

INDONESIA

Bali & The Lesser Sundas

25 August - 14 September 2015

Tour Notes

The group in alphabetical order: *Ken Chapman (UK), Liz Galton (USA), Jean Garret (USA), Peter Gilchrist (Canada), Peter & Pia Roberts (UK), Ellen Vahan (USA).*

Local Guides: *Throughout - Darwin Sumang & Ali Munthaha. Bali – Udi; Sumba – Freddy, Timor -Ony; Flores - Idris.*

Day 1: August 25th. Arrival in Bali Ken and I were the last to arrive into Denpasar today, being met by helpful local manager Ali at the airport and after becoming millionaires by changing a few US\$ into Indonesian Rupiahs we transferred to the Aston Inn Hotel by about 8.30pm. Darwin who arranged my previous tour to Indonesia a few years back was awaiting us. The rest of the group had already gone to their beds in anticipation of a 5am departure tomorrow morning. Ken and I had a quick beer and a bite to eat and got to our rooms by 9.30pm. It was sad not be meeting up with Tony Nilus who had to cancel just 3 days earlier.

Day 2: August 26th. Birding Denpasar Sewage Treatment Works Nature Reserve & Bali Barat National Park: We were all in the lobby on time at 5am to meet up with Udi our local bird guide for Bali, plus Ali and the coach driver. We picked up a packed breakfast (Indonesian-style egg fried rice) and set off the short distance to our first birding destination. We arrived pre-dawn (not quite sure why we got up so early) but dawn broke soon enough just after 6am at the entrance to the sewage treatment plant – a grand start to an exotic S E Asian holiday! This was a well-laid out place designated as a bird reserve and it lived up to its name. Herons and egrets were very abundant and confiding. Excellent comparisons of Great, Intermediate and Little Egrets, plus Purple Herons, many Black-crowned Night-Herons (seen feeding at dawn by seemingly swimming in the turbid water) and perhaps the most exotic of the lot, numerous Javan Pond Herons. We had a cup of coffee and then wandered slowly round the ponds fringed with trees and scrub for a couple of hours finding a decent first assortment of birds. Collared and Small Blue Kingfishers and Blue-tailed Bee-eaters were all very colourful. Sunda Teal possibly the most localised find and other smaller species called in well – Olive-backed Tailorbird, Bar-winged Prinia, White-Shouldered Triller, Olive-backed Sunbird and Golden-bellied Gerygone. Cave Swiftlets dashed about feeding and Pink-necked Green Pigeons and Pacific Swallows gave excellent views.

Back in the vehicle by about 8.30am, we spent much of the rest of the morning driving towards our night's destination near Bali Barat National Park. The drive first took us through the narrow, thronged streets of Bali – this part of Indonesia is densely populated. Then out into more open country with many rice fields in various stages of growing. We climbed up and over some hills and ridges and ended up at about 1.45pm at our hotel for a far too elaborate and large lunch, after which we had a break until 4pm before going out birding locally again.

The afternoon was very productive. We motored the fairly short distance to the entrance to the Bali Barat National Park and went in a few miles along wide tracks. The habitat was dry forest with a fairly open understory where we quickly began seeing Green Junglefowl. These were really very spiffy chickens with a lovely variety of iridescent colours, plumes and red coxcombs. We stopped first and got out of the vehicle by the shoreline fringed with mangroves where a small restaurant was situated. The local guides and staff from the

establishment began looking in the low branches of close-by trees and quickly came up with a pair of side-by-side Sunda Scops-Owls. We watched these in the scope for as long as we wished, then moved on by minibus a little further to spend the remainder of the afternoon in standing, watching, a little walking and playback for various other birds. The best “various other” bird was undoubtedly a couple of good sightings of a pair of somewhat unexpected Bali Starlings. These are probably the rarest bird we'll see on the whole tour, so quite impressive to find them on the first afternoon. They appeared quite chunky and “strangely white”. A few good scope views were had by all before we turned our attentions to anything else that might pop up. Some had brief looks at the distinct local race of Coppersmith Barbet - much redder in the face than other races. Lineated Barbet also showed for some, as did White-bellied Woodpecker calling loudly for a long time but playing hard to get. We also watched and called for Black-winged Starling – another distinctive black and white bird that we could hear from time to time but never saw. Eventually, as is the case in the tropics, the light rapidly deteriorated and night fell shortly after 6pm as we drove back to our hotel.

Day 3. August 27th. Birding in and around Bali Barat National Park We were in the minibus ready to set off at 6am. The drive took us about 40 minutes at a fairly slow pace through villages and farmland towards areas of forest with our target birds in mind. Our first target after picking up Udi was along the main road where he knew we could find Javan Mynas feeding along the roadside. We found these with ease and continued on to large areas of wet rice fields where we stopped and scoped rather distant Javan Kingfishers in the early morning mist. From here we continued on through attractive countryside to an open air stage by the coast where we stopped and had our picnic breakfast. The temperature was still pleasantly cool and it was good to find much better looks at Javan Kingfisher here along with close Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker. A short drive on accompanied by another local bird guide had us in forest edge cultivation looking for two further quite special birds – Javan Banded Pitta and Yellow-throated Hanging Parrot. We “did” the pitta first, found calling quite quickly in a small isolated patch of forest remnant so it should have been easy. It wasn't, but then gain it wasn't the most difficult pitta-quest we'd ever experienced either. We tried various ploys of playback, walking around the copse and diligently watching. Eventually after about half an hour everybody had managed some sort of views of this notorious skulker – a gorgeous bird hiding its beauty in the forest floor scrub. Most glimpsed views as it dashed between cover, one or two got lucky with longer perched views, but after a while we'd all seen enough to be satisfied and left the bird in peace. Just a few yards back to the van and we were peering at a beautifully obliging and perched up Yellow-throated Hanging-Parrot in bright sunshine for many minutes, full-frame in the scope – how obliging after the struggle with the pitta! For the final jaunt of the morning we began heading back and turned off by the coast at one of the hundreds of roadside shrines where the vehicle was blessed with holy water! We turned off, parked, had another coffee and watched a wonderful pair of Asiatic Pied Hornbills perched high in a nearby dead tree – a very spectacular sight for the morning's finale. Though the real finale was a quick stop for some of us to take photos of ourselves by an enormous concrete statue of a Bali Mynah – obviously this rare and endemic bird has a high profile in the local psyche.

Back at the hotel by midday. We had a fine lunch at 12.30pm and rested up in the heat of the day until 3.30pm, when we set off about half an hour away to the coast to take a boat ride (two boats in fact) out into a mangrove-fringed bay. Here our main focus was on finding Beach Thick-knee. Our boats chugged out using those distinctive long-shafted propeller outboards draped over either side of the boat, into very shallow muddy waters at low tide. We slowly motored past mudflats and mangrove edges for an hour or so. We didn't notch up a huge list, and some of the very few shorebirds were too far to identify, but we did see a small range of good birds. Great Crested and Black-naped Terns flew by and Oriental Plover was spotted on the shoreline. A large, dark heron on the flats turned out to be Great-billed Heron. Better still were reasonable looks at the increasingly scarce Lesser Adjutant Stork – four in all, flying then feeding on the mudflats. But in particular we did indeed find a lovely pair of Beach Thick-knees against the mangrove edge, staying still and out in the open long enough to pop the scope on them. Once this goal was achieved Udi suggested we turn about and go back to shore to use

the remaining time looking for Savannah Nightjar. Once back ashore and in the bus we motored a short distance down the way and met up with another of Udi's contacts who walked us out onto some coastal flat sandy bushy scrub where he quickly found us a lovely Savanna Nightjar sat quietly on the ground. We scoped this beauty then saw two or three others flying around still in good light and giving their distinctive call – a great end again to a fairly fruitful day.

After a quick shower and change we reconvened for a supper outside by the pool and were entertained by some lovely Balinese dancing for a while beforehand.

Day 4. August 28th. Birding coastal salt pans, Lake Buyan & Bali Botanical Gardens and return to Denpasar:

After a night of sporadic dog barking, the chicken's revenge with loud "cock-a-doodle-doo's" at 2.30am and again at 4.30am, followed by amplified mumbo-jumbo from the muezzins there was time for some pre-breakfast birding this morning, Udi taking us down to the coast again at a place where there were some small and fairly simple salt pans. We arrived at about 6.30am and immediately found our target bird – a lovely pair of Javan Plovers – a split from Kentish/Snowy, the bird having distinctly greyish legs! We had coffee and a jam sandwich before taking a pleasant circular walk around some of the salt pans until about 8.15am in bright sunshine and good light. Apart from White-shouldered Trillers and a few Nutmeg Mannikins and Golden-bellied Gerygones the emphasis was on shorebirds. There weren't huge numbers but in the end a reasonable selection were found and seen quite well. Sharp-tailed, Common and Wood Sandpipers, Red-necked and Long-toed Stints, Ruddy Turnstone, Common Redshank, Common Greenshank, many more Javan Plovers and a family of Black-winged Stilts made it all worthwhile.

We were back for a sit-down breakfast at the hotel by 9am and away promptly with all our luggage by 10am on our long drive back to Denpasar. Although Udi lives here, he accompanied us back to Denpasar as we were to make a couple of scheduled birding stops en route. Just before lunch we called in to a freshwater lake near Buyan and scoped plenty of Common Moorhens a single Eurasian Coot, a couple of odd-looking Cinnamon Bitterns and plenty of Javan Pond Herons. Around the fringes of the lake were Striped Grassbird and Long-tailed Shrike new for the list. It was only a short run from here to a good buffet lunch at a tourist roadside restaurant and another short run to the Bali Botanical Gardens for a bit of birding after lunch. The Gardens were a real delight – well-maintained and beautifully laid out with masses of birding potential, though we could only spare a couple of hours. One of the target birds that Udi wanted to show us was quickly found – several chunky Flame-fronted Barbets. A little further on and we were watching the confusingly titled Javan Grey-throated White-eye and a little further the Mountain White-eye popped up. We called in several close Indonesian Honeyeaters and watched Short-tailed Starlings and Little Pied Flycatchers and wondered what else might be in this pleasant area had we the time to look.

The journey back from here to Denpasar slowed down into a slow traffic jam arriving just after 6pm. We said goodbye to Udi who had done so well in finding us many of the special birds. Ali and Darwin fussed around in the background getting us checked in and making plans for tomorrow's descent into the "real" bit of the Lesser Sundas trip and giving us timings for our flights. We had a light buffet supper aided by G & Ts and serenaded by Indonesia's answer to Julio Iglesias singing ballads and playing guitar.

Day 5. August 29th: Bali to Sumba

Ali took our check-in luggage to the airport at 7am while we had a leisurely breakfast and departed at a little after 8am. The Domestic Departures terminal was large, airy and lavish and we were on an on-schedule flight to Waingapu on Sumba Island by 9.20am. Arriving into Sumba an hour later it was to a very different world – flatter, drier countryside and much more basic and undeveloped with no throngs of tourists. Once sorted out and in a couple of comfortable vehicles, we headed off with our local guide Freddy to search for Sumba Buttonquail, while Ali and Darwin went off in a third vehicle with our luggage to arrange lunch. The buttonquail was out on bare, sparse dry grassland and after forming a line and walking across this fairly

hostile habitat in the midday sun we did flush 2-3 individuals and saw these tiny, rotund birds flying away, bullet-like a few feet from the ground. We then returned to the outskirts of Waingapu where we had a very tasty lunch. Freddy's idea was to start birding straight away and stay out for owls, but I reined in his keenness by changing the plan to go to our accommodation in daylight, take a break then go out for owls afterwards. We were at the small village of Lewa an hour or so later and making the best of what will hopefully be by far the most basic of our overnights of the tour – a series of simple rooms, blockhouse-fashion separate toilet and washrooms with buckets for showers and of course no air-conditioning!

We set out at about 4pm for a drive just 15 minutes away to hike over some rough limestone grassland and into scrubby broken forest for the remainder of the afternoon and into the evening for owls. Freddy appears pretty good on his local birds and soon pointed out a range of species – several new for us. Yellow-spectacled White-eye was new and quite distinctive (for a white-eye) with little if any white eye ring and a flush of orange on the forehead. Much more drab, but another endemic, was Russet-backed Jungle-flycatcher now called Flores Jungle-flycatcher by Clements even though it also occurs here on Sumba. Our first raptors appeared in the skies – Brahminy and Black Kites, so nothing too exciting. We had a good scope view of Black-naped Fruit-dove and heard various other birds before 6 pm brought dusk and soon it was virtually dark and time to try for the three nocturnal species we'd come here for. First off the list was Mees's Nightjar, though it didn't really cooperate and gave brief fly-bys and a bit of eye-shine. Then we turned our attention to the two owls here, playing Least Boobook (Small Sumba Boobook) and calling in a bird that showed well. A little further back along the now dark trail we called in Sumba Boobook – distinctly larger and with a quite different call. This completed our quest and we trudged back to the waiting vehicles, getting back to the Homestay at about 8.15pm.

Supper awaited us and we ate this, did the bird list over a wee dram of my personal Bruichladdich whisky and steeled ourselves for our first night in our basic rooms!

Day 6: August 30th' Birding Sumba After a brief breakfast at 5.30am we were away in our two comfortable vehicles the short distance up the road to spend the morning birding along the road system that bisects excellent patches of forest through various altitude levels at Langgaliru and Manupeu – Tanadaru National Parks. Sumba is home to several rare endemics as well as some more widespread Moluccan specialities and we made a good start with them this morning. We spent our time wandering along the main road, the traffic being fairly light and not too intrusive. Occasionally we'd make side trips into the dry forest, but this was largely unnecessary to find our target species. Arafura Fantails and Pale-shouldered (Sumba) Cicadabirds made numerous appearances and Yellow-spectacled White-eyes were abundant and the “default” bird of the canopy. We heard Yellow-crested Cockatoo and Marigold's race of Rainbow Lorikeet, but only saw (very well) the Red-cheeked Parrot. Stunning Black-naped Fruit-doves posed for us, but we only heard distantly the endemic Sumba Green-pigeon. Quite early on we called in a, Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher and the morning finished on a high (after a second breakfast of coffee and jam sandwiches off the back of the pick-up truck) with a serendipitous find of Elegant Pitta in full glorious view on the leaf-covered forest floor. In between were further Sumba race of Flores Jungle-Flycatcher, Sumba Brown Flycatcher and Sumba Flycatcher, Broad-billed Flycatcher, Rufous-breasted Whistler (a split from Golden), Apricot-breasted Sunbird, further brilliant looks at Blood-breasted Flowerpecker, a Wallacean Drongo, while Glossy Swiftlets zipped around feeding at head height and lower along the road.

We were back by 11am for a long mid-day break in the rapidly increasing heat – time for ablutions, clothes washing, resting and trying to sort out all the confusing taxonomy that causes different names and species to appear in different books and checklists. I also went through the list of special birds to be found on Sumba, worked out what was left and discussed this with Freddy who seemed very switched on about what was required and what to do about it.

Away again at 3.30pm, we basically repeated the route we'd taken this morning – wandering down the road within the forested part of the National Park. Tropical forest birding always seems slower in the afternoon and it was no exception today. However we did get one of our missing target species, the very spiffy-looking Chestnut-backed Thrush which we called in at a couple of spots within the forest – though even then not everyone got onto it. We drove down and out to the forest edge to check out rice fields for more easily seen open country birds, but didn't come across anything special. However, while we were doing this Ali spotted a Sumba Hornbill briefly, called us back, but it had vanished by the time we got there. We called it a day just before 6pm, with no reason to go out after dark, having “mopped up” the nocturnal species last night thank goodness!

With some conversation with Darwin, I mooted a “Plan B” for tomorrow. If we could find all the special birds in our long morning out then it might be preferable to return to Waingapu in the afternoon and stay in a much more comfortable hotel instead of our basic homestay. This would also allow us to do some birding in potentially interesting coastal areas and the great bonus of doing a more cultural tour in the morning of 1st September. (Our bird guide Freddy is obviously a very talented hand weaver of traditional Sumba cloth and can show us some of this plus the distinctive Sumba architecture). So all hinges on how we do in the morning!

Day 7: August 31st: Birding Sumba from Lewa and return to Waingapu: We were away earlier this morning at 5am to go further along the same road to reach the more distant National Park of Manupeu – Tanadaru National Park soon after dawn. Not far out from town we stopped for 10 minutes to gain better views of Sumba Boobook which was quickly called in and gave brilliant, long views in the scope in the spotlight. We reached our destination at prime time with good light after a further splendid full moon had set. The plan this morning was to try and “mop up” on all the remaining endemic and special birds. We had a short list of 6-8 species and Freddy was taking us to the best locations for each. The first was a short walk out across open grassland, re-growing its trees after being declared a National Park and stopping cutting and overgrazing. Here were remaining pockets of large and mature native forest where the few surviving Sumba Hornbills existed. We walked to a ridge with a great view virtually 360 degrees in the cool misty morning and had a thoroughly good and productive session for almost two hours. On the walk we were hearing parrot squawks and got several first looks at the Marigold race of Rainbow Lorikeets sitting high in bare trees. Amongst these was a trio of thick-set distinctive Great-billed Parrots – the only ones we'd find on the tour. Once nearer the viewing area we began to get tantalising fly-bys of twos and threes of the huge and impressive Sumba Hornbills – always disappearing around the hill and giving us quite a chase for a while. Eventually we had some brilliant scope looks at several in trees calling and displaying. The other “big one” up here was the Citron-crested race of Yellow-crested Cockatoo. We sat and watched and waited for a while and eventually Freddy had two come into view perched distantly in the huge trees. One in particular showed well for a while before vanishing into the forest. This was almost “job done” and we returned to the road and our vehicles and drove a short distance further on to have our coffee break from the back of the vehicles. Whilst having our coffee and a bit of toast and jam in a fairly poor looking bit of woodland with introduced conifers in it, the Red-headed (Sumba) Myzomela showed and displayed well to us – a fine little black and red bird like so many other island myzomelas. The only bird left to find was the endemic Sumba Green Pigeon. This is always notoriously tricky to find – a green pigeon in tall green canopy, not moving much or calling like others of its family. We spent a further hour and a half wandering the road through increasingly impressive native forest keeping a close look out, but we were resigned to failure on this one and by 10.30am, with the traffic and the heat increasing to unpleasant levels we called it a day and returned to the lodgings by late morning.

After lunch we were packed and away at 1pm to execute “Plan B”. Darwin had, as usual, gone the extra mile to sort this out at short notice with no fuss. He had found an even better hotel than the one we were originally booked into and somehow managed to swap the booking at very short notice to the new one – all at no extra charge to us, which was remarkable and generous. We arrived in the small, bustling town of Waingapu by about

2.20pm and went straight to the new hotel – which on first glance seems very nice and a huge improvement on the Lewa Homestay.

We were on the road again by 3.30pm to go birding with Freddy to the Menggitibi wetlands. It took a while to get there and Freddy didn't join us as apparently he doesn't do shorebirds! The wetlands were extensive open water, stretches of muddy shoreline and large areas of beds of some sort of reeds unlike phragmites. This was all surrounded by open, dry grassland and bare earth on a limestone rocky substrate. We didn't have long to spend here, but we managed to find a good selection of new species. The grasslands held quite a few large flocks of Red Avadavats and Zebra Finches – all very flighty but eventually giving some good views – the first Zebra Finches Liz had seen since her pet one called Garry had finally dropped off his perch! Here too was a lone Australasian Bushlark and Oriental Pipits. On the water was a single quite dense flock of Pacific Black Ducks and Wandering Whistling Ducks with a few Sunda Teal thrown into the mix. Shorebirds were few but did include 3-4 Malaysian Plovers – another Kentish Plover look-alike whose ID was made more confusing by contrasting accounts in the field guides. The usual herons and egrets were augmented by a brief fly-by in and out of the reeds by a Yellow Bittern, while 1-2 White-browed Crakes skulked in the reed fringes amongst the ducks. Common Moorhens were common, and we found a couple of chunky Purple Gallinules, now split into 5 species, this one being Australasian.

Back at the hotel we enjoyed air-conditioning, showers and then out to an evening meal with Ali and Darwin at 7.30pm. As good as it was to be back in “civilisation” it was disappointing to find that the town seems “dry” - neither the hotel or restaurant serving beer.

Day 8: September 1st. Waingapu culture and birds: A pleasantly late start today with 7am breakfast in a private room in the hotel where the staff came in with a lavishly decorated cake with the numbers 69 in lit candles on top singing “Happy Birthday” to Ken, much to his embarrassment and delight. We set out with Freddy at 8am to visit a couple of small villages along the coast to see something of the old cultural side of Sumba – mainly the distinctive high-roofed thatched houses, the elaborately carved stone tombs and some of the fine hand-weaving. However first on the agenda was a little roadside birding at some rice fields close to Menggitibi where we'd been yesterday evening. Here we were told last night by the Rockjumper bird guide David Arterius that Australian Pratincoles were to be found. The first thing I spotted on getting out was the Black-fronted Dotterel that David and local guides had found a few days earlier. This was a remarkable first record for Indonesia of an Australian bird – and a real beauty too, being brightly patterned with black and white around the face and breast and with red on bill and eye-ring – very snazzy and a huge bonus bird. Then our attentions turned to the pratincoles and indeed we had good looks at 4-5 of these long-legged beauties on the other side of the road.

With the birding “done and dusted” we continued on and made interesting stops at the two villages – apparently homes to the “kings” and their families – more like local chiefs – that are still tolerated within Indonesian law. The system is very old and feudal and seems to involve some level of serfdom if not slavery! The dead (apparently kept mummified indoors until the lavish funeral can be paid for) are eventually buried in a fetal position in large carved limestone tombs – though nowadays slabs of cheaper concrete seem to be de-rigueur. The older carved examples were very fine with lots of lively animated scenes. Our attention also turned to “retail therapy” with some very good value, beautifully made hand-weaving. We saw people in the process and it looked painfully slow on very simple handmade bamboo looms. The results were beautiful and several of us succumbed. We were also shown some of the basics of the different Ikat weaving process of which Freddy is a recognised expert.

We returned to the hotel by just after 1pm and had a light lunch in the airy foyer of the brand new hotel, with time for an hour or so down time before meeting Freddy again for a visit to his Ikat weaving studio at 3pm. Firstly he showed us in detail how Ikat weaving is done. The design is laid out by hand in a slow, painstaking way,

then the cotton strands are bunched together in groups of a hundred. Then the even more laborious task of covering the bits you don't want coloured by binding them with strips of bamboo leaf and tying them off. Once this is done the whole thing is dyed blue with natural indigo several times. Then the bits that are blue that you want purple are left exposed, but the bits that you want to remain white are kept tied up. The bits that you want red are uncovered from the bits that were covered from being dyed blue (hence still white at this time). Then you go back and dye the whole thing with natural red dyes. Then presumably you uncover the whole thing to give a basically white, blue, purple and red set of strands that you then weave across with black cotton threads. After a year of mind-boggling work you have the finished article depicting traditional scenes, occasions and whatever the artist thinks is cool! They are traditionally made for funerals, weddings, special meetings, dowries etc. Or you sell them to discerning tourists – a.k.a. us! We were shown Freddy's shop and 4 out of the 6 of us felt the urge to own one. At \$250 - \$300 or more for a full wall length metre wide piece they were a bargain.

After this, and visits to ATMs for cash reinforcements and ice creams for some, we took the rest of the afternoon off until supper at 7.30pm. Ken was embarrassed a second time today when the staff came out to sing "Happy Birthday" with a crepe complete with candle after the meal.

Day 9 September 2nd. Sumba to West Timor: Ali picked up our check-in luggage at 5am to check us all in to the 7.30am flight. We left the hotel at 6am and ate a quick picnic breakfast at the airport. A very new plane came in and departed on time and an hour later we were safely landed in Kupang on the west coast of Timor. As usual Darwin was thinking ahead and had got all his local staff lined up – 3 drivers, two guides and off we went for a bit of birding locally on the outskirts of town. Kupang is a surprisingly large and sprawling town/city with plenty of good infrastructure on a flat coastal plain. Our local guide Ony along with Idris a guide I'd met before in Sulawesi took us into some wooded areas behind the urban spread for a couple of hours before lunch and started the ball rolling with some new birds. As usual it was hot, fairly humid, but dry with a pleasant breeze at times. We began with Streaky-breasted Honeyeaters, then on to Red-breasted Flowerpeckers and for more colour, several Rose-crowned Fruit Doves. By 11am it was darned hot and we motored back to town to have a pleasant lunch in a waterside restaurant. From here it was a short run to our surprisingly luxurious hotel where we were into our rooms by 2pm.

By 2.30pm we were off again. Unfortunately Kupang is the only place to stay in this area and our prime birding areas are 1 / 1.5 hours drive away depending on traffic in this substantial town, so we will be doing a fair bit of driving back and forth each day to find our birds. The run out to Bipolo in fact only took a little over an hour and we were parked up between some natural forest and teak plantations by 3.45pm and setting out for a birding walk soon after. The birds came by fairly fast – many new of course, but quite a few playing hard to get and by the end of our afternoon, still a number seen, but not terribly well by all. The Flame-breasted Sunbird performed quite well as did further bright red, black and white Black-chested Honeyeaters – both endemic to Timor. Brief looks were had of Olive-sided Parakeets, Timor Friarbird and Tricolored Parrotfinch. Better studies were obtained for the drab Timor Oriole called in and flying around us for a while before settling. The female of a Green Figbird (some split this as Timor figbird) showed up and a pair of Spotted Kestrels with a small bird they'd just caught was a good find. Ashy-bellied White-eyes came by in small groups and we had much better scope looks at the stunning Rose-crowned Fruit-dove. We motored on at 5pm out of the forest into open rice fields where we looked for munias and sparrows to no avail. The light was fading rapidly and all we could muster were small groups of probable munias heading off to roost in silhouette. However at the edge of one field with wetter cat-tail marsh on its edge we had a nice Buff-banded Rail wander about and show well before we called it a day just about 6pm.

The journey home in the dark and amidst chaotic traffic with little road sense was "interesting". Arriving back at the hotel by 7.20pm we quickly got to our rooms, returned 15 minutes later for another far too large supper –

but with lovely cold beer tonight! - then got to our beds as soon as possible for an anticipated 5am departure tomorrow staying out all day to avoid the horrors of 1- 1.5 hours of driving back and forth to the hotel for lunch.

Day 10: September 3rd. West Timor at Bipolo and Camplong: Up and away with a picnic breakfast at 5am for a long day in the field. It was a white-knuckle ride in the dark, weaving in and out of the badly lit motorbikes and cars and we were back on site at Bipolo at dawn just before 6am. We had one and a half hours forest birding along the road with some good results. Perhaps most satisfying was scope views of Tricolored Parrotfinch out in the track ahead of us. Green (Timor) Figbirds were common and easily watched this morning compared to yesterday, so we all caught up with that one. Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher was seen again in gorgeous early morning sunlight. Another absolutely stunning Fruit-dove was seen on several occasions – the fantastic, white, yellow and black Banded Fruit-dove (also known as Black-backed). There were a number of other goodies seen again from yesterday plus new birds such as Timor Blue Flycatcher before we had a quick coffee from the back of one of the vehicles and set off to the nearby rice fields. Our main goals here were Five-coloured Munia and Timor Sparrow. We eventually caught up with the former, getting some good perched up looks as they sat in damp reedy areas between the rice fields and artificial fish ponds used apparently for cultivating prawns. The sparrow sadly eluded us, though we spent the remainder of the morning in quest. Happily it was far from a waste of time as we had a nice variety of species as compensation. Variable Goshawk and White-bellied Sea-Eagle added to our small list of raptors. The Plain Gerygone with its delightful song – apparently “almost a chromatic scale” according to Liz, our musical expert – was seen on a number of occasions as we wandered past dry fields, wet fields being prepared for rice, others growing the stuff and deeper muddy pools all fringed with marsh vegetation and small bushes. Australian Pratincoles were seen again – a real treat and top of a small list of shorebirds that included Pacific Golden Plovers. Sacred, Collared and Common Kingfishers were sitting out perched up in the bright sunshine and every now and then we'd come across groups of the Streak-breasted Honeyeaters.

It was becoming evident that we were already finding a number of species on this tour that were outside their range according to the Birds of Wallacea. This morning we saw Cinnamon Bittern and White-vented Myna – both of which apparently “don't occur on Timor”. But of course it is a reflection of the fact that the book is 18 years out of date rather than we are making ground-breaking discoveries! Exciting nonetheless!

By 11am it was becoming blisteringly hot and we diverted for half an hour back into the forest for a light walk before an early lunch. We came across Yellow-eared Honeyeater seen by only 1-2 of us, but activity was dropping way and we were in the nearby town of Oelamasi by noon for lunch and a rest until the cooler later afternoon would allow us to venture forth again.

We spent the afternoon in our first visit to Camplong Nature Reserve which holds one of the few remaining pockets of lowland forest in West Timor and fortunately many of the endemics can still be found here. It was in reality a fairly small and tatty pocket of very dry forest, but we managed to rustle up a few additional sought after species in our short time here. We heard the Buff-banded Bushbird (Thicketbird) but couldn't call it out. Shortly after that we spotted our first Timor (White-bellied) Bushchat and saw another fine specimen later. Then it was down to the really sublime as we tried to call out the endemic Timor Stubtail – a diminutive skulking bird of the forest floor. Its call was every bit as cryptic as the bird's habits – a piercing high-pitched single note barely audible to the human ear. However this worked and the bird did indeed come in to investigate. After several attempts to see it after our eagle-eyed trio of local guides kept finding it we all eventually glimpsed or got reasonable views of this tiny grey-brown creature scurrying about mouse-like, mostly hidden in the dead leaves and undergrowth – a real sense of achievement! After that a further meander produced not a great deal, though Fawn-breasted Whistlers and Timor Blue flycatchers and friendly and showy Northern Fantails popped up. Our only other new species were poor looks at Timor White-eye (Spot-breasted Dark-eyes) high in the canopy – hopefully better looks at those tomorrow.

We were now waiting for dusk by our vehicles in the forest for our owling session. By 6.15pm it was virtually dark and the hoped for Southern Boobook began calling. Within minutes it was called in and showing well overhead. Job done – we headed on the long dark crazy drive back to Kupang, the drivers expertly avoiding the motorbikes and cars with no lights and weaving all over the place as they jockeyed for position. Back at the hotel by 7.40pm, we quickly got to our rooms and reconvened for supper at 8pm and shortly thereafter to our beds for another 5am start tomorrow morning.

Day 11: September 4th. West Timor – Camplong & Bipolo: The usual 5am start had us in the forest at Camplong a little before 6am. A pleasantly cool hour or so of birding ensued before the sun came up high enough to raise temperatures to less than pleasant. We had a narrow list of target species this morning and did about 50-50 in overall terms by the end of the session at about 11am. First on the list was Orange-banded Thrush, previously seen only as fly-bys for some. We tried calling a couple of birds and had similar results – just fly-bys. But the third bird did the decent thing, responded well to playback and came in a couple of times eventually perching up for all to enjoy the bright colours of orange white and black. At various times we were hearing one of the arch-skulkers – Buff-breasted Bushbird (Thicketbird). We tried playback at times but had little luck at first. On our route through the forest Ony stopped here and there for specific species and came up trumps with his halt for Slaty Cuckoo-dove (Timor Black Pigeon). We played its cooing call and Idris spotted one perched up enough for us all to watch in the scope – that one at least was easy! Further on we called for the Timor White-eye (Dark-eye) but got no response whatsoever, though other nice odds and ends showed as compensation. At the end of our route we were in open bamboo thicket scrambling about on sloping loose rock and slippery bamboo leaves. This was good habitat for the Thicketbird and the prime location for Black-banded Flycatcher. We spent a long while here stopping, watching, using playback and generally trying hard. Sadly there were good results for some and nothing at all for others. Some of us got lucky and managed adequate, though never long views of both species – the flycatcher being particularly colourful. We gave up with the resolve to come back and try again tomorrow morning early on the way to our next stop in Soe.

Over lunch in the same place we ate yesterday we discussed plans for this afternoon and tomorrow, giving all the options available to us with the advantage of having three vehicles. Jean and Liz opted for an afternoon off and returned to Kupang with Darwin. The rest of us remained and spent the afternoon trying again for Timor Sparrow at Bipolo.

We were back on site at the rice fields of Bipolo by about 2.45pm and were “third time lucky”. We hopped out of our vehicles and began wandering the fields checking on the small flocks of birds feeding there. It was, as before, mostly Nutmeg Mannikins (Scaly-breasted Munias), but interspersed were a good number of Red Avadavats. Australian Pratincoles were noted again and families of White-shouldered Trillers and Pied Bushchats. Happily it wasn't long before a bare tree was spotted with about 10 or 12 birds perched up in it. The scope produced first rate looks at our long-awaited Timor Sparrows – bright adults with more subdued young birds all looking very distinctive. Very happy with this it was only a little after 3pm and we'd achieved our goal and were able to opt for an early return to the hotel. As we exited the area we saw presumably the same pair of White-vented Mynas going from palm tree to palm tree. Back by 4.45pm it was a delight to have a bit of down time back at our very comfortable hotel in preparation for our departure to Soe tomorrow.

Day 12: September 5th. West Timor – Camplong & on to Soe: We headed out at 5am this morning to our second base on Timor at Soe. The total drive time was about 2.5 hours, but we spent the first part of the morning back at Camplong working on the 2-3 species most people wanted better views of and that some were still missing. We drove straight to the area where Ony usually finds the Timor White-eye (Spot-breasted Dark-eye) and spent a lot of time watching and wandering but had no further luck with this species. We did of course see others of the “usual suspects” - endemics that we'd got excited about a couple of days back! Broad-billed

Flycatchers, Rose-crowned Fruit-Doves, Timor Bushchats, Streak-breasted Honeyeaters, Ashy-bellied White-eyes and more all kept us busy. While here I heard another of the "skulking set" - Sunda Bush Warbler and after a little playback we all gained surprisingly decent looks at a couple of this drab little LBJ. A little later and we managed to quite easily catch up with the other skulker of yesterday that only Peter and I had seen – the Buff-bellied Bushbird (Thicketbird). We got lucky with this one as their usual secretive and shy nature was abandoned when three birds appeared out in the open chasing one another about and two of them mating.

We returned to the cars and had a coffee break before motoring a little further down the rough track to where the bamboo thickets were to seek out our last target for the morning – the Black-banded Flycatcher. Unlike yesterday, we found great looks at one almost immediately we set out, but unfortunately Ellen didn't catch it so we searched longer on the slippery slopes until eventually the bird did the decent thing and gave itself up. Meanwhile back at the cars Idris and Ken noted a Short-toed Eagle flying over.

Now it was gone 9.30am and with no other business to attend to here it was time to start motoring towards Soe and a good chance for a nap along the way. When awake, we noticed further very dry landscapes with a lot of people scattered in basic farming communities with very little natural habitat remaining. Soe is at higher elevations close to the highest peaks of Timor - Gunung Mutis. It seemed a little cooler (or we are becoming more accustomed to the heat). We were delighted to find a really quite pleasant hotel of clean and cool rooms in an enormous complex and seemingly nobody else here – but it is the weekend and people do come out for the cool and for trekking in the hills at weekends, hence the size of the hotel.

Out again at 2.30pm, we drove the half an hour along the windy roads to sub-montane habitat at Oenasi. Special birds we were targeting here included Olive-shouldered Parrot and Dusky (Bar-necked) Cuckoo-dove. We managed to find both of these with the help of Ony, Idris and Ali. It was a pleasant forest walk occasionally coming out into large, open, grassy clearings where we could watch and wait for birds to show or fly-by and have a better chance of seeing anything called in. The parrot was just a single bird but it perched up in one of the massive sunlit trees for us. The Cuckoo-dove made its wolf-whistle song and came in to do a little aerial display showing itself off well. By about 4.30pm we were at the open area where we would probably find Large-tailed Nightjar at dusk. When Ony explained tomorrow's schedule of having to leave at 3.30am for a 2.5 hour drive to arrive at the mountain by dawn we began reconsidering whether we really wanted to wait another hour or so for the nightjar and get back to our nice hotel late! As this wasn't an endemic species, but in fact widespread and several people were sure they'd seen it before, we rapidly decided to opt out of this exercise and get back for an earlier supper and early to bed: we are definitely Birdquest material!

Day 13: September 6th. West Timor - Mt Mutis: It was a very long and very productive day, starting with a 3.30am departure from the hotel and ending with a 6pm return. The 2.5 hour journey towards Gunung Mutis National Park was every bit as dreadful as I'd heard. The road was in an unbelievably bad state after being built in 1992 and presumably thereafter left to deteriorate with no future repairs. There weren't just potholes, it was whole sides of the road gone leaving random patches of old tarmac. In other places the whole lot had gone and was just like driving over a boulder field. Other places the road had washed away completely leaving horribly steep and loose slopes to go up and down – and much of this in the dark! By 6am we had reached a very basic homestay place close to the edge of the National Park that made the one we used in Lewa look 5 star. We used this as a base for a simple breakfast and welcome break before heading on into the Park and further very bumpy unmade tracks through nice looking open mature forest before reaching the end of the navigable road for our two-wheel drive vehicle. It was a beautiful clear and sunny day and at 7am was cool enough up high here to justify having brought our sweaters, fleeces and light jackets. The morning was taken up with a walk out through the higher forest of native eucalyptus, not looking much like the introduced species we were used to. It was a hike of about 2.5 miles out and the same back to a viewpoint that looked out towards the actual mountain. The

highest point in Timor it was about 8,000' and covered in trees at its peak, so habitats were cool montane rather than anything alpine.

The birding was typically slow as expected on remote islands with limited species, but the target species just about all showed up and more besides. Olive-headed Lorikeets popped up almost instantly and we must have seen 20-30 or more, but all rapid fly-bys through the tall canopy above us. Timor Leaf-warbler and Yellow-eared Honeyeater were both quite common, the Warbler giving us some good looks early on, but the Honeyeater giving some of us the run-around, despite popping up in small groups at intervals throughout the morning. The difficult endemic Timor Imperial-pigeon was indeed difficult, being seen by the chosen few as 1-2 fly-bys and later perched birds. Island Thrushes were secretive and gave furtive views in the undergrowth at times. We did do rather well with Pygmy Cupwing (Wren Babbler) of the *timorensis* race (a potential split). We called one out and got the usual short views of a tiny, dark ball of feathers zipping between cover inches of the ground. Eventually the little treasure hopped onto the top of a brush pile and sang in full view – the finest views I've ever had of the species by a long way. Glossy Swiftlets and Mountain White-eyes were an easy find along with occasional Fawn-breasted Whistler, Timor Blue Flycatcher and Green Figbird.

Darwin arrived at about 11.30am as we all got back from our long morning's hike and produced a good picnic lunch. Once we'd eaten we descended on Ony's advice to an area of forest lower down offering subtly different habitats and the last of our targets for the day. We had about 2.5 hours strolling through this pleasant open woodland with fine views into forested valleys with huge mature trees before starting our arduous return along the insanely bad roads to Soe, arriving by 6pm. The main goal of the afternoon was the Iris Lorikeet and again we were happily successful with this one, having brief scoped views after several fly-bys of a small flock. Other goodies up here included our first Metallic Pigeon (scoped and seen well), further Island Thrushes with the bonus of a Chestnut-backed Thrush. Some gorgeous views of a group of a dozen Tricoloured Parrotfinches in sunlight, equally attractive scoped Black-backed Fruit-dove and first Snowy-browed Flycatchers of the trip.

We were back at the hotel by about 6.30pm and had a discussion about what to do tomorrow – varying from lying in late and returning to relax at the posh hotel in Kupang, to starting out birding early and staying out until the evening. A common-sense compromise was democratically reached whereby we decided to leave early, do some morning birding at Pariti and possibly Bipolo before returning to Kupang for a late lunch and a rest-up in the remainder of the afternoon.

Day 14: September 7th. Soe via Pariti and Bipolo to Kupang: The usual 5am departure set us off on a 2 hour drive back towards Kupang, turning up past Bipolo to a new site for us at Pariti. We had our bread and jam breakfast there and set about a couple of hours or more birding, mostly along the roadside, though some of us did trek up a hillside at one point. One of the reasons for visiting Pariti is Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon, apparently more likely here than elsewhere. Indeed, they were about and we heard some making their sonorous deep cooing quite close, but despite much searching and playback we never saw one face-to-face. Other “stuff” kept us on our toes, with sightings of three honeyeater species, including my best views of Yellow-eared. Timor Friarbirds made better appearances than before and Yellow-throated Whistler was seen well. By 10am it was heating up and we decided to have a change of scene and drive back to Bipolo to check out the wet rice fields again. This turned out productive with a few different sightings. There were small groups of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers present, the Pied Herons were still there with the addition of several White-faced Herons. 4 Masked Lapwings were a fine and unexpected find as they are not reported for Timor in the Wallacea field guide – but that is 18 years out of date now. There was also a fine group of 5 Royal Spoonbills that flew in and settled amongst the many Intermediate Egrets – 114 precisely according to Ken.

We left Bipolo and had our final white-knuckle ride back to Kupang, arriving at 1.30pm to sit straight down to a pre-ordered “Club Sandwich” with fries which was well-received by all. The rest of the afternoon was down time

spent relaxing, swimming in the huge, pleasantly empty pool (empty of people not water), washing clothes and a little bit of birding out to sea from the hotel for me. I found a single Lesser Frigatebird and Brown Booby plus small groups offshore of Common (Brown) Noddy and Bridled Terns. With a horribly early departure for our flight to Flores tomorrow morning we all disappeared to our rooms soon after a 7.30pm supper.

Day 15: September 8th. West Timor to Flores: Ali was there at our doors at 3.30am to take our luggage to the airport for early check-in. We were down in the foyer ready to go by 4.30am, complete with a picnic breakfast. As before, the check-in and departure procedures were (thanks to Darwin and Ali) very quick and efficient and the plane on time, departing at 6am. As we flew in to land on Flores we could see a much more mountainous island with lots of richer, greener forest and a very different geology – volcanic with clear craters below us. On arrival as it was now still only between 7-8am, we set out to do some birding on the way to our first overnight stay at Burong. We did some straightforward roadside birding for a while in some much lusher mature native forest than on the drier islands of Sumba and Timor. We quickly began notching up the first of the island endemics and new species on our hit list for this island. Much to my delight we called in and saw a beautifully perched up pair of Russet-capped Tesias – tiny little tailless forest floor birds with a lovely song. An even lovelier song then emanated from the canopy, turning out to be the island endemic Bare-throated Whistler. The lovely, varied and fluty calls were recorded and playback used, but this one wasn't playing ball. We all saw it at times, but never well enough to see its red, bare throat as it sang. The whole area was rich with white-eyes – both here and at Lake Ranamese where we drove to later in the morning. There were Dark-crowned White-eyes, then more typical looking species – Mountain and Lemon-bellied White-eyes. Down at Lake Ranamese, a deep blue crater lake there were a few birds on the water – Sunda Teal, Pacific Black Duck and Little Grebes, but more interest was generated in the trees and scrub around the edge and on the short walk from the car park. Apart from white-eyes we found our first Sunda Woodpecker and small groups of bright Flores (Little) Minivets along with a pair of Cinereous Tits.

After having a welcome coffee break here we continued on to Burong and our slightly more basic accommodation for tonight, arriving by about midday. The hotel seems fairly new and the rooms decorated in the most excruciating mix of vivid and pastel colours – but all perfectly adequate for a short stay. Lunch was just up the road in the local restaurant, then a couple of hours of down time before heading out for our afternoon/evening birding half an hour away at Kisol.

The afternoon birding was a bit disappointing. It was very quiet and what few birds did let us know they were there were “heard only” including two that would have been lifers for us all – Flores Crow and White-rumped Kingfisher. Both called loudly fairly close by but would not budge or show themselves. We got glimpses of Flores Green Pigeon and 1-2 better looks at Black-fronted Flowerpecker, but that was about the lot. We waited until dark to try for Flores and Wallace’s Scops-owls but had no response at all despite playback in several locations known to be good for both. Some small compensation came with decent flashlight views of called in Mees’s Nightjar. We got back to the hotel by about 7.35pm and went quickly into supper. It had been a very long day and another early (5am) start tomorrow!

Day 16: September 9th. Flores – Kisol and back to Ruteng: We spent some more time birding in the Kisol area this morning, setting out at the usual 5am and arriving at dawn in the same forest patch as yesterday. After a quick coffee we were ready to go and strolled slowly down the unmade, rough road. It was again fairly slow birding, but plenty of song and lots of activity from small flocks of Yellow-spectacled White-eyes that seemed abundant but in single species feeding flocks. Further Black-fronted Flowerpeckers showed up and more Brown-capped Fantails displayed. As the sun came up and illuminated the tall forest trees we managed to pick out a couple of Flores Green Pigeons and gain good looks through the scope: it was good to be going home with at least one island endemic green pigeon after having missed those on Sumba and Timor. More common were the Black-naped Fruit-doves zapping about and occasionally perching up giving good looks – the females being much

more drab plain green. We began hearing Flores Crow again, just like yesterday evening. A bit of playback may have made a difference, but there were 2-3 calling from various points and 1-2 got much closer eventually giving briefest of fly-bys for us; it is strange to have a crow behave so secretively. Wandering on we came across Flame-breasted Sunbirds, Wallacean Drongos and other odds and ends that we'd seen before and on other islands, our local guide finding us a beauty of a Red-faced Parrot that posed for us for ages. We also got some good looks at a perched Variable Goshawk. We continued on (minus Peter who was distinctly under the weather this morning) towards the coastal lowland forest to a good vantage point overlooking a thickly forested hill where we stopped for much of the rest of our time this morning to search for Flores Hawk-eagle (a split from Changeable). Ken did manage a glimpse of this elusive bird, but none of the rest of us got onto it. However, later in our vigil we did gain a couple of good looks at the local *renschii* race of Bonelli's Eagle, at one stage being mobbed by a Spotted Kestrel. While waiting for raptors we discovered a very close and confiding nest of Flame-breasted Sunbirds that kept us amused. The nest was a classically, deliberately disheveled looking hanging enclosed nest on a tatty bush right by the roadside. We returned to the hotel by 11.30am for a 12.30pm lunch and some down time in the heat of the day before returning to Ruteng.

We set off towards Ruteng at 3.15pm, driving directly to Lake Ranamese arriving at about 4pm. It was pleasantly cool and we just wandered down to the lake and hung about there watching to see what might drift by. The usual waterbirds were present with the addition of a couple of Eurasian Coots and a White-breasted Waterhen. In the surrounding trees we found similar birds again to those seen yesterday: Cinereous Tit, Dark-crowned White-eye, several calling but not showing Russet-capped Tesias and a group of 10 or more Oriental White-eyes. Ali managed to see a first White-rumped Kingfisher and Ken and Ellen saw a couple of Dark-backed Imperial Pigeons. We had a coffee and snacks of local bananas at dusk before trying for the same two species of Scops-owls as last night. The Park rangers for the lake assured us that both Wallacean and Flores were present and took us to the spots close by the entrance. We called but nothing replied. It turned 7pm and we called it quits, though one of our drivers knew of another spot along the way back to Ruteng where previous birding groups he'd driven had seen them, so we followed him. Only a quarter mile up the road he stopped and led us a short distance into the forest and we called for Flores Scops-owl. Much to our delight we heard response. However it seemed very thick cover and although there were two birds quite close we couldn't find them. Now close to 7.30pm with maybe an hour to go to reach our hotel I suggested one last try. Mercifully a bird appeared extremely close by and almost directly overhead. We got some beautiful views of this small fluffy creature with large talons protruding from the fluff and continued on our way very satisfied with the last minute result.

We were at the hotel sooner than expected, with Darwin awaiting us as usual, cases in rooms, doors with our names on and supper awaiting. We all ate a quick meal (minus Peter who is still recovering from the Indonesian equivalent of Delhi-belly) and got to our beds with the anticipation of a "lie in" tomorrow until a 5.30am breakfast actually in the hotel.

Day 17: September 10th: Flores – Golo Lusang and Pagal: Away early to drive the short distance to the highlands of western Flores at the well-known birding site of Golo Lusang. There was some good looking cloud forest and lower montane slopes, but it was, to say the least, difficult birding. The steep slopes covered in forest are basically inaccessible except from the road. The road was fringed with a virtual wall of ferns metres high making visibility and any sort of continuous viewing near-impossible in some places. Add to that motorbikes, cars and small trucks tooting their horns as they nip by inches away and you have a recipe for a fairly difficult birding experience – but no other options and one that all the birding groups work with. Thus we spent the morning slowly walking downhill round the hairpins and eventually finding a small but reasonable selection of the hoped for species, but under tricky circumstances.

High-altitude specialities included Ruddy Cuckoo-Dove seen flash by a couple of times and heard once or twice Dark-backed Imperial-Pigeon, Flores race of Rainbow Lorikeet, Sunda (Oriental) Cuckoo all under similar

conditions, Flores Minivets put on a much better show and raised spirits at times as did some proper sightings of Thick-billed Flowerpecker, Ashy-bellied White-eyes, Yellow-breasted Warbler, Timor Leaf Warbler (Flores race of course), Cinereous Tit for Liz, Mountain Tailorbird and Sunda Woodpecker for most. Along with the unpleasant traffic perhaps the most frustrating aspect of the earlier morning was hearing a phenomenal dawn chorus of Bare-throated Whistlers. These are reasonable sized, brightly coloured, close-by, singing their amazing loud and varied songs, but extraordinarily difficult to see. Even our keen-eyed local guides were unable to spot them and all the recorded playback in the world wouldn't budge them. Eventually one bird was seen and half of us got onto it, even seeing its bare red throat pouch expanding and contracting as it belted out its remarkable song – but it would be good to get everyone a proper look. Other new birds seen were the quite drab olive green Scaly-crowned Honeyeater – the last missing species for us of that family on the tour.

As it was high elevation it remained pleasantly cool throughout and so we stayed out longer, calling it quits at 11.30am and returning to the hotel for lunch and a short break before our afternoon session at Pagal, a drive of about 35 minutes at a slightly lower elevation forest area than this morning. Again we were birding along a busy roadside, but at least it was a wide road with views into the forest above and below us on the steep slope. We still sadly weren't connecting with the two missing White-eyes (Dark-eyes) and the missing Flowerpecker (Golden-rumped), but saw plenty of Yellow-spectacled White-eyes and Black-fronted Flowerpeckers. A Flores Green Pigeon was an unexpected bonus, but we couldn't coax out the calling Barred Cuckoo-dove. Without a doubt the bird that saved the afternoon if not the day was a called in White-rumped (Glittering) Kingfisher – finally! It came in to some under-canopy branches by a small rocky forest stream and sat in full scope view for all to admire including the 3 drivers; a really gorgeous bird. We had coffee and biscuits at this point and watched a fine sunset out over the valleys below us before making an attempt for Wallace's Scops-owl. Our drivers, who escort birding groups regularly said they'd seen them here a few weeks back so we gave it a shot. No luck though, and the traffic noise and a lot of loud music from a house down the road didn't help. We were back at the hotel by 7.30pm for an 8pm supper and away to bed for a 5am breakfast and 5.30am departure for Labuan Bajo tomorrow.

Day 18: September 11th. Flores – Golo Lusang, Puarlolo and Potowangka Labuan Bajo: After deciding yesterday afternoon to go early to Puarlolo on the way to Labuan Bajo for lunch, I woke with a change of heart/plan. It seemed that the two white-eyes (Dark-eyes) that we were missing would be best seen here in the highlands around Ruteng. Thus I quickly consulted with the ever-helpful Ali and Darwin and changed to revisit Golo Lusang this morning just for a shorter visit before heading to Labuan Bajo for a late lunch. This turned out well as the horrible traffic had not started up and we went straight down to the more open areas we'd finished at yesterday. The weather was good and the birds performed. We got gorgeous scope views for all of one of the many crazily singing Bare-throated Whistlers. We saw flash-by of Barred Cuckoo-dove and Dark-backed Imperial Pigeons. More relevantly we saw both of the “missing” dark-eyes. Everyone got great looks at several White-browed Dark-eyes and most (except myself and Ellen) got on to a Flores White-eye (Thick-billed Dark-eye). It was a much more pleasant experience than yesterday's visit here with several other interesting birds noted including a Ken-only sighting of Golden-rumped Flowerpecker.

We left after a coffee break on the panoramic summit of the pass at about 9am and sped along hours of very twisting hairpins on mostly good smooth roads, pausing for petrol and loo breaks and Ali found one vehicle a trio of Woolly-necked Storks. We had time to make an hour long stop at Puarlolo as we were passing directly by. We didn't find any Flores Monarchs at this hot time of day (11.30am) but did hear one, saw a fine Dark-crowned White-eye (Crested Dark-eye) and got the lay of the land for an early morning return tomorrow. We continued on to Labuan Bajo arriving at our very plush final hotel in record time at about 1.20pm.

The afternoon excursion was to Potowangka Road about 40 minutes' drive away. This is a well-known site for Wallace's Hanging Parrot, there being numerous large fig trees in open areas where they come to feed. We

arrived and duly awaited their presence. Apart from a flash of green zapping by at great speed for 1-2 folks we didn't connect. While watching and waiting and hoping we did find numerous Black-fronted Flowerpeckers, a couple of Black-naped Orioles and a pair of Flame-breasted Sunbirds. During this time a phone call came through from Pia to Ali's phone saying she was stuck in Singapore with a faulty plane, being put up in a hotel overnight and no sure schedule for onward travel. Some rapid readjustment of bookings, onward flights and contingency plans were set in motion by Ali and Darwin, but it would seem that she'll not make it to Komodo with us the day after tomorrow.

As light faded towards 5.45pm we went down the road to where our drivers had taken groups to successfully call in Wallace's Scops-owls. We did much playback in various spots down the road until after 7pm with only a distant gruff response. It would seem that "Wallace" was being generally uncooperative today. We returned to the hotel, everyone deciding against going out to supper – our beds being more attractive as we yet again burnt the candle at both ends with owling followed by another 5-5.30am start tomorrow.

Day 19: September 12th. Flores – Puarlolo and Potowangka: A 5.30am departure from the hotel complete with a picnic breakfast (toast and fruit) had us at Puarlolo again by about 6.25am. Everybody enjoyed the morning; the birds were good but we especially enjoyed the chance to do a quiet forest trail with no noise and no traffic. The main goal of seeing Flores Monarch worked, with reasonable looks at one adult singing in the canopy. The other particularly pleasing sight was of several Flores White-eyes (Thick-billed Dark-eye) seen very well and a good catch-up bird for several of us. We also managed better looks at Flores Crow and a few parrots – the Red-faced and the Flores race of Rainbow Lorikeet, but sadly no hanging parrots. Barred and Ruddy Cuckoo-doves still taunted us with their songs but only glimpses of reddish brown birds with longish tails dashing through the trees. Similarly elusive were called in Chestnut-capped Thrushes, called in but not settling. We had elegant Pitta within spitting distance but it managed to keep hidden – it would have been good to see another.

We returned to the hotel by late morning and met up with Ken for lunch (he had taken a morning off and had seen White-bellied Sea-eagle from the lovely grounds of the hotel. Pia's sorry saga of travel here from Islay was drawing to a successful close as she'd booked another flight from Singapore to Denpasar after the cancellation of her KLM flight due to aircraft failure. So she was back on schedule after a very early departure and made her original connection to reach Labuan Bajo on time at 1.30pm.

The afternoon was spent in another attempt to find Wallace's Hanging Parrot at its supposedly favourite spot. They were not hanging out in the fig trees we were watching. They are difficult to locate at the best of times and there was a huge area of inaccessible steep mountainous forest with scattered fig trees that they could have been lurking in. There were one or two pleasant birds to keep us partly occupied during our vigil. We called in another gorgeous White-rumped Kingfisher and had decent looks at the Rufous-breasted type Brush Cuckoo. Flame-breasted Sunbirds were prominent. By about 5.30pm it was "make our minds up" time. Were we going to stay out again to try for owls or not. Three opted for "not" while four of us had our coffee and cookies while waiting for the sun to set and tried a little lower down for a different scops-owl to last night: Moluccan. We only played a couple of notes and a bird came dashing in and gave us a couple of good perched up views before it disappeared for good. We also gave the Wallacean Scops-owl another try and did hear a distant calling bird, but it seemed a long way off and may have taken a lot longer to coax in than we had time to spare. So we returned happily to the hotel with two of the three possible Lesser Sundas scops-owls seen and the other at least heard.

We assembled for supper and bird list just before 8pm and were away to our beds by 9pm.

Day 20: September 13th. Komodo: Komodo is famed for being home to the biggest lizard on the planet – the Komodo Dragon – so it was fitting to spend the final day of the tour on a trip to this special island. . We set off from the hotel at 5am to drive the short distance to the harbour at Labuan Bajo where we boarded a privately

chartered boat. It was spacious, and pleasant and the sea conditions just about flat calm on another nice day with some cool cloud and a pleasant temperature. The journey was quite a long one of a bit over 3 hours, but it was through a fascinating maze of small offshore islands. All were quite arid looking and hilly with some gorgeous white sandy beaches and fringing mangroves, some with small fishing villages and others seemingly uninhabited. The hoped-for seabirds didn't really materialise other than a few Great Crested Terns, 3 Red-necked Phalaropes and a Lesser Frigatebird or two. Once on Komodo we registered with the Park authority and set off for the "medium walk" with a local ranger/guide for a couple of hours or more. It was a pleasantly slow pace stopping as we liked for the few special and different birds. We began to find the occasional Komodo Dragon quite quickly and were allowed surprisingly close to photograph and admire them. They were huge, powerful, inscrutable beasts a couple of metres long – very photogenic! The open, scrubby woodland was very dry at this time of year and there were introduced Timor Deer dotted about all over the place. These are presumably a staple of the dragon's diet. Unlike when I visited over 20 years ago, they are no longer fed and have to more or less fend for themselves. A few birds of interest popped up. Orange-footed Scrubfowl were quite easy to find along with Green Junglefowl. Smaller birds included our first Black-naped Monarchs of the tour. Top of the wanted list was the Critically Endangered Yellow-crested Cockatoo and we managed a few brief fly-bys of this large, noisy and unmistakable bird during our time on the walk. By the end of our circular hike we had seen 3 Komodo Dragons, and some of us wandered a little further down the beach trail from the Visitor Centre to look at some more for a short while. Here were a further 7 individuals scattered around a fairly small area, some stationary and inactive, others walking with that strange gait they have lifting front right with back left leg, then front left with back right. There was time to pass through the area selling souvenirs – a lot of guys trying hard to sell their wares to a surprisingly few number of tourists. A few T shirts and at least one of the very good wooden carvings of the dragon were bought.

We had a good cooked lunch onboard at the harbour on Komodo at about 12.30pm before setting off on the long relaxing journey back to Labuan Bajo. It took a bit longer on the return and sadly the seabirds still didn't show up. We were back at the hotel by about 5pm – the earliest finish of the tour! Time now to pack and reconvene by 7.15pm to do the final bird list, say goodbye to our drivers and after the meal, washed down with a post-prandial Peter Roberts whisky, time for Pia and myself to say goodbye to the group and wish them safe journeys home.

Day 21 September 14th. Homeward or to Angel Island Resort: Pia and I were staying on in Flores for a further 4-5 days to relax at a snorkel / dive resort. With a morning spare, we arranged with Darwin to have one of our drivers take us at 5.30am back up to Potowangka Road for a morning look and to walk down the forested road that we'd only driven up before. It turned out well, with a bright sunny early morning showing up numerous Black-naped Orioles really well, plus masses of the usual flowerpeckers and sunbirds showing brightly. There was a long-staying Red-faced Parrot atop one of the large fig trees which was a good catch-up bird for Pia but again no sign of hanging parrots. It was a pleasant wander down the road with not too much traffic. Best sighting was undoubtedly a perched up and scoped immature Flores Hawk-Eagle close by the road and almost filling the frame. Further along we wrangled with elusive Elegant Pittas calling all over the place but not showing until the very last moment. Just about 10am Pia finally spied one calling loudly close by in response to playback – a grand finish to an easy short morning's birding.

Back at the hotel by 10.45am we showered, packed and checked out, then had a leisurely lunch to await our transfer to Angel Island Resort. Meanwhile, the rest of the group were heading home, departing the hotel by 7am and returning by air to Denpasar on Bali to connect with homebound flights: I trust everyone made it safely home.

September 14th - 19th. Angel Island Resort: This brief bit of relaxation after a fairly strenuous birding tour turned out to be really good! The resort is on a small mostly private island 30 minutes boat ride away from Labuan Bajo.

The Resort is run by a British woman and has just 10 twin cabins, but for much of the time we were virtually the only people there. The individual cabins were gorgeous – large, beautifully individually decorated, comfortable, cool with all amenities. They were situated in extensive grounds and just a few yards from the sea. A totally private white sandy beach allowed for instant snorkeling amidst lovely soft corals and tropical fish with absolutely nobody else around. Meals were very good and in a lovely open restaurant area overlooking the many islands out to the horizon: idyllic!

Apart from identifying and listing coral reef fishes (the highlight being my first ever (very large) live cuttlefish), there were a few birds about too. Pia could catch up on a few common species such as Great-billed Heron, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Olive-backed Sunbird, Lemon-bellied White-eye, Black-naped Monarch, Zebra Finch, Black-naped Tern and even Mees's Nightjar at dusk. It was a great chance for me to have a go at relaxing for a few days – and I think I got into the mood reasonably well with leisurely breakfasts, bouts of sitting on our loungers (reading about the White Nile!) interspersed with a bit of snorkeling before a pleasant al fresco lunch, then a repeat in the afternoon finishing with supper and back to our lovely cabin for the evening – very pleasant!

September 19th - 20th. Homewards: A quick transfer back to Labuan Bajo's brand new airport had us on schedule to Denpasar arriving a little after midday. On discovering that we couldn't check in for the KLM flight until this evening, and thus couldn't avail ourselves of the nice lounge on the airside of the airport we quickly booked a room in the very nearby Harris hotel for the day – for the princely sum of about \$28. This was money well spent – especially after being advised that our KLM flight was now 2-3 hours delayed and not departing until 11pm. We arrived at Amsterdam in good time for our onward connection to Glasgow, but then hit another 3+ hours delay to our short flight back to Islay – not arriving until 8pm – but at least we were home!

In Conclusion: In this tour we visited Bali and then the less well-developed tropical Indonesian islands of Sumba, West Timor, Flores and Komodo – part of the Lesser Sundas (or Nusa Tenggara). It was, I believe one of the more "specialist" birding tours I've done, in that it was aimed at finding island endemics and involved in some places, accommodation was slightly more basic and of course a necessity for early mornings and some quite long days. The islands visited are the most varied of the vast Indonesian archipelago, stretching across some 5000 kilometres across the Java Sea. Bali, outside the unique region of Wallacea provided a substantial number of additional S.E. Asian birds and in particular the ultra-rare Bali Myna. The Wallacean islands of Sumba, Timor and Flores, all quite different in their own way produced a special mix of Asian and Australasian species and an amazing number of endemics including some of Indonesia's rarest and least known species. The tropical dry climate has given rise to vegetation that is very different from the rest of the Indonesian archipelago.

I do believe it was a very successful trip – the group seemed to enjoy it all in their own ways, it got us to some very special and out of the way places and we saw a very high proportion of the hoped-for special birds (I believe as a group we only missed 4 of the possible endemics – and we heard one of them). This was achieved mainly due to the extraordinary efforts of Darwin Sumbang and his team. After having my Sulawesi and Halmahera tour arranged by Darwin I had every confidence that this would be equally well organized. The work in putting the tour together with me over the past year or so was impressive. The work put into fine-tuning the tour on a day to day basis as we worked through the itinerary was fantastic. The ability to change plans, adapt to our suddenly changed wishes, fix up different and better accommodation at the very last minute was enormously impressive and well-received. With Darwin quietly going ahead and checking on every aspect of the day's events, from the great meals, comfortable transport, flights, timings and hotels, and his colleague Ali Munthaha with us at all times looking after everything that cropped up as we went on our daily excursions, it made for a brilliant bit of highly attentive teamwork. Ali was constantly good-humoured and able to turn his hand to anything from early check-ins, to fixing equipment, being a vital go-between and contributing substantially finding the birds in between all the other tasks he so quietly and effectively carried out. Darwin had

arranged excellent local bird guides for each of our destinations – always sharp-eyed, patient and able to get us to the right places and find us the target birds – all were very much appreciated, as were the teams of drivers who were attentive and interested in helping with getting us to the birding spots they knew of from previous trips.

Thank you all for joining me – a nicer, friendlier, more easy-going and compatible bunch of people to travel with would be difficult to imagine!

Some Taxonomic Notes: With taxonomy in a constant state of change and some of the field guides being quite old with conflicting names, I thought it best to try and clarify some of main differences and updates in names of birds and current taxonomic changes for you.

Throughout the checklist of birds seen I have used the latest Clements/Cornell names and taxonomy, but have given the names used in “Birds of Wallacea” (BoW) in parentheses -or where too lengthy added them in a line below and encapsulated them all within a heavily bordered “box”. The sightings on each of the islands visited have been divided up by thick black lines – **B** = Bali; **S** = Sumba; **T** = West Timor; **F** = Flores; **K** = Komodo; * = additional sightings on Flores on 14th: **AIR** = birds seen at Angel Island Resort from 14th – 19th. Within the checklist “h” = heard only and “x” recorded but not counted. Below are some of the more obvious confusions, updates and differences:

Flores Hawk-Eagle: Now recognized as a full species, but only listed as a subspecies in BoW.

Bonelli’s Eagle: The subspecies we saw was “*renschii*” – a possible future split.

Purple Swamphen: Split by Clements/Cornell in August 2015 into 6 species. The one we saw was Australasian which occurs in Lesser Sundas through PNG into Australia and New Zealand. (Had we seen one in Bali it would have been a different/new species “Black-backed!”).

Javan Plover: This is all part of the Snowy Plover complex which was been first split into two – Snowy (New World) and Kentish (Old World), then Kentish split further to add Javan as a separate species. BoW included Javan within the Kentish Plover complex.

Rusty-breasted/Brush Cuckoo: Listed as two separate species in BoW, Rusty-breasted is still only a distinct subspecies group according to Clements/Cornell.

Little Bronze Cuckoo: We saw at this species on Timor where it is regarded by some authorities (but not yet Clements/Cornell) as a full species called Gould’s Bronze Cuckoo. (*C. russatus*).

Asian Koel: Split by Clements/Cornell in August 2015 into 2 species. We apparently saw both Asian and Pacific. Rather confusingly the distribution of Asian Koel is given to include “Lesser Sundas” and much of mainland Asia, while Pacific Koel is Australasian including PNG but also specifically Sumba and Timor. (The Australia Koel has been subsumed (lumped) into Pacific Koel).

Mees’s Nightjar: This species is not mentioned in BoW – or more recent books. It is apparently a recently discovered species rather than a split from something more widespread?

Cave Swiftlet: Split by Clements/Cornell in August 2015 into 2 species. We saw Cave Swiftlet, not the split-off Bornean Swiftlet.

Edible-nest Swiftlet: BoW was written before Edible-nest Swiftlet was split into several species. The species we saw was White-nest Swiftlet.

Glossy Swiftlet: We saw at this species on all islands of the Lesser Sundas. On Timor it is regarded by some authorities (but not yet Clements/Cornell) as a full species called Timor Swiftlet (*C. neglecta*).

Collared Kingfisher: Split by Clements/Cornell in August 2015 into 6 species. Most of the other 5 splits relate to specific and extralimital island groups. The species we saw is still called Collared.

Yellow-crested Cockatoo: We saw this species on Komodo and also on Sumba where it is regarded by some authorities (but not yet Clements/Cornell) as a full species called Citron-crested (or Sumba) Cockatoo (*C. citrinocristata*).

Rainbow Lorikeet: We saw at least two subspecies that are regarded by some authorities (but not yet Clements/Cornell) as full species. These are Marigold Lorikeet (*T. (h.) caistriatus*) and Flores/Leaf Lorikeet (*T. (h.) weberi*).

Brown/Indonesian Honeyeater: These are now two separate species. We saw Indonesian, whilst Brown occurs PNG/Australia.

Common Golden Whistler: This was split into numerous species some years ago, but after BoW was written. Rusty-breasted is one split that we saw on Bali, Sumba and Flores. Yellow-throated is the other split we saw – on Timor.

Green Figbird: Clements/Cornell does split Timor Figbird from the original Green Figbird, but retains that name for the Timor species, calling the remainder of the species occurring in Australasia the Australasian Figbird.

Wallacean Drongo: We saw this species on all the Lesser Sundas islands visited. On Timor it is regarded by some authorities (but not yet Clements/Cornell) as a full species called Greater Wallacean Drongo (*D. densus*), those on the other islands being Lesser Wallacean Drongo (*D. bimaensis*).

Arafura Fantail: Arafura Fantail is a split from Rufous Fantail that occurred after publication of BoW – hence no mention of it in the book. Rufous occurs further into PNG and Solomons and we did not see it.

Asian Paradise-Flycatcher: Split by Clements/Cornell in August 2015 into 3 species. The species that we saw is now called Blyth's – the other two species occurring in Central and SE Asia.

Cinereous Tit: At the time of BoW being published this was still considered a race of Great Tit, but has been split for several years now.

Pygmy Cupwing: The one we saw so well on Timor may be a future split – Timor Cupwing (*P. timorensis*).

Timor Leaf Warbler: We saw this species on Timor and Flores. It is regarded by some authorities (but not yet Clements/Cornell) as two full species called Timor Leaf Warbler (*P. presbytes*) and Flores Leaf Warbler (*P. floris*).

Flores Jungle-Flycatcher: We saw this species on Sumba and Flores. It is regarded by some authorities (but not yet Clements/Cornell) as two full species called Sumba Jungle-Flycatcher (*C. stresemanni*) and Flores Jungle-Flycatcher (*C. oscillans*).

Sunda Brown Flycatcher: This is a split from Asian Brown Flycatcher that occurred after publication of BoW – hence no mention of it in the book.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher: Split by Clements/Cornell in August 2015 into 2 species. The species that we saw is still called Snowy-browed, the other species occurring in the Philippines and called Bundok Flycatcher.

Pale-vented Myna: Called White-vented in BoW, this common name is also used by some authorities for Javan Myna. We saw both Javan (on Bali) and Pale-vented (on Timor). The Timor sightings are odd in that there are records of Javan Myna for Timor, but no records of Pale-vented which occurs normally on Sulawesi and offshore islands. Having looked closely at illustrations I am sure ours were the much paler bodied Pale-vented species.

Blood-breasted Flowerpecker: We saw this species on Bali, Sumba and Timor. The birds on Sumba are regarded by some authorities (but not yet Clements/Cornell) as a full species called Sumba Flowerpecker (*D. wilhelminae*, *floris*).

And Now for Something Completely Different.....

The "Fish List" – the more easily identified species on our post-tour snorkeling on Angel Island, Labuan Bajo

Blue-spotted Stingray (*Dasyatis kuhlii*)

Cornetfish (*Fistularia commersoni*)

Shrimpfish (Razorfish) (*Aeoliscus strigatus*)

Honeycomb Grouper sp. (*Epinephelus* sp.)

Lined Cardinalfish (*Cheilodipterus artus*)

Five-lined Cardinalfish (*Cheilodipterus quinquelineatus*)

Checkered Snapper (*Lutjanus decussatus*)

Blackspot Emperor (*Lethrinus harak*)

Dash-and-Dot Goatfish (*Parupeneus barberinus*)

White-lined Goatfish (*Parupeneus ciliatus*)

Black-striped Goatfish (*Upeneus tragula*)

Mono (*Monodactylus argenteus*)

Threadfin Butterflyfish (*Chaetodon auriga*)

Panda Butterflyfish (*Chaetodon adiergastos*)

Chevroned Butterflyfish (*Chaetodon trifascialis*)

Spot-tailed Butterflyfish (*Chaetodon ocellicaudatus*)

Eastern Triangle Butterflyfish (*Chaetodon baronessa*)
Vagabond Butterflyfish (*Chaetodon vagabundus*)
Oval Spot Butterflyfish (*Chaetodon speculum*)
Beaked Butterflyfish (*Chelmon rostratus*)
Humphead Bannerfish (*Heniochus varius*)
Vermiculated Angelfish (*Chaetodontoplus mesoleucus*)
Six-banded Angelfish (*Pomocanthus sexstriatus*)
Bicolour Angelfish (*Centropyge bicolor*)
Scissor-tailed Sergeant (*Abudefduf sexfasciatus*)
Indo-Pacific Sergeant (*Abudefduf vaigiensis*)
Yellow-tailed Sergeant (*Abudefduf notatus*)
False Clown Anemonefish (*Amphiprion ocellaris*)
Clark's Anemonefish (*Amphiprion clarkii*)
Tomato Anemonefish (*Amphiprion frenatus*)
Skunk Anemonefish (*Amphiprion akallopisos*)
Blue-green Chromis (*Chromis viridis*)
Blue Devil (*Chrysiptera cyanea*)
Rolland's Demoiselle (*Chrysiptera rollandi*)
Indian Dascyllus (*Dascyllus carneus*)
Black-tailed Dascyllus (*Dascyllus melanurus*)
Humbug Dascyllus (*Dascyllus aruanus*)
Black Damsel (*Neoglyphidodon melas*)
Barhead Damsel (*Neoglyphidodon thoracotaeniatus*)
White Damsel (*Dischistodus perspicillatus*)
White-spot Damsel (*Dischistodus chrysopoecilus*)

Black-edge Thicklip Wrasse (*Hemigymnus melapterus*)
Yellow-cheek Tuskfish (*Choerodon anchorage*)
Crescent Wrasse (*Thalassoma lunare*)
Cigar Wrasse (*Cheilio inermis*)
Cleaner Wrasse sp. (*Labroides sp.*)
Turquoise Capped Parrotfish (*Scarus dimidiatus*)
Bullethead Parrotfish (*Scarus sordidus*)
Yellowfin Parrotfish (*Scarus flavipectoralis*)
Moorish Idol (*Zanclus cornutus*)
White-freckled Surgeonfish (*Acanthurus maculiceps*)
Fowler's Surgeonfish (*Acanthurus fowleri*)
Foxface Rabbitfish (*Siganus vulpinus*)
Virgate Rabbitfish (*Siganus virgatus*)
Pencil-streaked Rabbitfish (*Siganus doliatus*)
Moustached Triggerfish (*Balistoides viridiscens*)
Yellow-margined Triggerfish (*Pseudobalistes flavimarginatus*)
Orange-striped Triggerfish (*Balistapus undulatus*)
Black-bellied Picassofish (*Rhinecanthus verrucosus*)
Yellow Boxfish (*Ostracion cubicus*)

Other stuff:

Cuttlefish sp.
Blue Linkia Starfish
Giant Clam sp.