundas for this time. But I still had a couple of hours before my flight so I continued to walk south along the road towards the mysterious Dolat area. In some sources this is described as a waterbird heaven with loads of bird while others report it as being rather quiet. Most of the area seemed to have been converted into agriculture but a small dam close to the road held a small flock of Sunda Teals and a lone Javan Plover, a quite rare bird in the Lesser Sundas. Other good birds included good numbers of munias, with five Five-colored and about fifty Pale-headed Munias, a juvenile Shining Bronze Cuckoo and about twenty Island Collared Doves. All too soon it became time for me to return to my bungalow and pick up my bag and then to catch the Bali flight. On Bali I immediately picked up a ticket onwards to Jakarta and I found myself back in Jakarta again less than three weeks after having boarded my Timor-bound flight to start my adventures. However I still had some days left before I had to return to Scandinavia and I intended to use that time to catch up with some Javan endems that I had missed on my last visit. My plan was to go to Gunung

Halimun a volcano that still hosts some pristine forest. So after having arrived in Jakarta I took a Bogor bus hoping to quickly get to this lovely city just outside Jakarta in time to enjoy its superb atmosphere. But I had not realized that before getting to Bogor we first had to dodge the Jakarta traffic jams and what should have been a two hour trip tops took about six hours and the lovely market streets in Bogor was rather deserted on my arrival.

**2.9** Getting off on an early start a number of Bemos, Microlets and finally an ojek for the last bumpy kilometers, saw me arriving at Gunung Halimun around noon after having sorted out some permit business at the head quarters. Eager to go out birding I dumped my bag in the small losmen and directly headed out on the trails. Despite being midday, the forest was very birdy and the set of birds a totally different as compared to the last couple of days. Already in only the second feeding party I connected with my main target bird – a White-bellied Fantail, a Javan endemic which has gotten quite scarce due to trapping and which is nowadays very difficult to see at the main birding site in western Java, Gunung Gede. Other good birds in the feeding flocks included a Sunda Warbler and a small flock of Sunda Minivets and several Blue Nuthatches. Several White-bibbed Babblers put on great show when they started their alarm calls on spotting me. Unfortunately the afternoon brought rain and the rest of the day was too wet to get any good birding done, the visibility was simply too low. The rain also stopped my plans for some nightbirding.

**3.9** The new day brought superb weather and it felt great waking up next to a pristine rainforest. Some early morning nightbirding along the main road was futile but the dawn chorus with the first rays of light was superb. Walking along the road I ran into a White-crowned Forktail in the first light and the early morning also brought a small group of White-chested Babblers, my second target bird, a species mainly distributed in western Java and which have suffered badly from forest destruction. The late morning brought several feeding flocks including great birds like Rufous Piculet, Crested Jay, Crimson-winged Woodpecker, Chestnut-fronted Shrike-babbler and Yellow-bellied Warbler. Also in the end of one feeding party I found a Javan Trogon, always a grand bird. Having made a deal with the ojek guy from last day to meet for a return trip by twelve I decided to spend my last hour and a half on the look out for Javan Hawk-eagle situated on the Tea-plantation just above the village. After little action except for a Crested Serpent Eagle a Javan Hawk-eagle came soaring above the forest after about three-quarters and gave distant but prolonged views, a nice finish to my visit to Gunung Halimun, surely a site with tons of potential. The rest of the day was spent traveling back to Bogor through the dense traffic and then on a train back to Jakarta.

**4.9** Having half a day to spend before my flight back to Scandinavia the choice of what to do was easy. Maura Anke is always a nice place to visit and wetlands always brings a chance of something odd. So after some confusion with my taxi driver who seemed very curious why somebody would like to go from Jalan Jaksa in the center of Jakarta to a harbor suburb area at six in the morning, I arrived at this tiny wetland which I actually have visited twice before. To my surprise the area was actually quite different to my last visit a

year ago, the surrounding areas which used to be good for birding was now almost totally under construction and the worn-out board-walk had almost totally been removed. However upon arriving I met a local birder who told me that the site was to be renovated and that next year both the marsh and the board walk are supposed to be in better shape. We spent some time scanning the marsh for Javan Coucal but without any reward. The Indonesian birder left after a while to meet a group of school kids he was supposed to guide and just shortly after he left I spotted a odd white bird flying over the marsh, putting my bins on it I was most surprised to notice that it was actually a Black-winged Starling – a major rarity among the resident birds on Java and a bird destined to follow the same path as Bali Mynah. Sadly it disappeared into one of the areas with dense trees and after waiting for it to reappear for quite a while I gave up and decided to go exploring the areas closer to the coast. On my way there walking along the edge of the marsh I had a flock of fourteen Black-headed Ibis flying low over-head of me, actually my first ever! Having gone to Maura Anke just to spend the morning with some casual birding I had got two lifers in just little more than two hours of birding. Other nice birds at the marsh included two Caerulean Kingfishers which gave brilliant views, Racket-tailed Treepies and several Scarlet-headed Flowerpeckers. At about eleven while on look-out over the marshes the Black-winged Starling came flying once more and this time landed on an exposed branch giving prolonged views. A superb ending to this trip and I then caught a taxi to the airport and took my plane leaving at one for Bangkok and then a night flight took me back to cold Scandinavia again.



*A Wallace's Hanging Parrot feasting on fruit.*

## Birdlist

1. **Lesser Frigatebird** *Fregata ariel*  
Flores: A total of about fifty birds seen during the Komodo & Rinca trip.
2. **Little Pied Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*  
Flores: One bird in the wetlands south of Labuanbajo.
3. **Little Black Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*  
Java: Eleven birds at Maura Anke.
4. **Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*  
Sumba: One bird flushed, hiding in a bush, while looking for Sumba Buttonquail at Yumbu.  
Flores: One bird seen along the Ruteng - Labuanbajo road.  
Java: One bird at Maura Anke.
5. **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinera*  
Java: A few at Maura Anke.
6. **Great Egret** *Casmerodius albus*  
Timor: About fifty birds at Bipolo.  
Java: Noted at Maura Anke.
7. **Intermediate Egret** *Mesophoyx intermedia*  
Timor: About fifteen birds at Bipolo.
8. **White-faced Heron** *Egretta novaehollandiae*  
Timor: A total of twelve birds in the ponds at Bipolo on first visit and 25 on the second.
9. **Javan Pond-heron** *Ardeola speciosa*  
Flores: One bird at the small wetland south of Labuanbajo and one bird close to the junction leading to the Potawanka Road.  
Bali: One bird seen along the road to Gilimanuk.  
Java: A few at Maura Anke.
10. **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*  
Timor: One bird at Bipolo.
11. **Pacific Reef-Egret** *Egretta sacra*  
Flores: A few seen on the crossing to Pulau Komodo.
12. **Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*  
Sumba: A few noted throughout.  
Flores: A few seen in paddies.  
Bali: Noted along the road to Gilimanuk.
13. **Black-crowned Night-heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*  
Java: About ten birds at Maura Anke.

14. **Little Heron** *Butorides striatus*  
Timor: One at Bipolo.  
Sumba: One bird at Yumbu.  
Java: A few at Maura Anke.
15. **Black-headed Ibis** *Threskiornis melanocephalus*  
Java: A flock of fourteen birds at Maura Anke.
16. **Royal Spoonbill** *Platalea regia*  
Timor: 18 bird on first visit and nine on second visit to Bipolo.  
Seemingly a regular visitor to Bipolo, could they actually be breeding somewhere in the Nusas?
17. **Pacific Baza** *Aviceda subcristata*  
Flores: One bird at Kisol.
18. **Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*  
Sumba: One bird in Lewa.
19. **Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus*  
Timor: Two birds at Bipolo  
Sumba: One bird at Yumbu and a few seen while traveling back and forth to Lewa.
20. **White-bellied Sea-Eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster*  
Flores: Two birds seen at Pulau Komodo.
21. **Short-toed-Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus*  
Sumba: Two birds west of Lewa.  
Flores: One bird seen late one afternoon at Kisol.
22. **Brown Goshawk** *Accipiter fasciatus*  
Timor: One immature bird at Gunung Mutis  
Sumba: Two birds at Watumbela
23. **Variable Goshawk** *Accipiter novaehollandiae*  
Flores: Two birds seen at Kisol.  
Another *Accipiter* seen at the Potawanka Road was most likely of this species but despite very good views never really convinced me, showing that *Accipiter*-identification is never easy.
24. **Crested Serpent Eagle** *Spilornis chela*  
Java: Two birds at Gunung Halimun.
25. **Bonelli's Eagle** *Hieraaetus fasciatus*  
Flores: A pair put on a great show one mid-afternoon at the Potawanka Road.  
Very patchily distributed in SE Asia, the Nusas seems to house a good population of Bonelli's Eagle.

26. **Rufous-bellied Eagle** *Hieraaetus kienerii*  
Flores: One stunning young bird seen very well while flying low over the forest and twice over head one afternoon at Danau Ranamese.  
Note the risk to confuse young Rufous-bellied Eagles and Flores Hawk-Eagles.
27. **Javan Hawk-eagle** *Spizaetus bartelsi*  
Java: One bird seen at Gunung Halimun.
28. **Swamp Harrier** *Circus approximans*  
Timor: One immature bird seen well hunting over the grasslands at Bipolo.  
According to Coates & Bishop this could represent the first record for Timor.
29. **Flores Hawk-Eagle** *Spizaetus floris*  
Flores: One bird seen twice rather distant over the slopes of Gunung Pacandeki, Kisol.  
Flores Hawk-Eagle is a recent split from Changeable Hawk-Eagle.
30. **Black-thighed Falconet** *Microhierax fringillarius*  
Bali: One bird at Bali Barat NP.
31. **Spotted Kestrel** *Falco moluccensis*  
Timor: Two at Gunung Mutis.  
Sumba: One at Yumbu.  
Flores: Three at Kisol.
32. **Sunda Teal** *Anas gibberifrons*  
Timor: 40 at Bipolo.  
Flores: 25 at wetlands south of Labuanbajo.
33. **Pacific Black Duck** *Anas superciliosa*  
Flores: Up to about 75 birds seen in Danau Ranamese, numbers varying quite much on different time indicating that there probably are more suitable areas for waterbirds nearby?
34. **Orange-footed Scrubfowl** *Megapodius reinwardt*  
Sumba: A couple of birds seen in the forest west of Lewa.  
Flores: About five birds seen on Pulau Komodo and Rinca.
35. **Brown Quail** *Coturnix ypsilophora*  
Timor: About ten birds seen at Bipolo.  
Sumba: A group of five birds flushed at Yumbu.
36. **Red Junglefowl** *Gallus gallus*  
West Timor: Gunung Mutis; 1♂ & a pair on 24/05.  
Supposedly an introduced species.
37. **Green Junglefowl** *Gallus varius*

Sumba: One bird seen west of Lewa, more birds heard.  
Flores: Common on Pulau Komodo. A few at Potawanka Road and one at Kisol.  
Bali: A total of four birds seen at Bali Barat.

38. **Red-backed Buttonquail** *Turnix maculosa*

Sumba: One bird at a grassland/scrub clearing in the forest at Watumbela.

39. **Sumba Buttonquail** *Turnix everetti*

Sumba: One bird seen at Yumbu. Flying quite long distances when flushed it was possible to get reasonable long views while in flight, seemingly extremely difficult to see on the ground.

40. **Barred Buttonquail** *Turnix suscitator*

Flores: Three birds seen out in the open along the road at Danau Ranamese early one morning.

*Turnix sp.*

Flores: One bird flushed on Pulau Komodo.

Bali: One bird at Bali Barat.

Both birds most likely Barred Buttonquails but neither seen good enough to ID.

41. **Common Coot** *Fulica atra*

Flores: One bird seen on Danau Ranamese, apparently this bird had been present since June.

A vagrant in Wallacea.

42. **Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

Flores: Two birds on Danau Ranamese.

Java: A few at Maura Anke.

43. **Purple Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio*

Java: Noted at Maura Anke.

44. **White-browed Crake** *Poliolimnas cinera*

Timor: Two birds at Bipolo.

45. **White-breasted Waterhen** *Amauornis phoenicurus*

Java: A couple at Maura Anke.

46. **Masked Lapwing** *Vanellus miles*

Timor: Three birds seen on first visit at thirteen on second.

No records from Timor are mentioned in Coates & Bishop but some Dutch birders had seen Masked Lapwings at Bipolo a couple weeks before.

47. **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Flores: About five birds at the small wetland south of Labuanbajo, one bird on Pulau Komodo.

Java: One bird at Maura Anke.

48. **Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*  
Flores: Two birds at the small wetland south of Labuanbajo.
49. **White-headed Stilt** *Himantopus leucocephalus*  
Timor: Eight birds at Bipolo.  
Flores: One bird south of Labuanbajo.  
This species is a split from Black-necked Stilt, occurring in east Indonesia and Australasia.
50. **Red-capped Plover** *Charadrius ruficapillus*  
Timor: About 15 birds seen at Bipolo, most of them in a somewhat overgrown pond.
51. **Javan Plover** *Charadrius javanica*  
Flores: One bird at the small wetland south of Labuanbajo.
52. **Australian Pratincole** *Stiltia isabella*  
Timor: Common at Bipolo.
53. **Great Crested-Tern** *Sterna bergii*  
Flores: Seen regularly during the boat trip to PR and Pulau Komodo especially near land.
54. **Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*  
Timor: Two birds at Bipolo.
55. **Metallic Pigeon** *Columba vitiensis*  
Timor: About forty birds seen in total at Gunung Mutis.  
Flores: A few seen at Danau Ranamese.  
Quite a lot large dark pigeons were flushed while walking the Danau Ranamese-Poco Ranaka trail, most of these were probably Metallic Pigeon but there might have been a few Dark-backed Imperial-Pigeons among them.
56. **Island Collared Dove** *Streptopelia bitorquata*  
Flores: A few seen south of Labuanbajo.
57. **Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis*  
Timor: Fairly common.  
Sumba: Fairly common.  
Flores: Fairly common.  
Java: A few at Maura Anke.
58. **Barred Cuckoo-Dove** *Macropygia unchall*  
Flores: A few at Danau Ranamese.  
Quite a few Cuckoo-Doves seen at Danau Ranamese with only a few giving good enough views for IDing.
59. **Ruddy Cuckoo-Dove** *Macropygia emiliana*

Flores: A couple of birds at Danau Ranamese.

60. **Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica*  
Timor: Noted at Bipolo and Camplong.  
Sumba: Common in suitable habitat.  
Flores: A few seen in suitable habitat throughout.
61. **Zebra Dove** *Geopelia striata*  
Sumba: Common.  
Flores: Common.  
Bali: A few at Bali Barat NP.
62. **Barred Dove** *Geopelia maugeus*  
Timor: Several at Bipolo.
63. **Sumba Green-Pigeon** *Treron teysmannii*  
Sumba: Two birds feeding quietly one morning at km 69 giving excellent views.
64. **Pink-necked Green Pigeon** *Treron vernans*  
Java: Three birds at Maura Anke.
65. **Black-backed Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus cinctus*  
Timor: One bird at Bipolo and a total of six birds seen at Gunung Mutis.
66. **Red-naped Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus dohertyi*  
Sumba: A total of seven birds in the forest west of Lewa and two birds at Watumbela.  
A fairly conspicuous dove often perching in leafless trees and not very shy.  
Responded well to tape.
67. **Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus regina*  
Timor: About 15 birds seen at Bipolo, mainly in the same fruiting tree and four to five birds at Camplong.
68. **Black-naped Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus melanospila*  
Sumba: Fairly common west of Lewa.  
Flores: A few seen at Kisol and along the Potanwanka Road.
69. **Green Imperial-Pigeon** *Ducula aenea*  
Sumba: Fairly common.  
Flores: Fairly common at most sites.
70. **Pink-headed Imperial-Pigeon** *Ducula rosacea*  
Timor: One bird seen at Bipolo.
71. **Dark-backed Imperial-Pigeon** *Ducula lacernulata*  
Flores: A few seen at Danau Ranamese and fairly common at GL.
72. **Timor Imperial-Pigeon** *Ducula cineracea*

Timor: Lone birds seen twice both just above the first large clear-cut area along the summit trail at Gunung Mutis.

73. **Rainbow Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus haematodus*

Timor: A total of four birds at Camplong.

Sumba: Seen with up to fifteen birds in a day in the forest west of Lewa.

Flores: One flock of three birds seen at Kisol.

This species is most likely to become split into a number of species, with the birds on Flores becoming one species, Flores Lorikeet, and the birds in other parts of the Nusas another, both races are very distinct from the bird in Australia.

74. **Olive-headed Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus euteles*

Timor: Quite a few flocks of this Lorikeet were seen at Gunung Mutis.

75. **Iris Lorikeet** *Psitteuteles iris*

Timor: A total of about forty birds seen in the open forest below Fatumnasi.

76. **Yellow-crested Cockatoo** *Cacatua sulphurea*

Sumba: A total of three birds seen of which two very well but only after quite a long time at Watumbela.

Flores: A total of perhaps 20 birds seen on Pulau Komodo.

The villages at Watumbela knew the location of a couple of Cockatoo nests, surely this very become very rare giving the hunting pressure. Still common on Pulau Komodo, this species probably only occurs on Sumba and East Timor and a few smaller islands outside of Pulau Komodo.

77. **Eclectus Parrot** *Eclectus roratus*

Sumba: Two singles in the forest west of Lewa.

78. **Red-cheeked Parrot** *Geoffroyus geoffroyi*

Timor: Three birds at Gunung Mutis.

Sumba: About five birds seen in forest west of Lewa.

Flores: A few birds seen at Kisol and Potanwanka.

79. **Great-billed Parrot** *Tanygnathus megalorynchos*

Sumba: Three birds at Watumbela.

Flores: Three birds seen along the Potawanka Road.

80. **Olive-shouldered Parrot** *Aprosmictus jonquillaceus*

Timor: Single birds seen on both visits to Bipolo and at total of four birds at Gunung Mutis.

81. **Wallace's Hanging-Parrot** *Loriculus flosculus*

Flores: One lone bird watched for about ten minutes feeding in a fruiting tree with small hard fruits along the Potanwanka Road.

82. **Sunda Cuckoo** *Cuculus lepidus*

Timor: Regularly heard at Gunung Mutis and a total of three bird seen in the more open and dry forest below Fatumnasi.

Flores: Heard at Danau Ranamese and Danau Ranamese.  
Recent split from Oriental Cuckoo, recognized by Clements, vocally distinct.

83. **Oriental Cuckoo** *Cuculus saturatus*  
Java: One rufous mophth at Gunung Halimun.
84. **Rusty-breasted Cuckoo** *Cacomantis sepulcralis*  
Sumba: Regularly heard.  
Flores: Heard at most sites.  
Java: Noted at Maura Anke
85. **Brush Cuckoo** *Cacomantis variolosus*  
Timor: Several heard at Gunung Mutis and one seen.
86. **Plaintive Cuckoo** *Cacomantis merulinus*  
Java: Heard at Maura Anke.
87. **Shining Bronze-Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx lucidus*  
Flores: One juvenile seen south of Labuanbajo.  
A migrant from Australia.
88. **Asian Koel** *Eudynamys scolopacea*  
Flores: Heard at Dolat.
89. **Lesser Coucal** *Centropus bengalensis*  
Timor: One at Bipolo.  
Bali: One at Bali Barat.
90. **Chestnut-breasted Malkoha** *Phaenicophaeus curvuristris*  
Java: Three birds at Gunung Halimun.
91. **Eastern Grass Owl** *Tyto longimembris*  
Sumba: One bird seen in grasslands on the way to the forest west of Lewa an hour before dawn.  
  
*Tyto sp.*  
Sumba: One *tyto* type call heard at night in the forest west of Lewa.
92. **Flores Scops-Owl** *Otus alfredi*  
Flores: At least four birds heard (two pairs) and one bird seen just before dawn at Danau Ranamese  
According to HBW there are only three records prior to the re-discovery by Robert Hutchinson and James Eaton about two months before my visit.
93. **Moluccan Scops-Owl** *Otus magicus*  
Flores: Heard at Kisol and one bird seen close to New Bajo Beach Hotel, Labuanbajo.
94. **Wallace's Scops-Owl** *Otus silvicola*

Flores: At least four birds heard but only one bird giving brief views at Kisol. Two to three birds heard at Danau Ranamese.  
Seemingly a quite vary Scops-Owl, difficult to get good observations.

95. **Sumba Boobook** *Ninox rudolfi*  
Sumba: One bird showing extremely well on several occasions at the crash barrier just before km 69.
96. **Southern Boobook** *Ninox novaeseelandiae*  
Timor: At least four to five birds heard at Camplong and two birds heard just above Fatumnasi with one seen well.
97. **Little Sumba Boobook** *Ninox sumbaensis*  
Sumba: One bird seen very well at the km 69,5 clearing perched relatively low, with another six birds calling (mainly in pairs) along a 1,5 km stretch of road.  
This fairly recently described owl, first thought to be an *Otus*, seems to be fairly common at least in well forested areas but I struggled for a long time before I managed to see one.
98. **Mee's Nightjar** *Caprimulgus meesi*  
Sumba: Three birds seen at km 69 and the clearing at km 69,5  
Flores: A few heard at Kisol and one bird seen perched on the track. Several birds heard close to New Bajo Beach Hotel.  
A recent split from Large-tailed Nightjar by Sangster et al. Thanks to George Sangster for kindly providing me with ample information on this new species and also recordings. This new nightjar has a very distinct call but is apparently morphologically indistinguishable from Large-tailed which occurs in other areas of the Nusa Tenggara.
99. **Savanna Nightjar** *Caprimulgus affinis*  
Sumba: A total of 12(!) birds seen while ojeking from Lewa to Watumbela, all birds seen perched on the road.  
Bali: Several birds heard pre-dawn and one bird flushed in the mid morning at Bali Barat.
100. **Glossy Swiftlet** *Collocalia esculenta*  
Timor: Common.  
Sumba: Common.  
Flores: Common.
101. **Cave Swift** *Collocalia linchii*  
Bali: Fairly common.  
Java: Common.
102. **Edible-nest Swiftlet** *Collocalia fuciphaga*  
Sumba: A few noted around Lewa.  
Flores: Noted at most sites.
103. **Javan Trogon** *Harpactes reinwardtii*

Java: One female at Gunung Halimun.

104. **White-rumped Kingfisher** *Caridonax fulgidus*  
Flores: A total of eleven observations made at Danau Ranamese, to a certain degree surely the same individuals seen more than once. Fairly common by voice at Kisol with three birds seen and one bird seen along the Potanwanka Road.
105. **Collared Kingfisher** *Halcyon chloris*  
Timor: One bird on route to Fatumnasi and a couple at Bipolo.  
Sumba: One bird at Watumbela.  
Java: Two birds at Maura Anke.
106. **Sacred Kingfisher** *Todirhamphus sanctus*  
Timor: A few seen around Bipolo.  
Flores: One bird on Pulau Komodo.  
Java: Two birds at Maura Anke.
107. **Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher** *Todirhamphus australasia*  
Timor: One calling bird came into tape mid afternoon at Camplong. Also one bird heard in the morning, most likely a different individual.
108. **Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*  
Timor: One bird at Bipolo.
109. **Caerulean Kingfisher** *Alcedo coerulescens*  
Java: Two birds at Maura Anke.
110. **Blue-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops philippinus*  
Sumba: Common.  
Flores: Common at several sites.  
Java: About five birds at Maura Anke.
111. **Chestnut-headed Bee-eater** *Merpos leschenaultia*  
Bali: Fairly common at Bali Barat NP.
112. **Rainbow Bee-eater** *Merops ornatus*  
Timor: Common.  
Sumba: Common.  
Flores: Common in lowlands.
113. **Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis*  
Flores: Two birds at Potawanka Road
114. **Sumba Hornbill** *Aceros everetti*  
Sumba: One bird seen at Watumbela.  
This superb hornbill is becoming scarcer due to hunting and deforestation, difficult to find if you don't find a fruiting tree but supposedly still reasonably common at Watumbela.

115. **Wreathed Hornbill** *Aceros undulatus*  
Java: One bird at Gunung Hailmun.
116. **Rufous Piculet** *Sasia abnormis*  
Java: One bird in a feeding flock at Gunung Halimun.
117. **Orange-fronted Barbet** *Megalaima armillaris*  
Java: Several heard at Gunung Halimun.
118. **Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos moluccensis*  
Flores: One at Potawanka Road, one at Danau Ranamese and a few at Kisol.
119. **Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker** *Dendrocoptes macei*  
Bali: A few seen at Bali Barat NP.  
Java: About five birds at Maura Anke.
120. **Crimson-winged Woodpecker** *Picus puniceus*  
Java: Two birds at Gunung Halimun.
121. **Elegant Pitta** *Pitta elegans*  
Sumba: Very common by voice at dawn and dusk in the forest west of Lewa with birds calling irregularly through out the day. A total of three birds seen.  
Flores: Fairly common at Kisol by voice, four birds seen and also heard at both Potanwanka Road and in the area close to New Bajo Beach Hotel.  
Being very vocal it was surprising that this pitta wasn't very responsive to tape, luckily it is fairly common and not very shy.
122. **Australian Bushlark** *Mirafra javanica*  
Sumba: Common at Yumbu.
123. **Pacific Swallow** *Hirundo tahitica*  
Timor: A few noted.  
Sumba: A few noted.  
Flores: A few noted.  
Java: Noted at Maura Anke.
124. **Striated Swallow** *Hirundo striolata*  
Flores: About ten at Potawanka Road.  
Java: A few at Gunung Halimun.
125. **Tree Martin** *Hirundo nigricans*  
Timor: A few around Bipolo.
126. **Paddyfield Pipit** *Anthus rufulus*  
Timor: Quite common in grasslands at Gunung Mutis and around Bipolo.

127. **Wallacean Cuckooshrike** *Coracina personata*  
Timor: Two birds at Gunung Mutis.
128. **Black-faced Cuckooshrike** *Coracina novaehollandiae*  
Timor: Fairly common at Bipolo.
129. **Pale-shouldered Cicadabird** *Coracina dohertyi*  
Sumba: Three birds seen in forest west of Lewa and on in Watumbela.  
Flores: One pair at Potawanka Road and another pair at Kisol.
130. **Malaysian Cuckooshrike** *Coracina javensis*  
Bali: Noted in Bali Barat NP.
131. **White-shouldered Triller** *Lalage sueurii*  
Timor: Not uncommon in suitable habitat.  
Bali: Fairly common.
132. **Flores Minivet** *Pericrocotus lansbergei*  
Flores: A total of twenty five at Kisol and about five at Potawanka Road and 25 at Danau Ranamese.  
Surprisingly many birds seen, usually in small flocks.
133. **Small Minivet** *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*  
Bali: About 25 birds at Bali Barat NP.
134. **Sunda Minivet** *Pericrocotus miniatus*  
Java: About ten birds at Gunung Halimun.
135. **Common Iora** *Aegithina tiphia*  
Bali: A few at Bali Barat NP.  
Java: Noted at Maura Anke.
136. **Wallacean Drongo** *Dicrurus densus*  
Timor: One at Bipolo and one at Gunung Mutis.  
Sumba: Fairly common in the forest west of Lewa.  
Flores: Fairly common throughout.  
Birds on Timor represents the "Greater Wallacean Drongo" and birds on Sumba and Flores the "Lesser Wallacean Drongo", most likely good splits.
137. **Greater Racket-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus paradiseus*  
Java: Several at Gunung Halimun.
138. **Black Drongo** *Dicrurus macrocercus*  
Bali: Common at Bali Barat NP.
139. **Ashy Drongo** *Dicrurus leucophaeus*  
Java: Fairly common at Gunung Halimun.
140. **Timor Oriole** *Sphecotheres viridis*

- Timor: A couple of birds at Gunung Mutis and two at Bipolo.
141. **Black-naped Oriole** *Oriolus chinensis*  
Sumba: Quite a few seen west of Lewa.  
Flores: Fairly common on Pulau Komodo, Potawanka Road, one at Kisol.  
Bali: A few at Bali Barat NP.
142. **Timor Figbird** *Sphecotheres viridis*  
Timor: Common at Bipolo but less so at Camplong.
143. **Crested Jay** *Platylophus galericulatus*  
Java: Two birds at Gunung Halimun.
144. **Racket-tailed Treepie** *Crypsirina temia*  
Java: Several at Maura Anke.
145. **Flores Crow** *Corvus florensis*  
Flores: Three birds along the Potawanka Road and quite a few, around twenty crows seen at Kisol, all of those seen well enough to id or those heard were Flores Crows.
146. **Large-billed Crow** *Corvus validus*  
Timor: A few around Gunung Mutis.  
Sumba: A few around Lewa.  
Flores: Head at Kisol and fairly common on Pulau Komodo.
147. **Great Tit** *Parus major*  
Sumba: A couple around Watumbela.  
Flores: One at the small wetland south of Labuanbajo, Fairly common on Komodo, a few at Golo Losang, Kisol and Danau Ranamese.  
Bali: A few at Bali Barat NP.  
Java: Several at Maura Anke.
148. **Blue Nuthatch** *Sitta azurea*  
Java: A few birds seen at Gunung Halimun.
149. **Ochraceous Bulbul** *Alophoixus ochraceus*  
Java: A few at Gunung Halimun.
150. **Yellow-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus goiavier*  
Java: Noted around Jakarta.
151. **Pygmy Wren-Babbler** *Pnoepyga pusilla*  
Timor: One bird seen very well at Gunung Mutis.  
Flores: One bird at Danau Ranamese.  
Java: One bird at Gunung Halimun.  
The race occurring on Timor *timorensis* is very distance with a massive bill for being a Pygmy Wren-babbler and it also has a distinctive call, a

future split candidate – this is the south-eastern most babbler, no true-babblers occur in the Moluccas, Australia or New Guinea.

152. **Eye-browed Wren-babbler** *Napothera crassa*  
Java: Two birds at Gunung Halimun.
153. **White-breasted Babbler** *Stachyris chrysaea*  
Java: Three birds at Gunung Halimun.
154. **White-bibbed Babbler** *Stachyris grammiceps*  
Java: A total of six birds at Gunung Halimun.
155. **Javan Fulvetta** *Alcippe pyrrhoptera*  
Java: Fairly common at Gunung Halimun.
156. **Chestnut faced Shrike-babbler** *Pteruthius flaviscapis*  
Java: Two birds at Gunung Halimun.
157. **Oriental Magpie Robin** *Copsychus saularis*  
Bali: A few noted at Bali Barat NP.
158. **White-crowned Forktail** *Enicurus leschenaultia*  
Java: One bird at Gunung Halimun.
159. **White-browed Shortwing** *Brachypteryx montana*  
Flores: Two birds seen at Danau Ranamese, one very well.  
Another vocally distinct taxon, is there anybody who dares study the quagmire of Indonesian and Philippine shortwings?
160. **Chestnut-backed Thrush** *Zoothera dohertyi*  
Timor: One bird seen very briefly at Gunung Mutis.  
Sumba: A total of three birds seen west of Lewa, usually not very shy allowing good views.  
One of my absolute favourite birds of the trip, the birds on Sumba did not have the spotted breast as the bird depicted in Coates & Bishop but rather a uniformly black zone on the breast.
161. **Orange-banded Thrush** *Zoothera peronii*  
Timor: A total of six birds seen at Camplong and one bird at Bipolo.
162. **Island Thrush** *Turdus poliocephalus*  
Timor: Common at Gunung Mutis especially in the forest lacking undergrowth just above Fatumnasi.
163. **Pied Bushchat** *Saxicola caprata*  
Timor: Common in suitable habitat.  
Sumba: Common in suitable habitat.  
Flores: Common in suitable habitat.
164. **White-bellied Chat** *Saxicola gutturalis*

Timor: A few birds seen at Camplong.  
A superb bird, males are brilliant, a very “odd” endemic compared to the other species endemic in the Nusa Tenggara.

165. **Flyeater** *Gerygone sulphurea*  
Flores: Only one bird seen at Kisol.  
Java: Several at Maura Anke.
166. **Plain Gerygone** *Gerygone inornata*  
Timor: Fairly common at both Camplong and Bipolo at least by voice and a few around Fatumnasi.
167. **Russet-capped Tesia** *Tesia everetti*  
Flores: One at Puarlolo, one at Kisol and a total of five at Danau Ranamese with more bird heard at each site.
168. **Timor Stubtail** *Urosphena subulata*  
Timor: A few birds seen at Camplong and one at Bipolo.
169. **Sunda Bush-Warbler** *Cettia vulcania*  
Timor: One bird at Camplong.
170. **Timor Leaf-Warbler** *Phylloscopus presbytes*  
Timor: Fairly common at Gunung Mutis.
171. **Flores Leaf-Warbler** *Phylloscopus floris*  
Flores: Common at Danau Ranamese and a few at GL.  
A recent split(?) from Timor Leaf-Warbler being both vocally and morphologically distinct.
- Yellow-breasted Warbler** *Seicercus montis*  
Timor: One at Gunung Mutis.  
Flores: One at Danau Ranamese.
172. **Sunda Warbler** *Seicercus grammiceps*  
Java: One bird at Gunung Halimun.
173. **Yellow-bellied Warbler** *Arboscopus superciliaris*  
Java: One bird at Gunung Halimun.
174. **Buff-banded Thicket-warbler** *Buettikoferella bivittata*  
Timor: Several birds heard at Camplong but despite hard work both with and without tape no birds was seen.
175. **Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*  
Timor: About ten birds at Bipolo.  
Sumba: Noted around Lewa.  
Flores: Reasonably common at the small wetland south of Labuanbajo.
176. **Bright-headed Cisticola** *Cisticola exilis*

- Flores: A few at Labuanbajo.
177. **Plain Prinia** *Prinia inorata*  
Bali: Noted at Bali Barat NP.  
Java: A few at Gunung Halimun.
178. **Bar-winged Prinia** *Prinia familiaris*  
Java: A few at Maura Anke.
179. **Ashy Tailorbird** *Orthotomus ruficeps*  
Bali: Noted at Bali Barat NP.  
Java: A few at Maura Anke.
180. **Sumba Jungle-Flycatcher** *Rhinomyias stresemanni*  
Sumba: Two birds in the forest west of Lewa.  
A recent split, used to be lumped with Flores Jungle-Flycatcher as Russet-backed Flycatcher.
181. **Flores Jungle-Flycatcher** *Rhinomyias oscillans*  
Flores: A total of three birds seen at Danau Ranamese and one at GL with one more bird hear at Danau Ranamese.
182. **Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher** *Culicicapa ceylonensis*  
Java: Common at Gunung Halimun.
183. **Sumba Brown Flycatcher** *Muscicapa segregate*  
Sumba: Two single birds seen at the forest west of Lewa and one probably immature bird also at the same site.  
This species has been regarded as separate from Asian Brown Flycatcher for quite a while now, migrant Asian Browns only likely to occur in Sulawesi.
184. **Snowy-browed Flycatcher** *Ficedula hyperythra*  
Timor: About fifteen birds in total at Gunung Mutis.  
Flores: One female at Danau Ranamese.
185. **Little Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula westermanni*  
Flores: One at GL and one at Danau Ranamese.
186. **Black-banded Flycatcher** *Ficedula timorensis*  
Timor: One male at Camplong.
187. **Timor Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis hyacinthinus*  
Timor: Not uncommonly recorded at any of the sites, with a number of single birds or pairs seen at all three sites visited.
188. **Asian Paradise-Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone paradise*  
Sumba: A few seen both at Watumbela and west of Lewa.  
Flores: A few seen at Potawanka Road and at Kisol.  
All males seen where of the white moth.

189. **Black-naped Monarch** *Monarcha azurea*  
Sumba: Seen at a number of sites, where fairly common.  
Flores: Fairly common on Komodo and at Kisol.
190. **Flores Monarch** *Monarcha sacerdotum*  
Flores: Two adults and one juvenile seen at Puarlolo and most likely another bird also heard.  
The juvenile has a less distinct facial pattern and a red wash to its throat. Adults seemingly very responsive to tape.
191. **Spectacled Monarch** *Monarcha trivirgatus*  
Sumba: Fairly common in the forest west of Lewa.  
Flores: A few at Kisol.
192. **Broad-billed Flycatcher** *Myiagra ruficollis*  
Timor: Two birds seen at Bipolo.
193. **Northern Fantail** *Rhipidura rufiventris*  
Timor: Common at Bipolo and Camplong.
194. **Brown-capped Fantail** *Rhipidura diluta*  
Flores: Common throughout.
195. **Rufous Fantail** *Rhipidura rufifrons*  
Timor: Fairly common with sightings from all sites visited.  
Sumba: Common in the forest west of Lewa.  
Flores: Two birds in Kisol.
196. **White-bellied Fantail** *Rhipidura euryura*  
Java: A total of three birds at Gunung Halimun.
197. **Pied Fantail** *Rhipidura javanica*  
Java: A few at Maura Anke.
198. **Grey-headed Flycatcher** *Culicicapa ceylonensis*  
Sumba: Fairly common west of Lewa.
199. **Fawn-breasted Whistler** *Pachycephala orpheus*  
Timor: Common.
200. **Common Golden Whistler** *Pachycephala pectoralis*  
Timor: A few in Camplong.  
Sumba: Common west of Lewa.  
Flores: A couple at Kisol
201. **Bare-throated Whistler** *Pachycephala nudigula*  
Flores: Common by voice at Danau Ranamese and about five birds seen. Also common by voice at GL but only one bird seen.

A superb songster, with many types of calls in its repertoire, including a booming sound made by inflating its throat pouch like a North American grouse. Probably not more numerous at GL but the amphitheater like architecture and generally low vegetation makes it possible to hear more bird from one spot.

202. **White-breasted Woodswallow** *Artamus leucorhynchus*  
Timor: A few noted at Gunung Mutis and Bipolo.  
Bali: A few at Bali Barat NP.  
Java: Noted at Gunung Halimun.
203. **Black-faced Woodswallow** *Artamus cinereus*  
Timor: A few noted at Bipolo.
204. **Long-tailed Shrike** *Lanius schach*  
Timor: Two birds at Bipolo.  
Java: A few birds at Gunung Halimun.
205. **Short-tailed Starling** *Aplonis minor*  
Timor: Two or three at Bipolo.  
Sumba: A few noted in the forest west of Lewa.  
Flores: A few at Danau Ranamese and GL.
206. **White-vented Myna** *Acridotheres grandis*  
Sumba: One flock of five birds at Yumbu.  
Most likely an introduction.
207. **Hill Myna** *Gracula religiosa*  
Flores: Two birds seen along the Potawanka Road.  
A bird that has become rare on Flores these days, good to see that there are still birds at a site like Potanwanka.
208. **Black-winged Starling** *Sturnus melanopterus*  
Java: One bird at Maura Anke.
209. **Bali Myna** *Leucopsar rothschildi*  
Bali: Two banded birds at Bali Barat NP.
210. **Timor Friarbird** *Philemon inornatus*  
Timor: Three birds at Gunung Mutis and two at Bipolo.
211. **Helmeted Friarbird** *Philemon buceroides*  
Sumba: A few seen around Lewa, with a lot heard at Watumbela.  
Flores: One bird seen at Danau Ranamese and at Kisol with many more heard at both sites.
212. **Steak-breasted Honeyeater** *Meliphaga reticulate*  
Timor: Common at Camplong.
213. **Scaly-crowned Honeyeater** *Lichmera lombokia*

Fairly common at Danau Ranamese and GL.

214. **Indonesian Honeyeater** *Lichmera limbata*  
Timor: One bird at Bipolo.  
Sumba: A few birds seen in the mangroves at Yumbu.  
Sometimes lumped with Brown Honeyeater.
215. **Yellow-eared Honeyeater** *Lichmera flavicans*  
Timor: Common at Camplong and Gunung Mutis.
216. **Sumba Myzomela** *Myzomela dammermani*  
Sumba: Seen twice in the forest west of Lewa.
217. **Black-chested Myzomela** *Myzomela vulnerata*  
Timor: About fifteen birds seen at Camplong, two at Gunung Mutis and one at Bipolo.
218. **Brown-throated Sunbird** *Nectarinia malacensis*  
Flores: Noted at Kisol an along the Potanwanka Road.
219. **Olive-backed Sunbird** *Nectarinia jugularis*  
Flores: Noted at Kisol, Potanwanka Road and south of Labuanbajo.  
Java: Noted at Maura Anke.
220. **Apricot-breasted Sunbird** *Nectarinia buettikoferi*  
Sumba: Common at forest west of Lewa.
221. **Flame-breasted Sunbird** *Nectarinia solaris*  
Timor: A few at Bipolo.  
Flores: Common throughout.
222. **Golden-rumped Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum annae*  
Flores: One at GL, three at Kisol and one at Danau Ranamese.
223. **Thick-billed Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum agile*  
Sumba: A few noted in the forest west of Lewa.  
Flores: One bird at Danau Ranamese.
224. **Black-fronted Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum igniferum*  
Flores: Fairly common at Labuanbajo, Potawanka Road, one each at GL, Danau Ranamese and Kisol.
225. **Red-chested Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum maugei*  
Timor: Only one bird seen at Camplong.
226. **Blood-breasted Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum sanguinolentum*  
Sumba: Fairly common in forest west of Lewa.
227. **Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker** *Diaceum trochileum*  
Java: About five birds at Maura Anke and one at Gunung Halimun.

228. **Orange-bellied Flowerpecker** *trigonostigma*  
Java: A few at Gunung Halimun.
229. **Oriental White-eye** *Zosterops palpebrosus*  
Flores: A few along the Potawanka Road.
230. **Mountain White-eye** *Zosterops montanus*  
Timor: Common at Gunung Mutis.  
Flores: Common at Danau Ranamese.
231. **Yellow-spectacled White-eye** *Zosterops wallacei*  
Sumba: Common at Lewa.  
Flores: Common at all sites visited.
232. **Lemon-bellied White-eye** *Zosterops chloris*  
Flores: Noted along the Potawanka Road.  
Bali: A few noted at Bali Barat NP.
233. **Ashy-bellied White-eye** *Zosterops citrinellus*  
Timor: Common.  
Sumba: Common.
234. **Yellow-browed Dark-eye** *Lophozosterops superciliaris*  
Timor: One bird at Gunung Mutis.  
Flores: Fairly common at Danau Ranamese and a few seen at GL.
235. **Crested Dark-eye** *Lophozosterops dohertyi*  
Flores: Three birds seen at Puarlolo.
236. **Spot-breasted Dark-eye** *Heleia muelleri*  
Timor: One flock of about ten birds seen at Camplong.
237. **Thick-billed Dark-eye** *Heleia crassirostris*  
Flores: A flock of about five to seven birds seen at Kisol.
238. **Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*  
Noted on all islands.
239. **Red Avadavat** *Amandava amandava*  
Timor: Three birds at Bipolo.
240. **Zebra Finch** *Taeniopygia guttata*  
Timor: About 25 birds seen at Bipolo.  
Sumba: numerous at Yumbu.  
Flores: A couple of birds on Pulau Komodo.
241. **Black-faced Munia** *Lonchura molucca*  
Timor: Seen at most sites.  
Sumba: A few noted throughout.

Flores: Noted throughout.

242. **Javan Munia** *Lonchura leucogastroides*

Java: Noted at Maura Anke.

243. **Scaly-breasted Munia** *Lonchura punctulata*

Timor: Fairly common.

Sumba: Common.

Flores: Noted throughout.

Java: Noted at Maura Anke.

244. **Five-coloured Munia** *Lonchura quincolor*

Timor: About fifty birds seen at Bipolo and one lone bird in Camplong.

Flores: Five birds at the small wetland south of Labuanbajo.

245. **Pale-headed Munia** *Lonchura pallida*

Flores: About fifty birds seen at the small wetland south of Labuanbajo.