

INDONESIA LESSER SUNDAS REPORT

5th July to 23rd July 2013

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Either for rarity value, excellent views or simply a group favourite.

- Spotted Harrier
- Flores Hawk-Eagle
- Orange-footed Scrubfowl
- Green Junglefowl
- Beach Thick-knee
- Australian Pratincole
- Mees's Nightjar
- Black-backed Fruit-Dove
- Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove
- Marigold Lorikeet
- Flores Lorikeet
- Yellow-crested Cockatoo
- Wallace's Scops-Owl
- Sumba Boobook
- White-rumped Kingfisher
- Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher
- Cerulean Kingfisher
- Sumba Hornbill

- Elegant Pitta
- Flores Minivet
- Timor Figbird
- Chestnut-capped Thrush
- Orange-sided Thrush
- Russet-capped Tesia
- Timor Stubtail
- Buff-banded Thicketbird
- Flores Monarch
- Arafura Fantail
- Bare-throated Whistler
- Black-winged Myna
- Bali Myna
- Helmeted Friarbird
- Black-chested Myzomela
- Apricot-breasted Sunbird
- Tricoloured Parrotfinch
- Java Sparrow

SUMMARY:

This was the first ZOOTHERA tour to the endemic-rich, tropical paradise that is collectively known as The Lesser Sundas. We visited Timor, Sumba, Flores and Komodo in search of Indonesia's rarest and least known species, ending up on Bali in search of the famous starlings. These islands are relatively undeveloped, thinly populated and seldom visited by birders but they gave us access to some of the rarest birds on the planet. Starting on the largest island, Timor with its dry grassland, acacia scrub and montane forest, it is home to the greatest number of endemics. We had to split our time here in two due to a last-minute rescheduling of our internal flights and this did affect our success here a little but we still managed to see most of what the island has to offer. Then we flew across to the arid island of Sumba which is the most isolated and least often visited. The elongated island of Flores was next on our itinerary, and is certainly one of the most beautiful and idyllic in all of Indonesia, Many of the rugged mountains of Flores are still covered with humid rainforest dotted by rumbling volcano's, and bisected by deep wooded valley. A day visit to the island of Komodo proved fruitful with close-range views of several Komodo Dragons and some excellent snorkelling, before we flew back to Bali and visited Bali Barat National Park where we were lucky to see Bali Starling, one of the rarest birds on the planet.

Days 1 – 2 5th July – 6th July

Following an overnight flight from Heathrow to Singapore, we eventually arrived in Bali around 7pm and headed straight to our luxurious hotel and the first of many excellent meals.

Day 3 Sunday 7th July

Great start to the day with **Linchi Swiftlet**, **Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker** and **Sunda Woodpecker** around the hotel gardens – a nice way to get the ball rolling. So here we are on the tropical paradise island of Bali and not for us the palm-fringed beaches, oh no. It's the



Small Blue Kingfisher

local sewage ponds that hold more allure as we find Small Blue Kingfisher to be very common, with maybe a dozen or more individuals present. What a little beauty this bird is. There's also have lots of egrets flying around with Pacific Reef being the best of the bunch, and we also saw Little Pied Cormorant. a flock of Sunda Teal. Zebra Dove, Pink-necked Green-pigeon, Whitebreasted Woodswallow, White-bellied Sea-eagle, flocks of Little Terns.

Collared and Sacred Kingfishers, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Pied Fantail, Olive-backed Sunbird, White-shouldered Triller and Golden-bellied Gerygone. A quick stop en-route to the airport gives us several Great Crested Terns out in the bay.

Our already delayed flight to Timor eventually leaves around 1.30pm and an hour and a half later we arrive at our destination— greeted by several **Australian Pratincoles** along the runway. A ridiculously lengthy baggage reclaim delays us even more until we finally board our lovely bright blue and red bus for the hour long drive to Bipolo forest. So it is already late in the day by the time we arrive but pretty quickly we start picking up our first endemics with **Black-chested Myzomela**, **Fawn-breasted Whistler**, **Timor Blue Flycatcher**, **Pale-shouldered Cuckooshrike** (**Cicadabird**), whilst a nice **Northern Fantail** was also appreciated. After a cup of coffee, conveniently supplied by our ground crew, we follow a trail away from the noisy main road and enter the forest in darkness. After a little while of playing the call, I eventually get a response from a **Timor** (or **Streaked**) **Boobook** which eventually gives very nice views – although once again I fail to get a decent owl photo. But a point of note, if you are an avid Clements list follower then this is just a **Southern Boobook** and not a lifer – but if you are IOC orientated then you are quids in. Not rocket science as to which authority you should follow is it.....

Anyway, we drive an hour back to Kupang and another fine hotel and evening meal, and now watching Mr Murray in the Wimbledon final. But just around 5 hours sleep before we get up.....

Day 4 Monday 8th July

It was actually 4 hours sleep in the end and at 4am bags were outside the rooms and we left soon after for the hour or so drive to Camplong. It was a long, slow, hot day where we had to work for every single bird and dig them out one by one – certainly the toughest day I can remember in a long while. When we reached our hotel at Soe at the end of the day, everyone was totally exhausted.

Anyway, we began with a flock of **Ashy-bellied White-eyes** not long after walking into the forest. It was then a slog along an old dry stream-bed in search of Orange-sided Thrush, not a Zoothera any more but a Geokichla, which eventually turned up trumps but not for everyone I'm afraid. We walked a little way into the dry forest and found it to be some of the toughest birding imaginable with very little reward for maximum effort for most of the day. Yet a few Rose-crowned Fruit-doves showed a few times, and we also had Brown Goshawk, Redchested Flowerpecker, Sunda Bush-warbler, Common Cicadabird, Greater Wallacean Drongo, Arafura Fantail, White-bellied Chat and Plain Gerygone. We'd been hearing Buff-banded Thicketbird several times throughout the morning but were always on the hunt for something else when they were calling. Eventually after a protracted effort everyone had very good views of this distinctive and totally unusual looking species. Shortly after we'd all seen this a **Timor Stubtail** put on a good show for most of the group as well. The best birding of the day was late in the morning when we were stood underneath a canopy of huge trees and had Streak-breasted, Yellow-eared and Indonesian Honeyeaters, Helmeted Friarbird and Flame-breasted Sunbird all in a very short space of time. And as we were walking back to the bus a Gould's Bronze Cuckoo was seen.

The afternoon was even slower as we walked to a few clearings where we had **Tree Martins** flying over, a pair of **Timor Figbirds** and **Timor Oriole**. In the forest there was a group of **Spot-breasted Dark-eyes** that took a little getting on, but we did eventually and it's a potentially tricky bird to find at the best of times. The walk also gave us **Spectacled Monarch**, **Fawn-breasted Whistler**, and more **Rose-crowned Fruit-doves** before we arrived back at the bus at dusk.

Day 5 Tuesday 9th July

So if we thought yesterday's birding was hard, then I tell you that spending the day on Mount Mutis in dense low cloud and fog, a howling wind and steady rain beats it hands down. There were spells when it didn't rain and these very short interludes were just long enough to lull us into thinking the weather was clearing up – but oh no! Anyway, we made the best of it as we always do but our time on Timor does seem to have been jinxed. Even so we kept at it and dug out some quality birds with endemics such as **Timor Imperial-pigeon**, **Timor Friarbird**, **Timor Leaf-warbler**, and more views of **Timor Blue Flycatcher**. There was also **Golden Whistler**, **Paddyfield Pipit**, lots of **Island Thrushes** (and can you tell me why there are 50+ races of this species and no mention of splits forthcoming at all?), but I just couldn't call in a **Pygmy Wren-babbler** which were particularly non-responsive to the ipod – as everything else seems to be on this island.

In the afternoon we birded at a lower elevation and notched up tickable views of the endemic Olive-headed Lorikeet, several of which were seen perched in the Eucalyptus trees, as well as a few Metallic Pigeons, a noisy flock of Spot-breasted Dark-eyes, Arafura Fantail, Plain Gerygone, Little Pied Flycatcher, whilst Derek had a Black-backed Fruit-dove, and

we also had **Tricoloured Parrotfinch** as well, which was a bonus. We eventually arrived back at the hotel at 8pm...

Day 6 Wednesday 10th May

We left the hotel at 4.30am and drove just over two hours to the local airport and checked in for our flight to Sumba. Whilst waiting in the small departure lounge, David picked up a cracking **Zebra Finch** just outside the window. And then we were off on the hour long flight to Waingapu on Sumba island where we had a quick look outside the tiny terminal building at a small puddle where **Pale-headed Munias** and several **Zebra Finches** were coming down to drink and bathe. Another lengthy

baggage reclaim followed but it was a short drive to Yumba grasslands where



Apricot-breasted Sunbird

we walked across the rocky fields in a line and flushed a few endemic **Sumba Buttonquail**, along with some **Australasian Bushlarks**. A great lunch then followed back in the town before we drove to a nice open forest near Lewa. No sooner had we jumped out of the cars than a **Blood-breasted** or **Sumba Flowerpecker** flew in and perched on top of a bush – and

through the scope it certainly looked a stunner.



Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher

We then spent the rest of the day and into the evening here, enjoying the sunshine and dry weather, notching up several new birds. The path crossed an open ridge with views of the forest in front of us from where we scoped a couple Brown Goshawks, Brahminy Kite and a probable Spotted Harrier. As we walked through the grass a flock of Rainbow Bee-eaters showed nicely, along with a Black-faced Cuckooshrike, followed by a little flurry

of activity around a fruiting tree. A **Sumba Brown Flycatcher** was a good

way to start, and we also had **Common Dollarbird**, **Cinereous Tit**, a white-morph **Asian Paradise-flycatcher** with a superb long tail, a couple of **Black-naped Orioles**, **Yellow-spectacled White-eyes**, a flyover **Helmeted Friarbird**, more flowerpeckers, and finally a superb **Apricot-breasted Sunbird**.

Overhead were some **Edible-nest Swiftlets** and some **Glossy** or **Linchi Swiftlets**. Continuing further down into the forest, I played the call of **Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher** and amazingly one flew in, giving us the most amazing views of this beautiful endemic.

Further along we heard the first of many **Elegant Pittas**, a **Chestnut-backed Thrush** sang in the distance and at a clearing a **Rusty-breasted Cuckoo** called from the treetops, and we had a nice look at it through the scope. A **Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo** was also found here and was a nice bonus. Once the light began to fade we walked up to the edge of the forest and waited for dark, when a **Mees's Nightjar** called a few times, but never materialised from out of the woodland. A **Sumba Boobook** also called some distance away but didn't respond, but a pair of **Little Sumba Boobooks** were spotlighted a little later high up in a tall tree.

Day 7 Thursday 11th July

Had a lie-in today with a 5.45am departure. Woohoo ..!! Then spent the morning birding along the road into the National Park, which turned out to be quite productive. It took no time at all to get one of the most desired birds of the tour, so when an Elegant Pitta began calling a quick burst from the ipod and a great spot by Freddie, our local guide, resulted in wonderful views of the bird perched on a horizontal branch at head height. Wow! Even better was to come when on our second attempt, we all got Chestnut-backed Thrush on our life lists – what a bird that is. Our first attempt only resulted in flight views for



Chestnut-backed Thrush

some of us, but when we walked into the forest along a trail and one began singing from the slope below, we slipped and skidded down closer and sat in the leaf litter and waited. Eventually it flew onto an open horizontal vine and began to sing back and we were able to study it for several minutes, marvelling at its striped face, white belly and orange flanks – oh and the chestnut back of course! In fact we were treated to repeated views over the course of an hour. There were also a few more **Elegant Pittas** that kept flying around us, but only once did it perch up and that was right over our heads. So with **Sumba Jungle-flycatcher** showing well, **Marigold Lorikeets** flying around and perching briefly and a few previously seen species it was a good morning's birding.



Sumba Jungle-Flycatcher

In the afternoon we returned to the same forest and a few of us quickly got on a skulking **Sumba**Flycatcher that soon disappeared. The next couple of hours were slow going, although we did get a pair of **Sumba Myzomela** in a big tree that were with a bunch of commoner birds mobbing an unseen predator. Apart from that there was the distinctive **Grey-headed (Canary) Flycatcher** that looks and sounds very different to mainland Asian forms, more **Marigold Lorikeets** screeched overhead, and we heard **Little Sumba Boobook** after dark. But our night birding didn't produce anything else so we returned to the homestay for dinner around 8pm.

Day 8 Friday 12th July

Another early departure this morning as we had to try and claw back **Sumba Boobook** having missed it on our previous two attempts. So you can imagine what a relief it was to have a bird calling back at us form the bare branch of a huge roadside tree within minutes of firing up the ipod. A guick try for **Mees's Nightjar** once again drew a blank so we then drove

some two hours to another patch of forest, parked the cars up and walked across some fields to a small hill where we stood for a couple of hours scanning the forest edge for a bird we were really keen to see — Sumba Hornbill. We had a nice view of several forested ridges with huge trees that looked particularly inviting for hornbills, but initially there was no sign of them. Instead we enjoyed great scope views of Eclectus Parrots, plenty of Great-billed Parrots,



Sumba Hornbill

Green Imperial-pigeons, Wallacean Cuckooshrike, Black-

faced Mynas, Rusty-breasted Cuckoo and others. After some time Tracy and Chris both had brief views of a Sumba Hornbill in the distance, but it was an anxious wait for the rest of us until four more were seen flying into a huge tree. After the initial frantic directions everyone had nice scope views, but we needn't have worried as a pair flew up onto the ridge in front of us and flew across the clear blue sky into another bare tree where they gave stonking views. Amazing! So elated with this we decided to leave and walk to the vehicles, getting superb views of a Spotted Harrier along the way. On the way back to the homestay we had brief views of the ever-elusive Sumba Flycatcher and quite a few Indonesian Honeyeaters at another spot.

After lunch and a siesta we headed along the road and birded the same patch of forest as yesterday, trying really hard to find a stationary **Sumba Flycatcher**, but we only ended up hearing two birds at different locations and neither responded to the ipod or a recording of their call. The birding was generally slow but we spent ages sitting at the top of a slope inside the forest listening to **Chestnut-backed Thrush** singing below us and waiting for that damn flycatcher to show. A few **Golden Whistlers**, **Spectacled Monarch**, a **Pale-shouldered Cicadabird** for Christian, and an **Orange-footed Scrubfowl** for Brian were also seen here. The forest resounded to the songs of **Elegant Pittas** as we walked along the road, a quite amazing experience although we couldn't locate a perched bird as the light began to fade way too quickly for our liking!

Then we drove to a new spot at dusk and within minutes of walking found ourselves being circled by a pair of the endemic **Mees's Nightjar** (at last!) and they performed absolutely brilliantly for us, and it wasn't even dark yet. So we had the bonus of an early return to the homestay, an early dinner and several extra hours sleep before our departure to Waingapu tomorrow.

Day 9 Saturday 13th July

Left the homestay at 5.30am which was a little bit of a lie in after our early finish last night – and much appreciated. Headed off to the coast near Waingapu, stopping to flush a few **Brown Quail** along the way in a roadside field. After a bit of phaffing around the town for fuel we quickly got **Broad-billed Monarch** in the mangroves before reaching the Yumba wetlands and had an hour to find a few goodies before our morning flight back to Timor. Yes our crazy schedule, thanks to the local airlines has really cocked up our time on Timor, means that we have lost a day there and thus a few endemics. Not a happy chappy this evening!



Australian Pratincole

Anyway, around the pools we had several Javan Plovers,
Australasian Swamphens, some close Australian Pratincoles, and some Wandering Whistling-ducks, whilst a perched Lesser Fish-eagle was a surprise. Leaving here it was just a short drive to the airport and our flight took off on time and after an hour we touched down in Timor. The luggage arrived in double-quick time and we set off back to Bipolo Forest, but this time drove out into the ricefields.

Several new birds were found quickly, including **Barred Dove**,

Black-faced Woodswallow, White-faced Heron, and a flyby Australian Pelican. Our search for Timor Sparrow only resulted in a couple of the group seeing it, but Five-coloured Munia, Blue-breasted Quail, Black-winged Kite, Spotted Kestrel and a bunch of other birds were seen to make it quite a profitable session. Once again we ended up at a lovely hotel and had a wonderful meal and cold beers — so lovely to have a hot shower after 3 nights of cold bucket washes at the homestay in Sumba.

Day 10 Sunday 14th July

Another early start (and I won't tell you what time...!) saw us on the 6.20am flight to Ruteng on the lovely island of Flores. On approach over the mountains we could see the short runway and we certainly hit it with a loud bang when we touched down! However, we were met upon arrival by our trusty ground crew and a convoy of four cars and were soon heading up to the pass at Golo Lusang in search of our first island endemics. The scenery was very nice with forest cloaked mountains all around but some low cloud and rain dampened the bird activity and our enthusiasm at the same time. In fact it was very slow going with brief views of several birds and everything seemed to be extremely shy, a direct reflection on the hunting culture that was apparent here with guys driving past us on mopeds with guns over their backs. We walked down the road a few kilometres and eventually things improved as the weather cleared and we saw Yellow-browed Dark-eye and Brown-capped Fantail – the commonest endemics here. A loud, jumbly call off to our left proved to be a Rusty-capped Tesia which showed amazingly well on numerous occasions and we all got great views of it. A little further down amongst the moss-cloaked roadside trees we had a Flores Leaf-warbler flitting above us in the canopy of a large tree. Then a Scaly-crowned Honeyeater showed well and shortly

after a male **Flores Minivet** appeared – then we hopped into the cars and returned to Ruteng for a leisurely lunch.

Afterwards we set off to Danau Rana Mese and walked down to the lake where a flock of **Pacific Black Ducks** were loafing on the far side, and also on the lake was a **Coot** and a **Tricoloured Grebe** (a split from **Little Grebe**). In the surrounding area we had another showy tesia, **Golden Whistler**, **Sunda Woodpecker** and Christian found yet another **Pale-shouldered Cicadabird**. A calling **White-rumped Kingfisher** failed to respond and would have to wait for another day, so we drove off to a new 'hotel' near Kisol for a two-night stay.

Day 11 Monday 15th July



Elegant Pitta

Another day and another early start for my intrepid group, and another crack at owling. Leaving the hotel at 4am saw us reach the forest in plenty of time and we took a little while before hearing a **Moluccan Scops-owl** which then took the best part of an hour to track down. Well it was almost light and the dawn chorus of White-rumped Kingfishers had already started, when Tracy noticed some movement overhead and there it was! Or rather a pair of Moluccan Scops-owls which were apparently going to roost. We'd already given it up, so this was a great way to start the day. Unfortunately the kingfisher didn't play ball and turned out to be particularly unresponsive all day, and simply kept on calling from some impenetrable part of the forest where we

couldn't reach it. So we followed the trail a short distance and found a trio of endemics - Golden-rumped and Black-fronted Flowerpeckers, and a pair of obliging Thick-billed Dark-eyes. Then the forest began to resound to the sound of calling Elegant Pittas and as they call differently to the birds on Timor and also have a few plumage differences we made an effort to see them – well one or two without much effort. The drivers brought our breakfast out to us which was very nice and then we set out on another walk. With the day warming up we found a nice viewpoint from which to scan the forested slopes of Gunung Pacan Deki for the sought-after Flores Hawk-eagle. During our vigil we had great views of Flame-breasted Sunbird and Black-fronted Flowerpecker, as well as Flores Crow before Derek spotted the biggie and we had prolonged views of a Flores Hawk-eagle soaring high over the valley before disappearing behind the trees. What a relief! Just up the hill was a fruiting tree and we had several Black-naped Fruit-doves here. So we left here on a high and walked slowly back to the cars, getting another Thick-billed Dark-eye, Black-naped Monarch, Striated Swallow, Wallacean Cuckooshrike and a few other things on the way before driving back to the hotel for a quick wash and then driving just down the road to the restaurant.

We had a siesta afterwards which was very welcome after an early start before returning to the forest. It was predictably slow in the afternoon, although a flock of **Flores Green-pigeons** flew over and perched up just long enough to get cracking looks at them in the scope. Once dusk settled a pair of **Mees's Nightjars** flew over the track and we heard at least six

Moluccan Scops-owls before getting flight views of a **Wallace's Scops-owl** that had been calling nearby.

Day 12 Tuesday 16th July

Well we finally nailed the tricky **White-rumped kingfisher** in morning, thanks to some incredible spotting by Royke. We had to scramble up the steep forested slope, and as the bird was really only visible from one particular spot had to take it in turns to wriggle our way around the vines and take a look. But what a bird! This took quite a while and fortunately the bird remained long enough for everyone to see it. However, in an ironic twist of fate once all but a couple of us had returned down to the main path the kingfisher flew down towards us and landed right above us giving point-blank views!

In afternoon we drove back to Danau Rana Mese and saw Crested Dark-eye, Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo and further up in hills had Flores Jungle-flycatcher and a close Pygmy Wren-babbler. We waited until dusk for another bash at owling but only heard Wallace's and Flores Scops-owls despite getting very close to them.

Day 13 Wednesday 17th July

One of the best mornings of the tour so far as we arrived at the pass at Golo Lusang just before daybreak and began walking down the road. It was lovely as there were no noisy cars or mopeds beeping at us every five minutes like on our last visit. The dawn chorus was just beginning and as it became lighter **White-browed Shortwing** and **Pygmy Wren-babbler** began calling from the densely vegetated hillside. The cool mountain air was a refreshing change from the hot, sweaty lowlands we'd become accustomed to and pretty soon new birds were being found, beginning with a pair of **Dark-backed Imperial-pigeons** perched up nicely, and continuing the theme we also had a pair of **Ruddy Cuckoo-doves** fly across the road in front of us, followed by a cracking perched view of a **Barred Cuckoo-dove**.



Bare-throated Whistler

As it got lighter still we began hearing the first Bare-throated Whistlers and what an amazing sound it made. After a bit of a search Brian P spotted our first one which flew up into a tall, dead tree and we were very privileged to be able to watch it sing at leisure through the scopes. The whole experience of seeing this amazing-looking bird with its bare throat patch and the incredible song made this the highlight of the tour. The sheer loudness of its song was awesome and enhanced by the curve of the hillside making an amphitheatre of noise emanating from this moss-encrusted ancient forest. In fact we saw several more birds throughout the morning, some singing, others feeding on the numerous

berry bushes along the road. There was also **Blood-breasted Flowerpecker**, **Scale-crowned Honeyeater**, **Flores Leaf-warbler**, **Sunda Cuckoo**, **Chestnut-backed Thrush**, **Crested** and **Yellow-browed Dark-eyes** and other previously seen species. It certainly was a

lively morning but by 11am activity had died down dramatically so we returned to the hotel for a nice siesta.

In the afternoon we visited a beautiful forest and walked along the road and although it was predictably quiet to begin with, our perseverance paid off with a few goodies. A **Sunda Cuckoo** flew by, whilst Royke spotted a **Yellow-breasted Warbler** feeding in the canopy of a roadside tree and its rufous head and golden yellow underparts literally shone. A **Rufous-chested Flycatcher** was a nice surprise, whilst **Dark-backed Imperial-pigeon**, **Barred Cuckoo-dove**, **Metallic Pigeon** and a few others were also seen. Once dusk settled and after a nice cup of tea we drove to another forest patch and found a rather cooperative **Wallace's Scops-owl** that we spotlighted flying around us from one large tree to another and we had it perched twice, although not close, which was kind of neat in the binoculars. So a great end to a very good day.

Day 14 Thursday 18th July

We reached the Flores Monarch site at Puarlolo at daybreak, after another early, early start and following a nice picnic breakfast of banana pancakes and coffee walked into the forest. For once, it didn't take us long to get the target bird when a cracking Flores Monarch flew right in above us and flitted about the canopy. In fact we had 3 birds in total and everyone had really nice views of them. As we were watching these a Chestnut-capped Thrush started singing and we walked deeper into the forest and began a game of cat-and-mouse with this bird over the next couple of hours. In the beginning all we were getting were flight views as it skipped around us repeatedly without settling. So we sat down in the leaf litter and waited and waited and in the end a few of us had brief perched views of this most-wanted species. Giving it up after what seemed a lifetime of trying we checked out another area and had a pair of Crested Dark-eyes which meant everyone had finally caught up with it. Leaving here we drove to a fine hotel in Labuanbajo, had a short rest and lunch before driving up into the hills. Another more obliging Chestnut-capped Thrush was found, along with Green Imperial-pigeons, Short-toed Eagle and other common birds. Everyone was quite excited tonight as we are off to Komodo tomorrow....

Day 15 Friday 19th July

This was the day we had all been waiting for — a visit to Komodo Island and its dragons. We left Labuanbajo at 6am and sailed out through many beautiful islands in a speedboat. It was a stunningly impressive hour long ride, albeit a little bumpy once we hit deeper water. A few Lesser Frigatebirds were seen, along with a possible Christmas Island Frigatebird, Great Crested and Black-naped Terns and a very brief Wilson's Storm-petrel. On approach to



Komodo Island

Komodo we saw 3 Yellow-crested Cockatoos perched in the treetops near the quay, and

upon arrival had a brief talk by the park rangers, trying to ignore the **Barred** and **Island Collared Doves** in the process. Then we set off on the long walk which produced several awesome **Green Junglefowls** (for a chicken..!), an **Orange-footed Scrubfowl** for some, **Wallacean Cuckooshrike**, **Yellow-bellied White-eyes**, and others.





Komodo Dragon

Then we had an incredible hour with the **Komodo Dragons** near the beach and had several walking around and posing for us, with a hulking 10-footer male that bellowed out a loud hiss at another dragon that got too close to him. I must admit they were very impressive for a non-bird! A lovely snorkelling session followed with many fantastic brightly-coloured fish and was a very relaxing way to spend a few hours, especially as the water was crystal clear. To cap of a great day, the owner of the boat took us to their private resort for drinks and snacks. What a great day..

Day 16 Saturday 20th July

Mainly a travelling day as we flew from Flores to Bali and then got caught in a major traffic jam that resulted in a 5 hour drive to our luxurious lodge set amidst superb forest at Bali Barat National park. Along the way we had a whole bunch of **Savanna Nightjars** flying around us at dusk when we stopped at a small shop to buy some water, and quite a few **White-headed Munias** roosting in a tree bordering the car park here as well.

Day 17 Sunday 21st July

One last push as we had a 4.30am breakfast and then drove for one hour to a quay where we boarded a small boat for a forty minute crossing to the site where we would search for a couple of very special birds. With lofty mountains, volcanoes, forested islands and a lovely clear blue sea it certainly was a beautiful crossing and as luck would have it we spotted our first major target bird from the boat, with a **Black-winged Myna** riding the back of a **Timor Deer** on an open hillside. We found a couple of others later as we zigzagged our way across the volcanic and rocky hillside – with a pair teed up nicely in the scope. There was also **Black** and **Ashy Drongos**, plenty of **Java Sparrows**, a **Changeable Hawk-eagle** on a nest, and 3 **Black-thighed Falconets**. The highlight for some was a pair of **Beach Thick-knees** scoped on a distant sand spit! But we were struggling for **Bali Starling** – only a handful survive as free flying wild birds, but there is a reintroduction programme with captive birds being released on a frequent basis. Eventually we found one in the mangroves of all places and had

great views of this stunningly beautiful bird. In fact there were several more free-flying ringed birds around the release pens that also gave great views. So that was it and we set off on the boat trip back to the mainland and a veritable feast for lunch. In the afternoon we visited a nearby forest and had **Fulvous-chested Jungle-flycatcher** responding well to the ipod, both **Blue-eared** and **Rufous-backed Kingfishers**, **Black-naped Monarch** and at least 6 calling **Javan Banded Pittas** at dusk.

Day 18 Monday 22nd July

After a last spot of birding in the forest we returned to the hotel, loaded the luggage and set out on the return journey back to the UK and conclusion of a superb tour.

Nick Bray.



Rusty-capped Tesia - Flores



Spotted Harrier – Sumba



Yellow-crested Cockatoo - Komodo Island



Zebra Finch - Sumba

BIRDLIST FOR THE LESSER SUNDAS - JULY 2013

	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME
	OI EOIEO	COLLITTI TO TRAME
1.	Wilson's Storm-petrel	Oceanites oceanicus
2.	Red-throated Little Grebe	Tachybaptus tricolor
3.	Lesser Frigatebird	Fregata ariel
	Christmas Frigatebird – 1 possible	Fregata andrewsi
4.	Little Black Cormorant	Phalacrocorax sulcirostris
5.	Little Pied Cormorant	Phalacrocorax melanoleucos
6.	Great-billed Heron	Ardea sumatrana
7.	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea
8.	Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea
9.	'Eastern' Great Egret	Egretta alba modesta
10.	Intermediate Egret	Egretta intermedia
11.	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta nigripes
12.	White-faced Heron	Egretta novaehollandiae
13.	Pacific Reef Egret	Egretta sacra sacra
14.	Eastern Cattle Egret	Bubulcus coromandus
15.	Javan Pond Heron	Ardeola speciosa speciosa
16.	Striated Heron	Butorides striatus
17.	Black-crowned Night-Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax
18.	Australian Pelican	Pelecanus conspicillatus
19.	Crested Serpent-Eagle	Spilornis cheela bido
20.	Black-winged Kite	Elanus caeruleus hypoleucos
21.	Black Kite	Milvus migrans affinis
22.	Brahminy Kite	Haliastur indus intermedius
23.	Lesser Fish-Eagle	Icthyophaga humilis
24.	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Haliaeetus leucogaster
25.	Short-toed Eagle	Circaetus gallicus gallicus
26.	Spotted Harrier	Circus assimilis
27.	Brown Goshawk (Sumba)	Accipiter fasciatus tjendanae
	Brown Goshawk (Timor)	Accipiter fasciatus hellmayri
28.	Variable Goshawk	Accipiter hiogaster sylvestris
29.	Changeable Hawk-eagle	Spizaetus cirrhatus limnaeetus
30.	Flores Hawk-eagle	Spizaetus floris
31.	Besra (Flores)	Accipiter virgatus quinquefasciatus
32.	Spotted Kestrel	Falco moluccensis microbalia
33.	Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus ernesti
34.	Black-thighed Falconet	Microhierax fringillarius
35.	Wandering Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna arcuata
36.	Sunda Teal	Anas gibberifrons
37.	Pacific Black Duck	Anas superciliosa
38.	Orange-footed Scrubfowl	Megapodius reinwardt reinwardt
39.	Brown Quail	Coturnix ypsilophora raaltenii
40.	Blue-breasted Quail	Coturnix chinensis

11	Green lunglefowl	Gallus varius
41.	Green Junglefowl	Gallus varius
42. 43.	Sumba Buttonquail	Turnix everetti
43.	Barred Buttonquail	Turnix suscitator powelli
4.4	Red-backed Buttonquail (Timor)	Turnix maculosa maculosa
44.	White-breasted Waterhen	Amaurornis phoenicurus
45.	Common Coot	Fulica atra
46.	Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus orientalis
47.	Australian Swamphen	Porphyrio melanotus
48.	Javan Plover	Charadrius javanicus
	Lesser Sand Plover – 1 possible	Charadrius mongolus mongolus
49.	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos
50.	Beach Thick-knee	Esacus neglectus
51.	Australian Pratincole	Stiltia isabella
52.	Black-naped Tern	Sterna sumatrana
53.	Little Tern	Sterna albifrons
54.	Greater Crested Tern	Thalasseus bergii
55.	Rock (Feral) Dove	Columba livia
56.	Metallic Pigeon	Columba metallica
57.	Island (Indonesian) Collared Dove	Streptopelia bitorquata
58.	Spotted Dove	Streptopelia chinensis tigrina
59.	Barred Cuckoo Dove	Macropygia unchall unchall
60.	Ruddy Cuckoo Dove	Macropygia emiliana emiliana
	Timor Black Pigeon – heard only	Turacoena modesta
61.	Asian Emerald Dove	Chalcophaps indica indica
62.	Zebra Dove	Geopelia striata
63.	Barred Dove	Geopelia maugei
64.	Pink-necked Green Pigeon	Treron vernans
65.	Flores Green Pigeon	Treron floris
66.	Black-backed Fruit Dove (Timor)	Ptilinopus cinctus cinctus
	Black-backed Fruit Dove (Flores)	Ptilinopus cinctus albocinctus
67.	Red-naped Fruit Dove	Ptilinopus dohertyi
68.	Rose-crowned Fruit Dove	Ptilinopus regina flavicollis
69.	Black-naped Fruit Dove	P. melanospila melanauchen
70.	Green Imperial Pigeon	Ducula aenea polia
71.	Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon	Ducula lacernulata sasakensis
72.	Timor Imperial Pigeon	Ducula cineracea
73.	Marigold Lorikeet (Sumba)	Trichoglossus capistratus fortis
74.	Flores (Leaf) Lorikeet	Trichoglossus weberi
75.	Olive-headed Lorikeet	Trichoglossus euteles
76.	Yellow-crested Cockatoo	Cacatua sulphurea parvula
77.	Citron-crested Cockatoo (Sumba)	Cacatua citrinocristata
78.	Red-cheeked Parrot	Geoffroyus geoffroyi floresianus
79.	Great-billed Parrot (Sumba)	Tanygnathus m. sumbaensis
80.	Eclectus Parrot	Elclectus roratus cornelia
- 50.	Wallace's Hanging-Parrot – heard only	Loriculus flosculus
81.	Sunda Cuckoo	Cuculus lepidus
82.	Rusty-breasted Cuckoo	Cacomantis sepulcralis
83.	Asian Drongo Cuckoo	Surniculus lugubris lugubris
84.	Gould's Bronze Cuckoo (Timor)	Chrysococcyx russatus russatus

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85.	Horsfields's Bronze Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx basalis
86.	Common Koel	Eudynamys scolopacea malayana
87.	Lesser Coucal	Centropus bengalensis javanensis
88.	Eurasian Barn Owl	Tyto alba javanica
00	Flores Scops Owl – heard only	Otus alfredi
89.	Sunda Scops Owl	Otus lempiji
90.	Wallace's Scops Owl	Otus silvicola
91.	Moluccan Scops Owl	Otus magicus albiventris
92.	Sumba Boobook	Ninox rudolfi
93.	Little Sumba Boobook	Ninox sumbaensis
94.	Streaked Boobook	Ninox (novaeseelandiae) fusca
95.	Mees's Nightjar	Caprimulgas meesi
96.	Savanna Nightjar	Caprimulgas affinis
97.	Glossy Swiftlet (Bali)	Collocalia esculenta esculenta
98.	Timor Swiftlet (Timor)	Collocalia (esculenta) neglecta
99.	Linchi Swiftlet (Bali)	Collocalia linchi dedii
	Linchi Swiftlet (Sumba/Flores)	Collocalia linchi sumbawae
100.	Edible-nest Swiftlet (Bali)	Collocalia fuciphaga fuciphaga
	Edible-nest Swiftlet (Sumba/Timor)	Collocalia fuciphaga micans
	Edible-nest Swiftlet (Flores)	Collocalia fuciphaga dammermani
101.	Black-nest Swiftlet	Aerodramus maxima
102.	Fork-tailed Swift	Apus pacificus pacificus
103.	House Swift	Apus (affinis) nipalensis
	White-rumped Kingfisher	Caridonax fulgidus
	Collared Kingfisher	Halcyon chloris chloris
	Sacred Kingfisher	Halcyon sancta sancta
	Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher	Halcyon australasia australasia
	Rufous-backed Kingfisher	Ceyx rufidorsa
	Small Blue Kingfisher	Alcedo coerulescens
	Blue-eared Kingfisher	Alcedo meninting meninting
	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	Merops philippinus
	Rainbow Bee-eater	Merops ornatus
113.	Common Dollarbird	Eurystomus orientalis pacificus
	Sumba Hornbill	Rhyticeros everetti
_	Oriental Pied Hornbill	Anthracoceros albirostris convexus
	Lineated Barbet	Megalaima lineata lineata
_	Coppersmith Barbet	Megalaima haemacephala rosea
	Spot-breasted Woodpecker	Dendrocopus analis analis
—	Sunda Woodpecker	Dendrocopus moluccensis grandis
113.	Javan Banded Pitta – heard only	Pitta guajana
120.		
ı∠U.	Elegant Pitta (Flores)	Pitta elegans concinna
121	Australasian Bushlark (Sumba)	Pitta elegans maria
121.	Australasian Bushlark (Sumba)	Mirafra javanica parva
400	Australasian Bushlark (Timor)	Mirafra javanica timorensis
	Pacific Swallow	Hirundo tahitica javanica
	Striated Swallow	Hirundo striolata striolata
124.	Tree Martin	Hirundo nigricans timoriensis
125.		Anthus rufulus albidus
	Paddyfield Pipit (Timor)	Anthus rufulus medius

400	Wallacoon Cualcoophriles (2)	Cavacina navazzata accesta accesta
120.	Wallacean Cuckooshrike (Sumba)	Coracina personata sumbensis
107	Wallacean Cuckooshrike (Flores)	Coracina debortui
	Pale-shouldered Cuckooshrike	Coracina dohertyi
-	Common Cicadabird	Coracina tenuirostris
-	White-shouldered Triller	Lalage sueurii
-	Flores (Little) Minivet	Pericrocotus lansbergei
	Small Minivet	P. cinnamomeus saturatus
-	Common lora	Aegithina tiphia scapularis
-	Sooty-headed Bulbul	Pycnonotus aurigaster aurigaster
	Yellow-vented Bulbul	Pycnonotus goiavier analis
	Black Drongo	Dicrurus macrocercus javanus
	Ashy Drongo	Dicrurus leucophaeus leucophaeus
137.	Lesser Wallacean Drongo (Flores)	Dicrurus bimaensis bimaensis
	Lesser Wallacean Drongo (Sumba)	Dicrurus bimaensis sumbae
	Greater Wallacean Drongo	Dicrurus densus densus
139.	Olive-Brown Oriole	Oriolus melanotis melanotis
140.	Black-naped Oriole	Oriolus chinensis broderipii
	Timor Figbird	Sphecotheres viridis
142.	Flores Crow	Corvus florensis
143.	Southern Jungle Crow	Corvus macrorhynchos
144.	Grey (Cinerous) Tit	Parus cinereus
	Pygmy Wren-babbler (Timor) - heard	Pnoepyga pusilla timorensis
145.	Pygmy Wren-babbler (Flores)	Pnoepyga pusilla everetti
	Horsfield's Babbler – heard only	Malacocincla sepiaria sepiaria
	White-browed Shortwing - heard only	Brachypteryx montana floris
146.	Chestnut-capped Thrush	Zoothera interpres
	Chestnut-backed Thrush	Zoothera dohertyi
148.	Orange-sided Thrush	Zoothera peronii peronii
	Island Thrush	Turdus poliocephalus schegelii
150.	Pied Bushchat (Sumba)	Saxicola caprata francki
	Pied Bushchat (Timor)	Saxicola caprata pyrrhonota
	Pied Bushchat (Flores)	Saxicola caprata fruticola
151.	Timor (White-bellied) Chat	Saxicola gutturalis guttaralis
-	Golden-bellied Gerygone	Gerygone sulphurea sulphurea
	Plain Gerygone	Gerygone inornata
-	Russet-capped Tesia	Tesia everetti everetti
	Timor Stubtail	Urosphena subulata
	Sunda Bush-warbler	Cettia vulcania everetti
157.	Olive-backed Tailorbird	Orthotomus sepium sepium
	Mountain Tailorbird	Orthotomus cuculatus everetti
100.	Ashy Tailorbird – heard only	Orithotomus ruficeps ruficeps
159.	•	Phylloscopus presbytes
	Flores Leaf Warbler	Phylloscopus floris
-	Yellow-breasted Warbler (Flores)	Seicercus montis floris
-	Buff-banded Bushbird	Buettikoferella bivittata
	Zitting Cisticola	Cisticola juncidis fuscicapillus
164.	Bar-winged Prinia	Prinia familiaris
	Plain Prinia	
		Prinia inornata blythi
100.	Flores Jungle-flycatcher	Rhinomyias oscillans

167	Sumba Jungle-flycatcher	Phinamyjas strasamanni
	Fulvous-chested Jungle Flycatcher	Rhinomyias stresemanni Rhinomyias olivaceus olivaceus
	Sumba Brown Flycatcher	Muscicapa segregata
	Snowy-browed Flycatcher	Ficedula hyperythra clarae
-	Sumba Flycatcher	Ficedula harterti
	Little Pied Flycatcher	Ficedula manerii Ficedula westermanni
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173.	Rufous-chested Flycatcher	Ficedula dumetoria dumetoria
171	Black-banded Flycatcher - leader only	Ficedula timorensis
-	Timor Blue Flycatcher	Cyornis hyacinthinus hyacinthinus
	Black-naped Monarch	Hypothymis azurea prophata
176.	Asian Paradise-flycatcher (Sumba)	Terpsiphone paradise sumbaensis
477	Asian Paradise-flycatcher (Flores)	Terpsiphone paradise floris
	Flores Monarch	Monarcha sacerdotum
	Spectacled Monarch	Monarcha trivirgatus trivirgatus
-	Broad-billed Monarch	Myiagra ruficollis ruficollis
	Pied Fantail	Rhipidura javanica javanica
181.	Northern Fantail	Rhipidura rufiventris rufiventris
	Brown-capped Fantail	Rhipidura diluta diluta
183.	Arafura Fantail (Sumba)	Rhipidura dryas sumbensis
	Arafura Fantail (Timor/Flores)	Rhipidura dryas semicollaris
184.	J , , ,	Culicicapa ceylonensis connectens
	Grey-headed Flycatcher (Flores)	Culicicapa ceylonensis sejuncta
185.	, ,	Pachycephala pectoralis calliope
	Common Golden Whistler (Sumba)	Pachycephala p. fulviventris
	Common Golden Whistler (Flores)	Pachycephala p. fulvotincta
186.	Mangrove Whistler	Pachycephala cinerea cinerea
187.	Fawn-breasted Whistler	Pachycephala orpheus
188.	Bare-throated Whistler	Pachycephala nudigula
189.	White-breasted Woodswallow	Artamus leucorynchus albiventer
190.	Black-faced Woodswallow	Artamus cinereus perspicillatus
191.	Long-tailed Shrike	Lanius schach bentet
192.	Short-tailed Starling	Aplonis minor
193.	Black-winged Myna	Acridotheres melanopterus
194.	Javan Myna	Acridotheres javanicus
195.	Bali Myna	Leucopsar rothschildi
196.	Timor Friarbird	Philemon inornatus
197.	Helmeted Friarbird (Timor)	Philemon buceroides buceroides
	Helmeted Friarbird (Sumba/Flores)	Philemon buceroides neglectus
198.	Streak-breasted Honeyeater	Meliphaga reticulata
	Scaly-crowned Honeyeater	Lichmera lombokia
	Indonesian Honeyeater	Lichmera limbata
201.		Lichmera flavicans
	Black-chested Myzomela	Myzomela vulnerata
	Sumba Myzomela	Myzomela dammermani
204.	Brown-throated Sunbird (Sumba)	Anthreptes malacensis rubrigena
	Brown-throated Sunbird (Flores)	Anthreptes malacensis convergens
205.	Olive-backed Sunbird	Nectarinia jugularis ornata
	Apricot-breasted Sunbird	Nectarinia buettikoferi
207.	Flame-breasted Sunbird	Nectarinia solaris solaris
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	Golden-rumped Flowerpecker	Dicaeum annae annae
209.	Thick-billed Flowerpecker (Timor)	Dicaeum agile obsoletum
	Thick-billed F'pecker (Sumba/Flores)	Dicaeum agile tinctum
210.	Black-fronted Flowerpecker	Dicaeum igniferum igniferum
211.	Red-chested Flowerpecker	Dicaeum maugei maugei
212.	Blood-breasted F'pecker (Sumba)	D. sanguinolentum wilhelminae
	Blood-breasted F'pecker (Flores)	D. sanguinolentum rhodopgygiale
	Blood-breasted F'pecker (Timor)	D. sanguinolentum hanieli
213.	Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker	Dicaeum trochileum trochileum
214.	Oriental White-eye	Zosterops palpebrosus unicus
215.	Mountain White-eye	Zosterops montanus montanus
216.	Yellow-spectacled White-eye	Zosterops wallacei
217.	Lemon-bellied White-eye	Zosterops chloris intermedius
218.	Ashy-bellied White-eye	Zosterops citrinellus citrinellus
219.	Yellow-browed Dark-eye	Lophozosterops superciliaris
220.	Crested Dark-eye (Ibon)	L. dohertyi subcristatus
221.	Spot-breasted Dark-eye (Heleia)	Heleia muelleri
222.	Thick-billed Dark-eye (Heleia)	Heleia crassirostris
223.	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus malaccensis
224.	Red Avadavat	Amandava a. flavidiventris
225.	Zebra Finch	Taeniopygia guttata
226.	Tricoloured Parrotfinch	Erythrura tricolor
227.	Black-faced Munia	Lonchura molucca propinqua
228.	Scaly-breasted Munia (Bali)	Lonchura punctulata nisoria
	Scaly-breasted Munia (Sumba)	Lonchura punctulata sumbae
	Scaly-breasted Munia (Flores/Timor)	Lonchura punctulata blasii
229.	Five-coloured Munia	Lonchura quinticolor
230.	White-headed Munia	Lonchura maja
231.	Pale-headed Munia	Lonchura pallida
232.	Java Sparrow	Padda oryzivora
	Timor Sparrow	Padda fuscata

	OTHER ANIMALS	SCIENTIFIC NAME
1.	Plantain Squirrel	Callosciurus notatus
2.	Long-tailed Macaque	Macaca fascicularis
3.	Timor Deer (Rusa)	Cervus timorensis
4.	Black Flying Fox	Ptopus alecto
5.	Monitor Lizard	Varanus indicus
6.	House Gecko	Hemidactylus frenatus
7.	Komodo Dragon	Varanus komodoensis
8.	Leaf-nosed Bat sp	