

## Flores, Indonesia. 26<sup>th</sup> March 2005-2<sup>nd</sup> April 2005.

For anyone interested, a few recent sightings/site information from Flores, Indonesia, 26<sup>th</sup> March-2 April. Five days based in Labunabajo, two in Ruteng.

### Labunabajo

Stayed 3km south of the town, birdwatched around hotel and farmland and at nearby 'Dolat' wetland area (easy to find, just keep walking along the surfaced road following the coast south of Labunabajo, after about 4km the road turns left and when it literally disappears into a wetland you have arrived!). Birds seen included (highlights only):

Wandering Whistling-duck. Up to about ten in small groups at Dolat.

Sunda Teal. Several at Dolat.

Malaysian Plover. Pair on the beach.

Yellow-spectacled White-eye. Common here (and elsewhere in lowlands).

Flame-throated Sunbird. Common here (and elsewhere).

Black-faced Munia. Common.

### Rinca

Two hour trip from Labunabajo. No seabirds but several Dolphins. Lots of big Komodo Dragons lounging around rubbish heap on Rinca, Also:

Great-billed Heron. One perched on a rocky islet on way.

Yellow-crested Cockatoo. One seen from boat perched in coastal woodland (more common on Komodo).

Channel-billed Cuckoo. One seen flying along mangrove edge from boat (first record for Rinca??).

'Richards' Pipit. Lots on Rinca.

### Puarlolo Telecom Tower

One hour trip from Labunabajo. Forest is quite disturbed, and does not extend far down slopes. However, it is easy to follow paths into what forest there is and the birding was productive.

Several paths head away from the vicinity of the transmitter tower:

Green Junglefowl. Common (but hard to see).

Russet-capped Tesia. Several.

Crested Darkeye. Common.

Thick-billed Darkeye. One group seen, which proved to be the only group I saw anywhere.

Russet-backed Jungle Flycatcher. One with a mixed flock (that also included the next two species).

Flores Monarch. Two seen in a mixed flock. Moving through middle-lower story, but not difficult to observe from inside the forest (I imagine this species would be harder to see from the road).

Brown-capped Fantail. Quite common and conspicuous.

No Hanging parrot or thrushes, but the habitat looked right.

### Ruteng

A three-four hour trip from Labunabajo (by car). On my first morning I went to Golo Lusang pass and from the pass at dawn I walked 3-4 km down the other side. The forest is a bit degraded, and I was unable to find any paths into good forest (too much secondary growth). However, birding from the road was very good and the traffic was light. On my second morning I went to Lake Ranamese. While I saw less birds here, the area looked like it would be good for more exploration. A new walking trail appears to have been cut from the lake to the top of Gunung

Ranaca (spelling?; the hill with the old access road described in guides). I followed this trail for a couple of km (it is apparently 10km long) and it was in excellent condition forest throughout. Access at the lake end is about 500m back along the road towards Ruteng from the admin buildings (more-or-less opposite where the 'view-point' is). The dawn chorus of bare-throated whistlers at Golo Lusang was spectacular.

Pacific Black Duck. About 40 at Ranamese.  
Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon. Lots heard, few seen.  
Little Minivet. A single bird seen at GL (could have been more) with a mixed flock.  
Yellow-breasted Warbler. A pair at GL.  
Timor Leaf-warbler. Several at GL.  
Yellow-browed Darkeye. Relatively common at GL (but not the other two species).  
Brown-capped Fantail. Common.  
Helmeted Friarbird. Lake Ranamese.  
Bare-throated Whistler. Very common and conspicuous at GL. Also seen at Ranamese.  
Scaly-crowned Honeyeater. A few at GL.  
Golden-rumped Flowerpecker. A pair at GL.  
Blood-breasted Flowerpecker. One at GL.  
Five-coloured Munia. A small group in roadside scrub at the pass (GL).  
No owls, but didn't try looking.

#### Potawangka

Tried following directions in Jepson but was not entirely convinced I found the right road. The road I found was to the left about 10km out of Labuanbajo on the Ruteng road. After about 2km it enters very degraded lowland forest and continues like this for about 3-4 km. It then crosses a stream with a nice waterfall/cascade type thing. I birdwatched along the road and also where the road crosses the stream I followed a path along the stream (a left turn from the road). After about 500m the path opens out into a old clearing surrounded by nice forest and continuing further the path entered the forest (and then became indistinct).

Orange-footed Scrubfowl. Several seen here from the forest trail, and nest mounds present.  
Little Minivet. One group.  
Flores Crow. Two seen flying close-by from the road. Beware – Large-billed crows are present around Labunabajo, the real thing really is smaller!  
Arctic Warbler. One bird – not to be confused with Timor leaf-warbler...  
Zebra-finch. A single bird in scrub.  
No Hanging parrot or Flores Pigeon, but looked OK for either, probably good for owls too.

#### Labunabajo Airport

A nice patch of grassland and scrub...

Pale-headed Munia (lots)  
Black-faced Flowerpecker. Singing male.

If anyone want any more info, please let me know.

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