



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Lesser Sundas Island Endemics & Komodo Dragons *Trip Report* 9th to 29th September 2013



Elegant Pitta by David Hoddinott

Rockjumper Birding Tours



Trip report compiled by Tour Leader: David Hoddinott

Some of the top birds seen during this tour:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Green Junglefowl | 6. Little Sumba Hawk-Owl |
| 2. Elegant Pitta | 7. Wallace's Scops Owl |
| 3. Bare-throated Whistler | 8. Glittering Kingfisher |
| 4. Banded Fruit Dove | 9. Chestnut-backed Thrush |
| 5. Flores Hawk-Eagle | 10. Tricoloured Parrotfinch |

Tour Summary



Sumba Boobook by David Hoddinott

This highly productive area was very rewarding and we quickly racked up a number of water birds. Some of the highlights of our morning included good flocks of Wandering Whistling Duck, Pacific Black Duck and Sunda Teal. Other sightings included a splendid Yellow Bittern, Little Pied and Little Black Cormorant, Spotted Harrier, Buff-banded Rail, White-browed Crake jumping up and catching insects off reeds, smart White-headed Stilt, Javan and Oriental Plovers, Long-toed Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, a pair of Australian Pratincole nesting (this may be the first record of the species breeding outside Australia – we are awaiting confirmation!),

Situated to the south of Sulawesi and east of Bali, the Lesser Sundas is made up of a wonderfully diverse group of islands. Their isolation, together with an array of varied habitats, makes this another endemic hotspot, and our highly successful tour visited five main islands, Sumba, Timor, Flores, Komodo and Lombok, where we recorded an incredible 79 out of 81 endemics, including a number of spectacular species as well as a good selection of rare and highly sought-after birds!

Our fabulous adventure to this remote and seldom-visited region started with a visit to the island of Sumba.

On our first afternoon we explored Yumba where we recorded our main target, the endemic Sumba Buttonquail, Barred Dove and several Horsfield's Bush Larks. At the rice paddies nearby we located a single Pacific Golden Plover, large flocks of Pale-headed Munia, several Javan Munia and a small flock of Javan Myna. Thereafter we made our way back to our hotel where we enjoyed dinner and a good night's rest.

The following morning we set off early for the wetlands of Megitimbi.



Mees's Nightjar by David Hoddinott





Banded Fruit Dove by David Hoddinott

cryptic Savanna Nightjar at a day roost, Sacred Kingfisher, Australian Reed Warbler, Ashy-bellied White-eye, Thick-billed Flowerpecker, Red Avadavat and Zebra Finch. After lunch we made our way to the town of Lewa in the interior, where due to rain we first checked into our accommodation. After settling in we then headed to a nearby forest patch in Langgaliru National Park. The rain seemed to have sparked some activity and many birds were perched up singing. Some of the species we encountered in the late afternoon included the immaculate Black-naped Fruit Dove, Green Imperial Pigeon, Wallacean Drongo, Yellow-ringed White-eye, rare Sumba Brown Flycatcher and splendid Apricot-breasted Sunbird. Our night birding here was very rewarding too with superb views of Little Sumba Hawk-Owl and Mees's Nightjar.

We enjoyed the next two full days birding in the fabulous Langgaliru NP. Some of the notable species seen included an Orange-footed Scrubfowl quietly working its way through the leaf litter, Brown Quail, Little Cuckoo-Dove, the rare Sumba Green Pigeon (which after a concerted effort eventually showed well for all), beautiful Red-naped Fruit Dove, endangered Yellow-crested Cockatoo, cracking views of several Sunset Lorikeets feeding on flowers, Great-billed Parrot (wonderful scope views and very satisfying after only having flight views on Ternate during the Sulawesi & Halmahera tour), Eclectus Parrot, our only Oriental Dollarbirds of the trip, confiding Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher, rare and impressive Sumba Hornbill, a delightful Elegant Pitta that sat up and showed itself for all, elusive Sumba Myzomela, Wallacean Cuckooshrike, sexually dimorphic Pale-shouldered Cicadabird, Australian Golden Whistler, Arafura Fantail, Asian Paradise Flycatcher sporting its particularly long tail, Spectacled Monarch, Broad-billed Flycatcher, beautiful and cryptic Chestnut-backed Thrush which astounded us by giving exceptional views at close quarters, Russet-backed Jungle Flycatcher, very elusive Sumba Flycatcher and handsome Blood-breasted Flowerpecker. During an evening excursion we then found a lovely pair of endemic Sumba Boobook, which we even saw copulating. A very rare and special experience indeed!

Leaving Sumba, delighted, with the full set of endemics we then took a flight to West Timor, where we enjoyed time over the next four days at several sites, including Camplong, Pariti and Bipolo.

Working the network of forest trails at Camplong we had good views of Sunda Bush Warbler, the elusive and much-wanted Timor Stubtail, beautiful Orange-sided Thrush (which after a concerted effort showed particularly well and we all had multiple scope views of this stunner), a cracking male Black-banded Flycatcher and several striking Timor Blue Flycatchers. The



Chestnut-backed Thrush by David Hoddinott



open woodland of Pariti was rewarding with great views of the shy Jonquil Parrot, a singing Little Bronze Cuckoo and Pacific Emerald Dove, amongst others.



Spot-breasted Heleia by David Hoddinott

A good portion of our time was enjoyed in the varied habitats of Bipolo. Our visit to the wetlands, mangroves and fishponds of this area yielded an interesting selection of species including White-faced Heron, Australian Pelican, Black-shouldered Kite, Crested Honey Buzzard, Short-toed Snake Eagle, Bonelli's Eagle, Chinese Sparrowhawk, White-bellied Sea Eagle (catching a fish!), Red-capped Plover, Greater Sand Plover, Marsh Sandpiper, Grey-tailed Tattler, Curlew Sandpiper, Tree Martin, Five-coloured Munia and the striking Timor Sparrow. The woodland patches around Bipolo, although not protected, were also rewarding and we found numerous Rose-crowned Fruit Dove, rare Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon, Rainbow Bee-eaters feasting on bees near quaint bee hives, Timor Friarbird, Black-breasted Myzomela, Plain Gerygone, Fawn-breasted Whistler, Green Figbird, Olive-brown Oriole, Northern Fantail and the beautiful and elusive Tricoloured Parrotfinch.

From Kupang we next travelled to Soe, which we used as a base to visit two great birding sites – Mount Mutis and Oelnasi. We made an early morning visit using 4x4 vehicles for the long and bumpy

drive to Mount Mutis. Our day here was well worth it as we quickly notched up superb sightings of Metallic Pigeon, smart Black Dove and gorgeous Banded Fruit Dove as the sun's rays hit the treetops. After some time we managed good scope views of Olive-headed Lorikeet and, later, the rare Iris Lorikeet, which sadly stayed only briefly. Other sightings included great views of Flame-eared Honeyeater, Timor Leaf Warbler, cute Yellow-breasted Warbler and numerous Island Thrushes.

The quiet woodland trails of Oelnasi were very rewarding. We had superb looks at Pacific Baza, a pair of Bar-necked Cuckoo-Dove (where the male was even seen displaying to the female), skulking Buff-banded Thick-knee, Spot-breasted Heleia, localised White-bellied Bush Chat and Blue-cheeked Flowerpecker. Our evening excursion was particularly productive as we notched up Eastern Barn Owl, confiding Southern Boobook and Large-tailed Nightjar (sometimes split as Timor Nightjar), all just a few metres from one another.

Leaving West Timor we boarded a flight to the island of Flores. From our base in Borong we visited the productive area of Ponco Denki and here we enjoyed scope views of a perched Flores Hawk-Eagle, rare Flores Green Pigeon found in a fruiting tree, Glittering Kingfisher – yet another stunning species, Elegant Pitta (which gave scope views for fifteen minutes before we eventually had to walk away from this beauty!), Flores Crow, Black-fronted Flowerpecker and the gorgeous Flame-breasted Sunbird. During one of our evening excursions we enjoyed superb views of Mees's Nightjar.



Southern Boobook by David Hoddinott



From Borong we headed back to Ruteng and spent some time in the Lake Ranamese area. Here we recorded Tricoloured Grebe, point-blank views of a very confiding Barred Cuckoo-Dove and the often elusive Crested White-eye. Visits to the high altitude area of Golo Lusang were rewarding and we had



Moluccan Scops Owl by David Hoddinott

amazing scope views of Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon (which is becoming more and more difficult to find due to hunting pressure), Wallace's Scops Owl (which showed well one evening), while Scaly-crowned Honeyeater, Little Minivet, Brown-capped Fantail and Mountain Tailorbird were pleasantly common. One of our main targets, Bare-throated Whistler, blasted out their calls from exposed perches where we were able to watch three males at length – a wonderful sight and sound indeed!

At the mid-elevation site of Pagal, we recorded Leaf Lorikeet, Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker, tiny Russet-capped Tesia, Thick-billed Heleia after a concerted effort, Oriental White-eye (of the striking yellow form) and Golden-rumped Flowerpecker. There was no sign of the hanging parrot here, however, though fortunately we had a little time to spare and could search one final site. After driving on a narrow winding road into the hills we finally came across a fruiting fig tree and after a patient wait we were simply delighted to see the elusive Wallace's Hanging Parrot – what a thrill! Our final birding site on Flores, Purlolo, where Flores Monarch was discovered as recently as 1971, was particularly productive. Shortly after arriving at the site we were soon watching this very localised monarch, a species which can be difficult to see well. Whilst enjoying good views of the Flores Monarch, a beautiful Chestnut-capped Thrush darted by and later we found several feeding at a fruiting tree, what a great bonus! Our final sighting of the area was a splendid male Rufous-chested Flycatcher that posed for all.

The following day we enjoyed a most memorable trip to Komodo Island. The boat trip across to Komodo was superb with a beautiful sunrise, followed by sightings of several Lesser Frigatebirds and a surprise Wilson's Storm Petrel. Along the shoreline we picked up Great-billed Heron and Beach Stone-curlew and then, whilst walking the woodland trails, we enjoyed superb sightings of Green Junglefowl, Yellow-crested Cockatoo and a cute pair of Moluccan Scops Owl at their day roost. The island is famous for its huge reptiles, the world's largest lizard, the Komodo Dragon, and it did not disappoint as we watched several for a good while. They had recently fed and so were not in any hurry to get anywhere and we marvelled at their impressive size and overall incredible appearance.



Thick-billed Heleia by David Hoddinott

And so ended yet another fantastic trip to these seldom-visited endemic hotspots! Once again, my thanks to all the fun and enthusiastic participants and great ground operations team who together made this tour the resounding success that it was. I hope to travel with you all again sometime!



Post-tour private Lombok Extension.

Rinjani Scops Owl by David
Hoddinott

Several participants had opted to partake in a short post-tour excursion to the island of Lombok in search of the recently (2013) described Rinjani Scops Owl. A quick flight had us there in no time at all and, after a delicious fresh seafood lunch at a local restaurant by the beach, we enjoyed some late afternoon birding at Sesaot Forest in the foothills of Mt. Rinjani. After meeting up with our local guides we then set out on the walk to some secondary forest with a good mix of trees and shrubs including vine tangles and bamboo – perfect for scops owls! Whilst we sat and discussed the vocalisations and habits of Rinjani Scops Owl with one of our guides, the other disappeared in search of the owl. Blow me down when a mere ten minutes later, he appears saying that he’s found it! After just a short walk we appeared at a bamboo thicket and sure enough, there was this cute little scops owl roosting only a few short metres away – what a thrill!!! We decided that it would be nice to hear the bird calling since this is how it was discovered (as its call is so distinctly different to Moluccan Scops Owl under which it was previously placed). Since we didn’t have to wait long until dark, we sat quietly and listened to the guides’ stories about the owl. At dusk the first owl called and soon another answered, and we sat and marvelled at this truly exceptional experience of listening to this

pair of new-to-science species calling to one another. Shortly thereafter we were even able to get some photographs (see attached). What a fabulous ending this was to our wonderful adventures!!

Annotated List of Birds recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC 3.4 list of: Gill, F. and Wright, M. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.

Total species recorded on the Lesser Sundas (Sumba, Timor, Flores, Komodo & Lombok) 225 (and including Bali, a superb 315!)

Megapodes Megapodiidae**Orange-footed Scrubfowl***Megapodius reinwardt*

We had superb views of one in Langgaliru NP, Sumba.

Pheasants & Allies Phasianidae**Brown Quail***Coturnix ypsilophora*

We had good flight views of four in Langgaliru NP.

Green Junglefowl (NE)*Gallus varius*

We heard this species on Timor and Flores and had fabulous views of ten on the island of Komodo.



Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae**Wandering Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna arcuata*

At least 100 were seen at the wetlands of Megitimbi.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

We had splendid scope views of at least 30 at the wetlands of Megitimbi and a further dozen at Lake Ranamese, Flores.

Sunda Teal *Anas gibberifrons*

At least 50 were seen at the wetlands of Megitimbi.

Storm Petrels Hydrobatidae**Wilson's Storm Petrel** *Oceanites oceanicus*

We had great views of one during the boat trip from Labuan Bajo, Flores to Komodo Island. A nice surprise!

Grebes Podicipedidae**Tricoloured Grebe** *Tachybaptus tricolor*

We had superb views of ten at Lake Ranamese, Flores.

Hérons, Bitterns Ardeidae**Yellow Bittern** *Ixobrychus sinensis*

We had superb scope views of one at Megitimbi, Sumba.

Javan Pond Heron *Ardeola speciosa*

We had several scattered sightings in paddyfields on Sumba with peak numbers of 30 at Megitimbi. A further five were seen in rice paddies on Flores.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

This widespread species was commonly encountered on Sumba and Timor in open fields.

Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*

We had great views of one along the shoreline of Komodo Island.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

We enjoyed good views of five at Megitimbi, Sumba.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

We had superb sightings of two at Megitimbi, Sumba.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*

We found twenty birds in rice paddies on Sumba.

White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*

We had great scope views of one at a wetland near Bipolo, Timor.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

One bird was seen at Megitimbi.

Pacific Reef Heron *Egretta sacra*

We had great views of both dark and light morph individuals during our boat trip to Komodo Island.

Pelicans Pelecanidae**Australian Pelican** *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

We had superb views of 7 birds at the fishponds near Bipolo.



Frigatebirds Fregatidae**Lesser Frigatebird***Fregata ariel*

We had wonderful views of fifteen during our boat trip to Komodo Island.

Cormorants, Shags Phalacrocoracidae**Little Pied Cormorant***Microcarbo melanoleucos*

We had good scope views of three at Megitimbi.

Little Black Cormorant*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

We had good scope views of 20 at Megitimbi.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae**Black-shouldered Kite***Elanus axillaris*

We had great views of two birds flying over the fields near Bipolo.

Crested (Oriental) Honey Buzzard*Pernis ptilorhynchus*

We enjoyed wonderful sightings of at least three individuals at Bipolo.

Pacific Baza*Aviceda subcristata*

We had great views of several in Langgaliru NP, Sumba and a further four at Oelnasi, Timor.

Flores Hawk-Eagle (E)*Nisaetus floris*

This superb endemic was seen on 3 occasions and on one of them we enjoyed good scope views of one perched. An impressive bird indeed!

Short-toed Snake Eagle*Circaetus gallicus*

We had superb views of several including great views of one at Bipolo and another at Oelnasi, Timor.

Bonelli's Eagle*Aquila fasciata*

Our first sighting was of a pair near Bipolo with a further sighting of one at Mt. Mutis, Timor. We also recorded one at Ponco Denki and another at Pagal, Flores.

Chinese Sparrowhawk*Accipiter soloensis*

We had good views of one at Bipolo.

Spotted Harrier*Circus assimilis*

We had good views of a juvenile at Megitimbi.

Brahminy Kite*Haliastur indus*

We had superb views of a number of adults and juveniles at Megitimbi and around Langgaliru NP, Sumba. Two were also seen near Bipolo, Timor and a final two on Komodo Island.

White-bellied Sea Eagle*Haliaeetus leucogaster*

One sub-adult was seen very well near Bipolo, Timor where it was seen catching a fish. A nice sighting indeed! An adult and juvenile were also seen at Komodo Island.

Caracaras, Falcons Falconidae**Spotted Kestrel***Falco moluccensis*

We enjoyed superb views of several at Yumba, Sumba and regular sightings on Timor.

Australian Hobby*Falco longipennis*

We had brief views of one flying overhead near Yumba, Sumba.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae**Buff-banded Rail***Gallirallus philippensis*

We had good but brief views of one at Megitimbi wetland, Sumba.

White-browed Crake*Porzana cinerea*

We enjoyed superb scope views of one at Megitimbi, Sumba where it was seen jumping up and catching insects off reeds.

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

At least five birds were seen at the Megitimbi wetlands, Sumba.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

We had good scope views of forty at Megitimbi wetlands, Sumba and a further three at Lake Ranemese, Flores.

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*

We had good scope views of two at Megitimbi wetlands, Sumba.

Buttonquail Turnicidae

Sumba Buttonquail (E) *Turnix everetti*

We had superb views of two of this endemic near Yumba where some lucky folk managed to see it on the ground.

Stone-curlews, Thick-knees Burhinidae

Beach Stone-curlew *Esacus magnirostris*

We had fabulous scope views of a pair on the shores of Komodo Island.

Stilts, Avocets Recurvirostridae

White-headed Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus*

We enjoyed good scope views of three at Megitimbi, Sumba and a further four at Bipolo, Timor.

Plovers Charadriidae

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

We had great scope views of one in the rice fields near Waingapu, Sumba.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

We had good scope views of two at Megitimbi wetlands, Sumba.

Javan Plover (NE) *Charadrius javanicus*

We had superb scope views of five at Megitimbi wetlands, Sumba.

Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*

At least three birds were seen well at Bipolo, Timor.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

We had good scope views of four at Bipolo, Timor.

Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus*

A fabulous 14 birds were seen exceptionally well near Megitimbi.

Sandpipers, Snipes Scolopacidae

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

One was seen at the fish ponds near Bipolo and another on the rocky shore outside our hotel at Kupang, Timor.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

We had good scope views of one at the fish ponds near Bipolo, Timor.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

We had good views of one in the rice fields near Waingapu, Sumba.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*



This species was common at Megitimbi, Sumba where we found at least thirty. A further four were seen at the fish ponds near Bipolo, Timor.

Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*

We had superb scope views of one at the Bipolo fish ponds.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Small numbers were seen Megitimbi, Sumba and a further six at the fish ponds near Bipolo, Timor.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

We had good views of one at Megitimbi, Sumba.

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

We had superb scope views of eight at Megitimbi, Sumba and a further one at Bipolo fish ponds, Timor

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

A superb dozen were seen at the Megitimbi wetlands, Sumba and a further two at Bipolo fish ponds, Timor.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Three birds were seen at the Bipolo fish ponds, Timor.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

We had superb views of eight birds during the boat trip to Komodo Island.

Courasers, Pratincoles Glareolidae

Australian Pratincole *Stiltia Isabella*

We had fabulous views of a pair which were found nesting near Megitimbe, Sumba. We photographed the nest with two eggs as this is an exceptional record and then moved away quickly so as not to disturb the birds. As far as I am aware this species has not been recorded breeding outside of Australia. A further six birds were seen near Bipolo and a dozen at Kupang airport, Timor.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

A single bird was seen flying around the rocky coastline at our hotel in Kupang, Timor.

Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*

At least 30 birds were seen during the boat trip to Komodo Island.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

We had superb views of four adults during the boat trip to Komodo Island.

Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana*

A flock of fifteen birds was seen during the boat trip to Komodo Island.

Pigeons, Doves Columbidae

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Seen in small numbers in the larger towns and cities, including three at Ruteng, Flores

Metallic Pigeon *Columba vitiensis*

At least seven were seen at Mt. Mutis, Timor and a further two at Golo Lusang, Flores.

Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis*

This common species was regularly seen in secondary habitat throughout the tour.

Barred Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia unchall*

We had awesome views of one near Lake Ranamese and a further two at Golo Lusang, Flores.

Ruddy Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia emiliana*

We had brief views of one at Pagal, Flores.

Bar-necked Cuckoo-Dove (NE) *Macropygia magna*



We had good but brief views of one at Oelnasi and later a splendid pair at the same site on Timor where a male was observed displaying to a female, quite a site!

Little Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia ruficeps*

We had good scope views of one at Langgaliru NP, Sumba and another was seen at Mt. Mutis, Timor.

Black Dove (E) *Turacoena modesta*

We heard this species at Camplong and finally enjoyed a most memorable encounter of two confiding birds at Mt. Mutis, Timor.

Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

A couple was seen in Langgaliru NP, Sumba and a further two en route to Tabedo, Flores.

Pacific Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps longirostris*

We had good scope views of one at Pariti, Timor.

Barred Dove (NE) *Geopelia maugeus*

Our first sightings of this smart near-endemic were at Yumba, Sumba with a further ten seen at Bipolo, Timor and most common on Komodo Island where we observed at least fifty.

Sumba Green Pigeon (E) *Treron bicinctus*

We had fabulous scope views of three birds in Langgaliru NP, Sumba. A rare and tricky species!

Flores Green Pigeon (E) *Treron griseicauda*

This rare endemic was seen particularly well this year with at least ten birds seen at a fruiting tree.

Banded (Black-backed) Fruit Dove (NE) *Ptilinopus cinctus*

Our first sighting was of three birds at Bipolo. Thereafter we enjoyed further sightings at Mt. Mutis, Timor and in small numbers on a daily basis on Flores.

Red-naped Fruit Dove (E) *Ptilinopus doherlyi*

This stunning species was enjoyed in Langgaliru NP, Sumba where we had great scope views of one.

Rose-crowned Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus regina*

We had great views of many at Bipolo and Oelnasi, Timor.

Black-naped Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus melanospilus*

We enjoyed fabulous views of ten in Langgaliru NP, Sumba and twenty daily at Ponco Denki, Flores.

Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea*

We had great scope views of 19 in Langgaliru NP, Sumba and small numbers at Golo Lusang, Flores and one on Komodo Island.

Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon (E) *Ducula rosacea*

We had good but brief views of one at Bipolo, Timor. This species is becoming increasingly difficult to find.

Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon (NE) *Ducula lacernulata*

We had magnificent scope views of one at Golo Lusang, Flores. This was a very lucky find indeed after we had only heard it in Bali.

Cockatoos Cacatuidae

Yellow-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua sulphurea*

We had good but distant scope views of seven in Langgaliru NP, Sumba and later enjoyed fabulous views of five on Komodo Island.

Parrots Psittacidae

Wallace's Hanging Parrot (E) *Loriculus flosculus*

We found a male feeding in a fruiting fig and enjoyed splendid scope views.

Sunset Lorikeet (E) *Trichoglossus forsteni*

We had cracking views of six seen eating flowers in Langgaliru NP, Sumba



Leaf (Flores) Lorikeet (E)*Trichoglossus weberi*

We had superb scope views of four birds at Pagal and a fabulous further sighting of one at Golo Lusang.

Marigold Lorikeet (E)*Trichoglossus capistratus*

We heard and some of us glimpsed a pair flying through the forest at Bipolo, Timor. This species is becoming rare and difficult to find.

Olive-headed Lorikeet (E)*Trichoglossus euteles*

We had superb scope views of twenty on Mt. Mutis.

Iris Lorikeet (E)*Psitteuteles iris*

We had good but very brief views of four on Mt. Mutis. This was a real bonus as is a rarely seen species.

Red-cheeked Parrot*Geoffroyus geoffroyi*

We enjoyed numerous sightings. Good numbers were seen in Langgaliru NP, Sumba, five at Bipolo, Timor and six at Pagal, Flores.

Great-billed Parrot (NE)*Tanygnathus megalorhynchus*

We had great scope views of two and a third gave excellent flight views in Langgaliru NP, Sumba.

Eclectus Parrot*Eclectus roratus*

We had superb but brief scope views of a male in Langgaliru NP, Sumba.

Jonquil (Olive-shouldered) Parrot (E)*Aprosmictus jonquillaceus*

We had fabulous scope views of three birds at Pariti and a further two were seen at Mt. Mutis, Timor.

Cuckoos Cuculidae**Lesser Coucal***Centropus bengalensis*

This widespread species was seen en route to Yumba with another good scope view of one at Megitimbi, Sumba.

Asian Koel*Eudynamis scolopacea*

One female was seen on Sumba and a male which was suspected to be this species on Flores.

Pacific (Australian) Koel*Eudynamis orientalis*

We had good views of a female at Camplong, Timor.

Little Bronze Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx minutillus*

We had superb views of two including scope views of one at Pariti and another at Bipolo, Timor.

Brush Cuckoo*Cacomantis variolosus*

We heard this species calling in Langgaliru NP, Sumba, Mt Mutis, Timor and at Lake Ranamese, Flores

Rusty-breasted Cuckoo*Cacomantis sepulcralis*

We had good but brief views of one at Golo Lusang, Flores.

Sunda Cuckoo*Cuculus lepidus*

We heard this species on numerous occasions at Golo Lusang, Flores. All participants had already just seen this species on our Bali extension.

Barn Owls Tytonidae**Eastern Barn Owl***Tyto delicatula*

We had good views of two at Oelnasi, Timor.

Owls Strigidae**Flores Scops Owl (E)***Otus alfredi*

We heard this species on numerous occasions and had it calling very close but it refused to show itself. A localized and difficult species. This species was collected in 1896 and then only rediscovered in 1995

Wallace's Scops Owl (E) *Otus silvicola*

After an extended effort we all got to see this impressive scops owl.

Moluccan Scops Owl (NE) *Otus magicus*

We had good but brief views of one at Ponco Denki, Flores and later enjoyed a superb pair at a day roost on Komodo Island.

Rinjani Scops Owl (E) *Otus jolandae*

We had fabulous views of one bird at Sesaot Forest, Lombok. A total of four birds were heard calling in the area.

Note: This species was only formally described in 2013 and was originally placed with Moluccan Scops Owl, O. magicus. The calls are however unique and it is endemic to the island of Lombok.

Sumba Boobook (E) *Ninox rudolfi*

We had superb views of a pair which were even seen copulating in Langgaliru NP, Sumba.

Southern (Streaked) Boobook (E) *Ninox boobook*

We had superb views of one at Bipolo and a further pair at Oelnasi, Timor.

Little Sumba Hawk-Owl (E) *Ninox sumbaensis*

One of these cute little owls showed particularly well in Langgaliru NP, Sumba.

Nightjars Caprimulgidae

Large-tailed (Timor) Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*

We had great views of one at Oelnasi, Timor.

Mees's (Sunda) Nightjar (E) *Caprimulgus meesi*

Our first sighting was of one in Langgaliru NP, Sumba and we later enjoyed fabulous views of another at Ponco Denki, Flores.

Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis*

We had great views of two at a day roost near Megitimbi and another was seen at Langgaliru NP, Sumba.

Swifts Apodidae

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*

This species was commonly encountered at all forest sites with peak numbers in excess of 50 daily.

Edible-nest Swiftlet *Aerodramus fuciphagus*

Seen almost daily with a peak count of over 50 daily

Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus*

We had great views of thirty during the boat trip from Komodo Island to Labuan Bajo, Flores.

Rollers Coraciidae

Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

We had good views of two in Langgaliru NP, Sumba.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Glittering Kingfisher (E) *Caridonax fulgidus*

We had superb scope views of one at Ponco Denki, Flores. This was certainly one of the highlights of the trip.

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris*



This widespread species was common throughout the tour in degraded habitats.

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*

A couple birds were seen including good views of one at Yumba and two at Megitimbi, Sumba.

Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher (E) *Todiramphus australasia*

We had great views of one in Langgaliru NP, Sumba and a further two pairs at Bipolo, Timor.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

One was seen briefly at the fish ponds near Bipolo, Timor.

Oriental Dwarf (Rufous-backed) Kingfisher *Ceyx erithaca*

We heard one calling in Langgaliru NP, Sumba.

Bee-eaters Meropidae

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*

A bird of open habitats, we had daily sightings of small numbers including 20 at Bipolo, Timor.

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

This beautiful bird was seen exceptionally well at Bipolo, Timor where we observed many at close quarters as they caught bees around the impressive bee hives.

Hornbills Bucerotidae

Sumba Hornbill (E) *Rhyticeros everetti*

We had cracking scope views of several birds in Langgaliru NP, Sumba. This smart hornbill was yet another highlight of this tour! It can be a particularly difficult species to locate so we were thrilled to enjoyed splendid views.

Woodpeckers Picidae

Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos moluccensis*

Our first sighting was of one near Lake Ranamese and we had great views of several at Golo Lusang, Flores.

Pittas Pittidae

Elegant Pitta (NE) *Pitta elegans*

We had splendid views of two in Langgaliru NP, Sumba and another which allowed for an amazing 20 minutes scope views at Ponco Denki, Flores. This was one of the outstanding highlights of the trip.

Honeyeaters Meliphagidae

Streak-breasted Honeyeater (E) *Meliphaga reticulata*

We had fabulous views of six daily at Bipolo and a further five at Oelnasi, Timor.

Timor (Plain) Friarbird (E) *Philemon inornatus*

We enjoyed good views of several at Bipolo, Timor.

Helmeted Friarbird *Philemon buceroides*

This widespread species was seen on a number of occasions throughout the tour including good views at Pagal, Flores and on Komodo Island.

Scaly-crowned Honeyeater (E) *Lichmera lombokia*

Our first sightings were near Lake Ranamese with a further ten seen at Golo Lusang, Flores.

Indonesian Honeyeater (NE) *Lichmera limbata*

We enjoyed good views of one at Megitimbi, Sumba and a further two at Bipolo, Timor.

Flame-eared Honeyeater (E) *Lichmera flavicans*



Several birds were seen at Camplong and a further ten some of which gave outstanding views at Mt. Mutis, Timor.

Sumba (Red-headed) Myzomela (E) *Myzomela dammermani*

We had stunning views of three males in Langgaliru NP. This is a rare and tricky endemic to find so we were particularly fortunate to have such great views.

Black-breasted Myzomela (E) *Myzomela vulnerata*

A fabulous ten birds were seen at Bipolo and Camplong, Timor.

Australasian Warblers Acanthizidae

Golden-bellied Gerygone *Gerygone sulphurea*

Two birds were seen very well at Golo Lusang, Flores.

Plain Gerygone (E) *Gerygone inornata*

We had superb views of a couple daily at Pariti and Bipolo, Timor.

Woodswallows Artamidae

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

This widespread species was seen at Bipolo, Timor and a further two birds at Golo Lusang, Flores.

Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

Wallacean Cuckooshrike (E) *Coracina personata*

We had great views of two birds in Langgaliru NP, Sumba, several more at Bipolo, Timor and at Ponco Denki, Flores.

Pale-shouldered Cicadabird (E) *Coracina personata*

We had fabulous views of a pair in Langgaliru NP, Sumba and a further pair was seen at Golo Lusang, Flores.

White-shouldered Triller *Lalage sueurii*

This species was commonly seen at Megitimbe, Sumba with further sightings of twenty at Bipolo, Timor.

Little (Flores) Minivet (E) *Pericrocotus lansbergei*

We had amazing views of several flocks at Ponco Denki and Golo Lusang, Flores.

Whistlers & Allies Pachycephalidae

Fawn-breasted Whistler (E) *Pachycephala orpheus*

Up to ten were seen daily at Camplong and Bipolo, Timor.

Australian Golden (Rusty-breasted) Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*

We had good views of five in Langgaliru NP, Sumba, three at Mt. Mutis, Timor and a further four at Ponco Denki, Flores.

Note: Some authorities split this species as Rusty-breasted Whistler, P. Clements has recently accepted this split and IOC does not recognize this split.

Bare-throated Whistler (E) *Pachycephala nudigula*

What a bird! We had fabulous views of four males calling at Golo Lusang, Flores. This was yet another highlight of the tour!

Shrikes Laniidae

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*

Small numbers were seen near Oelnasi, Timor.



Figbirds, Orioles Oriolidae**Green (Timor) Figbird (E)** *Sphecothebes viridis*

Up to twenty of these smart birds were seen at Bipolo, Timor.

Olive-brown (Timor) Oriole (E) *Oriolus melanotis*

We had great views of three at Bipolo, one at Mt. Mutis and our final sighting of one at Oelnasi, Timor.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*

A widespread and often common species, up to eight were seen daily in Langgaliru NP, Sumba and two at Tabedo, Flores and a final two on Komodo Island.

Drongos Dicruridae**Wallacean Drongo (NE)** *Dicrurus densus*

First seen in Langgaliru NP, Sumba with further sightings in Timor and at Ponco Denki, Flores and eight on Komodo Island

Fantails Rhipiduridae**Brown-capped Fantail (E)** *Rhipidura diluta*

We had superb views of six at Golo Lusang, Flores.

Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris*

Up to eight were seen daily at Bipolo, Timor.

Arafura Fantail *Rhipidura*

This was the commonest fantail in the Lesser Sundas and we observed it on Sumba, Timor and Flores islands.

Monarchs Monarchidae**Black-naped [Pale Blue] Monarch** *Hypothymis azurea*

We had good views of two at Ponco Denki, Flores and a male on Komodo Island.

Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*

We had superb views of up to three daily in Langgaliru NP, Sumba and several more at Ponco Denki, Flores.

Flores Monarch (E) *Symposiachrus sacerdotum*

We had stunning views of three birds at Purlolo. This is a very localized species which was only discovered in 1971.

Spectacled Monarch *Symposiachrus trivirgatus*

We had superb views of three birds in Langgaliru NP, Sumba and another at Bipolo, Timor.

Broad-billed Flycatcher *Myiagra ruficollis*

We had great views of a male in Langgaliru NP, Sumba and two at Pariti, Timor.

Crows, Jays Corvidae**Flores Crow (E)** *Corvus florensis*

After some effort we managed good views of two at Ponco Denki, Flores.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

This widespread species was seen daily in small numbers on Sumba, Timor and Komodo Islands.

Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae**Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher** *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

Three birds were seen very well in Langgaliru NP, Sumba.

Tits, Chickadees Paridae

Cinereous Tit

Parus cinereus

One was seen at Yumba, Sumba, several at Ponco Denki, Flores and two birds on Komodo Island.

Larks Alaudidae

Horsfield's (Australasian) Bush Lark

Mirafra javanica

We had excellent flight and perched views of at least ten at Yumba, Sumba.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

Sooty-headed Bulbul

Pycnonotus aurigaster

Up to twenty birds were seen daily at Bipolo, Timor.

Swallows, Martins Hirundinidae

Barn Swallow

Hirundo rustica

Two birds were seen at the Megitimbi wetlands, Sumba and another during the boat trip from Komodo Island to Labuan Bajo, Flores.

Pacific Swallow

Hirundo tahitica

This species was fairly common throughout the tour.

Striated Swallow

Cecropis striolata

Our first sighting was of one at Yumba, Sumba, thereafter we had fabulous views of several at the fish ponds at Bipolo, Timor and finally one was seen at Pagal, Flores.

Tree Martin

Petrochelidon nigricans

We had wonderful views of fifteen near Bipolo, Timor.

Wren-babblers Pnoepyidae

Pygmy Wren-babbler

Pnoepyga pusilla

We had brief views of one on Mt. Mutis, Timor and heard others at Golo Lusang, Flores.

Cettia Bush Warblers and allies Cettiidae

Mountain Tailorbird

Phyllergates cuculatus

We had great views of one on Golo Lusang, Flores.

Sunda Bush Warbler

Horornis vulcanius

We had stunning views of three at Camplong, Timor.

Russet-capped Tesia (E)

Tesia everetti

We had good looks at one at Pagal and another at Purlolo, Flores.

Timor Stubtail (E)

Urosphena subulata

After a lengthy effort we were rewarded with cracking views of one of these skulkers at Camplong and later had brief views of two at Oelnasi, Timor.

Leaf Warblers and allies Phylloscopidae

Timor Leaf Warbler (E)

Phylloscopus presbytes

We enjoyed great views of several at Mt. Mutis, Timor and a further five at Golo Lusang, Flores.



Yellow-breasted Warbler*Seicercus montis*

We had superb views of two on Mt. Mutis, Timor and a further two at Golo Lusang, Flores.

Reed Warblers and allies Acrocephalidae**Australian Reed Warbler***Acrocephalus australis*

Two birds were seen well in the wetlands of Megitimbi, Sumba and another near Bipolo, Timor.

Grassbirds and allies Locustellidae**Tawny Grassbird***Megalurus timoriensis*

Some of us had good but brief views of one in Langgaliru NP, Sumba.

Buff-banded Thicketbird (E)*Buettikoferella bivittata*

This skulker was seen well but briefly at Bipolo and Oelnasi, Timor

Cisticolas and allies Cisticolidae**Zitting Cisticola***Cisticola juncidis*

Another widespread species, several birds were seen at Yumba, Sumba.

White-eyes Zosteropidae**Cream-browed (White-browed) White-eye (E)** *Lophozosterops superciliaris*

We enjoyed wonderful views of ten daily at Golo Lusang, Flores.

Crested (Dark-crowned) White-eye (E)*Lophozosterops doherityi*

We enjoyed superb views of two near Lake Ranamese and another at Pagal, Flores.

Spot-breasted Heleia (Dark-eye) (E)*Heleia muelleri*

Our first sighting was of three at Camplong and our best sighting was of a further four at Oelnasi, Timor.

Thick-billed Heleia (Dark-eye) (E)*Heleia crassirostris*

We had brief views of one at Ponco Denki and later fabulous views of three at Pagal and further sightings at Golo Lusang and Purlolo, Flores.

Oriental White-eye*Zosterops palpebrosus*

We had great views of ten at Pagal, Flores.

Mountain White-eye*Zosterops montanus*

This species was common at Mt Mutis, Timor and at Golo Lusang, Flores.

Yellow-ringed (-spectacled) White-eye (E)*Zosterops wallacei*

We had great views of ten at Langgaliru NP, Sumba and twenty at Ponco Denki, Flores.

Lemon-bellied White-eye (NE)*Zosterops chloris*

We found a flock of eight in secondary habitats on Komodo Island.

Ashy-bellied White-eye (E)*Zosterops citrinella*

This species was common at Megitimbi, Sumba and at Bipolo and Oelnasi, Timor.

Starlings, Rhabdornis Sturnidae**Short-tailed Starling***Aplonis minor*

We enjoyed good sightings of up to thirty daily in Langgaliru NP, Sumba and thirty near Lake Ranamese, Flores.

Javan (White-vented) Myna*Acridotheres javanicus*

We had good views of a dozen near Yumba and then a further sixty near Waingapu, Sumba and four at Bipolo, Timor.



Thrushes Turdidae**Chestnut-capped Thrush***Geokichla interpres*

We had superb looks at three at Purlolo, Flores. A shy and beautiful species!

Chestnut-backed Thrush (E)*Geokichla doherthyi*

We had amazing views of one in Langgaliru NP, Sumba. A further two were seen briefly at Mt. Mutis. Yet another stunning species and this was certainly one of the highlights of the trip!

Orange-sided (-banded) Thrush (E)*Geokichla peronii*

After a lengthy and unsuccessful search at Bipolo we finally caught up with this species at Camplong, Timor, where amazingly we managed scope views of 4 individuals. This is another stunning species!

Island Thrush*Turdus poliocephalus*

We had superb views of thirty at Mt. Mutis, Timor.

White-browed Shortwing*Brachypteryx montana*

This species was heard calling at Golo Lusang, Flores.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae**Pied Bush Chat***Saxicola caprata*

This widespread species was commonly encountered on most days of the tour.

White-bellied (Timor) Bush Chat (E)*Saxicola gutturalis*

One female was seen at Camplong and our best views were of eight birds including several stunning males at Oelnasi, Timor.

Russet-backed Jungle Flycatcher (E)*Rhinomyias oscillans*

We had great scope views of one in Langgaliru NP, Sumba. Several others were heard calling at Lake Ranamese, Flores.

Sumba Brown Flycatcher (E)*Muscicapa segregata*

We had great views of a pair in Langgaliru NP. A localized and tricky endemic

Rufous-chested Flycatcher*Ficedula dumetoria*

We had awesome views of a striking male at Purlolo, Flores.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher*Ficedula hyperythra*

We had superb views of a male at Mt. Mutis, Timor.

Sumba Flycatcher (E)*Ficedula harterti*

We had cracking views of a pair in Langgaliru NP and were very fortunate to get such good views as this is a rare, shy and highly elusive species.

Little Pied Flycatcher*Ficedula westermanni*

Found to be fairly common with sightings at Bipolo and Mt. Mutis, Timor and Golo Lusang, Flores.

Black-banded Flycatcher (E)*Ficedula timorensis*

We had cracking views of a stunning male at Camplong, Timor.

Timor Blue Flycatcher (E)*Cyornis hyacinthinus*

This beautiful species was seen daily at Bipolo, Camplong, Oelnasi and Mt Mutis on Timor.

Flowerpeckers Dicaeidae**Golden-rumped Flowerpecker (E)***Dicaeum annae*

We enjoyed good sightings at Pagal and Golo Lusang, Flores.

Thick-billed Flowerpecker*Dicaeum agile*

We had great views of three at Megitimbi with further daily sightings at Bipolo, Timor.

Black-fronted Flowerpecker (E)*Dicaeum igniferum*

We enjoyed good views of three at Ponco Denki and a further three at Pagal, Flores.



Blue-cheeked (Red-chested) Flowerpecker (E) *Dicaeum mauei*

We had great views of up to four daily at Bipolo and a further ten at Oelnasi, Timor.

Blood-breasted Flowerpecker (NE) *Dicaeum sanguinolentum*

Small numbers were seen daily in Langgaliru NP, Sumba and a further two males at Golo Lusang, Flores.

Sunbirds Nectariniidae**Brown-throated Sunbird** *Anthreptes malacensis*

A couple was seen daily in Langgaliru NP, Sumba and a further male at Ponco Denki, Flores.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis*

This widespread species was seen at Ponco Denki and Tabedo, Flores.

Apricot-breasted Sunbird (E) *Cinnyris buettikoferi*

Up to four of these smart birds were seen daily in Langgaliru NP, Sumba.

Flame-breasted Sunbird (E) *Cinnyris solaris*

We had superb looks at this endemic on a number of occasions at Bipolo-Timor, three at Ponco Denki and a further six at Pagal-Flores and a couple on Komodo Island.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae**Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

Commonly seen in larger towns and cities throughout the tour

Weavers, Widowbirds Ploceidae**Baya Weaver** *Ploceus philippinus*

We had good views of four in the rice fields near Waingapu, Sumba.

Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae**Red Avadavat** *Amandava amandava*

We had good views of three at Megitimbi, Sumba and a further eight were seen near Bipolo, Timor.

Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata*

Up to fifty were seen at Megitimbi, Sumba and a further six at Bipolo, Timor.

Tricolored Parrotfinch (NE) *Erythrura tricolor*

A pair of these smart birds was seen feeding in a fruiting fig tree at Bipolo and a further female seen at Camplong, Timor.

Javan Munia (NE) *Lonchura leucogastroides*

We had good views of ten in the rice fields near Waingapu, Sumba.

Scaly-breasted Munia (Nutmeg Mannikin) *Lonchura punctulata*

This widespread species was found in the ricefields near Waingapu, Sumba and at Bipolo, Timor.

Five-coloured Munia (E) *Lonchura quincolor*

We had good but brief views of several at Megitimbi, Sumba and later enjoyed great views of several at Bipolo, Timor.

Pale-headed Munia (NE) *Lonchura pallida*

A large flock of 150 were seen feeding in a rice paddie near Waingapu, Sumba.

Timor Sparrow (E) *Lonchura fuscata*

After a concerted effort we all enjoyed fabulous views of three at Bipolo, Timor.

Wagtails, Pipits Motacillidae

Paddyfield (Oriental) Pipit

Anthus rufulus

Small numbers were seen at Yumba and Megitimbi, Sumba and three at Mt. Mutis, Timor.

Annotated List of Mammals recorded

Long-tailed Macaque

Macaca fascicularis

We had good views of thirty in Langgaliru NP, Sumba and a further thirty near Lake Ranamese, Flores.

Wild Boar

Sus scrofa

Two were seen well but briefly at Bipolo, Timor and a further six on the shore on Komodo Island.

Timor Deer

Cervus timorensi

We had good views of twenty on Komodo Island.

Dugong

We had great views of one during the boat trip from Komodo Island to Labuan Bajo, Flores. This was a fabulous unexpected bonus!!!

Annotated List of Reptiles recorded

Komodo Dragon

Varanus komodoensis

Three of these most impressive lizards, the largest living species of lizard were seen exceptionally well on Komodo Island.

Tockay Gecko

Gekko gekko

We had good but brief views of one at Ponco Denki, Flores and heard many others.

Hawksbill Turtle

Steve had great views of this scarce species during some snorkling at Komodo Island.

Boschma's Gliding-Lizard

Draco boschmai

We enjoyed several encounters on Sumba and Flores.

Timor Gliding-Lizard

Draco timorensis

We had good views of one at Oelnasi, Timor.

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