



Streak-breasted Fantail (Craig Robson)

INDONESIA'S SOUTHERN MOLUCCAS

6 – 23 SEPTEMBER 2019

LEADER: CRAIG ROBSON

Of all the birding tours that visit the smaller and more remote islands of Wallacea in Indonesia, this one surely offers the highest number of endemics and, with current taxonomic progress, that number is ever growing. Birdquest was one of the pioneers of tours to the southern Moluccas, and this was our sixth tour to take in Buru, Ambon, Haruku, Yamdena (Tanimbar), Kai, Seram and Boano. Among the many highlights in 2019, were: Moluccan and Tanimbar Megapodes, Tanimbar Cuckoo-Dove, Wallace's, White-bibbed and Claret-breasted Fruit Doves, Spectacled and Seram Imperial Pigeons, Buru and Seram Mountain Pigeons,

Pygmy Eagle, Rufous-necked Sparrowhawk, Meyer's Goshawk, Seram, Buru and Tanimbar Boobooks, Lazuli Kingfisher, Tanimbar Corella, Seram (or Salmon-crested) Cockatoo, Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot, Buru Racket-tail, Purple-naped Lory, Blue-streaked and Blue-eared Lories, South Moluccan, Papuan and Elegant Pittas, Wakolo Myzomela, Buru and Seram Honeyeaters, a trio of endemic friarbird/oriole combos on Buru, Tanimbar and Seram, Island Whistler, Tanimbar, Kai, Seram and Buru Spangled Drongos (if you split them!), likewise Kai, Buru and Seram Fantails, Cinnamon-tailed, Streak-breasted, Tawny-backed and Long-tailed Fantails, an amazing range of island-endemic monarchs (including Boano or Black-chinned), Violet Crow, Golden-bellied Flyrobin, Seram and Buru Golden Bulbuls, Buru, Seram and Kai Leaf Warblers (in the process of being split), the splittable Buru and Seram Bush (or Grasshopper) Warblers, Rufescent Darkeye, Grey-hooded, Pearl-bellied, Golden-bellied, Seram, Buru and Ambon White-eyes, Long-crested Myna, Slaty-backed, Buru, Seram (heard only) and Fawn-breasted Thrushes, Streak-breasted Jungle, Tanimbar and Cinnamon-chested Flycatchers, and Flame-breasted and Ashy Flowerpeckers.

Day one began with our lunchtime arrival at Pattimura Airport on Ambon, the capital of Maluku Province. Ceisar, the ultimate Mr Fixit, and local birding guide Vinno were there to greet us as usual, and we spent the remainder of the afternoon in an area of remnant forest patches and cultivated gardens at Ewang Tulehu. The main target-bird was Ambon White-eye, and a pair soon appeared on-cue. A small selection of regional specialities, including Seram Spangled Drongo (split from Spangled), Spectacled Monarch, Moluccan Flycatcher, Ambon Golden Bulbul (a potential split from Seram Golden) and Ashy (or Seram) Flowerpecker got us in the mood for what was to come.

Early the next morning, we headed back to the airport for our first ever flight to neighbouring Buru. The recent completion of the airport there means that we can now comfortably avoid the hassle and discomfort of an overnight ferry. On arrival, we headed straight off for some introductory birding along the now well-known Wamlana Logging Road, which penetrates Buru's remote, montane, and still well-forested interior; before descending again to our very comfortable accommodation at the surprisingly luxurious Buru Island Resort, mid-way along the north coast.

Our birding explorations over the next few days were divided between the Wamlana Logging and Danau Roads, and the lowland forest remnants at Bara on the north-west coast. With 4WD vehicles at our disposal, and a regularly supply of drinks and snacks, it made for mostly comfortable roadside birding. In the uplands we were able to reach 1420m by road, and it was during this time that we found the vast majority of our new birds, including Buru Mountain Pigeon, Buru Boobook, the lovely Buru Racket-tail, Buru Myzomela (a potential split from Wakolo), Black-faced (or Buru) Friarbird, Pale Cicadabird, Buru Cuckooshrike, the local form of Yellow-throated (or Moluccan) Whistler (sometimes split as Buru Whistler), Drab Whistler, Black-eared (or Buru) Oriole, Buru Fantail (split from Northern), Buru Golden Bulbul, Buru Leaf Warbler (split from Island), Buru White-eye, Streak-breasted Jungle Flycatcher (or Buru Warbling-flycatcher), and Flame-breasted (or Buru) Flowerpecker. Five years previously, with the help of our local guide Vinno, we had opened-up a trail to a hill-top above the Danau Road, reaching 1660m elevation. The purpose of this endeavor was to search for the island's most inaccessible endemic, the little-known Madanga. Two years later, during our last tour in 2016, we succeeded in seeing this great rarity for the first time on a bird tour. I guess it was too much to ask for a repeat of this feat in 2019, and the very dry and windy conditions made our task even harder. Towards the top of the trail, the only highlights were Tawny-backed Fantail and Buru Honeyeater, while Craig found a juvenile Rufous-necked Sparrowhawk that unfortunately didn't stick around. Lower down on the trail, a Great Cuckoo-Dove also eluded us, while a South Moluccan (or Buru) Pitta only showed for the lucky ones. A dependant fledged juvenile Moluccan Cuckoo being fed by Buru Leaf Warbler was noted for the second tour running. Back along the Danau Road itself, one hotspot brought us excellent views of a very responsive Buru Thrush, as well as multiple views of Buru (or Chestnut-backed) Bush Warbler. Down in a hollow, Craig spotted a Buru Dwarf Kingfisher, but the slightly un-sighted group members just couldn't get onto it before it slipped away. At somewhat lower elevation, further tries for South Moluccan Pitta proved to be a bit of a struggle, but we did bump into a neat pair of Cinnamon-chested Flycatchers, and Black-tipped Monarchs at their nest. 'Eastern' Superb and White-bibbed Fruit Doves were frequently encountered.



White-naped Monarch and Buru Honeyeater (Craig Robson)

Over at Bara, to the north-west. The lowland forest patches brought different birds, and were particularly good for pigeons and parrots, with Spectacled (or Buru) Imperial Pigeon, lots of Claret-breasted Fruit Doves, raucous Great-billed and Eclectus Parrots, and gaudy Red Lories and Coconut Lorikeets. There were some more views of South Moluccan Pitta, and we also found Buru Spangled Drongo (split from Spangled), and White-naped (or Buru Pied) Monarch. Thanks to some bat research by Steve, we were able to add Temminck's Flying Fox to the mammal list.

We returned to the airport the following morning, and flew back to Ambon. The remainder of the morning was spent at the only freshwater lake on the island at Ewang Suli. There is always something worthwhile to look at here and this time we saw a variety of commoner shorebirds, an unexpected Black Bittern, Australasian Grebe, and Eastern Yellow Wagtail. In the afternoon, we re-visited Ewang Tulehu, walking much further towards the hills than we had previously. Seram Imperial Pigeon was a trip addition, Ambon (or Seram Golden) Bulbul and Ambon White-eye put in further appearances, and we also saw Seram Fantail (a potential split from Northern), and the local form of Spectacled (or Wallacean) Monarch.

A morning flight the next day transported us to Yamdena, the largest of the Tanimbar Islands - politically in Maluku but zoogeographically in the eastern Lesser Sundas. Starting after lunch, we spent the next two-and-a-half days making twice-daily forays to several different areas of forest alongside the main roads to the north and north-west of Saumlaki. With so much lowland primary and secondary forest, not to mention clearings, scrub and grassland, the interior of Yamdena is literally heaving with birds. Picking our way around the southern edge of this forest mass, following a series of old logging roads and trails, and birding the roadsides, we soon notched-up the vast majority of the target-birds, including Tanimbar Cuckoo-Dove (split from Bar-necked), Wallace's and Rose-crowned Fruit-Doves (the latter lacking a rose crown here!), Elegant and Pink-headed Imperial Pigeons, Pied Bronze Cuckoo (split from Little), Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher, Tanimbar Corella (or Cockatoo), Blue-streaked Lory, Banda Myzomela, the ubiquitous Scaly-breasted (or Banda) Honeyeater, Golden-bellied (or Tanimbar) Flyrobin, Tanimbar Friarbird, Rufous-sided (or Banda Sea) Gerygone, White-browed (or Tanimbar) Triller, Wallacean Whistler, Tanimbar Oriole, Cinnamon-tailed, Long-tailed (or Charming) and Arafura (or Supertramp) Fantails, Black-bibbed (or Banda Sea) Monarch, Loetoe (or Tanimbar) Monarch, Tanimbar Bush Warbler, Tanimbar Starling, Tanimbar Flycatcher, Salvadoris's Flowerpecker (split from Mistletoebird), and the elusive Tricoloured Parrotfinch. Even before it was fully dark, Tanimbar Boobook performed admirably on a number of occasions. One of our prime birding areas was a secluded stream-bed that still retained some pools of water. A bit of a god-send considering the continuing dry conditions that we were experiencing. This was the area in which we eventually succeed in getting multiple views of the tricky endemic Tanimbar Megapode. We found two different mounds that were still being used but unfortunately, I fear we were not the only ones who knew about these and the local farmers do still commonly snare this species for food. Sneaking along this stream-bed (not difficult with its sandy bottom!), we also got many great views of both Slaty-backed and Fawn-breasted Thrushes, and the aberrant Long-tailed Fantail. Craig flushed a Raja Shelduck, and Elegant Pitta made a brief first showing. Another tough-to-see endemic was Tanimbar Spangled Drongo (split from Wallacean or Greater Wallacean) which is a very quiet and secretive bird. We persisted right to the very end, when a group of four birds were eventually tracked-down just before we had to leave for the airport.

A new wetland that has formed after the building-up of the new airport, was still good for birds, and this year we enjoyed Spotted and Wandering Whistling Ducks, Green Pygmy Goose, breeding Australasian Grebes, Australasian Darter, Pied Heron, Australian Pelican, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, and Tree Martin.

From Yamdena we flew to Tual on Kai Kecil, in the Kai Islands, via Ambon. Arriving too late in the day for birding, we checked in to our very comfortable hotel and got ready for the next day.

We began our exploration of Kai Kecil (the largest of this group of islands) on the following morning at some forested coastal limestone. A nice birdy spell in the early morning brought us the scarce Island Whistler, along with Kai Coucal (now often lumped in Pheasant), Orange-footed Scrubfowl, Varied Triller, Australasian Figbird, the ubiquitous and noisy Kai Spangled Drongo (split from Spangled), Kai Fantail (split from Northern), Island Monarch, Golden-bellied (or Little Kai or Kai Kecil) White-eye, and the local form of

Mistletoebird. Along the Airport road and its side-trails (one of the island's best birding areas now), we added the very pale local form of Variable Goshawk, Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot, Elegant Pitta, Grey-headed Whistler (split from Grey), the unique local race of Drab Whistler, and the rather secretive White-tailed (or Kai) Monarch. Conditions were very dry once more, so it was a moister site that produced our only Papuan Pittas of the tour.



Tanimbar Megapode nest-mound (Craig Robson)



Rose-crowned Fruit Dove (subspecies xanthogaster) and Tanimbar Corella on Yamdena (Rainer Seifert)



Kai Fantail (potential split from Northern) and Pearl-bellied White-eye (Craig Robson)

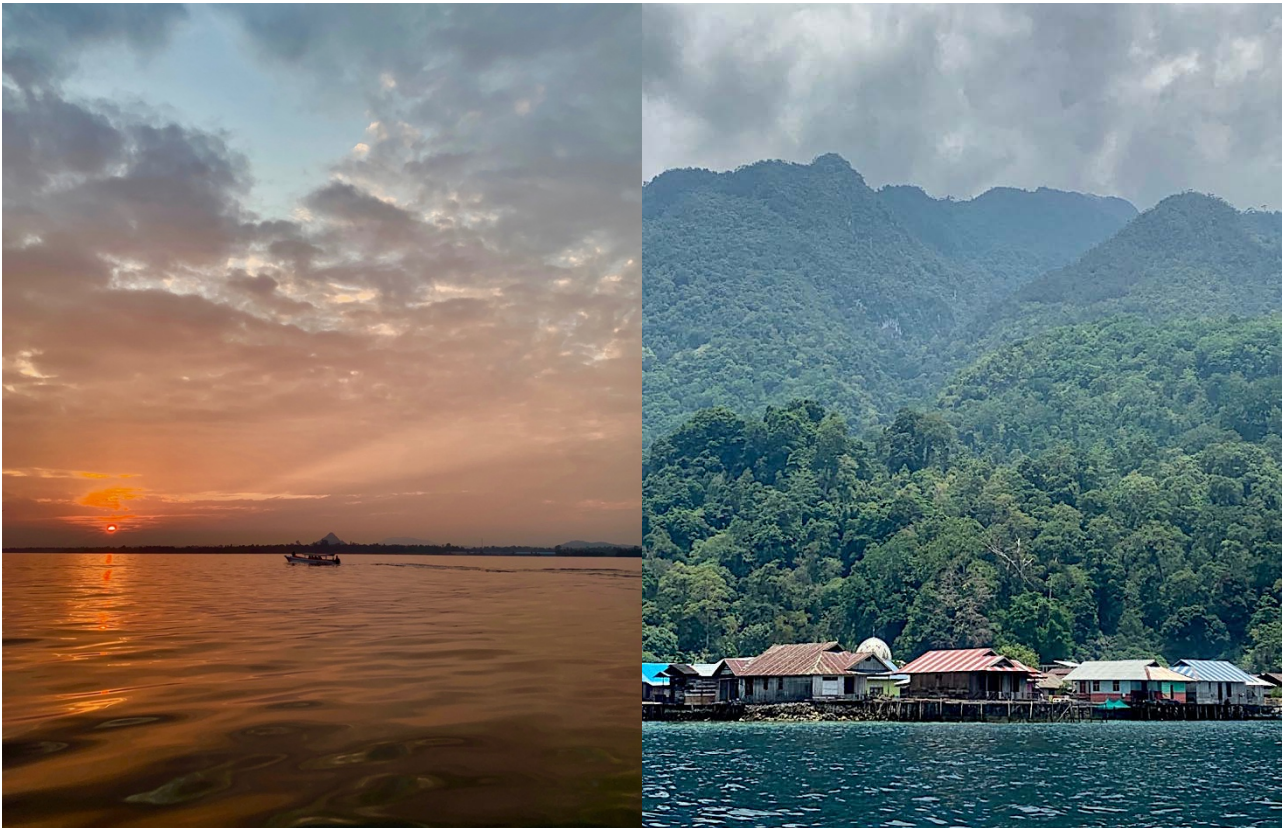
Due to relatively rough seas, our visit to Kai Besar was made on the scheduled passenger ferry this year. It was a very comfortable trip but it did restrict our time on the island somewhat. It was not to be a problem however, as we easily located the endemic Pearl-bellied (or Great Kai or Kai Besar) White-eye, which is common and easily seen, and made a record-breaking ascent of the trail behind Bukit Indah Mission in order to see Kai Leaf Warbler, a very distinctive split from Island Leaf Warbler.



Golden-bellied White-eye and White-tailed Monarch on Kai Kecil (Craig Robson)

From Kai, it was another short flight back to Ambon. From the airport, we drove directly to the other side of the island and then boarded a small speedboat for the 20-minute ride across to neighbouring Haruku. We were visiting the village of Kailolo, which has one of the best-known Moluccan Megapode breeding grounds in the world. Even before complete darkness, we had some initial views of our quarry, and shortly after dark, several birds soon scuttled into a sandy clearing and began scratching and digging in preparation for laying their eggs. We obtained spotlight views as carefully and quickly as possible, as we did not want to disturb them for long at such close quarters, before beating a retreat back to the shore and our speedboat back to Ambon. A really fantastic experience.

Another ferry ride the following lunchtime took us north-east to Masohi, on the south coast of Seram, and from there we drove across the island to our small coastal guest house near Sawai. It was great to see that the paving of the small side-road to the village was holding-up, making access so much quicker and easier.



Sawai, north Seram (Craig Robson)

Most of our birding on Seram was spent along the upper reaches of the Trans-Seram Highway - where it runs through the wonderful forests of the huge Manusela National Park. Clouds often build during the mornings here and then gather over the higher ground and produce rain showers and mist in the afternoons, though this year the prevailing dry conditions continued. With vehicles constantly at our disposal as usual, we had maximum flexibility and were able to visit a number of different sections of the road. One of the primary species that the park was set up to protect is the endangered Seram (or Salmon-crested) Cockatoo, and we saw several of these beautiful and highly vocal birds along the higher points of the road. Another important parrot, Purple-naped Lory, was also seen very easily this year, and in higher numbers than ever - a very encouraging sign. We began early mornings at the highest point of the road (c.1270m). This is where we were hoping to see the endemic Blue-eared Lory, which is more frequently encountered at this particular point than the generally much commoner Red Lory and Coconut Lorikeet. Fortunately, all three species were seen during our first morning session, along with a calling and displaying Rufous-necked Sparrowhawk. The forest edge at these higher points also held occasional mixed-species feeding flocks, within which were our target passerines: Yellow-throated (or Moluccan) Whistler (Seram Whistler if you split it!), the local form of Drab Whistler, Streak-breasted Fantail, Seram Leaf Warbler (split from Island), the yellow-infused local Warbling White-eyes (split from Mountain), Grey-hooded White-eye, and the sneaky mid-storey Rufescent Darkeye. Drab Myzomelas were particularly conspicuous this year, but less so the endemic Seram form of Wakolo Myzomela, and the nectar-loving Seram Honeyeater. Seram Friarbird and its copycat Grey-collared (or Seram) Oriole both showed very well, a pair of Violet Crows came right in to study us, and we had several good sightings of the remarkable Long-crested Myna. Our first Seram Mountain Pigeons were flyovers, but we also got some great perched views, while scanning for Pygmy Eagle drew a blank but turned-up the very rare Meyer's Goshawk. Two different pairs of Lazuli Kingfishers were seen at lower levels still. On our last morning we ascended a steep and difficult trail which took us up to 1560m elevation. Here we managed to hear the little-known Seram Thrush, though it unfortunately proved to be unresponsive, and

it's choice of a densely vegetated steep ravine left us little hope of seeing it. There was some consolation in the form of good views of Seram Bush Warbler (a split from Chestnut-backed). Multiple night-time forays brought some great views of Seram Boobook (split from Hantu), as well as Moluccan Scops Owl, but the local form of Moluccan Masked Owl was a heard-only again.



Seram Friarbird (Rainer Seifert)

On one morning we took boats across a short stretch of ocean to the north-east, to the tiny islet of Pulau Lusaolate. Our target here was the small-island-loving Olive Honeyeater. Dry conditions meant wilting leaves on the island and nothing was flowering. Unfortunately, our only Olive Honeyeater flew off towards the mainland as soon as we arrived. Heading over in that direction, a search of the shoreline produced nothing bar our best views of Seram Spangled Drongo. Back at the island we waited a long time for low tide before realising that very high seasonal tides meant that the nearby sandbank would not be exposed, and there would be nowhere for terns to roost! Scanning offshore we found a few Brown Boobies and Bulwer's Petrels, an unexpected Wedge-tailed Shearwater, our first flocks of Red-necked Phalaropes, and a presumed Hawksbill Sea Turtle. We continued to Pulau Sawai, directly offshore from the village, where Great-billed Heron, Grey Plover, Far Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, and Terek Sandpiper were seen.

From Sawai we drove to the west end of Seram and stayed the night at a small hotel in Piru. Early the following morning we drove along a small road to Masika, where two boats were ready to transport us the short journey across a narrow strip of ocean to the island of Boano. Here, at a very convenient site that we discovered a few years ago, we soon located the endemic Black-chinned (or Boano) Monarch. Said to be critically endangered, a good amount of its forest habitat still remains on the island, though much of it on hilly and often very rocky and somewhat inaccessible ground. Hard times may lay ahead though, as villagers are steadily cutting back the forest for agriculture.

Taking a different ferry route back to Ambon, it was time for a final night of comfort in town, before we all headed off our separate ways on the following day.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

BIRDS

Total of bird species recorded: 238.

- Moluccan Megapode (M Scrubfowl) *Eulipoa wallacei*** Great views of 10+ at Kailolo, Haruku; several egg-laying.
- Tanimbar Megapode (T Scrubfowl) *Megapodius tenimberensis*** Hard work, but seen multiple times on Yamdena.
- Dusky Megapode (Forsten's M) *M. [freycinet] forsteni*** Two sightings on Buru (*buruensis*); heard Kailolo (nom.).
- Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt*** A couple seen well on Kai Kecil.
- Spotted Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna guttata*** 6+ Danau Lorulun (Saumlaki Airport Lake).
- Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*** 80+ Danau Lorulun.
- Raja Shelduck (White-headed S) *Tadorna radjah*** Craig flushed one from a forest stream on Yamdena.
- Green Pygmy Goose *Nettapus pulchellus*** 25+ Danau Lorulun.
- Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*** At least two at Danau Lorulun.
- Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*** Widespread sightings. Wallacea-wide *schlegelii*.
- Moustached Treeswift *Hemiprocne mystacea***
- Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta***
- Seram Swiftlet *Aerodramus ceramensis*** On Ambon, Buru & Seram.
- Uniform Swiftlet *Aerodramus vanikorensis*** Widespread (*moluccarum*).
- Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis***
- Pheasant Coucal (Kai C) *Centropus [phasianinus] spilopterus*** Some very nice observations of this vocal endemic.
- Pacific Koel (Australian K) *Eudynamys orientalis*** Several sightings on Buru. Heard elsewhere.
- Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*** Singles in flight on Kai Kecil and in north Seram.
- Little Bronze Cuckoo (Pied B C) *Chrysococcyx [minutillus] crassirostris*** Seen well on Yamdena; often heard.
- Brush Cuckoo (Australian B C) *Cacomantis variolosus*** One seen on Kai Besar (*infaustus*).
- Moluccan Cuckoo (M Brush C) *C. aeruginosus*** Seen Buru (fledged juv. fed by Buru Leaf Warbler); heard Seram.
- Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus optatus*** Two seen in coastal north Seram.
- Rock Pigeon (R Dove, Feral P) *Columba livia***
- Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*** Buru, Ambon, Seram. Probably introduced.
- Amboyna Cuckoo-Dove (Amboina C-D) *Macropygia amboinensis*** Seen on Buru and Seram this year (nominate).
- Tanimbar Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia timorlaeensis*** Quite common on Yamdena.
- Great Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia reinwardti*** Craig saw one on Buru and we all heard another there.
- Pacific Emerald Dove (Green-winged Pigeon) *Chalcophaps longirostris*** Best seen along the roads on Yamdena.
- Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata*** A couple on Ambon; of introduced origin.
- Barred Dove *Geopelia maugei*** Tanimbar & Kai.
- Wallace's Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus wallacii*** Good numbers of this attractive dove on Yamdena and Kai Kecil.
- Superb Fruit Dove (Eastern S F) *Ptilinopus [superbus] superbus*** Many seen this year on Buru.
- Rose-crowned Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus regina*** Grey-hooded *xanthogaster* was common on Yamdena.
- White-bibbed Fruit Dove (White-breasted F D) *P. rivoli*** Frequent on Ambon, Buru, Kai & Seram (*prassinorrhous*).
- Claret-breasted Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus viridis*** Common Buru, and also seen on Ambon and Boano (*viridis*).
- Spectacled Imperial Pigeon (Buru I P) *Ducula perspicillata*** Some good views on Buru.
- Seram Imperial Pigeon *Ducula neglecta*** Several seen on Ambon and Seram. Split from the previous species.
- Elegant Imperial Pigeon (Yellow-eyed I P) *Ducula concinna*** Common on Yamdena and also the Kai Is.
- Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula rosacea*** At least five seen on Yamdena.
- Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor***
- Buru Mountain Pigeon *Gymnophaps mada*** Scarce this year, with only two seen.
- Seram Mountain Pigeon *Gymnophaps stalkerii*** Just eight logged this year.
- Red-legged Crake *Rallina fasciata* (H)** For the 2nd tour running, calling in flight at night, near Sawai Jnc., Seram.
- Pale-vented Bush-hen (Rufous-tailed B-h) *Amaurornis moluccana* (H)** Just a couple heard briefly on Buru.
- Tricolored Grebe *Tachybaptus tricolor***
- Australasian Grebe (Black-throated Little G) *T. novaehollandiae*** 1 Ewang Suli, 15+ Danau Lorulun (breeding).
- Grey Plover (Black-bellied P) *Pluvialis squatarola*** Two at Pulau Sawai, Seram.

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* One at Pulau Lusaolate, and two at Pulau Sawai.
Whimbrel (Eurasian W) *Numenius [phaeopus] phaeopus*
Far Eastern Curlew *N. madagascariensis* One off north coast of Seram and 7+ Pulau Sawai.
Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* Three at Pulau Sawai.
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* One flew by en route to Boano.
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* Five at Danau Lorulun.
Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* One at Pulau Sawai, Seram.
Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* Off P. Lusaolate (80+) and from the Seram-Ambon car ferry (400+).
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes* Just a couple on a beach in north-west Seram.
Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* Singles at Ewang Suli, Ambon, and Danau Lorulun, Yamdena.
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*
Little Tern *Sternula albifrons* At least 90 noted along the coast near Sawai, Seram.
Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus* Two en route to Boano.
Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana* 2 Kai Besar; 12+ Seram. Adult with two recently fledged young P. Lusaolate.
Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*
Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*
White-winged Tern (W-w Black T) *Chlidonias leucopterus* One at Pulau Lusaolate.
Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna pacifica* Ian picked-up a single bird off P. Lusaolate.
Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii* 15 off Buru; 5 off Pulau Lusaolate; 10 off north-west Seram; 1 on way to Boano.
Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor* One at Bara, Buru.
Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*
Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*
Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*
Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* Just a handful at Danau Aplal, Kai Kecil.
Australasian Darter (Australian D) *Anhinga novaehollandiae* One at Danau Lorulun.
Australian White Ibis (Australian I) *Threskiornis moluccus* Just one at Pulau Sawai.
Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis* An unexpected bird at Ewang Suli, Ambon.
Striated Heron *Butorides striatus*
Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus* (NL)
Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana* Just one at Pulau Sawai, Seram.
Great Egret (Eastern G E) *Ardea [alba] modesta*
Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia* Singles at Ewang Suli and Danu Lorulun.
Pied Heron *Egretta picata* Saumlaki: 29 at the Airport, 2 Danau Lorulun, and 6+ from the hotel.
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* Mostly *nigripes*, but a migrant *garzetta* at Ewang Suli, Ambon.
Pacific Reef Heron (P R Egret) *Egretta sacra*
Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus* Just one at Saumlaki Airport/Danau Lorulun.
Eastern Osprey *Pandion cristatus* One along the shore of Boano.
Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata* One on Kai Kecil (*pallida*).
Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*
Pygmy Eagle *Hieraeetus weiskei* (NL) Three individuals were noted on Buru.
Bonelli's Eagle (Rensch's E) *Aquila [fasciata] renshi* A single bird on our first afternoon on Yamdena.
Variable Goshawk (Varied G) *Accipiter hiogaster* See notes.
Rufous-necked Sparrowhawk *Accipiter erythrauchen* Craig had a juvenile on Buru; then 1-2 Seram (*ceramensis*).
Meyer's Goshawk *Accipiter meyerianus* Distant but reasonable flight views of one in the highlands of Seram.
Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*
White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
Moluccan Masked Owl (Seram M O) *Tyto [sororcula] almae* (NL) (H) Steve heard one in the Sawai foothills.
Moluccan Scops Owl *Otus magicus* Great views on Buru (*bouruensis*) and Seram (*magicus*).
Seram Boobook *Ninox squamipila* One seen very well, and others heard.
Buru Boobook *Ninox hantu* Ditto.
Tanimbar Boobook *Ninox forbesi* Four seen well, and others heard.

Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus* A few on Seram, but quite elusive this year.

Oriental Dollarbird (Common D) *Eurystomus orientalis*

Common Paradise Kingfisher *Tanysiptera galatea* (H) Heard on Buru (*acis*), and Seram (*nais*).

Lazuli Kingfisher *Halcyon lazuli* Two pairs noted on Seram.

Collared Kingfisher *Halcyon chloris*

Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sanctus* Three on Kai Kecil and one on Pulau Lusaolate.

Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher *Todiramphus australasia* Three different birds noted on Yamdena (*odites*).

Common Kingfisher (Hispid K, Cobalt-eared K) *Alcedo [atthis] hispidoides* Ambon and Seram (*hispidoides*).

Buru Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx cajeli* Unfortunately a leader-only bird this year.



Buru & Tanimbar Boobooks (Rainer Seifert), Moluccan Scops Owls; Seram (Craig Robson [left]) & Buru (Rainer Seifert)

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus* Small numbers flying over on Buru.

Spotted Kestrel (Indonesian K) *Falco moluccensis*

Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis* Rainer spotted one on Yamdena (Lesser Sundan *hanieli*).

Tanimbar Corella (T Cockatoo) *Cacatua goffini* Locally common Yamdena (c.38 logged). 1 Kai Kecil (introduced).

Salmon-crested Cockatoo (Seram C) *Cacatua moluccensis* 7 seen & others heard on Seram. Voted bird of the trip.

Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot *Micropsitta keiensis* Great views at multiple sites on Kai Kecil; at least 12 seen.
Moluccan King Parrot *Alisterus amboinensis* 10+ on Buru (*buruensis*). Superb parrot.
Buru Racket-tail (B Racquet-t) *Prioniturus mada* Fairly frequent on Buru, with around 13 birds logged.
Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus* 17 logged on Yamdena (*riedelli*); 5 on Kai (*polychloros*); 2 on Seram (*roratus*).
Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi* Buru, Ambon, Seram (*rhodops*); Yamdena (*timorlaoensis*); Kai (*keyensis*).
Great-billed Parrot *Tanygnathus megalorhynchus* 8+ Buru (*affinis*); 2 Yamdena (*subaffinis*).
Red-flanked Lorikeet *Charmosyna placentis* Six on Seram (*placentis*).
Purple-naped Lory *Lorius domicella* A great year with four very vocal pairs noted, and some great views.
Red Lory (Moluccan R L) *Eos bornea* Common Buru (*cyanonothus*). Common Seram; a few Ambon & Boano (nom.).
Blue-streaked Lory *Eos reticulata* Common on Yamdena.
Blue-eared Lory *Eos semilarvata* A handful noted near the top of the Trans-Seram Highway, but only in flight.
Coconut Lorikeet (Rainbow L) *Trichoglossus haematodus* At least 2 Buru, and 30+ on Seram (nominate).
South Moluccan Pitta (Buru P) *Erythropitta [rubrinucha] rubrinucha* 2 seen & several heard. Tricky this year.
Papuan Pitta (P Sahul P) *Erythropitta macklotii* Two seen on Kai Kecil, after much work!!
Elegant Pitta *Pitta elegans* (H) Several heard at Bara, Buru (*elegans*).
Elegant Pitta (White-chinned P) *Pitta [elegans] vigorsii* Singles seen on Yamdena & Kai Kecil. Many others heard.
Drab Myzomela (D Honeyeater) *Lichmera blasii* Over 20 logged on Seram; rather common this year.
Banda Myzomela (Black-breasted M) *M. boiei* 9+ seen on Yamdena. A Tanimbar, Babar, Damar & Banda endemic.
Wakolo Myzomela (Buru M) *Myzomela [wakoloensis] wakoloensis* Common at the higher levels on Buru.
Wakolo Myzomela (Seram M) *Myzomela [wakoloensis] elisabethae* Just two seen well on Seram this year.
Olive Honeyeater *Lichmera argentea* The only bird on Pulau Lusaolate this year flew off when we arrived!
Scaly-breasted Honeyeater (Banda H, White-tufted H) *Lichmera squamata* Abundant on Yamdena.
Buru Honeyeater *Lichmera deningeri* Small numbers along the Madanga Trail on Buru. Sneaky.
Seram Honeyeater *Lichmera monticola* One seen well at a flowering tree on Seram, and a couple heard.
Seram Friarbird *Philemon subcorniculatus* One of the commonest Seram endemics.
Black-faced Friarbird (Buru F) *Philemon moluccensis* One of the commonest Buru endemics.
Tanimbar Friarbird *Philemon plumigenis* A common endemic of the Tanimbar and Kai Is.
Rufous-sided Gerygone (Banda Sea G, R-s Fairy Warbler) *G. dorsalis* Frequent Yamdena, heard Kai (nominate).
White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus* *A. l. musschenbroeki* on Yamdena, where common.
Buru Cuckooshrike *Coracina fortis* Just a pair of these rather uncommon endemics.
Wallacean Cuckooshrike *Coracina personata* Several *unimodus* on Yamdena, a distinctive dark form.
Moluccan Cuckooshrike *Coracina atriceps* At least seven seen on Seram; even down to sea-level (*atriceps*).
Kai Cicadabird *Coracina dispar* A pair were seen in a mixed species feeding flock on Kai Kecil.
Pale Cicadabird *Coracina ceramensis* Several sightings of this regional endemic on Buru (*ceramensis*).
White-browed Triller (Tanimbar T) *Lalage moesta* Quite frequent on Yamdena.
Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela* Common and conspicuous on the Kai Is.
Island Whistler *Pachycephala phaionotus* One was seen very well at Ohoililur, Kai Kecil.
Grey Whistler (Grey-headed W) *Pachycephala [simplex] griseiceps* 9+ in bird flocks on Kai Kecil (*rufipennis*).
Yellow-throated Whistler (Moluccan/Tanimbar W) *P. [macrorhyncha] fuscoflava* One briefly on Yamdena.
Yellow-throated Whistler (Moluccan/Seram W) *P. [macrorhyncha] macrorhyncha* Quite common, & many heard.
Yellow-throated Whistler (Moluccan W, Buru W) *P. [macrorhyncha] buruensis* Ditto.
Wallacean Whistler *Pachycephala arctitorquis* Frequently encountered on Yamdena (*arctitorquis*).
Drab Whistler *Pachycephala griseonota* 18 logged Buru (*examinata*), 1 Kai Kecil (*kuehni*), 4 Seram (nominate).
Australasian Figbird (Green F) *Sphecotheres vieilloti* 25+ on Kai Kecil. Great views.
Grey-collared Oriole (Seram O) *Oriolus forsteni* Five logged and rather showy this year.
Black-eared Oriole (Buru O) *Oriolus bouroensis* Frequent on Buru.
Tanimbar Oriole *Oriolus decipiens* Just 2 seen on Yamdena. The most friarbird-like of all! See notes on mimicry.
Wallacean Drongo (Tanimbar Spangled D) *Dicrurus [densus] kuehni* 4 eventually tracked down on Yamdena.
Wallacean Drongo (Kai Spangled D) *Dicrurus [densus] megalornis* Abundant and very vocal on Kai.
Spangled Drongo (Seram Spangled D) *Dicrurus [bracteatus] amboinensis* 1 Ambon and 5 Seram.
Spangled Drongo (Buru Spangled D) *Dicrurus [bracteatus] buruensis* 7 logged, and an occupied nest noted.
Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys* Quite common in coastal lowlands of Buru, Ambon and Seram (*melaleuca*).
Cinnamon-tailed Fantail *R. fusciorufa* Common Yamdena. Endemic to Tanimbar Is (& Babar, taxonomy-dependant).



Clockwise from top left: Violet Crow, Island Whistler, 'Ambon' Golden Bulbul, Seram White-eye, 'Kai' Leaf Warbler (all Craig Robson), and Golden-bellied Flyrobin (Ian Lewis)

Northern Fantail (Kai F) *Rhipidura [rufiventris] assimilis* Fairly common on Kai Kecil. Always in pairs.

Northern Fantail (Buru F) *Rhipidura [rufiventris] bouruensis* Fairly common, with 12 logged.

Northern Fantail (Seram F) *Rhipidura [rufiventris] cinerea* 4 on Ambon. Lowlands only.

Streak-breasted Fantail (Streaky-b F) *Rhipidura dedemi* This neat Seram endemic was fairly common.

Tawny-backed Fantail *Rhipidura superflua* Endemic to the Buru highlands. Frequently heard; several seen well.

Long-tailed Fantail (Charming F) *Rhipidura opistherythra* An unusual Tanimbar endemic; seen well in the forest.

Arafura Fantail (Supertramp F) *R. [dryas] semicollaris* Common on Yamdena (*hamadryas*).

Black-bibbed Monarch (Banda Sea M) *Symposiachrus mundus* Small numbers on Yamdena, and seen well.

Black-chinned Monarch (Boano M) *Symposiachrus boanensis* 1 of these Boano endemics seen very well; 2 heard.

Spectacled Monarch (Wallacean M, Seram S M) *S. [trivirgatus] nigrimentum* Buru (?ssp.), Ambon, Seram.

White-tailed Monarch (Kai M) *Symposiachrus leucurus* This endemic was tolerably common, with 9 seen.

Black-tipped Monarch (Buru M) *Symposiachrus lorincatus* 7 logged in the Buru lowlands. Nest with 2 eggs.

Island Monarch *Symposiachrus cinerascens* This small-island monarch on Kai Kecil (nominate).

White-naped Monarch (Buru Pied M) *Carterornis [pileatus] buruensis* Some good views on Buru (*buruensis*).

White-naped Monarch (Tanimbar M, Loetoe M) *Carterornis [pileatus] castus* Five seen well on Yamdena.

Moluccan Flycatcher (M Monarch, Slaty F) *Myiagra galeata* 1 Buru (*buruensis*). 1 Ambon, hd Seram (*goramensis*).

Broad-billed Flycatcher (B-b Monarch) *Myiagra ruficollis* Five seen on Yamdena (*fulviventris*).

Shining Flycatcher (S Monarch) *Myiagra alecto* Several performed along a forest stream on Yamdena (*longirostris*).

Violet Crow (Seram C) *Corvus violaceus* Seen well on Seram (pair). Totally distinct from Slender-billed *C. enca*.

Golden-bellied Flyrobin (Tanimbar F, G-b Flycatcher) *Microeca hemixantha* Several on Yamdena.

Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster* (Introduced) Recorded on Ambon (*aurigaster?*).

Seram Golden Bulbul *Ixos affinis* Frequently seen on Seram (*affinis*).

Seram Golden Bulbul (Ambon G B) *Ixos [affinis] flavicaudus* 9 logged on Ambon. Distinctive song; a potential split.

Buru Golden Bulbul *Ixos mysticalis* Common on Buru.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*

Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans* Three at Danau Lorulun, Yamdena were unexpected.

Mountain Tailorbird (M Leaftoiler) *Phyllergates cuculatus* Buru & Seram (*dumasi*). A warbler, not a tailorbird.

Tanimbar Bush Warbler *Cettia carolinae* 2 seen and plenty heard on Yamdena. Only discovered in 1985.

Island Leaf Warbler (Buru L W) *Phylloscopus [maforensis] everetti* Common at the highest levels.

Island Leaf Warbler (Seram L W) *Phylloscopus [maforensis] ceramensis* Higher bits of the Trans-Seram Highway.

Island Leaf Warbler (Kai L W) *Phylloscopus [maforensis] avicola* Two pairs at Bukit Indah Mission, Kai Besar.

Gray's Grasshopper Warbler (Gray's Warbler) *Locustella fasciolata* (H) Once at Bara, Buru. A bit too early.

Chestnut-backed Bush Warbler (Buru Grasshopper W) *Locustella [castanea] disturbans* 3 seen & 1 heard.

Chestnut-backed Bush Warbler (Seram Grasshopper W) *Locustella [castanea] musculus* 1 seen & 1 heard.

Tawny Grassbird (Wallacean T G) *Megalurus timoriensis* A few Yamdena. Undescribed form with some potential.

Rufescent Darkeye (Bicoloured Heleia) *Tephrozosterops stalker* One seen sev. times in a bird-wave on Seram.

Grey-hooded White-eye (Binaia Heleia, G-h Dark-e) *Lophozosterops pinaiae* Several at highest levels on Seram.

Warbling White-eye *Zosterops japonicus* Higher Buru (*montanus*) & Seram (*obstinatus*). Latter very yellowish.

Ashy-bellied White-eye *Zosterops citrinellus* Common Yamdena (*albiventris*).

Pearl-bellied White-eye (Kai Besar W-e, Great Kai W-e) *Zosterops grayi* 8 on Kai Besar, to which it is endemic.

Golden-bellied White-eye (Kai Kecil W-e, Little Kai W-e) *Zosterops uropygialis* Common Kai Kecil, with 46 logged.

Seram White-eye *Zosterops stalker* Uncommon on Seram, but seen very well; 14 logged.

Buru White-eye *Zosterops buruensis* This Buru endemic was pretty common.

Ambon White-eye *Zosterops kuehni* 8 at one site on Ambon.

Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica*

Tanimbar Starling *Aplonis crassa* This unremarkable Tanimbar endemic was common.

Moluccan Starling *Aplonis mysolensis*

Long-crested Myna *Basilornis corythaix* This amazing endemic was seen well several times on Seram; 8 logged.

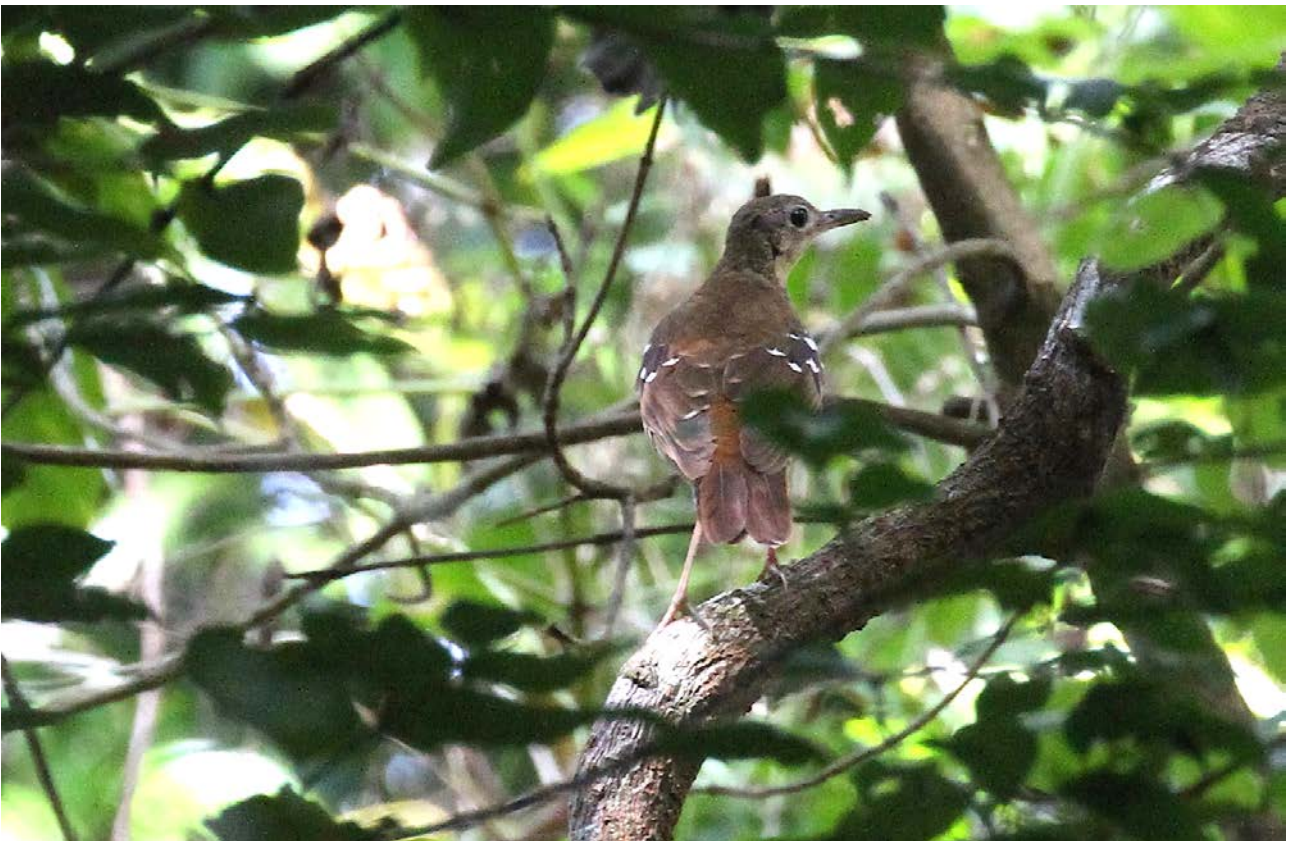
Slaty-backed Thrush *Geokichla schistacea* This Tanimbar endemic was seen well and often heard on Yamdena.

Buru Thrush *Geokichla dumasi* Excellent views of a vocalizing individual at the higher levels on Buru. Several heard.

Seram Thrush *Geokichla joiceyi* (H) After a tricky uphill hike, we only heard this mega. Not responsive.

Fawn-breasted Thrush *Zoothera machiki* Many seen briefly, and several well very. Tanimbar endemic.

Turquoise Flycatcher (Turquoise Warbling-f, Island Verditer F) *Eumyias panayensis* On Seram (*harterti*).



Slaty-backed Thrush (Craig Robson) and Fawn-breasted Thrush (Rainer Seifert) on Yamdena

Streak-breasted Jungle Flycatcher (Buru Warbling-flycatcher, Streaky-b J F) *E. additus* 6 logged. 1 at nest.
Tanimbar Flycatcher *Ficedula riedeli* A lovely pair in forest understorey on Yamdena.
Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra* A few seen higher up on Seram (*negroides*).
Cinnamon-chested Flycatcher *Ficedula buruensis* Great views of a pair on Buru (*buruensis*).
Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni* On Buru (not listed in the field guides) & Seram (nom.).
Flame-breasted Flowerpecker (Buru F) *Dicaeum erythrorhox* Common monotypic Buru endemic.
Ashy Flowerpecker (Seram F) *Dicaeum vulneratum* Regular Ambon & Seram. Monotypic south Moluccan endemic.
Mistletoebird (Salvadori's F) *Dicaeum [hirundinaceum] keiense* Common Yamdena (*fulgidum*) & Kai Is (*keiense*).
Black Sunbird *Leptocoma aspasia* *L. a. proserpina* on Buru, *aspasioides* on Ambon & Seram, & *chlorolaema* on Kai.
Olive-backed Sunbird (Sahul S, Clementias's S) *Cynniris [jugularis] clementiae* See notes.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow (Tree S) *Passer montanus*
Tricoloured Parrotfinch *Erythrura tricolor* Three seen, but rather too briefly, on Yamdena.
Black-faced Munia *Lonchura molucca* Only small numbers this year on Buru and Kai Kecil (*nominata*).
Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata* Occasional on Yamdena (*blasii*).
Chestnut Munia (Black-headed M) *Lonchura atricapilla* Briefly at Ewang Suli, Ambon (*brunniceps*).
Eastern Yellow Wagtail (Alaska W) *Motacilla [tschutschensis] tschutschensis* Small numbers at Ewang Suli.



Coastline near Sawai, north Seram (Craig Robson)

MAMMALS

Total of mammal species recorded 7:

Northern Common Cuscus *Phalanger orientalis* One seen well in daytime on Kai Besar.

Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus* (Introduced)

Spinner Dolphin *Stenella longirostris* 4 noted off Kai Kecil.

Indo-Pacific Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Tursiops aduncus* Good numbers off N coast of Buru and at Pulau Lusaolate.

Black-bearded Flying Fox *Pteropus melanopogon* Frequently seen throughout.

Temminck's Flying Fox *Pteropus temminckii* Small numbers were seen very well at Bara, Buru.

Moluccan Bare-backed Fruit Bat *Dobsonia moluccensis* (NL) Steve noted one at Bara.



Black-bearded Flying Fox (Craig Robson)

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

Dusky Megapode (Forsten's M) *Megapodius [freycinet] forsteni*

The IOC include this distinctive form in Dusky Scrubfowl, whereas other authors lump it in Orange-footed Scrubfowl *M. reinwardt*.

Spotted Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna guttata*

Listed for Yamdena by Coates & Bishop but not shown there on the map in Eaton *et al.*

Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

Not listed for Yamdena by Coates & Bishop but shown there on the map in Eaton *et al.*

Raja Shelduck (Radjah S, White-headed S) *Tadorna radjah*

Listed for Yamdena by Coates & Bishop but not shown there on the map in Eaton *et al.*

Pheasant Coucal (Kai C) *Centropus [phasianus] spilopterus*

Most authors (including the IOC) now lump this distinctive regional speciality in Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianus*.

Pacific Koel (Australian K) *Eudynamys orientalis*

This species (which is sometimes given the specific name *cynocephala*) was formerly lumped in Asian (or Common) Koel *E. scolopacea*, with the name Common Koel being used for the enlarged species.

Little Bronze Cuckoo (Pied B C) *Chrysococcyx [minutillus] crassirostris*

Most authors (including the IOC) lump this distinctive form in Little Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*.

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus optatus*

This species (which breeds across northern Eurasia) was formerly lumped in Himalayan Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*, with the name Oriental Cuckoo being used for the enlarged species. Note that this species was formerly known as *horsfieldi* (under the common name Horsfield's Cuckoo) but the specific name was shown to be antedated by *optatus*.

Amboyna Cuckoo-Dove (Amboina C-D) *Macropygia amboinensis*

A recent reclassification of cuckoo-doves has resulted in several new species. However, some authors still lump Sultan's Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia doreya* in this species, with the name Slender-billed or Brown Cuckoo-Dove being used for the enlarged species.

Tanimbar Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia timorlaoensis*

A recent reclassification of cuckoo-doves has resulted in several new species. However, some authors still have this species, along with Flores Sea Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia macassarimensis* lumped in Timor Cuckoo-Dove *M. magna*, with the name Barred- or Bar-necked Cuckoo-Dove being applied to the enlarged species.

Superb Fruit Dove (Eastern S F D) *Ptilinopus superbus*

Some authorities now split this form off from Western Superb Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus temminckii* of Sulawesi.

Red-legged Crake *Rallina fasciata*

Not given for Seram by Coates & Bishop or Eaton *et al.*

Tricolored Grebe *Tachybaptus tricolor*

This distinctive regional form was formerly lumped in Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*.

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

Some authorities (including Eaton *et al.*) split off the *atrifrons* group of subspecies as Tibetan Plover *Charadrius atrifrons*, and use the common name Siberian (or Mongolian) Plover for *C. mongolus*. The distribution and status of the two forms in the region is still not completely understood.

Whimbrel (Eurasian W) *Numenius [phaeopus] phaeopus*

Some authors treat the New World form as distinct species: Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius hudsonicus*, in which case the Eurasian form is renamed Eurasian Whimbrel. The form seen on this tour, *variegatus*, would be included with the latter.

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

Most authors (including the IOC) still lump this form (found in much of Asia and Australasia) in Western Great Egret *A. alba*, using the name Great Egret for the enlarged species.

Eastern Osprey *Pandion cristatus*

Many authors lump this form in Western Osprey *P. haliaetus* using the name Osprey for the enlarged species.

Bonelli's Eagle (Rensch's E) *Aquila [fasciata] renschi*

Most authors (including the IOC) include this distinctive regional speciality in Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata*.

Variable Goshawk (Varied G) *Aquila hiogastra*

2 Buru (*pallidiceps*), 7 Yamdena (*polionota*), and 7 Kai Is (*albiventris*), including a pair nest-building. Formerly lumped in Grey Goshawk *A. novaehollandiae*, with the name Variable Goshawk used for the enlarged species. Eaton *et al.* suggest that this species could be further divided, in the areas that we visit on this tour, as follows: Seram Goshawk *Accipiter hiogastra* (monotypic), Buru Goshawk *A. pallidiceps* (monotypic), and Tenggara Goshawk *A. sylvestris* (Tanimbar and Kai).

Moluccan Masked Owl (Lesser M O, Australasian M O) *Tyto sororcula*

Moluccan Masked Owl (Seram M O) *Tyto [sororcula] almae*

Eaton *et al.* lump Moluccan Masked Owl in Australian Masked Owl *Tyto novaehollandiae*, using the name Australasian Masked Owl for the enlarged species. They also suggest that the two generally acknowledged forms of Moluccan Masked Owl are occasionally treated as distinct species: Lesser Masked Owl *T. sororcula* and Buru Masked Owl *T. cayellii*. The form *almae* was only recently described - as a distinct species: Seram Masked Owl *T. almae*, and is treated as such by some, but not most authorities.

Seram Boobook *Ninox squamipila*

Buru Boobook *Ninox hantu*

Tanimbar Boobook *Ninox forbesi*

Some authors still lump Seram and Buru Boobooks, and both were formerly lumped in Halmahera Boobook *Ninox hypogramma*, along with Tanimbar Boobook, with the name Moluccan Boobook used for the enlarged species.

South Moluccan Pitta (Buru P, Amboyna Sahul P) *Erythropitta [erythrogaster] rubrinucha*

South Moluccan Pitta (Seram P, Amboyna Sahul P) *Erythropitta [erythrogaster] piroensis*

Papuan Pitta (Papuan Sahul P) *Erythropitta macklotii*

Various recent authors have divided the former Red-bellied or Blue-breasted Pitta into up to 16 species. The latest version of the IOC list is followed here. Eaton *et al.* propose a further treatment along with the unnecessary introduction of yet more common names (in square brackets).

Elegant Pitta *Pitta elegans*

Elegant Pitta (White-chinned P) *Pitta [elegans] vigorsii*

Some authors (e.g. BirdLife/IBW) suggest the possibility of splitting off the eastern form of Elegant Pitta *Pitta elegans* as a distinct species: White-chinned Pitta *P. vigorsii*.

Wakolo Myzomela (Buru M) *Myzomela [wakoloensis] wakoloensis*

Wakolo Myzomela (Seram M) *Myzomela [wakoloensis] elisabethae*

Some authors (e.g. Eaton *et al.*) split Wakolo Myzomela *Myzomela wakoloensis* into these two single-island endemic species.

Tanimbar Friarbird *Philemon plumigenis*

Formerly lumped in Black-faced Friarbird *P. moluccensis*.

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

Formerly lumped in Black-browed Triller *Lalage atrovirens*.

Grey Whistler (Grey-headed W, Brown W) *Pachycephala [simplex] griseiceps*

Some authors (e.g. BirdLife/HBW) split this form as a distinct species: Grey-headed (or Brown) Whistler *Pachycephala griseiceps*.

Yellow-throated Whistler (Moluccan W, Tanimbar W) *Pachycephala [macrorhyncha] fuscoflava*

Yellow-throated Whistler (Moluccan W, Banda Sea W, Seram W) *Pachycephala [macrorhyncha] macrorhyncha*

Yellow-throated Whistler (Moluccan W, Buru W) *Pachycephala [macrorhyncha] buruensis*

These forms were formerly lumped in Australian Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*, with the name Golden Whistler being used for the enlarged species. The first major revision produced the regional Yellow-throated and Black-chinned Whistlers (e.g. IOC), while Eaton *et al.* revised and constricted things with their Moluccan Whistler, and also suggest a host of potential island endemics may be warranted.

Wallacean Whistler *Pachycephala arctitorquis*

Formerly lumped in White-bellied Whistler *Pachycephala leucogastra*.

Black-eared Oriole (Buru O) *Oriolus bouroensis*

Tanimbar Oriole *Oriolus decipiens*

Some authors lump Tanimbar Oriole in Black-eared Oriole, using the name Black-faced Oriole for the enlarged species.

Brown oriole mimicry

A recently published paper (Jonsson *et al.* 2016. The evolution of mimicry of friarbirds by orioles (Aves: Passeriformes) in Australo-Pacific archipelagos. *Proc. R. Soc. B* 283: 20160409. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2016.0409>) has tested the hypothesis that regional brown orioles mimic friarbirds. Historical observations by Alfred Wallace and Jared Diamond of plumage similarities between co-occurring orioles and friarbirds led them to conclude that the former represent visual mimics of the latter. Here, the authors used molecular phylogenies and plumage reflectance measurements to test the mimicry hypothesis. The results show that friarbirds originated before brown orioles, and that the two groups did not co-speciate (although there is a plausible instance of co-speciation on Buru and Seram). Furthermore, the greater size disparity between model and mimic and a longer history of co-occurrence have resulted in a stronger plumage similarity (mimicry). This suggests that resemblance between orioles and friarbirds represents mimicry and that colonization of islands by brown orioles has been facilitated by their ability to mimic the aggressive friarbirds.

Wallacean Drongo (Tanimbar Spangled D) *Dicrurus [densus] kuehni*

Wallacean Drongo (Kai Spangled D) *Dicrurus [densus] megalornis*

Spangled Drongo (Seram Spangled D) *Dicrurus [bracteatus] amboinensis*

Spangled Drongo (Buru Spangled D) *Dicrurus [bracteatus] buruensis*

All four forms are very distinctive, and have been given full species status in Eaton *et al.* Some authors (including the IOC) still lump Lesser Wallacean Drongo *Dicrurus bimaensis* in Greater Wallacean Drongo *D. densus*, using the name Wallacean Drongo for the enlarged species.

Northern Fantail (Kai F) *Rhipidura [rufiventris] assimilis*

Northern Fantail (Buru F) *Rhipidura [rufiventris] bouruensis*

Northern Fantail (Seram F) *Rhipidura [rufiventris] cinerea*

These highly distinctive forms are all given full species status by Eaton *et al.*, but are still lumped in Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris* by most other authors.

Arafura Fantail (Supertramp F) *Rhipidura [dryas] semicollaris*

Eaton *et al.* separate-out regional forms of Arafura Fantail *Rhipidura dryas* as a distinct species, Supertramp Fantail *Rhipidura semicollaris*.

Spectacled Monarch (Wallacean M, Seram S M) *Symposiachrus [trivirgatus] nigrimentum*

Eaton *et al.* split off Australasian forms as Sahul Spectacled Monarch *Symposiachrus melanopterus*, and propose the name Wallacean Monarch for regional forms, which retain the name *S. trivirgatus*. Additionally, they suggest that the form that occurs on Ambon and Seram (and Buru?) be given full species status as Seram Spectacled Monarch *S. nigrimentum*. Not listed for Buru by Coates & Bishop or Eaton *et al.*

White-naped Monarch (Buru Pied M) *Carterornis [pileatus] buruensis*

White-naped Monarch (Tanimbar M, Loetoe M) *Carterornis [pileatus] castus*

Eaton *et al.* suggest that the local form of White-naped Monarch on Buru may warrant full species status. Most authors (including the IOC) include the Tanimbar form in White-naped Monarch *Carterornis pileatus*, but it is split by Eaton *et al.*

Violet Crow (Seram C) *Corvus violaceus*

Formerly lumped in Slender-billed Crow *Corvus enca*.

Seram Golden Bulbul *Thapsinillas affinis*

Seram Golden Bulbul (Ambon G B) *Thapsinillas [affinis] flavicaudus*

Buru Golden Bulbul *Thapsinillas mystacalis*

These forms were all formerly lumped in Northern Golden Bulbul *Thapsinillas longirostris*, with the name Golden Bulbul used for the enlarged species. An alternative treatment is to lump Seram Golden Bulbul in Buru Golden Bulbul, using the name Southern Golden Bulbul (*T. affinis*) for the enlarged species. The form on Ambon has a unique song and may prove to be an additional distinct species.

Island Leaf Warbler (Buru L W) *Phylloscopus [maforensis] everetti*

Island Leaf Warbler (Seram L W) *Phylloscopus [maforensis] ceramensis*

Island Leaf Warbler (Kai L W) *Phylloscopus [maforensis] avicola*

Some authors (including the IOC) include these vocally and morphologically distinct forms in Island Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus maforensis*. All three are very likely to be treated as distinct species, by all authorities, in the near future.

Chestnut-backed Bush Warbler (Buru B W, B Grasshopper W) *Locustella [castanea] disturbans*

Chestnut-backed Warbler (Seram B W, S Grasshopper W) *Locustella [castanea] musculus*

Most authors include these vocally and morphologically distinct forms in Chestnut-backed Bush Warbler *Locustella disturbans*.

Tawny Grassbird (Wallacean T G) *Cincloramphus timoriensis*

Some authorities (e.g. BirdLife/IBW) suggest that the four Wallacean forms of the former Tawny Grassbird might constitute a distinct species: Wallacean Tawny Grassbird, retaining the original specific name. Residual forms would then comprise Philippine Tawny Grassbird *C. tweeddalei*, and Australian Tawny Grassbird *C. alisteri*.

Rufescent Darkeye (Bicoloured Heleia) *Tephrozosterops stalker*

Grey-hooded White-eye (Binaia Heleia, G-h Dark-e) *Lophozosterops stalker*

Eaton *et al.* place these species in the genus *Heleia*, without comment.

Warbling White-eye *Zosterops japonicus*

This newly recognised species includes all the regional forms that were previously treated as Mountain White-eye *Zosterops montanus*.

Mistletoebird (or Salvadori's Flowerpecker) *Dicaeum [hirundinaceum] keiense*

Eaton *et al.* split-off the two region forms of the extralimital Mistletoebird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum* as Salvadori's Flowerpecker *D. keiense*.

Olive-backed Sunbird (Sahul S, Clementia's S) *Cynniris [jugularis] clementiae*

Seen on Buru (*buruensis*), Ambon & Seram (*clementiae*), and the Kai Is. (*keiensis*). Some authors (including Eaton *et al.*) split a number of regional forms as Sahul or Black-breasted Sunbird *Cynniris clementiae*. Eaton *et al.* propose a

further potential split, with the three forms seen on this tour constituting a different species: Clementia's Sunbird, which would retain the scientific name *C. clementiae*.



Tanimbar Flycatcher (Rainer Seifert)

APPENDIX 1 – Top five birds of the tour

1st	Seram Cockatoo	24 points
2nd	Moluccan Scrubfowl	18 points
3rd	Purple-naped Lory	10 points
4th	Buru Thrush	08 points
5th	Wallace's Fruit Dove	06 points

APPENDIX 2 - Other fauna & flora recorded

REPTILES

Lined Gliding Lizard *Draco lineatus* One seen on Buru.

Mangrove Monitor *Varanus indicus* One on Kai Kecil; the only monitor species there.

Hawksbill Sea Turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata* One off Pulau Lusaolate. Apparently the only sea turtle off Seram.

Yellow-lipped Sea Krait (Banded S K) *Laticauda colubrina* One slithered down to the shore on Pulau Lusaolate.

Seram Scrub Python (Southern Moluccan P) *Simalia clastolepis* 1 on road Sawai foothills, Seram; c.3.5m long.



Yellow-lipped Sea Krait (Rainer Seifert)

BUTTERFLIES

Blue Triangle (Common Bluebottle) *Graphium sarpedon* Buru (*arhedon*).

Red-bodied Swallowtail *Atrophaneura polydorus* Photographed on Yamdena.

Lime Butterfly *Papilio demoleus* At the hotel on Yamdena.

Seram Swallowtail *Papilio gambrisius* Buru at least (*buruanus*).

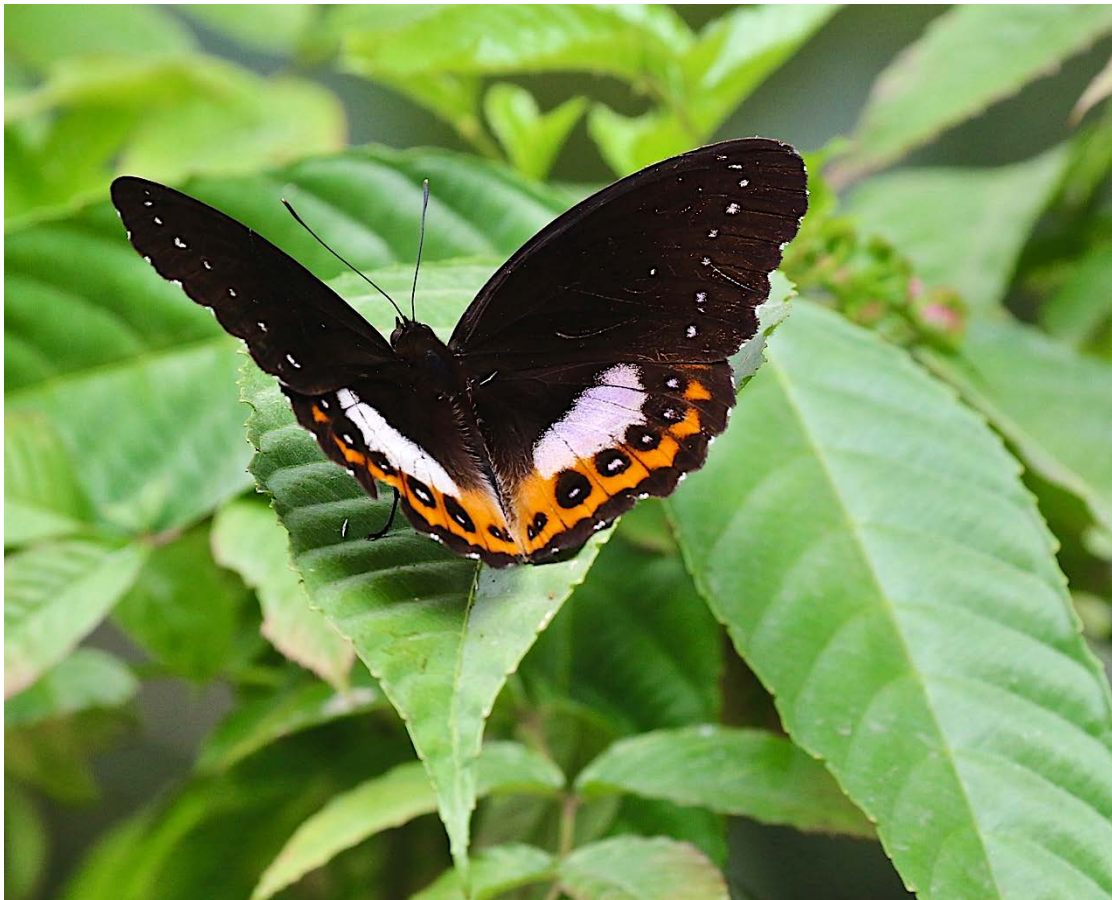
'Unexpected Swallowtail' *Papilio inopinatus* One at the hotel on Yamdena.

Ulysses Swallowtail *Papilio ulysses* Brilliant huge black and electric blue butterfly on Buru, Ambon & Seram.

Buru Opalescent Birdwing *Troides prattorum* Spectacular black & yellow birdwing on Buru - to which it is endemic.

'Staudinger's Birdwing' *Troides staudingeri* Yamdena.

Common Green Birdwing *Ornithoptera priamus* Superb female on Kai Kecil. Probably elsewhere too.
Grass yellow sp. *Eurema candida* Ambon.
Vibrant Sulpher *Hebomoia leucippe* Ambon.
Psyche *Leptosia nina* Yamdena and Kai.
Orange Bush-brown *Mycalesis terminus* Common. Buru (*wakolo*), Ambon & Seram (*remulia*).
Urania Owl *Taenaris urania* Seram (*urania*).
Eastern Red Lacewing *Cethosia cydippe* Seram.
Blue-banded Eggfly *Hypolimnas alimena* Kai Kecil.
Great Eggfly *Hypolimnas bolina* Yamdena.
Eight-spot Diadem *Hypolimnas pandarus* A real beauty: Buru (*pandora*); Seram (nominate).
Tailed Emperor *Polyura pyrrhus* Buru.
'Cramer's Rustic' *Cupha cramerii* Kai Kecil.
Malay Cruiser *Vindula dejone* Buru (*buruana*).
Lurcher *Yoma sabina* Common on Kai Kecil.
Clipper *Parthenos sylvia* Seram.
Chocolate Argus (C Soldier, Brown S) *Junonia hedonia* Ambon (nominate) and Kai (*zelima*).
Orange Plane *Pantoporia consimilis* Kai Kecil.
Cairns Hamadryad *Tellervo zoilus* Kai Kecil.
Eastern Yellow Glassy Tiger *Parantica cleona* Seram at least.
Striped Tiger (Orange Tiger) *Danaus genutia* Ambon (? ssp.), Yamdena (*aratensis*) at least.
Climena Crow *Euploea climena* Widespread.
Rice Paper Butterfly ('Moluccan' Tree Nymph) *Idea idea* This beauty was seen on Ambon and Seram (nominate).
Transparent 6-Lineblue *Nacaduba kurava* Kai Kecil (*cerbara*).



Eight-spot Diadem Hypolimnas pandarus on Seram (Craig Robson)

MOTHS

Uraniid moth sp. *Alcides orontes* Amazing blue day-flying moth on Buru and Seram. Like a huge swallowtail butterfly.

DRAGONFLIES

Grey Duskhawker *Gynacantha rosenbergi* Several on Kai Kecil, including a mating pair.

Common Blue Skimmer *Orthetrum glaucumi* Seram.

Green Skimmer *Orthetrum serapia* Widespread.

Ramburi Red Parasol (Red Pondhawk) *Neurothemis ramburii* Widespread.

Potbellied Elf *Risiphlebia dohrni* Seram.



Lunch break on Seram (Craig Robson)