



## LESSER SUNDAS TOUR REPORT 2017

2nd – 19th JULY 2017

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

- Orange-footed Scrubfowl
- Flores Hawk-Eagle
- Spotted Harrier
- Sumba Buttonquail
- Javan Plover
- Black-fronted Dotterel
- Australian Pratincole
- Wedge-tailed Shearwater
- Sumba Green-Pigeon
- Black-backed Fruit Dove
- Red-naped Fruit Dove
- Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon
- Eastern Barn Owl
- Flores Scops Owl
- Rote Boobook
- Little Sumba Boobook
- Mees's Nightjar
- Glittering Kingfisher
- Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher
- Sumba Hornbill
- Citron-crested Cockatoo
- Jonquil Parrot
- Iris Lorikeet
- Marigold Lorikeet
- Elegant Pitta
- Sumba Myzomela
- Rote Myzomela
- Timor Friarbird
- Flores Minivet
- Bare-throated Whistler
- Trumpeting Fantail
- Flores Monarch
- Russet-capped Tesia
- Timor Stubtail
- Rote Leaf Warbler
- Timor Heleia
- Chestnut-capped Thrush
- Chestnut-backed Thrush
- Orange-banded Thrush
- Timor Warbling-Flycatcher
- Black-banded Flycatcher
- White-bellied Bushchat
- Timor Flowerpecker
- Flame-breasted Sunbird
- Timor Sparrow
- Komodo Dragon

### SUMMARY:

Once again our Lesser Sundas tour provided a fantastic opportunity to see over 90 Indonesian endemics, including some of the most localized and range-restricted species on the planet. Our tour commenced on Sumba where we pretty much cleaned up on all of the endemics including great looks at Little Sumba Boobook, Mees's Nightjar, Sumba Hornbill, Sumba Myzomela and others. Next up was Rote Island where we saw Rote Boobook, Rote Myzomela and the distinctive Rote Leaf-Warbler, plus a number of other 'Timor' endemics as well. Back on Timor we nailed Timor Boobook, Black-banded Flycatcher and Orange-banded Thrush before setting off to the beautiful island of Flores. Our attempts at Flores Scops-Owl proved rather fruitful with point-blank views that none of us will ever forget, and there was also Flores Hawk-Eagle, more Elegant Pittas, and the dawn chorus of Bare-throated Whistlers just has to be experienced. We finished off with a speedboat visit to Komodo Island where we enjoyed some close dragons and Yellow-crested Cockatoos to round off a spectacular tour.

## Day 1 BALI - SUMBA

Everyone met in the hotel restaurant for breakfast at 06:30am, having flown to Bali from the UK and USA. A short ride took us to the airport and our slightly delayed flight took around 90 minutes to reach Waingapu on the island of Sumba. Upon arrival we were met by our 3 cars & Royke Mananta and then headed off to the homestay at Lewa, which was about a 90 minutes drive where we arrived for a late lunch. After a short rest we found a few birds around the small garden including a close **Indonesian Honeyeater** feeding on some flowers, as well as the delightfully named **Supertramp Fantail**, and there was also an **Ashy-bellied White-eye** present for a few people.

Then we headed to the start of the KM51 trail and immediately came across the first of several **Wallace's Heleia** to be seen this afternoon and which turned out to be a common species throughout the tour. The path took us across a grass covered rocky hillside and dropped down towards some fine forest that is part of Langgaliru National Park. The trail was incredibly overgrown but we pushed through and at one stage stopped to view an immature **Spotted Harrier** perched in a bare tree and also found several **Helmeted Friarbirds** and a gang of **Short-tailed Starlings** at the same spot. Just a little further on and we were inside the first section of forest where several **Green Imperial-Pigeons** were present, along with a cracking white-morph male **Tenggara Paradise-Flycatcher** that posed nicely, and a **Sumba Brown Flycatcher** gave repeated views high up in a bare tree. Walking further along the path and John went from 'zero to hero' in a nanosecond as he cracked a branch on the floor that sounded like a bullet, but in doing so flushed an **Orange-footed Scrubfowl** up into a tree where it remained for quite a while. We had great looks at this usually shy and skulking bird and watched it pacing back and forth on a bare branch not knowing quite what to do. The same spot also revealed some **Rainbow Bee-eaters**, **Asian Dollarbird**, and distant scope views of a party of **Wallacean Cuckooshrikes** as well. And there were many **Elegant Pittas** calling in the area, but that would have to wait for tomorrow. With the sun dipping below the horizon a **Mees's Nightjar** began calling and with a quick burst from my ipod it flew in



Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher

and hovered right in front of us before landing on a bare branch where we got great binocular views of it calling away. Once it was dark enough we walked on further and began a battle with several calling **Little Sumba Boobooks**. After a protracted effort when we had a couple of flyovers and with at least 3 birds continuously calling, Royke managed to get the spotlight on one bird that was quite low down on the slope above us. It was a great find by Royke and the views were pretty tasty, but it was unfortunate that the bird was partially hidden behind a tree trunk.

## Day 2 SUMBA

Headed back to the same patch of forest as yesterday, walking in just as the day began to dawn around 5.40am. It was a superb experience listening to the forest come awake and the first bird of the day was the sometimes-tricky **Sumba Green-Pigeon**. We then spent ages trying to get to grips with a **Sumba Flycatcher** that just wouldn't play ball and the same could almost be said about **Tenggara Golden Whistler** until it posed rather nicely several times. What a delightful bird that is! Continuing along the overgrown trail we spent some time in a large open clearing with a good view of the surrounding forest seeing **Collared Kingfisher**, a cracking **Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher**, 2 **Short-toed Eagles**, **Brown Goshawk**, **Tenggara Swiftlet**, and there were several flybys from both **Great-billed** and **Red-cheeked Parrots**. The trail followed the edge of the forest and in one medium-sized tree we found **Rusty-breasted Cuckoo**, **Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo** and **Sumba Brown Flycatcher**. We followed the trail further down into a nice patch of forest where we finally nailed several **Sumba Flycatchers**, with one pair showing particularly well quite low down revealing their clear white bellies and to my eye looking almost like babblers. Shortly after we managed several views of **Sumba Warbling-Flycatcher** as well, along with a fine **Wallacean Monarch** and a brief **Chestnut-backed Thrush**. We also had decent looks at both **Tenggara & Sumba Flowerpeckers** and **Apricot-breasted Sunbird** along the trail as well. There were also many **Elegant Pittas** calling but we just couldn't pull one in.

After lunch and a siesta back at the homestay we birded along the main road that passed through some decent forest. Pretty much our first bird was a **Sumba Hornbill** flying into a tree below us and landing briefly. What a result. We also saw **Pale-shouldered Cicadabird**, **Sumba Green Pigeon**, **Ashy-bellied White-eye**, **Sumba Warbling-Flycatcher**, **Supertramp Fantail**, and **Eucalypt Cuckoo Dove**. Best of all was a great performance from an **Elegant Pitta** we spotted perched on a bare branch below the road. It remained in one place calling for a good ten minutes and it was just a shame there were leaves in front of it or we could have got some decent photos. Oh and we ended the day with cracking views of **Sumba Boobook** right over the road, and a close **Little Sumba Boobook** just a few feet off the ground on a bare vine. A side trip en-route to the homestay once we were finished to look for **Eastern Barn Owl** turned out to be a waste of time but we'd try for it again...



Greater Sumba Boobook

## Day 3 SUMBA

Having done so well we only needed a couple of endemics to complete the set for Sumba so off we went and birded along the road again. A fine **Spotted Kestrel** perched beside the road was the first bird of the day, followed by some **Great-billed Parrots** and a **Rusty-breasted (Sunda) Cuckoo**. We came across a large fruiting tree with a cracking pair of **Black-naped Fruit-Doves** and a **Red-cheeked Parrot** feeding in it. A few parties of



**Marigold Lorikeets** whizzed by the same area and there were some **Ashy-bellied White-eyes** and other commoner species. My personal highlight of the morning was the scope views of a perched **Red-naped Fruit-Dove** below the road. We continued walking and eventually found a **Sumba Myzomela** that spent quite some time singing and feeding right in front of us, with a **Sumba Warbling-Flycatcher** showing right behind it. Dropping down to the rice fields we found a flock of **Black-faced Munias**, **Purple Heron** and a pair of **Barred Doves** to round off our morning session.

In the afternoon we drove for just under an hour and forced a path through some tangled vegetation and out onto an open plain of thigh-high shrubbery that took us to an overlook with an amazing view across to a substantial section of forested hillside and valley. No sooner had we arrived than Keith exclaimed he'd found a cockatoo and sure enough we had great scope views of 4 **Orange-crested Cockatoos**. So we left here with dark clouds filling the sky, seeing **White-breasted Woodswallow** and **Indonesian Honeyeater** and headed back towards the homestay where we managed to call in an **Eastern Barn Owl** for several fly pasts to round off another successful day.



Sumba Myzomela

#### Day 4 SUMBA

Breakfast was at the usual time of 5am and it really didn't help that there wasn't any electricity as we had to pack and leave this morning, but the pancakes tasted as good as ever! We returned to the KM51 trail and staked out the open area once again, scanning the forest edge as the first sun's rays hit the treetops. A nearby fruiting tree held **Sumba Green-Pigeon**, **Black-naped Fruit-Dove**, **Green Imperial-Pigeon** and **Black-naped Oriole**, whilst a **Spotted Harrier** flew over. Then a pair of **Sumba Hornbills** appeared in another fruiting tree but didn't linger and flew across the clearing before alighting in a distant dead tree, but the scope views were decent enough. The drive back to Waingapu and a decent hotel was only notable for the pair of **White-shouldered Trillers** seen.

After lunch and a siesta we headed to Yumbu grasslands and nailed a few **Sumba Buttonquails** with the usual flight views, along with a few **Australian Bushlarks** as well. Then we visited the estuary and literally the first bird was a flyby wader and I had no clue. Literally nothing. It was a 'plover' with a red bill and black chest-band. Fortunately we were able to follow it around and it eventually landed on a large island in front of us and we scoped it. I had to look in an Australian bird guide app I've got on my iPhone and there it was.... **Black-fronted Dotterel**, a 2<sup>nd</sup> for Indonesia – thank you very much! In a rush of blood to the head a few of us began to walk quickly around to the far side of the 'island' where we thought we could cross and get that all-important photo but I got stuck in the mud up to my shins and just couldn't move. Getting covered in mud with one shoe and foot stuck down in glutinous mud wasn't fun but we got out eventually! And then we also saw **Australian Pratincole**, **White-headed Stilt**, **Javan Plover**, **Little Pied Cormorant**, **White-browed Crake** and **Australian Reed Warbler**. Not a bad haul but it was all about the dotterel really. A **Savanna Nightjar** called away as we walked (or in my case stumbled with one shoe on, one off) back to the cars and then did a couple of flybys. Great day!

(On returning to UK I discovered that this is most probably the same individual that appeared here 2 years ago and is, in fact, still the first record for Indonesia.)

## Day 5 SUMBA - TIMOR

After a late and leisurely breakfast we headed to an area of mangroves along the coast where we looked for **Olive-backed Tailorbird**, which is either a relict population or originating from released captive birds. We eventually succeeded in seeing one very well, along with **Sacred Kingfisher** and some showy **Broad-billed Monarchs**. With some time to kill before our flight to Timor we headed to some rice fields and found **Australian Reed Warbler** and a huge gathering of **Pale-headed Munias**. And then it was time to head to the airport for our flight to Kupang on Timor and amazingly our flight of around 50 minutes left on time!

Upon arrival we went straight to the hotel to drop our luggage off and was really surprised to find such a nice, new hotel. Afterwards we drove for around an hour to Bipolo, an area of lowland forest. Pretty quickly we nailed **Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove**, **Timor Fantail** and **Rusty-breasted Whistler** before doing battle with a singing **Orange-banded Thrush**. Just a few of us saw this bird so we turned our attention to a calling **Timor Thicketbird**, and this gave us quite a run around. Again, not everyone saw this but we had repeated, mega-brief views of 2 birds. Oh well. We also tried for **Timor Boobook** but only heard it, so we'll give that another go after our day on Rote.

## Day 6 TIMOR - ROTE

Caught the ferry over to Rote Island this morning and along the way we saw **Bridled Tern**, **Brown Booby**, **Common Noddy** and **Pacific Reef Egret**. Around 90 minutes later we arrived, jumped into our cars and headed to a hotel located along the beach. A quick lunch was consumed before we headed inland for a couple of hours. Along the way we stopped and found a pair of **White-bellied Bushchats**, and the soon-to-be-split endemic **Rote Fantail**. Our next stop was good as well, with **Olive-brown Oriole** and a scoped **Black Cuckoo-Dove**. Moving on we came across a lake where **Australasian Darter**, **Whiskered Terns** and a flotilla of **Wandering Whistling-Ducks** were present. On reaching the site we quickly found a **Flame-breasted Sunbird**, and Chris spotted a **Rote**



This pair of Rote Boobooks showed extremely well

**Myzomela**, whilst Kevin found a **Rote Leaf-Warbler**. We then drove to another patch of forest and this time

everyone got on the myzomela and leaf warbler before we left. At our owl stake-out we had superb views of **Rote Leaf-Warbler** in a bare tree just before **Rote Boobook** began calling. Within a couple of minutes we had a pair of boobooks calling back at us from a bare branch, giving us a fantastic display. And that was the end of our Rote mini-adventure.

### Day 7 ROTE - TIMOR

Got the fast ferry back to Kupang in Timor, after an hours delay. Along the journey we saw **Common Noddy**, **Brown Booby** and **Black-naped Tern**. Once we arrived it was a quick dash to the hotel for lunch and we were out soon after on the drive back to Bipolo, where we stopped along the road and had some further views of **Orange-banded Thrush**. Then we went out into the rice fields and began our search for **Timor Sparrow** and it didn't take too long before an adult bird was spotted at the top of a bare tree, but unfortunately it didn't linger long enough. However, in the immediate vicinity we found a small gathering of some 8+ immature sparrows. So we walked further out into the rice fields to try and find another adult **Timor Sparrow** and sure enough we did and thoroughly enjoyed some fine scope views. There was also 3 flyover **Royal Spoonbills**, **White-faced Heron**, **Timor Fantail**, **Streak-breasted Honeyeater** and a calling **Brown Quail** was scoped. We finished off with a **White-browed Crake** scuttling around a small marsh before trying in vain once again for **Timor Boobook**.

### Day 8 TIMOR

We drove under an hour to Camplong where the birding was extremely slow. I mean teeth-pulling slow. We heard **Timor Boobook** on arrival, but it didn't respond to playback and it was getting way too light anyway. Our main target was **Black-banded Flycatcher**, and we did find a bird that called back and came in briefly but was only seen by a couple of people. A different trail was more productive with both **Buff-banded Thicketbird** and **Timor Stubtail** being seen, with a flock of **Yellow-eared Honeyeaters** and **Spot-throated Dark-eyes** feeding in the canopy around a flowering tree. A **Timor Blue-Flycatcher** was also found before we left and drove to our next hotel.

After lunch we headed to a nice patch of forest and followed a trail to a clearing, finding very little bird activity at all to start with. But once at the clearing we had a good time with **Timor Figbird**, **Timor Friarbird**, **Timor Blue Flycatcher**, **Tree Martin**, **Yellow-eared Honeyeater**, **Timor Flowerpecker**, and several **Rose-crowned Fruit-doves**. The next clearing held a fine **Banded Fruit-Dove** and with the sun setting we walked back to the first clearing and even before it was fully dark a **Timor Boobook** began calling and this time luck was on our side as Kevin spotted it tucked away in the canopy high overhead. To end the day we watched a **Timor Nightjar** flying around the treetops. So, once again, perseverance paid off and we ended up having a good day.

### Day 9 TIMOR

This was our day on Mount Mutis and it turned out to be quite a tough one. Waking up to rain wasn't the best start and it continued on and off as light drizzle until mid-afternoon. We found bird activity to be very low and hardly any birds were singing. We did get the local race of **Pygmy Cupwing** singing from the top of a rock, lots of **Yellow-eared Honeyeaters**, **Mountain White-eyes**, **Metallic Pigeon**, Chris saw **Pink-headed Imperial-Pigeon**, and we also saw **Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher**. At the end of the day an **Iris Lorikeet**, **Golden Whistler**, **Wallacean Drongo**, **Timor Leaf Warbler**, **Island Thrush**, **Snowy-browed Flycatcher** and a few other commoner species were found.

### Day 10 TIMOR

Birded Oelnasi this morning and fortunately we were able to get to grips with a cooperative **Black-banded Flycatcher** that gave repeated albeit brief views for everyone. We also had another **Timor Stubtail**, **Banded Fruit-Dove**, **Rainbow Bee-eater**, a fine **Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove** teed up in the scope, **Long-tailed Shrike** and on the walk back a cracking **Orange-banded Thrush**.

After lunch we drove back to Bipolo where we saw some common birds but decided to return a little earlier to our hotel in Kupang for a rest and hot shower, have dinner and prepare for an early flight to Flores the next morning.

### Day 11 TIMOR - FLORES

An early doors flight to Ruteng in Flores saw us quickly away and out birding along the road that bisects some fabulous forest. A couple of **Russet-capped Tesias** were our first new endemic before we started walking. Then we came across a flock of **Flores Minivets** that showed well, and also our first **Flores Leaf-Warbler** came in close to check us out. We caught up with the minivets further up the road and this time we also saw the well-named **Trumpeting Fantail**, much better than simply calling it **Brown-capped Fantail** don't you think! A **Flores Warbling-Flycatcher** followed, along with **Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker**, **Cinereous Tit**, **Sunda Oriental White-eye** and **Pale-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike**. We ended the morning session with a **White-rumped (Glittering) Kingfisher** that John spotted perched on a mossy branch inside the forest.

Then we drove 90 mins to our basic hotel at Kisol, had lunch at a nearby restaurant and then set off up to the forest surrounding Gunung Pacandeki. After the clear blue skies of this morning we were surprised to see dark clouds rolling in and sure enough, it began to rain lightly. We did nail a **Black-fronted Flowerpecker** and scoped it singing from the top of a tree. There were also several **Black-naped Fruit-Doves** at a fruiting tree, **Helmeted Friarbird**, and a flyby from a **Flores Crow**. With the rain getting heavier we drove back to Kisol and then got hit by a heavy tropical downpour that apparently was part of a weather system that had hit Japan and northern Australia causing widespread flooding and devastation.

### Day 12 FLORES

A heavy tropical downpour of biblical proportions meant that we abandoned our intended 4am departure and went back to bed. A great breakfast at the hotel and our delayed 8.30am departure saw us driving through a devastated Kisol that was partly underwater now and up to Gunung Pacandeki where we spent a frustrating time on the trails in the gloomy overcast conditions. Then just before 10am we went to the viewpoint and Kevin spotted a perched **Flores Hawk-Eagle**, which looked very nice in the scope, as did a **Flores Crow**. Back on the trails, we eventually tracked down a very confiding **Elegant Pitta** that gave repeated views.

Leaving here we drove to the hotel for lunch and then drove back towards Ruteng. Along the way we saw 2 **Flores Warbling-Flycatchers**, a whole bunch of **Scaly-crowned Honeyeaters**, **Flores Minivet** and a **Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle**. Once it was dark we heard 3 **Flores Scops-Owls** but try as we might we couldn't track one down, so retired to a rather fine hotel on the edge of Ruteng for a 4 night stay.

### Day 13 FLORES

We returned to the forest to try and track down the pesky **Flores Scops-Owl** again about an hour before sunrise. They were calling as soon as we arrived so we changed tack and found a way to creep inside the forest as quietly as you can in a group. We stood stock-still and quietly played the weird croaking call and slowly one of the two calling birds came in right overhead where I was able to get the spotlight on it. But it didn't stay long enough for everyone to get a view amongst the foliage, so I decided to try and get closer to the other bird that



Flores Scops-Owl

was calling. We pretty much walked about 200 yards further into the forest, over tree roots, through hanging vines and over fallen trees but we did it very quietly and again I got the spotlight on a bird higher up in the canopy, but again it didn't remain very long. With two people still needing a view we tracked another bird but



this time it flew and began calling from where we had just been, so back we went. It flew straight over our heads and landed on a bare branch where it remained for several minutes, allowing great views and a few record shots. It's not easy balancing a torch and a 300mm lens for a photo..... But what a success and we returned just 20 minutes back to the hotel for breakfast, eating far too much as it was a great spread!

Then we headed up to Golo Lusang, a higher altitude forest where we targeted **Bare-throated Whistler**. It took us quite a while to finally get one to respond but there were so many uttering their outstanding song that I wasn't that bothered and knew we'd nail one. There was quite a lot of activity here and we saw several brief **Eye-browed Heleias**, a **Pygmy Cupwing** sang back at us on some horizontal twigs by the roadside, a **Sunda Cuckoo** called and flew overhead a few times, and lots of **Mountain White-eyes** appeared,



Thick-billed Heleia

After lunch and a siesta we birded from the roadside in great forest and at our first stop called in a cracking **Thick-billed Heleia** that showed repeatedly. The next stop quickly produced a **Crested Heleia** and this one also proved to be very obliging and gave repeated views. At this site there was also a flock of **Lemon-bellied White-eyes**, **Flores Minivet** and **Golden-bellied Geygone**. Moving on we had flight views and a brief perched look at a **Sunda Cuckoo** before it got dark.

#### Day 14 FLORES

This was a tough day, beginning with a 6am departure to the high levels of Golo Lusang where gale force winds meant we didn't see anything. The wind was so strong that on the drive back to the hotel for breakfast we saw roofs ripped away and my car narrowly avoided being hit by a large sheet of corrugated iron! So we decided to head south-east and to more sheltered areas where we hoped to find **Leaf Lorikeet** and maybe **Flores Green-Pigeon**. Well we didn't despite staking out the area from 10.30am – 6.30pm..!!! In fact we didn't see anything new but still managed to rack up a nice list of previously seen species such as **Ruddy Cuckoo-Dove**, **Horsfield's** and **Shining Bronze Cuckoos**, **Sunda Pygmy Cuckoo**, **Black-naped Monarch**, **Thick-billed** and **Crested Heleias**, **Golden-rumped** and **Black-fronted Flowerpeckers**, **Flame-breasted Sunbird**, **Helmeted Friarbird**, **Tenggara Golden Whistler**, **Flores Spangled Drongo** and others. We tried for **Wallace's Scops-Owl** just after sunset, but as soon as it got dark enough it began to rain....

#### Day 15 FLORES

Left at 4.30am and went to Danau Ranamese where we tried in vain for **Wallace's Scops-Owl**. But at daybreak there was a phenomenal amount of bird song and a quick look around the car park revealed **Rusty-breasted Cuckoo**, **Cinereous Tit**, **Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker**, **Scaly-crowned Honeyeater** and some other common species. Then we dived back to the hotel for a very quick breakfast before heading up to Golo Lusang again. This time we heard **Leaf Lorikeet** a couple of times but it still eluded us. We did finally nail **Eye-browed Heleia** for everyone and it was very busy up here this morning with species such as **Flores Leaf-Warbler**, lots of tesias calling, etc.

After lunch we returned to some fantastic higher elevation forest and managed to stay below the low cloud but things were pretty dead, with just **Barred Cuckoo-Dove** and **Little Bronze Cuckoo** being the only birds of note. Once it became dark enough we made another stab at **Wallace's Scops-Owl** and had one calling very close but it was invisible in a very dense area of foliage – and that was out lot.



## Day 16 FLORES

We went to Puarlolo early this morning as this is the easiest site to see the often-elusive **Flores Monarch**. And sure enough it was tricky and not everyone managed to get on it this morning, but that would change later this afternoon. Anyway, a fruiting tree held several **Black-naped Fruit-Doves** and a **Wallace's hanging-Parrot** for a couple of us. Inside the mid-elevation forest we had brief views of **Chestnut-capped Thrush**, more monarch sightings, and a superb **Rufous-backed Dwarf Kingfisher**.

We returned in the afternoon and nailed **Chestnut-capped Thrush**, with 3 birds perched in a huge tree, and at dusk a **Moluccan Scops-Owl** appeared right on cue after just a few minutes of trying and we were away for an early finish for a change.

## Day 17 KOMODO ISLAND



The impressive Komodo Dragon

We left the hotel and took an 80 minutes speedboat ride to Komodo Island. Upon arrival we were taken to see the first of several **Komodo Dragons** to be seen during our 3 hour walk. We came across several young males and quite impressive specimens, including one walking along the track directly at us. The other major targets were **Yellow-crested Cockatoo** and **Green Junglefowl**, both of which showed well. An **Orange-footed Scrubfowl** showed really well and we watched this for a while, with a **Variable Goshawk** perched up as well.

After the walk we chilled along the beach for a while, had some cold drinks and drank in the scenery before sailing over to Pink Beach for a snorkelling session. After an amazing experience we sailed back to our hotel at Labuanbajo, passing numerous small, scenic islands along the way seeing **Black-naped Tern** and a close **White-bellied Sea Eagle** en-route. It was a beautiful experience. Back at the hotel at 4pm and we headed out to the mangroves where we saw a flock of **Whimbrel**, **Lesser Sandplover**, **Common Sandpiper**, **Stork-billed Kingfisher**, a beautiful **Cerulean Kingfisher**, **White-breasted Waterhen** and some low flying **Edible-nest Swiftlets**. What a day and a great way to end the tour.

## Day 18 FLORES

With just a few hours to go before our flight left this remarkable island, we drove to a nearby site with the aim to get more views of **Wallace's Hanging-Parrot**. We walked along the road through some good habitat and managed a couple flight views before returning to the hotel. A short flight later we were back in Bali and on our way back to the UK. What a tour!

I would like to thank a great group for their excellent participation and good humour. With special thanks to Kevin Bryan for the mammal list at the end of this report.

Nick Bray.



Crested Heleia - Flores



Rote Leaf-Warbler – Rote Island



Yellow-crested Cockatoo - Komodo Island



Supertramp Fantail - Sumba

## SYSTEMATIC LIST – LESSER SUNDAS JULY 2017

### **ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae**

Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

### **GALLIFORMES: Megapodiidae**

Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt reinwardt*

### **GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae**

Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora*

Green Junglefowl E *Gallus varius*

### **PROCELLARIIFORMES: Procellariidae**

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna pacifica*

### **PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae**

Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*

### **PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae**

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

Javan Pond Heron *Ardeola speciosa*

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Great Egret *Ardea alba modesta*

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*

White-faced Heron *Egretta novaehollandiae*

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Pacific Reef Heron *Egretta sacra*

**SULIFORMES: Sulidae**

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

**SULIFORMES: Fregatidae**

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*

**SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae**

Little Pied Cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleucos*

**SULIFORMES: Anhingidae**

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

**ACCIPITRIFORMES: Pandionidae**

Eastern Osprey *Pandion cristatus*

**ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae**

Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

Flores Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus floris*

Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii formosus*

Variable Goshawk *Accipiter hiogaster sylvestrus*

Brown Goshawk (Sumba) *Accipiter fasciatus tjendanae*

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

**GRUIFORMES: Rallidae**

Buff-banded Rail (H) *Gallirallus p. philippensis*

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

White-browed Crake *Porzana cinerea cinerea*

Purple Swampfen *Porphyrio porphyrio melanotus*

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus orientalis*



**CHARADRIIFORMES: Turnicidae**

Sumba Buttonquail E *Turnix everetti*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae**

White-headed Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae**

Javan Plover *Charadrius javanicus*

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

Black Fronted Dotterel

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Jacanidae**

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus variegatus*

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Glareolidae**

Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae**

Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus*

Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus*

Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana*

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

**COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae**

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Metallic Pigeon *Columba vitiensis metallica*

Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis tigrina*

Barred Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia unchall unchall*

Ruddy (Parzudaki's) Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia emiliana emiliana*

Little (Eucalypt) Cuckoo-Dove E *Macropygia sp.*

Black Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Turacoena modesta</i>
Pacific Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps longirostris timorensis</i>
Barred Dove E	<i>Geopelia maugeus</i>
Sumba Green Pigeon E	<i>Treron teysmannii</i>
Black-backed (Banded) Fruit Dove (Timor) E	<i>Ptilinopus cinctus cinctus</i>
Red-naped Fruit Dove E	<i>Ptilinopus dohertyi</i>
Rose-crowned Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus regina flavicollis</i>
Black-naped Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus melanospilus melanauchen</i>
Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea polia</i>
Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon E	<i>Ducula rosacea</i>
Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon E	<i>Ducula lacernulata sasakensis</i>

**CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae**

Lesser Coucal	<i>Centropus bengalensis javanensis</i>
Pacific Koel	<i>Eudynamys orientalis</i>
Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx basalis</i>
Shining Bronze Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx lucidus</i>
Rusty-breasted (Sunda Brush) Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis s. sepulcralis</i>
Sunda Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus lepidus</i>

**STRIGIFORMES: Tytonidae**

Eastern Barn Owl (Sumba)	<i>Tyto javanica sumbaensis</i>
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**STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae**

Flores Scops Owl E	<i>Otus alfredi</i>
Wallace's Scops Owl E	<i>Otus silvicola</i>
Moluccan Scops Owl	<i>Otus magicus albiventris</i>
Great Sumba Boobook E	<i>Ninox rudolfi</i>
Timor (Southern) Boobook E	<i>Ninox fusca</i>
Rote (southern) Boobook E	<i>Ninox rotiensis</i>
Little Sumba Boobook E	<i>Ninox sumbaensis</i>

**CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae**

Mees's Nightjar E	<i>Caprimulgus meesi</i>
Timor Nightjar sp.	<i>Caprimulgus sp.</i>
Savanna Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>

**APODIFORMES: Apodidae**

Drab (Timor) Swiftlet E	<i>Collocalia e. neglecta</i>
Cave/Linchi Swiftlet (Bali) E	<i>Collocalia linchi dedii</i>
Tenggara/Linchi Swiftlet (Sum/Flor) E	<i>Collocalia sumbawae</i>
Edible-nest Swiftlet (Bali)	<i>Aerodramus f. fuciphagus</i>
Edible-nest Swiftlet (Su/Ti)	<i>Aerodramus fuciphaga micans</i>
Edible-nest Swiftlet (Flores)	<i>Aerodramus fuciphaga dammermani</i>
White-throated Needletail	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>

**CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae**

Oriental Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>
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**CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae**

Glittering (White-rumped) Kingfisher E	<i>Caridonax fulgidus</i>
Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis floresiana</i>
Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris chloris</i>
Sacred Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus sanctus sanctus</i>
Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher E	<i>Todiramphus a. australasia</i>
Cerulean (Small Blue) Kingfisher E	<i>Alcedo coerulescens</i>
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis floresiana</i>
Rufous-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx rufidorsa</i>

**CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae**

Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>
Rainbow Bee-eater	<i>Merops ornatus</i>

**BUCEROTIFORMES: Bucerotidae**

Sumba Hornbill E

*Rhyticeros everetti*

**PICIFORMES: Picidae**

Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker

*Yungipicus moluccensis grandis*

**FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae**

Indonesian (Spotted) Kestrel E

*Falco moluccensis microbalia*

Peregrine Falcon

*Falco peregrinus*

**PSITTACIFORMES: Cacatuidae**

Yellow-crested Cockatoo E

*Cacatua sulphurea parvula*

Citron-crested (Orange-crested) Cockatoo E

*Cacatua citrinocristata*

**PSITTACIFORMES: Psittaculidae**

Jonquil (Olive-shouldered) Parrot E

*Aprosmictus jonquillaceus*

Red-cheeked Parrot (Timor) (H)

*Geoffroyus g. geoffroyi*

Red-cheeked Parrot (Fl, Su)

*Geoffroyus geoffroyi floresianus*

Great-billed Parrot (Sumba)

*Tanygnathus megalorynchos sumbaensis*

Iris Lorikeet E

*Psitteuteles iris iris*

Leaf Lorikeet E (H)

*Trichoglossus weberi*

Marigold Lorikeet (Sumba) E

*Trichoglossus capistratus fortis*

Wallace's Hanging Parrot E

*Loriculus flosculus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Pittidae**

Elegant Pitta (Flores)

*Pitta elegans concinna*

Elegant Pitta (Sumba)

*Pitta elegans maria*

**PASSERIFORMES: Meliphagidae**

Sumba Myzomela E

*Myzomela dammermani*

Timor (Black-breasted) Myzomela E

*Myzomela vulnerata*

Rote Myzomela E

*Myzomela sp.*



Scaly-crowned Honeyeater E	<i>Lichmera lombokia</i>
Indonesian Honeyeater E	<i>Lichmera limbata</i>
Yellow-eared (Flame-eared) Honeyeater E	<i>Lichmera flavicans</i>
Timor Friarbird E	<i>Philemon inornatus</i>
Helmeted Friarbird (Sumba/Flores)	<i>Philemon buceroides neglectus</i>
Timor Meliphaga (Streak-breasted Honeyeater) E	<i>Meliphaga reticulata</i>

**PASSERIFORMES: Acanthizidae**

Golden-bellied Gerygone	<i>Gerygone s. sulphurea</i>
Plain (Timor) Gerygone E	<i>Gerygone inornata</i>

**PASSERIFORMES: Artamidae**

White-breasted Woodswallow	<i>Artamus leucorhynchus albiventer</i>
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**PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae**

Wallacean Cuckooshrike (Timor) E	<i>Coracina p. personata</i>
Wallacean Cuckooshrike (Sumba) E	<i>Coracina personata sumbensis</i>
Pale-shouldered Cicadabird E	<i>Coracina dohertyi</i>
Common (Wallacean) Cicadabird E	<i>Coracina tenuirostris/Lalage amboinensis</i>
Lesueur's (White-shouldered) Triller E	<i>Lalage sueurii</i>
Flores (Little) Minivet E	<i>Pericrocotus lansbergei</i>

**PASSERIFORMES: Pachycephalidae**

Fawn-breasted Whistler E	<i>Pachycephala orpheus orpheus</i>
Tenggara (Golden) Whistler (Flores) E	<i>Pachycephala calliope fulvotincta</i>
Tenggara (Golden) Whistler (Sumba) E	<i>Pachycephala calliope fulviventris</i>
Tenggara (Golden) Whistler (Timor) E	<i>Pachycephala calliope calliope</i>
Bare-throated Whistler E	<i>Pachycephala nudigula</i>

**PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae**

Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach bentet</i>
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**PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae**

Timor (Green) Figbird E

*Sphecotheres viridis*

Timor (Olive-brown) Oriole E

*Oriolus melanotis melanotis*

Black-naped Oriole

*Oriolus chinensis broderipii*

**PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae**

Wallacean (Flores Spangled) Drongo E

*Dicrurus bimaensis*

Wallacean (Sumba Spangled) Drongo E

*Dicrurus Dicrurus sumbae*

Wallacean (Timor Spangled) Drongo E

*Dicrurus densus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Rhipiduridae**

Trumpeting (Brown-capped) Fantail E

*Rhipidura diluta diluta*

Timor (Northern) Fantail E

*Rhipidura r. rufiventris*

Rote (Northern) Fantail E

*Rhipidura tenkatei*

Supertramp (Arafura) Fantail (Sumba)

*Rhipidura dryas sumbensis*

Supertramp (Arafura) Fantail (Timor/Flores)

*Rhipidura dryas semicollaris*

**PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae**

Black-naped Monarch

*Hypothymis azurea symmixta*

Tenggara (Blyth's) Paradise Flycatcher (Flores) E

*Terpsiphone floris floris*

Tenggara (Blyth's) Paradise Flycatcher (Sumba) E

*Terpsiphone floris sumbaensis*

Flores Monarch E

*Symposiachrus sacerdotum*

Wallacean (Spectacled) Monarch E

*Symposiachrus trivirgatus trivirgatus*

Broad-billed Monarch

*Myiagra ruficollis ruficollis*

**PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae**

Flores Crow E

*Corvus florensis*

Large-billed (Sthn Jungle) Crow

*Corvus macrorhynchos*

**PASSERIFORMES: Stenostiridae**

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher (Sumba)

*Culicicapa ceylonensis connectens*

**PASSERIFORMES: Paridae**

Cinereous Tit

*Parus cinereus cinereus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae**

Horsfield's Bush Lark (Sumba/Flores)

*Mirafra javanica parva*

**PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae**

Sooty-headed Bulbul

*Pycnonotus aurigaster*

(Sunda) Yellow-vented Bulbul

*Pycnonotus goiavier (nalis)*

**PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae**

Barn Swallow

*Hirundo rustica*

Pacific Swallow

*Hirundo tahitica javanica*

Daurian (Striated) Swallow

*Cecropis daurica striolata*

Tree Martin

*Petrochelidon nigricans timoriensis*

**PASSERIFORMES: Pnoepyidae**

Pygmy Wren-babbler (Flores)

*Pnoepyga pusilla everetti*

Pygmy Wren-babbler (Timor)

*Pnoepyga pusilla timorensis*

**PASSERIFORMES: Cettiidae**

Mountain Tailorbird (Leaftoiler)

*Phyllergates cuculatus everetti*

Sunda Bush Warbler (H)

*Horornis vulcanius everetti*

Russet-capped Tesia E

*Tesia everetti everetti*

Timor Stubtail E

*Urosphena s. subulata*

**PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae**

Rote Leaf Warbler E

*Phylloscopus sp.*

Timor Leaf Warbler E

*Phylloscopus presbytes*

Flores Leaf Warbler E

*Phylloscopus floris*

**PASSERIFORMES: Acrocephalidae**

Australian Reed Warbler

*Acrocephalus australis sumbae*

**PASSERIFORMES: Locustellidae**

Timor (Buff-banded) Thicketbird E

*Buettikoferella bivittata*

**PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae**

Zitting Cisticola

*Cisticola juncidis fuscicapillus*

Olive-backed (Javan) Tailorbird E

*Orthotomus sepium*

**PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae**

Eyebrowed Heleia / Cream-browed White-eye E

*Heleia [Lophozosterops] superciliaris*

Crested Heleia (White-eye) E

*Heleia [Lophozosterops] dohertyi subcristata*

Timor (Spot-breasted) Heleia E

*Heleia muelleri*

Thick-billed Heleia E

*Heleia crassirostris*

Sunda (Oriental) White-eye

*Zosterops [palpebrosus] melanurus unicus*

Mountain White-eye

*Zosterops m. montanus*

Wallace's Heleia (Yellow-ringed White-eye) E

*Heleia [Zosterops] wallacei*

Lemon-bellied White-eye

*Zosterops chloris intermedius*

Ashy-bellied White-eye

*Zosterops c. citrinella*

**PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae**

Asian Glossy Starling

*Aplonis panayensis*

Short-tailed Starling

*Aplonis minor*

Javan Myna

*Acridotheres javanicus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae**

Chestnut-capped Thrush

*Geokichla interpres*

Chestnut-backed Thrush E

*Geokichla dohertyi*

Orange-banded Thrush E

*Geokichla p. peronii*

Island Thrush

*Turdus poliocephalus schlegelii*



**PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae**

Sumba Brown Flycatcher E	<i>Muscicapa segregata</i>
Timor (Blue) Warbling-Flycatcher E	<i>Cyornis h. hyacinthinus</i>
Flores Warbling-Flycatcher E	<i>Eumyias oscillans</i>
Sumba Warbling-Flycatcher E	<i>Eumyias stresemanni</i>
Flores (White-browed) Shortwing E (H)	<i>Brachypteryx montana floris</i>
Snowy-browed Flycatcher (Timor)	<i>Ficedula hyperythra clarae</i>
Sumba Flycatcher E	<i>Ficedula harterti</i>
Little Pied Flycatcher (Timor)	<i>Ficedula westermanni mayri</i>
Little Pied Flycatcher (Flores)	<i>Ficedula westermanni hasselti</i>
Black-banded Flycatcher E	<i>Ficedula timorensis</i>
Pied Bush Chat (Sumba)	<i>Saxicola caprata francki</i>
Pied Bush Chat (Timor)	<i>Saxicola caprata pyrrhonota</i>
White-bellied Bush Chat (Timor) E	<i>Saxicola g. gutturalis</i>
White-bellied Bush Chat (Rote) E	<i>Saxicola gutturalis luctuosus</i>

**PASSERIFORMES: Dicaeidae**

Golden-rumped Flowerpecker E	<i>Dicaeum annae annae</i>
Tenggara (Thick-billed) Flowerpecker (Timor) E	<i>Pachyglossa obsolete obsoleta</i>
Tenggara (Thick-billed) Flowerpecker (Fl/Su) E	<i>Pachyglossa obsolete tincta</i>
Black-fronted Flowerpecker E	<i>Dicaeum igniferum igniferum</i>
Red-chested (Blue-cheeked) Flowerpecker E	<i>Dicaeum maugei maugei</i>
Sumba (Blood-breasted) Flowerpecker E	<i>Dicaeum wilhelminae</i>
Timor (Blood-breasted) Flowerpecker E	<i>Dicaeum hanieli</i>

**PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae**

Brown-throated Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes malacensis rubrigena</i>
Ornate (Olive-backed) Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris [jugularis] ornatus</i>
Apricot-breasted Sunbird E	<i>Cinnyris buettikoferi</i>
Flame-breasted Sunbird E	<i>Cinnyris solaris</i>

**PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae**

Eurasian Tree Sparrow

*Passer montanus malaccensis*

**PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae**

Red Avadavat

*Amandava amandava flavidiventris*

Sunda Zebra Finch E

*Taeniopygia guttata*

Black-faced Munia E

*Lonchura molucca*

Scaly-breasted Munia (Sumba)

*Lonchura punctulata sumbae*

Scaly-breasted Munia (Flores, Timor)

*Lonchura punctulata blasii*

Five-colored Munia E

*Lonchura quincolor*

Pale-headed Munia E

*Lonchura pallida*

Chestnut Munia

*Lonchura atiricapilla*

Timor Sparrow E

*Lonchura fuscata*

**PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae**

Paddyfield Pipit (Timor)

*Anthus rufulus medius*

Paddyfield Pipit (Bali, Sumba, Flores)

*Anthus rufulus albidus*

# Mammals, Reptiles and Amphibians

By Kevin Bryan

Our haul was small; despite the Lesser Sundas being rich in reptiles, amphibians and the smaller mammals. However, we did see one absolute gem!

## A. SUMMARY

### MAMMALS

Large Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus vampyrus</i>
Sunda Flying Fox	<i>Acerodon mackloti</i>
Long-tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>
Eurasian Wild Pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>
Timor Deer	<i>Cervus timorensis</i>

### REPTILES

Tokay Gecko	<i>Gekko gekko</i>
Common House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>
Asian Water Monitor	<i>Varanus salvator</i>
Komodo dragon	<i>Varanus komodoensis</i>
Green Sea Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>

### AMPHIBIANS

Asian Common Toad	<i>Duttaphrynus melanostictus</i>
Cricket Frog	<i>Fejervarya limnocharis</i>

## B. SPECIES DESCRIPTIONS

### B.1 MAMMALS

#### ORDER: RODENTIA – Rodents

##### Family Muridae: Rats, Mice and Allies

##### **Rattus sp.**

A poor view of one individual on Thu 6 Jul in a semi-rural area of Timor. The most likely species was Black Rat (*R. rattus*) or Brown Rat (*R. norvegicus*). Surprisingly; no other rodents were observed on the trip.

#### ORDER: CHIROPTERA – Bats

Many bats were observed; covering a large range of forms. Only two were considered.

##### Family Pteropodidae: Old World Fruit bats

##### **Large Flying Fox** (*Pteropus vampyrus*)

One of the largest species of flying foxes (fruit bats) with a range that extends from SE Asia across to the Lesser Sundas. It is very abundant in some areas of its' range.

Seen particularly well on Tue 4 Jul in Sumba; it was also seen – albeit less well and less frequently – elsewhere on the trip.

##### **Sunda Flying Fox** (*Acerodon mackloti*)

Large flying foxes were also seen on Flores on both 13 and 14 Jul (poor views).

According to the IUCN website (and other sources); *P. vampyrus*, does not occur on Flores and *A. mackloti* (which is both endemic to Indonesia and limited to the Lesser Sundas) is a very likely candidate. Where their distribution overlaps, *P. vampyrus* and *A. mackloti* often roost together.

#### ORDER: PRIMATES – Primates

##### Family Cercopithecidae: Old World monkeys

### **Long-tailed (Crab-eating) Macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*)**

Seen over several days (4, 8, 12, 13, 15 and 16 Jul); sometimes in large numbers. Abundant on Sumba and Flores.

An intelligent, highly versatile and adaptive primate; some populations are tool users.

A synanthrope; at best, a passive sharer of our spaces, at worst, a nuisance and a pest. Introduced to many areas where it has become an invasive alien.

One of the smaller macaques and, as implied by its' name, it does have a particularly long tail (although other species have long tails too). Whilst the tail can, to some extent, be wrapped around a branch, it is not prehensile. The fur is brown-grey (with tinges of outer gold) above and grey-white below.

### **ORDER: CETACEA – Whales, Dolphins and Allies**

No positive identifications.

A dispersed pod of 10+ animals was seen on the final phase of the journey from Komodo back to Flores on Tue 18 Jul. They were travelling c200m+ from the boat and moving away; there was little breaching.

In all likelihood they were either Indo-Pacific Bottle-nosed Dolphins (*T. aduncus*) or Common Bottlenose Dolphins (*T. truncatus*).

In addition to the characteristics used to separate the above species; each species is intra-specifically variable such that the inshore and offshore populations of each species can display notable physical differences – a further challenge to identification at distance.

Perhaps the most interesting encounter was on Sat 8 Jul before the crossing back to Timor from Roti. The group made the observation whilst at the ferry terminal waiting to board the vessel. Several animals (15+) were observed inshore. There were at least two species and possibly as many as four. They were highly engaged and circled and traversed an area of water between a breakwater and the ferry pier markers. They ranged from c100m to 200m+ away. Photographs were taken but identification remains incomplete.

### **ORDER: ARTIODACTYLA – Even-toed Ungulates**

#### **Family Suidae: Pigs**

#### **Eurasian Wild Pig (Wild Pig, Wild Boar) (*Sus scrofa*)**

Several individuals were seen on Komodo on Tue 18 Jul. These animals, which were not particularly wary, are the result of introductions.

Domestic pigs (*S. domesticus* or *S. s. domesticus*) are the direct descendants of *S. scrofa* and would, using current naming standards, be referred to simply as *Sus scrofa*.

The natural distribution of 'true' Wild Pig (ie *Sus scrofa*) only extends to the Greater Sundas. It is extremely unlikely that *S. scrofa* were ever introduced to Komodo (or beyond) as wild variants by humans. They are almost certainly, and exclusively, the feral (escaped) descendants of the domesticated variant brought to the island by local people over the generations. Good prey for Komodo Dragons.

#### **Family Cervidae: Deer**

#### **Timor Deer (Rusa Deer, Javan Deer, Rusa) (*Rusa timorensis* (Syn *Cervus timorensis*)).**

This species has a number of scientific synonyms, numerous common names and is divided into as many as seven sub-species by some authorities.

It has been introduced to many areas within Indonesia (and elsewhere) beyond its' native range of Java and Bali. About 30+ individuals were seen on Komodo on Tue 18 Jul in the areas around the dock, visitor centre and beach.

A versatile medium-sized deer that can live in grassland and wooded areas. It looks like a smaller version of the Sambar (*Rusa unicolor*) which many people will have seen in India and elsewhere.

Its' introduction to Komodo, which is believed to be ancient, provides the Komodo Dragons with a major source of food.

#### **Family Bovidae: Antelopes, Sheep, Goats, Cattle and Allies**

*We did NOT see any wild cattle; however we did observe an interesting domestication.*

#### **Bali cattle (*Bos javanicus domesticus*)**

On Mon 10 Jul we birded the moist high alpine forest meadows of Gunung (Mt) Mutis. The grass was being grazed by herds of Bali Cattle. These are direct descendants of Banteng (*Bos javanicus*); a now rare type of wild cattle native to SE Asia.

The individuals that we saw were of a particularly elegant strain that, despite appearances, have no immediate lineage to our 'own' domestic cattle; the progenitor of which is now extinct (the Auroch (*Bos primigenius*)).

## B.2 REPTILES

### ORDER: SQUAMATA – Scaled Reptiles

An unfortunate common designation; all reptiles are scaled.

#### Family Gekkonidae: Geckos

##### Tokay Gecko (*Gekko gecko*)

A large gecko (up to 35cm) that is found from India to New Guinea.

Highly vocal, this attractive nocturnal gecko is more often seen than heard. However, the nature of our accommodation (with high vaulted corridor ceilings) and harsh weather, furnished us with excellent indoor views on Thu 13 Jul whilst on Flores.

Sadly this species is becoming threatened due to collection for traditional medicines.

##### Common House Gecko (*Hemidactylus frenatus*)

A familiar tropical gecko (that goes by a number of common names) with a huge distribution range. Native across South and East Asia through to Australasia; introduced to Africa and the New World. An opportunistic and adaptable species.

Encountered at a number of our accommodations and associated buildings; particularly in Sumba.

#### Family Varanidae: Monitor Lizards

Distributed across Africa, Asia and Australasia; all species in this family belong to only one genus, *Varanus*. Some species have huge ranges whilst others are highly restricted.

The genus includes some of the largest of reptiles.

Of the 75 or so species of monitor, 27 are found in Indonesia of which 14 are endemic (often limited to only one island and being quite rare).

Although only one genus is currently designated, many species are described within well-defined sub-genera. In addition, some are further characterised as intricate species complexes; ie their taxonomy is just as 'involved' as it is for some bird taxa!

##### Asian Water Monitor (*Varanus salvator*)

This is one of the largest monitor species and has huge range (from Sri Lanka to the Lesser Sundas). It has many common names across that range. It is a species complex described by several sub-species. In some countries it is remarkably common; in both rural and urban settings. It is versatile and adaptable; occupying a range of semi-aquatic and terrestrial habitats. Always good to see.

The sub-species concerned is *V. s. bivittatus* (sometimes called the Two-striped Water Monitor) and was seen on Wed 5 Jul. Good views were had of one large individual that swam across a small roadside lake in Sumba. At the same site, Stephen observed a large specimen tied to the back of a bicycle! This species is collected for food, leather and the pet trade.

##### Komodo Dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*)

The largest lizard and one of the largest reptiles. As the subject matter of innumerable wildlife films; the species needs no introduction.

All within our group of hardcore birders wanted to see this species and, for some, it was within their 'bucket-list' of wildlife wants. Simply fantastic!

Several individuals, 5-10(\*), were seen on Komodo on Tue 18 Jul. Of those seen, only two or three had reached adult status (or soon would).

(\*Because the walk repeatedly crossed-back on itself and because some dragons were moving (foraging), exact numbers could not be determined with ease.)

In addition to seeing a number of 2m+ individuals; we also saw a juvenile in a tree.

The largest individuals (which we did not see) grow up to 3m; however, the biggest difference is the massive increase in bulk rather than just length.

This species, although famed for Komodo, is not limited to that island; it also occurs on:- Rinca, Gili Motang Gili Dasami and Flores (in three small pockets only).

The following bulleted information was obtained from the park guides and published sources and is not usually presented in the wildlife programmes, which mostly focus on the dramatic:-

- The mating season is Jun to Aug; mature adults disperse across the island, especially to the 'wilder' areas, and seek (or make) caves and tunnels for mating.
- The nests of Scrubfowls (Orange-footed Scrubfowl (*Megapodius reinwardt*)) are often used for egg laying.
- The hatchlings are 25-30cm long and immediately climb trees; the adult dragons are cannibals.
- The young reach 40cm after 6 months. In about five years they will reach about 100cm (and be much bulkier) when they descend to the ground.
- There are, according to the rangers, 1,337 ground dwelling (ie =>100cm) dragons on Komodo (figure for mid-2017). How did they get such a precise figure?
- The buffalo (feral domesticated Water Buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*)) – on which the big dragons seem to feed in wildlife films – are in the hills and forests a long way from the permitted general tourist areas.
- The best time to see a big male dragon is Nov to May.
- They are a pre Ice Age relic; when now flooded areas supported a large (and now extinct) mammalian megafauna. This accounts for their size and not 'Island Gigantism' (which is a much rarer phenomenon than Island Dwarfism).

### **Other Squamatan Reptiles**

1. Small snake (c20cm) found beneath a strip of corrugated roofing. Non-aggressive and retiring. Although photographed, it was not identified. It was most probably a young snake rather than a 'small' snake. The head-shape and scale-plate configuration was very much like that of a young python. Seen on Flores on 12 Jul. There is more than one python option for Flores.
2. Large lizard was seen in a palm tree on 15 Jul on Flores; not classified.
3. Medium-sized snake (c1m), poor view, was seen on the ground on 15 Jul on Flores; not classified.

### **ORDER: TESTUDINES: Turtles and Allies**

The UK terms 'terrapin', 'turtle' and 'tortoise' have no taxonomic value.

#### **Family Cheloniidae: Sea Turtles**

##### **Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)**

Always a delight to see.

A pan-tropical species that is, nevertheless, endangered. This species, along with the other six sea turtles, faces numerous active and incidental threats to its' existence.

The 'green' is due to the colour of its' fat not to the colour of its' carapace (which is olive through to black).

The head (mostly), seen from the boat as we crossed back from Komodo on Tue 18 Jul.

## **B.3 AMPHIBIANS**

### **ORDER: ANURA – Tail-less Amphibians**

#### **Family Bufonidae: True Toads**

##### **Asian Common Toad (*Duttaphrynus melanostictus*)**

This species, which is widely distributed across S and SE Asia, goes by many common names. It is quite variable; some individuals within the range look quite similar to 'our' common toad (European Toad (*Bufo bufo*)) whilst

others have, in part, brighter colouration and well defined (and coloured) ridges. Generally regarded as a species complex.

Introduced to the Lesser Sundas; it was quite common in many areas (especially in Sumba (eg at the homestay 2-5 Jul)).

#### **Family Dicroglossidae: Fork-tongued frogs**

Previously regarded as a sub-family within Ranidae (True Frogs).

#### **Asian Grass Frog (*Fejervarya limnocharis*)**

Another widely distributed (E, S and SE Asia) species with numerous common names. It shows much variation and is another species complex.

Long snouted with a clear and often very bright (lime green) dorsal stripe. A green-brown frog with a warty skin that jumps well.

Seen particularly well in the rice fields in Bipolo on Tue 11 Jul.

## **Appendix 1      References and Bibliography**

### **Mammals**

*Note: Taxonomy was based on Duff and Lawson (2004); itself, based on earlier versions of the major reference work by Wilson and Reader (2005).*

#### **Texts**

1. Duff A. and Lawson A. 2004. Mammals of the World A Checklist. A & C Black, London.
2. Mittermeier R. A., Rylands A. B. and Wilson D.E. (eds.). 2013. Handbook of The Mammals of the World. Vol 3: Primates. Lynx, Barcelona.
3. Wilson D.E. and Mittermeier R. A. (eds.). 2011. Handbook of The Mammals of the World. Vol 2: Hoofed Mammals. Lynx, Barcelona.
4. Wilson, D.E. & Mittermeier R. A. (eds.) 2014. Handbook of The Mammals of the World. Vol. 4: Sea Mammals. Lynx, Barcelona
5. Wilson D.E. and Reeder D.M. (eds.). 2005. Mammal Species of the World A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference Third Edition. The John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore.

#### **Websites**

6. The IUCN List of Threatened Species. <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>
7. List of mammals of Indonesia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_mammals\\_of\\_Indonesia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_mammals_of_Indonesia)

### **Reptiles and Amphibians**

*Note: Taxonomy was based on a mixture of 1 to 5 below.*

#### **Websites**

1. Amphibiaweb [www.amphibiaweb.org](http://www.amphibiaweb.org)
2. iNaturalist.org [www.inaturalist.org/](http://www.inaturalist.org/)
3. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>
4. Category:Reptiles of Indonesia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Reptiles\\_of\\_Indonesia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Reptiles_of_Indonesia)
5. Category:Amphibians of Indonesia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Amphibians\\_of\\_Indonesia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Amphibians_of_Indonesia)





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