

INDONESIA

A report on birds seen in Indonesia from 30 July – 29 August 2015
Including a short visit to Bukit Tinggi - Malaysia

Henk Hendriks



Feline Owlet-Nightjar *Aegotheles insignis* – Arfak Mountains

VISITED SITES:

MALAYSIA

JAVA

PELENG

TALAUD

WEST PAPUA

- Bukit Tinggi
- Gunung Gede + Maure Angke
- Kokolomboi + Salakan area
- Beo area
- Arfak Mountains

INTRODUCTION

Initially I had planned another trip with a birding friend, when my friend informed me that, because of medical reasons, he was unable to undertake that trip and so I had to cancel it. This was 4 weeks before we would actually start our trip. So I quickly changed plans. One of the countries where you can easily and cheaply travel and bird around on your own is in my opinion Indonesia. So I booked a ticket to Jakarta and planned my trip from there. It was my 8th trip to Indonesia. I knew my brother Frans was doing a West Papua trip in August with "Starling Reizen" (www.starlingreizen.be) and as I had missed quite some good species 4 years ago in the Arfak mountains I asked them if it was possible to join them during their week in the Arfaks. Fortunately they had no problems with that. Before the Arfaks I birded the islands of Talaud and Peleng, north-east and east of Sulawesi, and after the Arfaks I travelled back to Java and spent another 3 full days on the Gunung Gede for some missing species. I birded that area back in 1993. In retrospect this trip was rather successful as I saw most of the endemics/near-endemics/specialties of Talaud and Peleng. Only **Talaud Rail** was missed on Talaud and despite extensive searching for **Sula Scrubfowl** on Peleng, I missed that species. It is important to try to see all relevant subspecies on these islands as most likely many subspecies will be elevated to full species in the near-future. My main targets in the Arfaks were **Masked Bowerbird**, **Arfak Astrapia**, **Long-tailed Paradigalla**, **Black-billed Sicklebill** and **Feline Owlet Nightjar**. The **Black-billed Sicklebill** was missed but as compensation I had great views of an unexpected **Dwarf Cassowary** with 2 chicks. On the Gunung Gede my main target was the **Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush**, which I finally observed in a flock at the end of the second day. And just a few hours before I flew back to Amsterdam I finally connected with **Sunda Coucal** at Maure Angke, which was my 5th attempt for this species! As I flew with Malaysian Airlines I could make an extended stopover at Kuala Lumpur and so I was able to visit Bukit Tinggi, a few hour's drive from Kuala Lumpur, to observe the rare, endemic **Mountain Peacock Pheasant** on my onward flight from Amsterdam to Jakarta. And with success.

VISA

At the moment you do not need a visa for Indonesia if you do not stay longer than 30 days in the country. At least not as a citizen of The Netherlands.

GETTING THERE – FLIGHT

I flew with Malaysian Airlines from Amsterdam to Jakarta, with a stopover at Kuala Lumpur. I had to pay almost 900€ for a return ticket.

GETTING AROUND

I booked and paid another 8 domestic flights through internet. www.tiket.com These flights cost me another 530€. All these flights were trouble free and most flights were on time or had only a little delay. Only the flight from Manado to Talaud was tricky as the pilot tried for 1 hour 3 times to put the plane down, before he decided to return to Manado! The next day the plane landed at the first attempt. I also used twice a ferry, Luwuk – Tataba (Peleng) and Salakan (Peleng) – Luwuk and most of the time ojek (motorbikes) and a few taxis.

MONEY

The currency used in Malaysia is the Ringgit
During my stay in Malaysia the exchange rate was: 100 M. Ringgit = 24 Euro.
The currency used in Indonesia is the rupiah.
During our stay the exchange rate was: 100.000 Rupiah = 7 Euro

HEALTH & SAFETY

Indonesia is a safe country to travel around, people are friendly and always willing to help you and I never felt uncomfortable during the trip. During the whole trip I never encountered any food related problems. Mosquitos were a nuisance at some sites at Talaud and Peleng.

FOOD & ACCOMMODATION

Food is very cheap in Indonesia and also very tasteful. Accommodation is also cheap. I paid between 60.000 and 400.000 RP for a double room.

WEATHER

The weather was exceptional in a way that I never had a drop of rain during the entire trip which is highly unusual.

On Peleng and Talaud it was mostly sunny and hot. In the Arfaks, temperatures were rather pleasant but because of the hard work on steep trails you still do sweat a lot. The nights in the Arfaks were rather cold and you definitely need a good sleeping bag.

On Java it was very hot in Jakarta and pleasant hot on the Gunung Gede.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I like to thank Adrian Lim, Alagan, Sander Lagerveld, Lukas Kaaij, Politarius, Nick Brickle, The Starling Team in the Arfaks and local guides Michael Wangko on Talaud and Labi on Peleng who contributed one way or another to the success of this trip.

REFERENCES

Books

Birds of South-East Asia (2005) – Craig Robson

Field Guide to the Birds of Borneo, Sumatra, Java & Bali (1993)

– MacKinnon/K.Philips

A Guide to the Birds of Wallacea 1997 – Coates B.J., Bishop K.D., Gardner D.

Birds of New Guinea (second edition 2014) – Thane Pratt & Bruce Beehler

A small phrasebook translating Dutch into Bahasa Indonesia.

Very useful while travelling independently in remote areas of Indonesia.

Trip reports & articles

Birding Trip Report to Peninsular Malaysia June 27th – July 13th 2014 – P. Collaerts

Beyond Sulawesi 7 November – 2 December 2011 by Birdquest

Remote Sulawesi 19th November – 10th December 2012 by Birdtour Asia

Eastern Indonesia 26th September - 25th October 2012 by Jon Hornbuckle

WALLACEA 2014: Sulawesi, Halmahera, Ternate, Sangihe & Talaud

October-December 2014 by Gareth Knass – very useful report!!

Java and Bali, July 2013 by Lieven De Temmerman

Birding Java, July 2013 by M. Grundsten

New biogeographic records in the avifauna of Peleng Island (Sulawesi, Indonesia), with taxonomic notes on some endemic taxa

by Frank E. Rheindt, Filip Verbelen, Dadang Dwi Putra, Abdul Rahman & Mochamad Indrawan

Rediscovery of the Banggai Crow *Corvus unicolor* on Peleng island, Indonesia.

Indrawan, M et al. Part 1: ecology, Bulletin British Ornithology. CL 130: 154-156

Mallo,F.N. et al. Part 2: taxonomy Bulletin British Ornithology. CL 130: 166-180

USEFUL ADRESSES

Starling Reizen – www.starlingreizen.be

They organised a trip in august to West Papua. Another trip to that region is planned in 2017.

Michael Wangko -local guide on Talaud. +6285240002341

Labi -local guide on Peleng. +6281245450834

Adrian Lim -contact Kuala Lumpur Boxter998@gmail.com

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Thursday July 30

Took the 07.48 train from Eindhoven to Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam.
Right on time I flew with Malaysian Airlines from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur.

Day 2: Friday July 31

At 06.30 am I arrived at KL. After collecting my luggage I walked to the office of Hawk's Rental Car at the basement of the airport. I booked a car (Nissan) for 2 days through the internet. (www.Rentalcars.com). I paid 320 Malaysian Ringgit for 2 days. The car had GPS but I had also downloaded a Malaysian road map on my Nokia Lumia smartphone. GPS is actually essential to find your way smoothly through Kuala Lumpur.

At 07.45 I left the airport and drove straight through Kuala Lumpur to Berjaya Hills Golf & Country Club near Bukit Tinggi. I arrived at the Country Club at 11.00 am but I made some road stops during my drive. Before my trip I had contacted Adrian Lim to help me with observing the Mountain Peacock Pheasant at Bukit Tinggi and he kindly also booked a room for me at the Berjaya Hills Golf & Country Club. I had to pay 190 Malaysian Ringgit for a chalet. This is much cheaper than a room at the nearby hotel where most birders tend to stay. (hotel Colmar Tropicale-Berjaya Hills.)

After checking in, I checked the botanical gardens nearby and had lunch at the Country Club. After some rest in the early afternoon I checked again the site for the Mountain Peacock Pheasant from 16.00 – 17.00 pm. No pheasant but I knew I had to be on site at dawn the next day.

In the evening I had contact with Adrian through What's App and he told me that his friend Alagan would also visit the site the next morning with some birders from Thailand.

Day 3: Saturday August 1

Up before dawn and at 06.30 I met Alagan with 3 Thai birders at the upper parking area. Together we walked to the site and they quickly erected 2 mobile hides. Early in the morning sometimes a **Ferruginous Partridge** visit the site but not this morning. Alagan put some extra worms and grain on the site and then the waiting started.

But nothing happened and I started to get worried. I hate to think that I came all the way to this place and

But suddenly, later than usual at 08.30, 2 **Mountain Peacock Pheasants** appeared on the trail and the next 10 minutes we had fabulous and close views of the birds, an adult male and an imm. male. We observed the birds three times and as a bonus a **Malaysian Rail-babbler** turned up and crossed the trail, just in front of us.

After this great success we birded until noon in the general area and then I said goodbye to the others. After lunch I checked out and drove back, through KL to the airport, where I delivered the car at 15.30 pm. I took a taxi (25 M.Ringggit) to hotel Sri Langit (130 M.Ringggit) which I booked through the internet. I also arranged a shuttle bus for the next early morning (05.30) to the airport for my flight from KI to Jakarta.

Day 4: Sunday August 2

At 05.30 the shuttle bus to the airport and at 08.00 am I flew from KI to Jakarta where I arrived at Soekarna Hatta Airport at 10.00 am.

As my connecting flight to Manado was at 18.45 pm I decided to visit Maure Angke during the day to try for Sunda Coucal.

I left my luggage at the left luggage office (50.000RP) and I took a taxi to Maure Angke (170.000 RP). I had to direct the driver as he did not know exactly where the entrance of Maure Angke was, but with help of the GPS on my phone we had no problem finding it. Around 11.00 am I arrived at Maure Angke and was very surprised to meet my brother Frans and the Starling team outside of the reserve. As they had no permit for the reserve itself, they were denied access and so they birded outside of the reserve. Unfortunately only 2 persons of the group had seen a flushed **Sunda Coucal** from the dyke, surrounding the reserve, which could not be relocated.

They told me that a group of English birders (with permits) had birded from dawn along the dilapidated boardwalk inside the reserve and had also failed to find the coucal.

We birded for an hour or so along the edge of Maure Angke, which is rather unpleasant because of the steady, heavy stream of very noisy traffic, but besides some **Racket-tailed Treepies** we did not see much.

At noon the group had to leave, to check out of their accommodation and they would return late afternoon. I walked to the reserve entrance and talked to the ranger, who gave me permission for a small fee to bird the first stretch of the boardwalk. Meanwhile it was soaring hot and I did not see much.

I decided to walk to a nearby restaurant where I had an excellent gado gado.

At 14.00 I entered the reserve again and walked the boardwalk all the way to the end. No Coucal, no **Black-winged Starling** and only a few **Wandering Whistling Ducks** and a single **Small Blue Kingfisher**.

At 16.00 I left the reserve, just as the Starling group arrived for their late afternoon visit. I said goodbye, knowing that I would meet them again in a few weeks at Manokwari, West Papua. Outside of the reserve I took a taxi to the airport (160.000 RP), collected my luggage and at 19.00 pm I flew (Garuda) from Jakarta to Manado where I arrived at 23.00 pm.

While waiting for my luggage someone offered me to drop me at my hotel in the centre of Manado (Hotel Gran Sentral, 300.000 RP) At 00.30 I arrived at my hotel.

Day 5: Monday August 3

Had a nice breakfast at my hotel and at 8.45 I took a taxi to the airport.

I left most of my luggage at the hotel as I was only allowed 10 kg. on the flight to Melanguane, Talaud.

At 11.00 am I flew with Wings Air from Manado to Melanguane, Talaud. Because of strong winds the pilot had problems putting the plane down on the rather short runway. From 12.00 – 13.00 he circled above the island and tried 3 times to put the plane down. The last time the plane was almost on the ground when he suddenly decided to make a ? and to return to Manado. Many people on board were loudly praying for safety. Back at Manado it became pretty chaotic as some people wanted their money back etc. Officials of Wings told me that they would try again early next morning and so they transferred me to a nearby hotel which was a dump of a place. Just chilled out at my hotel and had a beer at a nearby restaurant in the evening. Meanwhile I had texted Michael Wangko on Talaud that I would hopefully arrive the next day. It also meant that I missed a full birding day on Talaud and that the pressure was on for the next day.

Day 6: Tuesday August 4

Left my hotel at 05.00 am and at 08.00 (1 hour delay) we left again for Melanguane and this time the pilot put the plane down at the first attempt at 09.00 am. Relieved I left the plane and in the arrival hall I met Michael. He told me that they chopped down a lot of trees at the end of the runway so that the plane could approach the runway easier.

At the back of Michael's Motorbike we drove from the airport to the village of Beo, where we arrived at 11.00 am. We made a short stop at some rice fields.

I took a room in hotel Maysan (200.000 RP) , had lunch and a rest until 13.00 pm.

From 13.30 to 18.00 we birded along a trail, about 2 km. south of Beo.

Despite the heath we did find a few nice birds. It did not take long before we nailed a **Talaud Kingfisher** along the trail. **Black-naped Fruit-Dove** was common.

From a viewpoint, just above a cleared area, we saw **Pied Imperial Pigeons, Great-billed Parrots, Blue-backed Parrot , Golden-mantled Racquet-tail**, an unexpected **White-throated Pigeon** and best was the observation of a single **Grey Imperial Pigeon. Red & Blue Lory** was only heard.

Talaud Bush-Hen was heard and at dusk when we returned to the main road, we had a calling **Talaud Bush-Hen** just next to the trail but no views. We decided to have a better chance, early next morning and left the site but that was most likely a mistake as we never came that close again, the following days. We should have tried harder.

Day 7: Wednesday August 5

We started at 05.00 am and birded along the same trail as the previous afternoon until 11.00 am, when it became rather hot.

At dawn **Pale-vented Bush-Hen** was briefly heard at the start of the trail and further/higher on the trail **Talaud Bush-Hen** was also heard but too far to have a real chance of views.

Again nice views of a pair of **Talaud Kingfishers**, a calling **Talaud Pitta** completely in the open on a bare branch but Michael was the lucky one to observe briefly a **Talaud Rail**, crossing the trail.

We staked out the area for a while but without success. During our birding on this trail we never even heard the rail.

Michael told me that a few weeks earlier, a couple of aussie birders had erected a hide in this area for photographing Talaud Pitta when suddenly a Talaud Rail appeared in front of them, giving amazing photographic results!

We also had several **Rufous Paradise Flycatchers** and at least 2 **Island Monarchs**. The distinctive (*sub*)species *melanisticus* of **Black-naped Oriole** gave good but brief views but a single **Channel-billed Cuckoo** performed brilliantly. But still no views of the endemic Lory.

After lunch in Beo we drove to another site, north of Beo, which is supposedly reliable for the endemic **Red & Blue Lory**.

And sure enough we had great and close views of 2 pairs in flight. The species is trapped heavily. I saw many birds in cages in the villages.

Late afternoon we also visited some rice fields and afterwards the grounds of the Communal College, mentioned in several trip reports, but we did not connect with our target, **Talaud Bush-Hen**.

Day 8: Thursday August 6

05.00 – 08.00 we birded along the southern trail again, mainly to try for **Talaud Bush-Hen** but we only heard it briefly.

At 8.30 we drove on the motorbike from Beo to the airport where we arrived at 10.00 am. I was a bit worried that the plane could not land, which would mean that I got stuck on Talaud. But the plane landed on time with no problems.

I said goodbye to Michael and at 11.30 I left Talaud and arrived back at Manado again at 12.30. Took a taxi to hotel Gran Sentral (100.000RP)

Day 9: Friday August 7

04.30 taxi to Manado airport again, where I had breakfast. I flew with Express Air from Manado to Luwuk. I had a ticket, allowing 20 kg on this flight but the company insisted that only 10 kg was allowed so we had an argument. So in the end I had to pay extra, about half what they charged originally.

07.15 -08.15 flight Manado – Luwuk. In the arrival hall, local guide Labi was waiting for me.

After collecting my luggage we drove with a taxi to Luwuk where we ate something.

I was under the impression that the ferry from Luwuk to Tataba, Peleng was supposed to leave at 10.00 am but it turned out that the ferry would leave at 14.00 pm. So I slept a bit on the ferry. We arrived at Tataba at 16.00 pm and during the crossing I did not see a single seabird. At Tataba, Labi drove me to the police to arrange my Surat Jalan (permit). We also drove to the house of one of his relatives to drop most of my luggage.

Originally we would walk 3 hours from the road to the village of Kokolomboi, up in the hills where Labi lives and has a small guesthouse. I would carry my daypack and a porter would carry my main luggage up to Kokolomboi. But because it had not rained for weeks, it was possible to drive all the way up on a motorbike. Only at 2 places, steep and muddy, I had to walk.

So it took only 75 minutes to drive up to Kokolomboi. Another motorbike transported my luggage. At Kokolomboi I was welcomed by Labi's wife who made me a very nice dinner. Labi's house is situated at the end of the village and from the open "dining room" on the

second floor, you have a nice view of the surrounding area. My room was basic but clean. At the back of the house are the toilet and the washing facilities (mandi)

Day 10: Saturday August 8

Breakfast at 05.00 am.

Labi's wife had prepared me a packed lunch and with great anticipation we started our birding.

In the immediate vicinity of the village we quickly heard **Banggai Crow**, a species rediscovered on Peleng a few years ago in 2007 (Indrawan et. al), lost since 1884 and photographed in 2009 by Filip Verbelen. (Birding Asia nr.13-June 2010, 96 & 97) It did not take long before we had great views of this rare and endemic forest crow.

Sula Pitta was also easily observed but the **Red & Black Thrush** was only heard. We slowly continued up to the ridge at 800 meters. We heard **Banggai Fruit Dove** but no views and saw several **Banggai Golden Bulbuls**. At first we saw only **Sula Hanging Parrots** in flight but luckily we had great views of a close, perched bird later on the day. On the ridge we observed some **Ivory-backed Wood Swallows** and besides the endemic subspecies of **Common Cicadabird**, we found several endemic **Slaty Cuckoo-Shrikes**.

"**Peleng/Banggai**" **Leaf Warblers** were also seen in the course of the morning. This species is still not formally described and was until now included in the Island Leaf Warbler complex. It might even not be a phylloscopus at all but a seicercus warbler. We had lunch at the watchtower. From the tower we observed a flock of low-flying **Purple Needletails**. Probably the first sighting of Peleng.

In the afternoon we walked back and new species included a responsive **Henna-tailed Jungle-Flycatcher**, more **Banggai Golden Bulbuls**, **Banggai Golden Whistlers**, **Sulawesi Triller** and the endemic subspecies of **Rufous-bellied Fantail**.

We heard **Helmeted Myna** and had brief views in flight of 2.

After dinner we entered the forest again and after a little playback we had great views of a **Banggai Scops Owl** in the spotlight. We briefly heard a **Sulawesi Masked Owl**.

Day 11: Sunday August 9

Breakfast again at 05.00 am.

We decided to bird the lower areas and especially the area around the village itself.

In the early morning we taped in an immature **Vinous-breasted Sparrowhawk** and saw twice a **Sula Pitta** very close. But still no satisfying views of **Helmeted Myna** and **Banggai Fruit-Dove**.

During the day we climbed the hill behind the village and we saw some fine raptor species like **Black Eagle** and **Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle**.

In the afternoon we visited a daytime roost of **Sulawesi Masked Owl** but we found nothing. **Ruddy Kingfisher** was found as well as **Common Cicadabird**.

And again briefly a **Helmeted Myna** in flight.

Several **Banggai Scops Owls** were heard in the evening from the hostel.

Day 12: Monday August 10

Breakfast at 05.00 am.

Just before dawn we finally had good views of Peleng Tarsier.

Birded around the village until 11.00 am. Twice a single **Banggai Fruit-Dove** gave brief, perched views before they took off. **Red & Black Thrush** was only heard again.

And finally, close to the village, good views of a pair of perched **Helmeted Mynas**.

After lunch we drove with Ojeks down to the coast and to the house of his relative, Jonni to collect my main luggage.

From 15.00 – 18.00 pm with 2 ojeks from Tataba to Salakan.

In Salakan I took a room in hotel Bharata (70.000 RP), close to the ferry terminal.

In the evening a great fish meal in a local restaurant. I liked it so much that we returned daily to this place for dinner.

Day 13: Tuesday August 11

Breakfast at 05.00 am. Labi had arranged a breakfast with nasi goreng but I told him that some bread, cookies with some fruit would be sufficient for the coming days. We arrived at 05.40 at a trail some 13 km outside Salakan, near the village of Kawalu. We birded the area until 11.00 am. **Black & Red Thrush** was heard but no views. The area was very birdy with fruiting trees, attracting **Black-naped Fruit-Doves**, **Slender-billed Cuckoo-Doves**, **Grey-cheeked Pigeon**, **Green Imperial Pigeon**, at least 2 **Sula Black Pigeons** and finally great views of a perched **Banggai Fruit-Dove**. During a lunch break at Salakan we had to pay a visit to the local police station for our local permit (Surat Jalan) and I had my picture taken, together with 4 police women. In the afternoon we birded another area, some 11 km from Salakan. At one time I noticed a thrush-like bird fly off into the forest. After playing the tape I had astonishing views of a gorgeous **Black & Red Thrush**. What a bird! Other species seen included **Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon**, **Little Bronze Cuckoo**, **Golden-mantled Racquet-Tail**, **Sula Hanging Parrot**, **Ornate Lorikeet**, **Black-naped Oriole** *ssp. frontalis*, **Henna-tailed Jungle-Flycatcher**, a fine male **Banggai Golden Whistler** and more **Helmeted Mynas**.

Day 14: Wednesday August 12

Breakfast at 05.00 am.
We drove to the small village of Kawalu near km. 12 outside Salakan. Here we met Petrus with his dog. Together with Petrus and his dog we would try for **Sula Scrubfowl**. The species is very shy, it is hunted by local people and the habitat is getting more and more degraded. The idea is that the dog would find and flush the scrubfowl into a tree so that I could observe the bird in that tree. We tried all day and twice the dog flushed a bird. The second time I came close and I just missed the bird. Very frustrating. We decided to try one more time the next morning.

Day 15: Thursday August 13

Breakfast at 04.00 am.
We tried until 10.30 am with Petrus and his dog to find the scrubfowl but we failed. Returned to Salakan and during a stop at a sandy stretch with coastal scrub I observed a large kingfisher with an obvious whitish head in flight. The local subspecies of **Great-billed Kingfisher**. After lunch I said goodbye to Labi, who would return to Kokolomboi and at 16.00 pm I took the fast ferry from Salakan to Luwuk, where I arrived at 18.15 pm. Just 150 meter from the ferry I took a room in the Ramayana Beach hotel (188.000 RP). Took Ojek into town to get some cash from a atm. Had a nice meal with a bintang beer at the hotel terrace. An English teacher heard that a foreigner had arrived at Ramayana and came to the hotel to have a conversation with me in English.

Day 16: Friday August 14

Late breakfast on the terrace of Ramayana, overlooking the bay.
At 09.15 took a taxi to the airport. (50.000 RP)
11.30 – 12.40 flight Luwuk – Makassar.(Sriwaya Air)
After collecting my luggage I took a room in Airport Ibis budget hotel. (400.000 RP)
Afternoon relaxing in my hotel.

Day 17: Saturday August 15

Wake up at 01.30 am.
03.15 flight from Makassar to Manokwari (Garuda).
Arrived at Manokwari at 08.45 am. After collecting my luggage I had breakfast in a nearby Ruma Makan. Then I just had to wait for the Starling team to arrive from Jayapura.

They arrived at 12.30 am and together with two 4-wheel drives we left for the drive to Syoubri in the Arfaks. We first had lunch together and had a lot to talk about. Heard their stories of Nimbokrang and the Baliem area.

We then visited a supermarket to buy all our provisions for the coming stay in the Arfaks. A few kilometres before Syoubri we stopped for some birding, mainly to try for **Masked Bowerbird**, knowing to occur in that area. Unfortunately only Mehd was lucky enough to briefly see a male **Masked Bowerbird**. But we had great views of 2 **Black-eared Catbirds** in a fruiting tree and a small flock of **Blue-collared Parrots** in flight. Some other species seen in that area were **Papuan Mountain Pigeon, Greater Black Coucal, Rufous Shrike-Thrush, White-faced Robin** and lower down a single **Black Butcherbird**.

We then continued to Syoubri where we installed ourselves at the guesthouse of Zeth Wonggor.

Day 18: Sunday August 16

After a very early breakfast we walked to 2 hides to try for **Western Parotia**. Together with Roy Hendrix and Geert Beckers I took place in one hide, while my brother Frans, Luc Bekaert and Peter Logtmeijer went to the second hide.

We stayed in the hide from 06.00 – 08.00 am. **Western Parotia** was frequently heard but only a female was seen well. A single **Green-backed Robin** visited the area around the hide a few times. The other group also had good views of a female but no male. We then continued along the trail up to the Garden House.

Mountain Fruit Dove was heard and seen, a single **Vogelkop Bowerbird**, 2 **Papuan Treecreepers, Vogelkop Melidectes, Arfak Honeyeater, Vogelkop Scrubwren** was common, **Rufous Shrike Thrush** and **Red-collared Myzomela**. Near the Garden House, after some effort, we all had good views of **Black Pitohui**.

While having lunch at the Garden House, we heard the unmistakable call of a **New Guinea Harpy Eagle**. And it was very close! We even heard a second bird call but the vegetation was too dense to have a realistic chance to get views of these birds.

Zeth found 2 single **Mountain Owlet Nightjars** which gave great photographic opportunities. After lunch we birded back down and added a single **Island Leaf Warbler**, several **Slater's Whistlers**, a single **Rufous-naped Bellbird, Hooded Pitohu** and **Black Fantails** to our list. We decided to go back to the parotia hides early. Just before the hide we heard several birds call and suddenly a male **Western Parotia** popped up and gave nice views.

We stayed in the hide from 13.15 – to almost 16.00 pm. Highlight was great views of a male **Western Parotia**, just in front of our hide. It was a pity that the bird did not stay long and it did not do his extraordinary display. The other group did not have anything at all at their hide, which was of course disappointing.

We all walked back to our guesthouse at Syoubri. We heard **Ashy Robin** and observed twice **Blue Grey Robin**.

After dinner we tried for **Feline Owlet Nightjar** near our guesthouse but we only had good views of a **Papuan Frogmouth** in the spotlight.

Day 19: Monday August 17

Before dawn we walked to 2 hides where we observed **Magnificent Birds of Paradise**. Both groups had great views of displaying birds. At 08.00 am we started birding along the wide trail, just below Syoubri.

We observed **Rusty Mouse Warbler, Grey Green Scrub Wren, Pygmy Longbill, Rufous Shrike Thrush, Red Myzomela** and **Hooded Pitohui**.

Geert, Roy and Luc went up to the ridge and had good views of **Pygmy Drongo** and **Trumpet Manucode**.

I birded with Frans and Peter in the forest around a rundown, old hide.

Here we observed a **Bicoloured Mousebird**, which is an uncommon bird and apparently only occurring at a certain altitude range.

During lunch time we observed a breeding **Elfin Myzomela**, just in front of our guesthouse and in the air we had nice views of a displaying **Pygmy Eagle**.

After lunch we walked up the mountain to the so-called Paradigalla site. (about 1 hour walk). A beautiful forested, rather open, flat area which is regularly visited by Long-Paradigallas.

During our way up **Mottled Whistler** (considered a Berryhunter now) was heard and seen and other species seen during that afternoon included **Fantail Cuckoo**, a pair of **Red-breasted Pygmy Parrots**, single **Brehm's** and **Modest Tiger Parrots**, several **Yellow-billed Lorikeets**, **Marbled Honeyeater**, **Mountain Meliphaga**, **Arfak Honeyeater**, **Vogelkop Melidectes**, **Rufous-sided Honeyeater**, **Golden-faced Whistler**, **Vogelkop Scrubwren**, **Tit-Berrypecker**, **Black-breasted Boatbill**, **Black Pitohui**, 3 species of fantail, a single **Black Monarch**, **White-faced Robin** and **Blue-Gray Robin**.

After dinner we tried for **Feline Owlet-Nightjar** around Syoubri. We heard at least 3 different birds.

Day 20: Tuesday August 18

At 06.00 am we started our ascend to our campsite at 1850 m.alt. (called Starling Camp by us). We briefly stopped and birded at the Paradigalla site.

Additions were **Mountain Mouse Warbler**, great views of 2 **Spotted Jewel Babblers**, **Regent Whistler**, nice views of **Mottled Whistler**, **Smoky Robin** and **Black Sicklebill** was heard.

At noon we observed a soaring **Long-tailed Buzzard** and another **Pygmy Eagle** above our campsite.

In the afternoon we visited 2 hides of **Vogelkop Bowerbird** which did not disappoint us. Then we got news that a young boy had found a roosting **Feline Owlet Nightjar**. We quickly went to the site and had astonishing and close views of the bird.

It was a rather cold night but I slept well.

Day 21: Wednesday August 19

Before dawn we walked the short distance to a newly erected hide, which overlooks the display area of a male **Black Sicklebill**. The local papua guides had discovered the dead tree stomp in the forest, on which the male **Black Sicklebill** performs daily until 1 to 2 hours after dawn. Actually this hide was only finished the afternoon before our arrival in the area. Sooty Owl was heard near the hide but we had other things on our mind.

We did not have to wait long and this was undoubtedly (until then) the highlight of the trip for me. The male **Black Sicklebill** flew in several times and showed his extraordinary display in full view, just in front of the hide. As far as I know this display has never been filmed as I did not see this on any dvd, picturing Birds of Paradise.

At one time the female also flew in and copulation took place.

At 08.00 we left our hide and walked to our next camp, higher up, the so-called German Camp, where we would spend the night. Around this camp we finally scored **Garnet Robin**. We then continued higher to the rundown Japan Camp and beyond to try for the high altitude species like the most wanted **Arfak Astrapia**.

We regularly heard the distinctive call of the **Black Sicklebill** and at one time we saw a black bird fly by. This was either a **Black Sicklebill** or **Arfak Astrapia**. Only Geert, Roy and I stayed behind to look for the bird, while the rest of the group followed Zeth further on the trail. Our decision to stay behind paid off as suddenly 2 **Arfak Astrapias** flew in and perched right above our heads! Fantastic views of 2 not completely adult males. We warned the others but of course meanwhile the astrapias flew of. Zeth decided to try to relocate the birds with the group, while I stayed behind on the trail with Geert and Roy, as it would be easier to find the birds with less people.

While still enjoying our observation, I suddenly noticed some movement in the vegetation some 30 meters away. I put my bins on the spot and saw a blackish bird move through the vegetation. I warned the others to stand still and tried to point them in the right direction, saying that I think a brush turkey is moving in. Then I heard Geert saying softly next to me, in disbelief, that is a **Dwarf Cassowary** ! We stand completely still and the next few minutes we could observe an adult **Dwarf Cassowary** with 2 chicks, foraging unconcerned on the forest floor. Then we heard the group coming back

to us and Geert and I tried to warn them with hand movements that we observed something special. Fortunately Zeth reacted swiftly and the whole group quickly and silently walked up to us. Meanwhile the birds became alert and started to move away slowly, so Geert and I decided to try to make some record shots of the birds before it was too late. These could actually be the first photographs of **Dwarf Cassowary** in the wild! It was with great relief that all members of the group saw the birds before they vanished in the undergrowth.

After this once in a lifetime observation it was difficult to focus again on the "common" birds in the Arfaks. During our walk back to our camp we finally had nice views of **Cinnamon-browed Melidectes**, **Perplexing Scrubwren**, **Fan-tailed Berrypecker**, **Tit Berrypecker**, again **Spotted Jewel-Babbler**, a flock of **Papuan Sitella** for some of us, **Mountain Peltops** high in the canopy, **Papuan Treecreeper** and **Smoky Robin**. On our way further down Peter was the lucky one to observe 2 **Rufescent Imperial Pigeons** in flight.

During late afternoon we birded around our camp. Good views of several **Ashy Robins**, a single **Lesser Ground Robin** and a **Bronze Ground Dove** on the trail.

During a spotlight session around our camp we had good views of **Papuan Boobook** in the spotlight.

Day 22: Thursday August 20

In the early morning we walked down from German camp to the Parigalla plateau/site. During the walk we encountered some good fruiting trees with a whole set of parrot/parakeet species including **Yellow-billed Lorikeet**, **Pygmy Lorikeet**, **Plum-faced Lorikeet**, **Papuan Lorikeet**, 2 **Josephine's Lorikeets** and a single **Fairy Lorikeet**.

I intended to bird the area (the so-called Paradigalla site/plateau) as long as necessary to find the **Long-tailed Paradigalla**. We arrived at 08.30 and met 2 Australian birders, who had just seen one in a fruiting tree at 08.00 am.

We birded the area for a couple of hours but no Paradigalla. When scanning the area I suddenly noticed a large raptor, crossing over from one ridge to another. A very large hawk-like raptor (rather short, broad wings) which was very white beneath. Frans and Peter also saw the bird briefly, when I warned them, but the bird disappeared over the ridge, without soaring once. A **New Guinea Harpy Eagle**.

We discussed our options for the afternoon, when having lunch at the Paradigalla site. Frans and some of the others would like to visit the hide again to try for a displaying male **Western Parotia**, so together with Zeth they left, while I, together with Geert and Roy (we had already good views of a male Parotia) stayed behind and walked first up the trail to try for **Black-billed Sicklebill**. We tried the first stretch of the trail but we failed to connect with that species. When we walked back to the Paradigalla site we already heard a Long-tailed Paradigalla calling. Mehd stayed on the trail while we went in to try to find the bird. It turned out later that Mehd briefly had close views of a **Long-tailed Paradigalla** in a fruiting tree (he even photographed the bird), while we were inside the forest.

We could still hear birds call but could not locate them. Geert would go down the trail to try to find one, while Roy and I waited at the Paradigalla site. After half an hour or so Geert came running up the trail as he had located one, singing in a tree. We quickly went down and had good views in the scope of a calling male **Long-tailed Paradigalla**. Not long after Geert found the bird, the group arrived from the Parotia hide. They had excellent views of a male **Western Parotia** but unfortunately just as they arrived, the fog drifted into the valley and as a result the Paradigalla was no longer visible. After a few minutes the fog lifted but the bird was gone.

Together we walked further down, back to Syoubri.

Day 23: Friday August 21

Our last morning in the Arfaks. Our vehicles had arrived early.

The plan was to bird the area along the main road, a few kilometres down from Syoubri. Our main target was the **Masked Bowerbird**.

We arrived in the area at 06.30 and we birded until 09.00 am.

It was rather quiet in the early morning.

At one time Zeth heard a **Masked Bowerbird** calling and so we became very alert and staked out a fruiting tree, just next to the road.

But first unexpectedly a **Trumpet Manucode** turned up and gave nice views.

Then we had a female **Western Parotia** and a male **Lesser Bird of Paradise** in the fruiting tree and also **White-faced Robin** showed nicely. Later it turned out that Frans and Peter also saw a **Black-chinned Robin** in the same area, which they identified afterwards. This was a lifer for Geert and me!

Suddenly I saw some movement in the fruiting tree and slowly a bird showed itself, it was a female **Masked Bowerbird** but at the same time some excitement a little further up the road as a male **Masked Bowerbird** briefly popped up and was seen by Frans, Peter and Geert. Unfortunately the bird vanished and could not be relocated in the next 15 minutes.

We walked down another kilometre but then we had to leave for the airport of Manokwari.

We arrived at the airport at 11.30 am and after some lunch we flew from Manokwari to Sorong.

With a taxi to hotel Mamberamo (37 US\$)

In the afternoon we visited some shops and a supermarket where I bought some cheese.

Mehd took us to a restaurant where we enjoyed a really good meal with shrimps and fish.

In the evening we got together for the last time with some beers in the bar of our hotel.

We did not really like the karaoke performance of some guests but the beer was good.

Then I said goodbye to the others. They would leave very early next morning for some lowland forest birding near Sorong and then continue to Waigeo, while I would fly to Jakarta the next day for my final part of the trip.

Day 24: Saturday August 22

After a late breakfast I took a taxi to the airport at 09.00 am. (120.000 RP)

At 10.45 my direct flight left for Jakarta (Express Air) where I arrived at 13.45 pm.

After collecting my luggage I went outside to the bus station where I took the express bus from the airport to Bogor. (1 hour drive for 52.000 RP)

At the bus station of Bogor I took a taxi straight to the hostel of Fredy at Cibodas (250.000 RP) where I arrived around 16.30 pm.

Met Fredy and his wife and told him that I met him with my wife back in 1993.

Fortunately he had still one room available the next day and for the first night he gave me a room in his own house. The other rooms were occupied by biology students, doing research in Cibodas Botanical Gardens. Talked to Fredy (now 77 years of age and having physical problems) in Dutch for a while and had a very nice dinner.

It also became clear that Indra, his son who is supposed to be the best birding guide in the area, is no longer available for guiding. He stopped guiding and is now busy with ecological farming.

Fredy also told me that the situation had got out of hand completely on the mountain the last couple of months. A steady stream of thousands of hikers went up to mountain, leaving a lot of garbage on the mountain and put too much pressure on nature in general. So the local government had decided that it was forbidden to hike up to the crater and to camp there. The truth is that I still encountered a few hikers on the mountain the next couple of days but generally it was rather devoid of people and I could bird undisturbed with only a few people on the mountain daily.

Day 25: Sunday August 23

Had breakfast at 05.00 and started walking at 05.30 am. It is 1 km from the hostel to the entrance of the main trail up the mountain. At dawn I birded around the entrance area, with the slight hope of bumping into a Sunda Thrush and just when I started to continue up the trail I was stopped by a girl from the reception. She wanted me to pay the official entrance fee for foreigners, which is according to her 150.000 RP. After some negotiating I paid 100.000 RP and got a ticket. The following days I was already on the

trail before dawn and never met anybody of the reception, also not when coming down in the afternoon.

It was a Sunday but I hardly encountered anyone on the trail. The weather was nice and sunny and though it was not my intention I walked all the way up passed the junction up to Air Panas. The only problem was that I had water but no food with me.

My main target was to find **Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush** which is regularly recorded between the junction and Air Panas. I did not find the laughingthrush but nice species were **Javan Hawk-Eagle**, soaring high over, **Crimson-winged Woodpecker**, **Sunda Minivet**, **Fire-tufted Barbet**, **Brown-throated Barbet (HO)**, **Sunda Bulbul**, **Grey-cheeked Bulbul**, **Orange-spotted Bulbul**, **Javan Cochoa** (heard and briefly seen in a flock), **Javan Whistling Thrush**, **Sunda Blue Robin**, **Snowy-browed Flycatcher**, **Indigo Flycatcher**, **Rufous-tailed Flycatcher**, **Mountain Leaf Warbler**, **Sunda Warbler**, **Javan Fulvetta**, **Javan Tesia**, **White-bibbed Babbler** (lower area, below the boardwalk), **Crescent-chested Babbler**, **Chestnut-backed Scimitar Babbler**, **Pygmy Wren Babbler (HO)**, **Horsfield's Babbler**, **Blue Nuthatch**, **White-flanked Sunbird**, **Javan Dark-eye (Grey-throated White-eye)**, **Ashy Drongo** and **Javan Trogon** (some great views).

When passing Air Panas and ascending higher up I had nice views of a single **Sunda Bush Warbler**.

At 16.30 I came out of the forest and returned to the homestay, very hungry.

Day 26: Monday August 24

Breakfast at 04.00 am. And at 4.40 I started to bird around the entrance and the first part of the trail. I heard **Salvadori's Nightjar**, **Javan Barred Owllet** and **Javan Frogmouth** and unexpectedly near the lake a **Barred Eagle-Owl**.

From 07.00 – 08.00 I birded in the area around the waterfall.

Here I observed **Crested Serpent Eagle**, a single **Spotted Kestrel** and had good views of **Sunda Forktail**, just below the waterfall.

Then I continued from the junction towards Air Panas and I climbed to 2000m.

A lot of the same birds as yesterday but additions included **Pink-headed Fruit-Dove (HO)** near the junction, **Chestnut-bellied Partridge** (2 crossing the trail), **Orange-fronted Barbet**, **Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo**, **Lesser Shortwing**, **White-browed Shortwing**, **Eye-browed Wren babbler (HO)**, **Trilling Shrike-Babbler** and **Pied Shrike Babbler**.

When going down I finally bumped in the afternoon into a big flock. Besides a lot of more common species, **Chestnut-backed Scimitar Babblers**, **Blue Nuthatches**, several **Spotted Crocias** and best of all 3 **Rufous-fronted Laughingthrushes**.

I left the trail at 15.00 pm and birded at the botanical gardens until 16.30 pm.

In the gardens I observed **Black-winged Flycatcher-Shrike** and a few **Pygmy Bush-Tits** before returning to my hostel.

In the evening I met Indra and talked to him about the birding at Gunung Gede. He could give me some general info but he also made it clear that he had stopped working as a birding guide. He is still involved in the protection of Gunung Gede area but he is mainly involved in ecological farming, together with his sister.

Day 27: Tuesday August 25

This morning I left my homestay at 03.00 am as I wanted to be at the junction before dawn to try for **Javan Scops Owl**. I arrived at the junction at 04.30 am.

When I played the tape I got an immediate response, just above the junction and I tried for the next hour to lure the bird into the spotlight but failed. I also tried in an area a little higher, towards Air Panas but no response here.

I also heard **Dusky Woodcock** roding near the junction.

After dawn I visited the waterfall area where I observed again **Sunda Forktail** and **Spotted Kestrel**. Unfortunately I dropped my phone which was completely crashed on a rock. I had downloaded a whole set of songs/calls on my phone but I had to do without these from now on. Luckily I was at the end of my trip.

I birded from the junction down to the entrance and had excellent views of a flock of very confiding **Chestnut-bellied Partridges**, a **Little Pied Flycatcher**, 2 **Pygmy Tits** and many species already seen on the days before.

At 11.00 am I returned to the homestay where I rested until 14.00 pm.

From 14.30 – 18.00 I birded the golf course, just below the entrance of Gunung Gede. I walked along the edge of the forest and recorded a single **Chestnut-breasted Malkoha**, **Sunda Cuckoo-Shrike**, **Cinereus Tit**, **Olive-backed Tailorbird**, **Blood-breasted Flowerpecker**, several **Collared Kingfishers** and a pair of **Spotted Kestrels**.

Day 28: Wednesday August 26

From 05.00 – 06.30 am I birded around the entrance of Gunung Gede. I heard 2 **Salvadori's Nightjar** and saw one briefly in flight. But without tape I had no chance in views of any other night birds like **Javan Frogmouth** or **Javan Barred Owlet**.

I tried again, against all odds, for **Sunda Thrush** but no success.

I briefly visited the golf course but besides a pair of **Spotted Kestrels** not much else.

Fredy had arranged a car for me to drive me to the bus station in Bogor. (400.000 RP)

At 11.00 am I said goodbye to Fredy and his wife and drove to Bogor.

At 12.30 I took the bus (52.000 RP) from Bogor to the airport where I arrived at 13.45 pm. Had some food at the airport and took taxi (60.00 RP) to hotel Ozone.

I had not booked a room at hotel Ozone and I just turned up. I choose this hotel because it is very close to Maure Angke. You could walk to it in 15 minutes.

After some negotiating I got a very nice room for 400.000 RP, including breakfast.

Took taxi to Maure Angke, where I birded from 16.00 – 18.00 pm. along the boardwalk.

Nobody was there so I just entered the boardwalk on my own.

The birding was rather nice in the late afternoon but no Coucal. Good views of **Ruddy-breasted Crakes** and best was the observation of 2 **Black-winged Starlings** in flight.

Day 29: Thursday August 27

A little late, just after 06.00 I left again for Maure Angke (5 minutes by taxi) and entered the boardwalk again. At one time I probably flushed a Coucal but the bird vanished too fast to be sure. When I left the boardwalk, around 08.30, some rangers were waiting for me and they were not happy seeing me coming from the boardwalk. They explained to me that I need a permit from their office, somewhere in town, before I was allowed to enter the reserve properly. This permit is 250.000 RP for foreigners.

Strange that they do not want people to enter the boardwalk because it is so rundown that it is dangerous to walk on it. And it really is rather treacherous. But when you have paid for your permit you are suddenly allowed to go on it.

Anyway I talked to them and slowly they became more friendly. I told them that I was especially interested in seeing the coucal and they told me that they sometimes see the bird just next to the river. So they had no problem if I would walk along the river's edge for as far as it was possible. (A few hundred meters).

So I decided to give it a try. It was very dry and I walked along the edge of the river, through the garbage until it was impossible to continue. Then I got lucky, very lucky.

When I walked for a few meters into the grassy scrub, suddenly a **Sunda Coucal** was flushed just in front of me and gave great views in flight. Mission accomplished.

After 5 failures, finally success and I do not have to come back to this site.

I went back to my hotell, had a late and excellent breakfast, packed and chilled out in my room.

At 14.30 I took a taxi to the airport and at 18.45 I left Jakarta and flew to Kuala Lumpur and on to Amsterdam.

Day 30: Friday August 28

Early morning arrival at Schiphol Airport.

Train to Eindhoven and Bus to Geldrop, where I arrived at 10.00 am.

Henk Hendriks

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SHORT ITINERARY

- Day 1: Thursday 30 July. *Flight Amsterdam – Kuala Lumpur*
- Day 2: Friday 31 July. *Arrival Kuala Lumpur and drive to Bukit Tinggi/Berjaya Hills.*
- Day 3: Saturday 1 August. *M.P.P. stake out, Bukit Tinggi. Afternoon drive to Kuala Lumpur. Hotel Kuala Lumpur.*
- Day 4: Sunday 2 August. *Flight Kuala Lumpur – Jakarta. Birding Maure Angke and evening flight Jakarta – Manado. Hotel Manado*
- Day 5: Monday 3 August. *Flight Manado – Melanguane, Talaud – Manado. Hotel Manado*
- Day 6: Tuesday 4 August. *Flight Manado – Melanguane, Talaud. Ojek to Beo and afternoon birding south of Beo. Hotel Beo*
- Day 7: Wednesday 5 August. *Birding all day around Beo. Hotel Beo*
- Day 9: Thursday 6 August. *Early morning birding near Beo. Ojek to Airport and flight Melanguane – Manado. Hotel Manado*
- Day 10: Friday 7 August. *Flight Manado – Luwuk. Afternoon ferry to Tataba, Peleng and by ojek to Kokolomboi. Hostal Kokolomboi.*
- Day 11: Saturday 8 August. *Birding around Kokolomboi. Hostal Kokolomboi.*
- Day 12: Sunday 9 August. *Birding around Kokolomboi. Hostal Kokolomboi.*
- Day 13: Monday 10 August. *Early morning around Kokolomboi and with ojek to the coast and further with ojek to Salakan. Hotel Salakan.*
- Day 14: Tuesday 11 August. *Birding around Salakan. Hotel Salakan.*
- Day 15: Wednesday 12 August. *Birding around Salakan, near Kawalu. Hotel Salakan.*
- Day 16: Thursday 13 August. *Early morning around Salakan and in afternoon ferry Salakan – Luwuk. Hotel Luwuk.*
- Day 17: Friday 14 August. *Flight Luwuk – Makassar. Airport hotel Makassar.*
- Day 18: Saturday 15 August. *Flight Makassar – Manokwari and drive to Syoubri, Arfaks. Guesthouse Syoubri.*
- Day 19: Sunday 16 August. *Birding around Syoubri. Western Parotia hide and the trail to the Garden House. Guesthouse Syoubri.*
- Day 20: Monday 17 August. *Birding around Syoubri, Magnificent BOP hides and walk up In afternoon to Paradigalla site. Guesthouse Syoubri.*
- Day 21: Tuesday 18 August. *Hike up to Camp Starling via Paradigalla site. Birding around Camp Starling in afternoon. Vogelkop Bowerbird hides. Night at Starling Camp.*
- Day 22: Wednesday 19 Aug. *Black Sicklebill hide and hike from Camp Starling to German camp. Afternoon hike higher up past dilapidated Camp Japan. Night at German Camp.*
- Day 23: Thursday 20 August. *Hike down from German Camp to Syoubri via Paradigalla site. Guesthouse Syoubri.*
- Day 24: Friday 21 August. *Early morning birding below Syoubri and drive to Manokwari. Afternoon flight Manokwari – Sorong. Hotel Sorong.*
- Day 25: Saturday 22 August. *Flight Sorong – Jakarta + Bus to Bogor + taxi to Cibodas. Hostal Fredy.*
- Day 26: Sunday 23 August. *All day Gunung Gede trail. Hostal Fredy.*
- Day 27: Monday 24 August. *All day Gunung Gede trail + afternoon Botanical Gardens. Hostal Fredy*
- Day 28: Tuesday 25 August. *All day Gunung Gede + afternoon at Golf Course. Hostal Fredy*
- Day 29: Wednesday 26 August. *Early morning first part of Gunung Gede trail. Afternoon taxi to Bogor + Bus from Bogor to Jakarta + afternoon visit to Maure Angke. Hotel Jakarta*
- Day 30: Thursday 27 August. *Morning visit to Maure Angke. Late afternoon flight Jakarta – Kuala Lumpur – Amsterdam.*
- Day 31: Friday 28 August. *Early morning arrival at Amsterdam and train home.*

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF OBSERVATIONS

1. Bukit Tinggi – Malaysia

31 July – 1 August

This area is only a little more than 2 hours by car from the international airport. Before I left I had contacted Adrian Lim for help in observing the **Mountain Peacock Pheasant**. He kindly give me site information, which for security reasons, I will not include here and he also booked accommodation for me at the Golf Course. Most birders stay at the more expensive, nearby hotel Colmar Tropicale-Berjaya Hills.

I drove with a rental car from the airport to Berjaya Hills which took me approximately 2 to 3 hours, depending on the traffic. The Berjaya Hills/Bukit Tinggi exit is clearly signposted from the E8.

Adrian can be contacted at Boxter998@gmail.com or on What's App: +60123399980

The Mountain Peacock-Pheasant was my main target species at Bukit Tinggi/Berjaya Hills but during one late afternoon and early morning, during some casual birding, I observed the following species in the Japanese Garden:

***MOUNTAIN PEACOCK-PHEASANT** *Polyplectron inopinatum* **Vulnerable**

01-08: 1 adult male and 1 imm. male gave repeated and nice, close views.

Gold-whiskered Barbet *Megalaima chrysopogon*

Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis* (probably this species H)

Orange-breasted Trogon *Harpactes oreskios*

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Halcyon capensis*

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata*

Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*

Malaysian Rail-Babbler *Eupetes macrocerus*

01-08: 1 bird crossed the trail, just in front of us, while waiting for the Mountain Peacock-Pheasant.

Large Woodshrike *Tephrodornis gularis*

Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis*

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*

Stripe-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus finlaysoni*

Ochraceous Bulbul *Alophoixus ochraceous*

Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier*

Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliaris*

Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna*

2. Talaud – Indonesia

4 – 6 August

The island of Talaud can be reached by ferry or by plane from Manado. It is an one-hour flight from Manado to Melanguane on Talaud. There are daily flights. (Wings)

Another possibility is to use the ferry to travel to Talaud.

Local guide Michael was waiting for me at the airport, he drove me around on his motorbike and he also dropped me at the airport at the end of my stay.

I lost 1 full birding day because the pilot was unable to put the plane down on August 3.

I stayed at hotel Maysan in Beo, which is roughly 1 hour from the airport on motorbike.

Best birding was along a trail, starting from the main road, just south of Beo. Just after the quarry, mentioned in the Knass report, the main road goes over a small bridge and a short distance after the bridge, there is a house on the left side of the road, partly concealed by trees and bushes. Just next, right of that house is a smaller, white "house" with an obvious blue cross painted on the front. Just before these 2 houses an obvious trail starts. Initially through some grasslands and scrub, but slowly ascending into the hills and into better habitat.

I birded this trail for just a few kilometres. All specialities of Talaud can be observed along this trail. As we just glimpsed and heard the endemic **Blue & Red Lory** in the general area, we also visited another site, a few km. north of Beo, which is supposed to be more reliable for this species.

Species observed during my stay on Talaud:

Species in capitals/with asterix = Target endemic/near-endemic (sub)species on Talaud. Several taxonomic changes are likely in the near future.

----- considered by "Threatened Birds of the World" by Birdlife International.

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*

04-08: 1 between airport and Beo.

Great Egret *Casmerodius alba*

05-08: 2 at rice fields, Beo

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

05-08: a single bird at rice fields Beo.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

05-08: 10+ around Beo

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

A total of 5 on 2 dates on Talaud.

[*TALAUD RAIL *Gymnocrex talaudensis*] **Endangered**

05-08: Michael saw a Talaud Rail crossing the trail, just in front of us, which I missed. We staked out the area for a while but no luck.

White-browed Crake *Poliolimnus cinerea*

04-08: 1 at fields near Beo.

***TALAUD BUSH-HEN** *Amaurornis magnirostris* **Vulnerable**

Heard on 3 dates and very close on 04-08 further along the trail but no views

Pale-vented (Rufous-tailed) Bush-Hen. *Amaurornis moluccanus*

06/07-08: Briefly heard in scrubby, grassy area at the start of the trail.

Strange, as it is supposedly more common than Talaud Bush-Hen.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

05-08: 1 at rice fields near Beo.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

05-08: 40+ at rice fields near Beo.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

05-08: 1 near Beo.

White-throated Pigeon *Columba vitiensis ssp.halmaheira*

04-08: 1 flyby along the trail.

Black-naped Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus melanospiza*

A total of 30 on 2 dates.

Grey Imperial Pigeon *Ducula pickeringii* **Vulnerable**

04-08: a single bird seen along the trail.

05-08: heard along the same trail.

Yellow-eyed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula concinna*

04-08: a single bird along the trail.

Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor*

04-08: 30+ in several groups in flight along the trail.

05-08: 4 north of Beo.

***RED & BLUE LORY** *Eos histrio* **Endangered**

04-08: heard and poor, distant flight views along the trail.

05-08: Heard along the trail and great and close views in flight of 4 (2+2) north of Beo.

Golden-mantled Racquet-Tail *Prioniturus platurus*

A total of 35 on 2 dates (5+30) near Beo.

Great-billed Parrot *Tanygnathus megalorhynchus*

04/05-08: 2+2 along the trail.

Blue-naped Parrot *Tanygnathus lucionensis ssp. talautensis* **Near-Threatened**

04-08: 2 along the trail.

Blue-backed Parrot *Tanygnathus sumatranus*

05-08: 4 north of Beo.

Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*

Heard on 3 dates.

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

05-08: Great views of a single bird along the trail.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*

A total of 6 seen on 2 dates and regularly heard.

Uniform Swiftlet *Aerodramus vanikorensis*/**Sulawesi Swiftlet** *Aerodramus sororum*

Probably one of these species observed on 2 dates.

Unable to make a definite identification.

Collared Kingfisher *Halcyon chloris*

05-08: 1 along the coast near Beo.

***TALAUD KINGFISHER** *Halcyon enigma* **Near-Threatened**

A total of 5 on 2 dates along the trail.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*

05-08: 2 near Beo.

***TALAUD PITTA** *Pitta [erythrogaster] inspeculata*

Single birds seen on 2 dates along the trail.

Especially on 04-08 great views of a perched bird, low in a tree. Regularly heard also.

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*

05-08: 10 near Beo.

Sulawesi Cicadabird *Coracina morio ssp. talautensis*

A total of 9 on 2 dates near Beo.

***RUFIOUS PARADISE FLYCATCHER** *Terpsiphone cinnamomea ssp. talautensis*

05-08: 6 along the trail.

Island Monarch *Monarcha cinerascens*

05-08: 2 near Beo and several more were heard.

Black Sunbird *Nectarinia Aspasia ssp. talautensis*

Commonly observed.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis*

04-08: a single bird.

Grey-sided Flowerpecker *Dicaeum celebicum ssp. talautensis*

A total of 7 on 2 dates.

Everett's White-eye *Zosterops everettii*

04-08: 2 near Beo.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis ssp. melanisticus*

05-08: a single bird along the trail. Quite distinctive bird.

Slender-billed Crow *Corvus enca*

05-08: 2 near Beo

3. Peleng – Indonesia

7 – 13 August

I spent 3 nights at the basic hostel of local guide Labi in the small village of Kokolomboi. Normally it is a 3-hour walk from the main coastal road, just outside Tataba, where I arrived by ferry from Luwuk, to Kokolomboi. A porter will carry your main luggage for you up the mountain for a small fee. (200.000 RP)

The altitude of Kokolomboi is around 500 m. alt. The main birding is done just outside the village, along the main trail into the forest and up another trail up to the ridge at 800 m. alt.

I also birded near Salakan, where I also stayed for 3 nights. The main birding sites are 10-12 km outside Salakan, but these are getting more and more degraded.

Visiting both Kokolomboi and Salakan gives you the best chance of finding all the endemics/targets of Peleng. ***Sula Scrubfowl*** does not occur near Kokolomboi and I found ***Banggai Fruit-Dove*** & ***Red & Black Thrush*** easier at Salakan.

Species observed during my stay on Peleng:

Species in capitals/with asterix = Target endemic/near-endemic (sub)species on Peleng. Several taxonomic changes are likely in the near future.

----- considered by "Threatened Birds of the World" by Birdlife International.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

12-08: 2 in flight near Salakan.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

Up to 5 daily on Peleng.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

09-08: a single bird near Kokolomboi village.

10-08: a single bird along the coast between Tataba – Salakan.

Sulawesi Serpent Eagle *Spilornis rufipectus ssp.sulaensis*

12-08: 1 Salakan area.

13-08: 2 Salakan area.

Sulawesi Hawk Eagle *Nisaetus lanceolatus*

09-08: nice views of an adult bird from viewpoint near Kokolomboi village.

***VINOUS-BREASTED SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter rhodogaster ssp.sulaensis*

09-08: an immature bird taped in near Kokolomboi village.

Black Eagle *Aquila malayensis*

09-08: 1 from viewpoint near Kokolomboi village.

Spotted Kestrel *Falco moluccensis*

12-08: 1 near Salakan.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus ssp. ernesti*

10-08: 1 between Tataba and Salakan. A rather small, dark peregrine.

Barred Rail *Gallirallus torquatus ssp.sulcirostris*

12/13-08: 1+2 at Salakan area.

Brown (Slender-billed) Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis ssp.albicapilla*

A few daily around Kokolomboi village.

10+ daily in the Salakan area.

***SULA BLACK PIGEON** *Turacoena [manadensis] sulaensis*

A total of 7 on 2 dates in the Salakan area.

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

A total of 4 on 3 dates in the Salakan area.

Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon *Treron griseicauda*

A total of 34 on 3 dates in the Salakan area.

***BANGGAI FRUIT-DOVE** *Ptilinopus [subgularis] subgularis* **Near Threatened**

Daily heard in Kokolomboi area.

10-08: poor views twice of one near Kokolomboi village.

Single birds seen on 3 dates near Salakan. Very good views.

Black-naped Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus melanospiza ssp.chrysorrhoea*

Scarce around Kokolomboi village and common in the Salakan area.

White-bellied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula forsteni*

11-08: A single bird near Salakan.

Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea ssp.sulana*

A total of 12 on 3 dates in the Salakan area.

Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon *Ducula luctuosa*

11-08: 2 birds in flight near Salakan.

Ornate Lorikeet *Trichoglossus ornatus*

13-08: Only 2 seen near Salakan.

Golden-mantled Racquet-Tail *Prioniturus flavicans*

Up to 20 daily (6 days) recorded on Peleng.

Blue-backed Parrot *Tanygnathus sumatranus*

13-08: 4 in Salakan area.

Moluccan King Parrot *Alisterus omboinensis ssp. versicolor*

08-08: Twice seen on the ridge, Kokolomboi area.

***SULA HANGING PARROT** *Loriculus sclateri*

Up to 10 daily (6 days) recorded on Peleng.

Mostly in flight but some nice views of perched birds also.

Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis sepulcralis ssp.virescens*

08-08: 1 from tower near Kokolomboi. More were heard in this area.

Little Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*

Close and good views of a single bird in the Salakan area.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*

Daily heard on Peleng.

***BANGGAI SCOPS OWL** *Otus [manadensis] mendeni*

Heard every night near Kokolomboi.

On 08-08 great views of a spotlighted bird.

Sulawesi Masked Owl *Tyto rosenbergi*

08-08: 1 briefly heard near Kokolomboi village.

Great Eared Nightjar *Eurostopodus macrotis ssp. macropterus*

13-08: heard near Salakan at dusk when driving back to our hotel.

Purple Needletail *Hirundapus celebensis*

08-08: A flock of 40-50 from the tower in the Kokolomboi area.

Very nice views of low-flying birds.

Could be one of the first observations of this species on Peleng.

Grey-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocne longipennis*

08-08: 2 on ridge in the Kokolomboi area.

12-08: 4 in the Salakan area.

Great-billed (Black-billed) Kingfisher *Halcyon melanorhyncha ssp. dichrorhyncha*

13-08: 1 along the coast near Salakan.

Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda ssp.peningensis*

09-08: Nice views of a perched bird near Kokolomboi village.

A total of 6 on 2 dates in the Salakan area. More were heard.

Collared Kingfisher *Halcyon chloris*

A total of 24 on 6 dates on Peleng.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*

12-08: A flock of 50 near Salakan.

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

13-08: 5 near Salakan.

***SULA PITTA** *Pitta[erythrogaster] dohertyi* **Near-Threatened**

A very confiding bird gave great views near Kokolomboi village on 2 dates.

08-08: another bird was observed while ascending the ridge near Kokolomboi.

This species was heard on 6 dates on Peleng, also in the Salakan area.

***SLATY CUCKOO-SHRIKE** *Coracina schistacea*

08-08: At least 4 were seen on the ridge, above Kokolomboi village.

Common Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris ssp. pelingensis*

A total of 8 on 2 dates near Kokolomboi village.

A total of 14 on 2 dates in the Salakan area.

Sulawesi Triller *Lalage leucopygialis*

08-08: A single bird was observed near Kokolomboi village.

***BANGGAI GOLDEN BULBUL** *Thapsinilla [longirostris] harterti*
Common near Kokolomboi and the Salakan area.

***RED & BLACK THRUSH** *Zoothera mendeni* **Near-Threatened**

08/10-08: Heard near Kokolomboi village but no views.

11-08: Astonishing views of 1 near Salakan.

***BANGGAI LEAF WARBLER** *Phylloscopus/Seicercus ??*

08-08: 6 ridge area of Kokolomboi.

***HENNA-TAILED JUNGLE-FLYCATCHER** *Rhinomyias colonus ssp.pelingensis*
Near-Threatened

08-08: Heard and 2 seen near Kokolomboi village.

10-08: Heard in the same area.

11-08: Heard and 2 seen in the Salakan area.

Citrine Canary-Flycatcher *Culicicapa helianthea*

08-08: 6 in the ridge area of Kokolomboi.

Rusty-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura teysmanni ssp.??*

08-08: 3 in the ridge area of Kokolomboi.

Note: This taxon possibly deserves species status and therefore would be another endemic species: Peleng/Banggai Fantail *Rhipidura ??*

It differs vocally and has different plumage characters, compared to Rusty-bellied Fantail from Sulawesi mainland.

Pale Blue Monarch *Hypothymis puella ssp. blasii*

08-08: 10+ in the Kokolomboi area.

10-08: 4 near Kokolomboi village.

A total of 10 on 2 dates in the Salakan area.

***PELENG/BANGGAI GOLDEN WHISTLER** *Pachycephala pectoralis ssp.pelengensis*

08-08: 5 in the Kokolomboi area.

11-08: Nice views of a male in the Salakan area.

Note: might merits species status.

Black Sunbird *Nectarinia Aspasia*

Observed

Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis*

08-08: 2 near Kokolomboi.

A total of 8 on 2 dates in the Salakan area.

Grey-sided Flowerpecker *Dicaeum celebicum ssp.sulaense*

08-08: 1 near Kokolomboi.

A total of 9 in the Salakan area.

Black-fronted White-eye *Zosterops atrifrons*

Observed on 4 dates on Peleng.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis ssp.frontalis*

A total of 8 on 2 dates in the Salakan area.

Again a distinctive bird.

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus ssp.leucops*

Daily observed on Peleng.

Ivory-backed Woodswallow

A total of 15 on 6 dates on Peleng.

Slender-billed Crow *Corvus enca*

Common in the Salakan area.

***BANGGAI CROW** *Corvus unicolor* **Critically Endangered**

Daily heard in the Kokolomboi area.

A total of 13 seen on 3 dates.

Moluccan Starling *Aplonis mysolensis ssp.sulaensis*

11-08: 4 near Salakan.

***HELMETED MYNA** *Basilornis galeatus* **Near-Threatened**

A total of 10 on 6 dates on Peleng.

Some very good views of perched birds.

4. Arfak Mountains, West Papua – Indonesia

15 – 21 August

During my stay in the Arfaks I stayed at the guesthouse of Zeth Wonggor in the village of Syoubri and camped higher up in the mountains at the new "Starling Camp" and German Camp.

The Starling team in the Arfaks consisted of Geert Beckers (guide), Roy Hendrix, my brother Frans Hendriks, Peter Logtmeijer and Luc Bekaert. Mehd Halaouate, being a good birder himself, was in charge of all the logistics during the trip and he did a fine job.

Species observed during my stay in the Arfaks:

----- considered by "Threatened Birds of the World" by Birdlife International.

Dwarf Cassowary *Casuarus bennetti* **Near-Threatened**

19-08: 1 adult with 2 chicks above Camp Japan.

Absolute highlight of the trip!

Pygmy Eagle *Hieraaetus weiskei*

17-08: 1 displaying above Syoubri village.

18-08: 1 above Starling Camp.

[Variable Goshawk *Accipiter hiogaster*]

21-08: Possibly this species along the main road, below Syoubri.

New Guinea Harpy-Eagle *Harpyopsis novaeguineae* **Vulnerable**

16-08: 2 heard at very close range near garden house. Very distinctive call.

20-08: 1 in flight crossing the valley from one ridge to the next at the Paradigalla site.

Long-tailed Buzzard *Henicopernis longicauda*

18-08: 1 above Camp Starling.

Oriental Hobby *Falco severus*

21-08: 1 near the airport of Manokwari.

Black-billed Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia nigrirostris*

Daily observed.

Brown Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis*

Daily observed in the Arfaks.

Bronze Ground-Dove *Alopecoenas beccarii*

19-08: 1 on the trail, close to German Camp.

20-08: 3 including one male on the nest at the Paradigalla site.

Cinnamon Ground-Dove *Gallinolumba rufigula*

16-08: 1 seen by Mehd at hide near Syoubri.

Mountain Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus bellus*

Daily heard and seen.

Dwarf Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus nainus*

21-08: heard along the main road, below Syoubri.

Rufescent Imperial Pigeon *Ducula chalconota*

19-08: 2 in flight between Japan and German Camp (PL. only)

20-08: heard between German Camp and Syoubri.

Papuan Mountain-Pigeon *Gymnophaps albertisii*

A total of 35 on 4 dates recorded.

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*

Heard on 3 dates.

Chestnut-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis castaneiventris*

16-08: Heard near Syoubri.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis flabelliformis*

17-08: 1 near Paradigalla site. (PL only)

Rufous-throated Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx ruficollis*

17 + 18-08: Heard.

White-eared Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx meyerii*

17-08: 1 seen by GB near Syoubri.

20-08: 1 heard.

Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopaceus*

Heard on 3 dates.

Greater Black Coucal *Centropus menbeki*

15-08: 1 along the main road, driving up to Syoubri.

Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa*

19-08: Heard before daybreak near Black Sickbill hide.

20-08; Heard at German Camp.

Papuan Boobook *Ninox theomacha*

19-08: Heard and 1 spotlighted at German Camp.

Papuan Frogmouth *Podargus papuensis*

16-08: Heard and 1 bird spotlighted just near our guesthouse at Syoubri.

Feline Owlet-Nightjar *Aegotheles insignis*

17-08: At least 3 heard around Syoubri.

18-08: Astonishing and close views of a very obliging bird at its daytime roost near Camp Starling.

Mountain Owlet-Nightjar *Aegotheles albertisi*

16-08: 2 different birds seen in broad daylight near Garden House.

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*

Observed.

Mountain Swiftlet *Aerodramus hirundinaceus*

Observed.

Pygmy Lorikeet *Charmosyna wilhelminae*

20-08: 6 at fruiting tree, below German Camp.

Plum-faced Parakeet *Oreopsittacus arfaki*

18-08: 3 at Paradigalla site

19-08: 3 above Camp Japan.

20-08: 5 at fruiting tree, below German Camp.

Yellow-billed Lorikeet *Neopsittacus musschenbroekii*

Rather commonly observed on 3 dates, higher reaches in the Arfaks.

Papuan Lorikeet *Charmosyna papou*

16-08: 1 near Garden House.

19-08: 8 above Camp Japan

20-08: 20 at fruiting tree below German Camp.

Josephine's Lorikeet *Charmosyna josefinae*

20-08: 2 at fruiting tree, below German Camp

21-08: 2 in flight along the main road, below Syoubri.

Fairy Lorikeet *Charmosyna pulchella*

20-08: 1 at fruiting tree, below German Camp.

Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi*

15-08: 2 a few km below Syoubri.

21-08: 1 just below Syoubri.

Blue-collared Parrot *Geoffroyus simplex*

15-08: a flight of 5 a few km below Syoubri.

21-08: 2 groups of a total of 17 in the same area.

Brehm's Tiger-Parrot *Psittacella brehmii*

17-08: 1 at Paradigalla site.

18-08: 4 at Paradigalla site.

Modest Tiger-Parrot *Psittacella modesta*

17/18-08: single birds at the Paradigalla site.

Red-breasted Pygmy-Parrot *Micropsitta bruijnii*

17-08: 1 pair at the Paradigalla site.

Black-eared Catbird *Ailuroedus melanotis*

15-08: Great views of 2 at fruiting tree, along main road below Syoubri.

Vogelkop Bowerbird *Amblyornis inornata*

Heard on 4 dates and observed on 3 dates.

18-08: Nice and close views at 2 different hides near Starling Camp..

Masked Bowerbird *Sericulus aureus*

15-08: 1 male along the main road below Syoubri. (Mehd only)

21-08: 1 male and 1 female in the same area.

Papuan Treecreeper *Cormobates placens*

A total of 4 on 3 dates.

White-shouldered Fairywren *Malurus alboscapulatus*

Regularly seen around Syoubri.

Orange-crowned Fairywren *Clytomyias insignis*

20-08: 2 between German Camp and Syoubri.

Marbled Honeyeater *Pycnopygius cinereus*

17-08: heard Paradigalla site.

18-08: 2 Paradigalla site.

19/20-08: 3 + 1 near German Camp.

Mountain Meliphaga *Meliphaga orientalis*

17-08: 1 along track, below Syoubri.

18-08: Heard near Paradigalla site.

19-08: 1 near Camp Japan.

Elfin (Mountain) Myzomela *Myzomela adolphinae*

Nesting near our guesthouse in Syoubri and regularly observed.

Red Myzomela *Myzomela cruentata*

17-08: 4 along the road/track below Syoubri.

Red-collared Myzomela *Myzomela rosenbergii*

Common.

Black Myzomela *Myzomela nigrita*

21-08: 1 along the main road, below Syoubri.

Arfak's Honeyeater (Western Smoky Honeyeater) *Melipotés gymnops*

Commonly and daily observed

Vogelkop Melidectes *Melidectes leucostephes*

Very vocal and observed on 4 dates.

Cinnamon-browed Melidectes *Melidectes ochromelas*

Rather uncommon. Regularly heard at higher altitudes in the Arfaks and a few birds seen well.

Rufous-sided Honeyeater *Ptiloprora erythropleura*

Commonly observed.

Goldenface *Pachycare flavogriseum*

17/18-08: 1 at Paradigalla site

Rusty Mouse-Warbler *Craterocelis murina*

Rather common lower areas.

Bicoloured Mouse-Warbler *Craterocelis nigrorufa*

17-08: 1 showed nicely near old hide, below Syoubri.

Mountain Mouse-Warbler *Craterocelis robusta*

Rather common higher up in the Arfaks.

Buff-faced Scrubwren *Sericornis perspicillatus*

17-08: 1 near Syoubri. Overlooked?

Vogelkop Scrubwren *Sericornis rufescens*

Common.

Grey-green Scrubwren *Sericornis arfakianus*

17-08: 5 along track, below Syoubri

Perplexing Scrubwren *Sericornis*

A total of 7 recorded on 3 dates.

Brown-breasted Gerygone *Gerygone ruficollis*

Daily heard and a few seen also.

Mountain Gerygone *Gerygone cinerea*

17-08: 5 along track to Paradigalla site.

20-08: 1 below German Camp

Yellow-breasted Berrypecker *Melanocharis longicauda*

17-08: 1 (GB only)

20-08: 1 at Paradigalla site.

Fan-tailed Berrypecker *Melanocharis versteri*

19-08: 1 above Camp Japan.

20-08: 1 at Paradigalla site.

Yellow-bellied Longbill *Tochoramphus novaeguineae*

19-08: 1 between Syoubri – Starling Camp.

Pygmy Longbill *Oedistoma pygmaeum*

17-08: 5 along track, below Syoubri.

Tit Berrypecker *Oreocharis arfaki*

17-08: 4 at Paradigalla site.

19-08: 3 above Camp Japan

20-08: heard Paradigalla site.

Spotted Jewel-Babbler *Ptilorrhoa leucosticte*

18-08: Very good views of 2 at the Paradigalla site.

19-08: 2 near German Camp.

20-08: 1 seen near Paradigalla site.

Black-breasted Boatbill *Machaerirhynchus nigripectus*

Observed on 3 dates at Paradigalla site.

Mountain Peltops *Peltops montanus*

19-08: 2 at Camp Japan

Black Butcherbird *Cracticus quoyi*

15-08: 1 along the main road to Syoubri

Papuan [Varied] Sitella *Daphoenositta chrysoptera*

19-08: A flock of 8-10 above Camp Japan.

Little (Rufous) Shrike-Thrush *Colluricincla megarhyncha*

A total of 5 on 4 dates.

Black Pitohui *Melanorectes nigrescens*

16-08: twice a male near Garden House.

17-08: 1 near Paradigalla site.

18-08: twice a female and 1 male.

19-08: 1 female above German Camp.

20-08: 1 male between German Camp and Paradigalla site.

Slater's Whistler *Pachycephala soror*

Observed on 3 dates.

Regent Whistler *Pachycephala schlegelii*

18-08: 2 males near Starling Camp.

19-08: Regularly observed between Starling, German and Japan Camp.

Vogelkop Whistler *Pachycephala meyeri*

A total of 8 observed on 3 dates.

Mottled Berryhunter (Whistler) *Rhagologus leucostigma*

17-08: Heard and seen (Geert only) below Paradigalla site.

18-08: 1 seen well at Paradigalla site and another heard.

Rufous-naped Bellbird (Whistler) *Aleadryas rufinucha*

Daily heard but only seen twice.

Hooded Pitohui *Pitohui dichrous*

16/17 and 21-08: 1+3+1 observed.

Mainly rather low, around Syoubri.

Pygmy Drongo *Chaetorhynchus papuensis*

17-08: 1 seen on ridge, outside Syoubri

18-08: 1 above Paradigalla site.

Friendly Fantail *Rhipidura albolimbata*

Commonly observed on 4 dates.

Dimorphic Fantail *Rhipidura brachyrhyncha*

Also observed on 4 dates.

Black Fantail *Rhipidura atra*

Observed on 3 dates.

Black Monarch *Symposiachrus axillaris*

17-08: a single bird near Paradigalla site.

Friiled Monarch *Arses telescopthalmus*

21-08: heard below Syoubri.

Trumpet Manucode *Phonygammus keraudrenii*

17-08: 3 by Geert, Luc and Roy.

21-08: Nice and close views of 1 bird along the main road, below Syoubri.

Western Parotia *Parotia sefilata*

16-08: 1 male along track near Parotia hide and male and female at hide.

17-08: 1 male + 5 females along the track to the Paradigalla site.

18-08: 2 females at Paradigalla site.

20-08: 1 male at the hide and 2 single males along the track.

21-08: 1 female along main road, below Syoubri.

Superb Bird of Paradise *Lophorina superba*

16-08: Heard near Syoubri.

Arfak Astrapia *Astrapia nigra*

19-08: 2 imm. males and 1 adult male along the track, above camp Japan.

Black Sicklebill *Epimachus fastosus* **Vulnerable**

Heard on 4 dates.

19-08: Fantastic views of a male, displaying on a dead tree trunk and watched for more than an hour. A female and copulation was also witnessed.

At least 3 more females seen that day.

20-08: male and female seen along the track, between German Camp and Paradigalla site.

Long-tailed Paridigalla *Paridigalla carunculata* **Near-Threatened**

20-08: Heard and 1 male seen in the scope. It took a while but in the end we scored.

Unfortunately not all of us arrived in time at the spot from where we watched the bird.

Magnificent Bird of Paradise *Diphyllodes magnificus*

This bird gave great views at 2 different hides. At least 2 males and 4 females were observed.

Lesser Bird of Paradise *Paradisaea minor*

21-08: An immature male along the main road, just below Syoubri.

Lesser Melampitta *Melampitta lugubris*

20-08: Heard below German Camp.

Lesser Ground-Robin *Amalocichla incerta*

Heard on 3 dates.

16-08: 1 seen by Mehd

19-08: 1 seen near German Camp.

Canary Flycatcher *Microeca papuana*

20-08: 1 at Paradigalla site.

Garnet Robin *Eugerygone rubra*

19-08: male and female at German Camp.

Black-chinned Robin *Heteromyias brachyurus*

21-08: 1 along the main road, just below Syoubri. (Frans, Peter and Zeth only.)

Blue-grey Robin *Peneothello cyanus*

Observed on 3 dates.

Smoky Robin *Peneothello cryptoleuca*

18/19-08: single birds near Starling Camp.

Ashy Robin *Heteromyias albispectus*

Regularly heard but very good and close views of several birds on the track, around German Camp.

Black-throated Robin *Plesiodryas albonotata*

20-08: 3 below German Camp.

White-faced Robin *Tregellasia leucops*

A total of 7 on 3 dates. Mostly at lower altitudes, near Syoubri.

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Green-backed Robin *Pachycephalopsis hattamensis*

Regularly visiting the hides. Observed on 4 dates.

Island Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus poliocephalus*

16-08: 1 near Garden House.

21-08: 2 along main road, below Syoubri.

Black-fronted White-eye *Zosterops atrifrons*

17-08: 4 near Garden House.

Capped White-eye *Zosterops fuscicapilla*

Observed on 4 dates.

Olive-crowned Flowerpecker *Dicaeum pectorale*

17-08: 2 near Syoubri

Black Sunbird *Leptocoma Aspasia*

21-08: 1 observed low down towards Manokwari.

Streak-headed Mannikin *Lonchura tristissima*

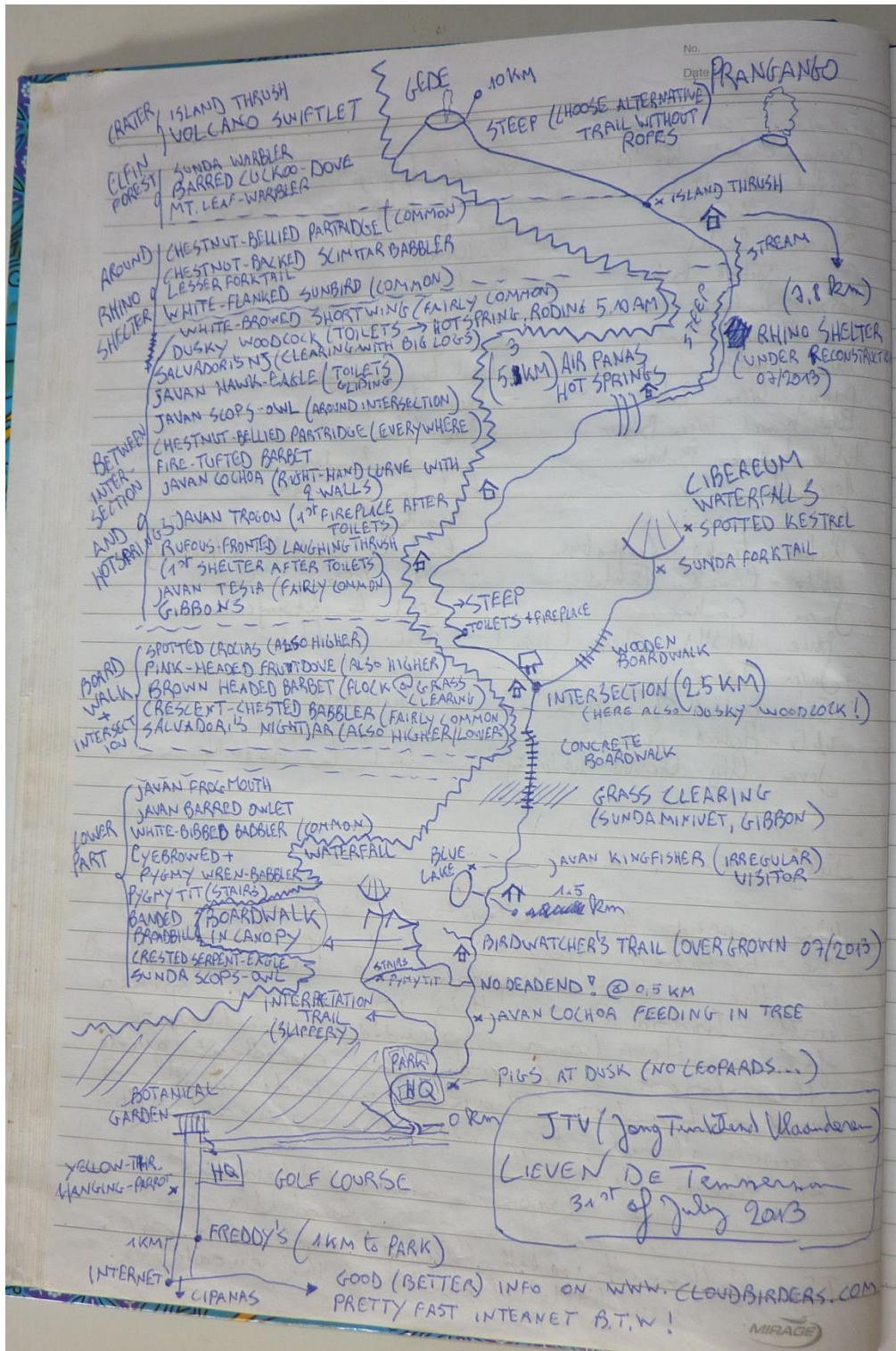
A few near the village of Syoubri

5. JAVA, Maure Angke & Gunung Gede – Indonesia

2 August + 22- 27 August

During my stay at Jakarta in the beginning and at the end of my Indonesia trip, I visited Maure Angke 4 times.

I also stayed for 4 nights/3 days at the homestay of Fredy at Cibodas and birded during that time the Gunung Gede.



Sketch map made by Lieven de Temmerman (July 2013) and copied by me from the logbook at the homestay of Fredy at Cibodas. Very useful and this map gives you enough information for independent birding on Gunung Gede.

Observed species on Java:

species in capitals/with asterix = country endemic

----- Considered by "Threatened Birds of the World" by Birdlife International.

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Maure Angke

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

Maure Angke

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Maure Angke

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Maure Angke

Eastern Great Egret *Casmerodius alba*

Maure Angke

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

Maure Angke

Javan Pond Heron *Ardeola speciose*

Maure Angke and Cibodas

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

Maure Angke

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Maure Angke

Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

Up to 10 on both visits to Maure Angke

***JAVAN HAWK-EAGLE** *Nisaetus bartelsi* **Endangered**

23-08: 1 bird soaring over, just above the junction.

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*

24-08: 1 above the Botanical gardens

***SPOTTED KESTREL** *Falco moluccensis*

24/25-08: 1 at Waterfall in the early morning.

25/26-08: 2 at Golf Course.

***CHESTNUT-BELLIED PARTRIDGE** *Arborophila javanica*

24-08: 2 near Boardwalk, Gunung Gede.

25-08: 10+4 between boardwalk and entrance.

The first flock of 10 slowly crossed the trail, just in front of me. Great views.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

Maure Angke and Cibodas Botanical gardens.

Ruddy-breasted Crake *Porzana fusca*

26-08: 2 at Maure Angke.

White-browed Crake *Porzana cinerea*

Common at Maure Angke.

Black-backed Swamphen *Porphyrio indicus*

Maure Angke

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

A few at Maure Angke

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Regular seen at Maure Angke

***DUSKY (JAVAN) WOODCOCK** *Scolopax saturata* **Near-Threatened**

25-08: Heard roding at dawn between the junction and waterfall area, Gunung Gede

Island/Sunda Collared Dove *Streptopelia bitorquata*

A few at Maure Angke.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

Observed

Pink-necked Green Pigeon *Treron vernans*

Maure Angke

***PINK-HEADED FRUIT-DOVE** *Ptilinopus porphyreus*

24-08: Heard twice in the area, just above the junction at Gunung Gede.

Sunda Cuckoo *Cuculus Lepidus*

Commonly heard at Gunung Gede

Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus*

Heard at Gunung Gede.

Chestnut-breasted Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*

25-08: a single bird showed nicely at the beginning of the Golf Course.

***JAVAN COUCAL** *Centropus nigrorufus* **Vulnerable**

26-08: Excellent and close views of a flushed bird at Maure Angke.

At the last moment and a very much wanted bird.

***JAVAN SCOPS OWL** *Otus angelinae* **Vulnerable**

25-08: Heard very close, right at the junction but no views.

Barred Eagle-Owl *Bubo sumatrana*

25-08: heard along the trail at Hm06.

***JAVAN (BARRED) OWLET** *Glaucidium castanopterum*

24-08: heard at the beginning of the trail and 1 higher up, close to the lake.

***JAVAN FROGMOUTH** *Batrachostomus javensis*

24/25-08: 2+1 heard at the first stretch of the trail but they did not show.

***SALVADORI'S NIGHTJAR** *Caprimulgus pulchellus* **Near-Threatened**

25-08: Heard at the start of the trail.

26-08: Heard and seen in flight at the start of the trail around the HQ area.

Edible Nest Swiftlet *Aerodramus fuciphagus*

Maure Angke

***CAVE SWIFTLET** *Collocalia linchi*

Gunung Gede

Note: Regularly unidentified swiftlets seen.

House Swift *Apus [affinis] nipalensis*

26-08: 1 at Maure Angke.

***JAVAN TROGON** *Harpactes reinwardtii* **Endangered**

23-08: 2 halfway between the junction and Air Panas. Close views of a very vocal bird.

Collared Kingfisher *Halcyon chloris*

Recorded on 2 dates at Golf Course area.

***CERULEAN (SMALL BLUE) KINGFISHER** *Alcedo coerulescens*

2 to 3 seen on each visit to Maure Angke.

***BROWN-THROATED BARBET** *Psilopogon corvina*

Heard on 2 dates at Gunung Gede.

***FLAME-FRONTED BARBET** *Psilopogon armillaris*

Heard and seen on 3 dates.

Fire-tufted Barbet *Psilopogon pyrolophus*

Heard and seen on 2 dates.

Sunda (Pygmy) Woodpecker *Dendrocopos moluccensis*

Maure Angke

Freckle-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos [macei] analis*

Observed on both dates at Maure Angke.

Crimson-winged Woodpecker *Picus puniceus*

Seen twice at Gunung Gede.

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*

Observed.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Maure Angke

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

24-08: 1-2 at Waterfall area, Gunung Gede.

Black-winged Flycatcher-Shrike *Hemipus hirundinaceus*

A few at Botanical gardens, Cibodas.

Sunda Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina larvata*

25-08: 2 at Golf Course, Cibodas

***SUNDA MINIVET** *Pericrocotus miniatus*

Small flocks daily at Gunung Gede

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*

Maure Angke

***JAVAN (SUNDA) BULBUL** *Ixos virescens*

A total of 11 on 3 dates, Gunung Gede.

Grey-cheeked Bulbul *Alophoixus bres ssp. bres*

23-08: 2 above Junction, Gunung Gede.

24-08: a single bird at Gunung Gede.

***ORANGE-SPOTTED BULBUL** *Pycnonotus bimaculatus*

Common near the boardwalk area, Gunung Gede

Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier*

Maure Angke.

Sooty-headed Bulbul

Maure Angke.

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer*

A few on 2 dates at Gunung Gede.

Sunda [Ashy] Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

23-08: 2 at Gunung Gede.

Racket-tailed Treepie *Crypsirina temia*

2 to 3 seen on all visits to Maure Angke.

***PYGMY BUSHTIT** *Psaltria exilis*

25-08: 2 at the start of the trail and 2 edge of Botanical gardens.

26-08: 2 at the first part of the trail.

Cinereus Tit *Parus cinereus*

A total of 3 at the edge of the Botanical gardens and also at the Golf Course.

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*

24-08: 1 in flock between Junction and Air Panas, Gunung Gede.

Blue Nuthatch *Sitta azurea*

Daily observed.

Horsfield's Babbler *Malacocincla sepiaria*

Daily observed at Gunung Gede, at the lower part of the trail.

Javan [Chestnut-backed] Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus montanus*

A total of 8 on 2 dates between junction and Air Panas, Gunung Gede.

Pygmy Cupwing *Phoebastria pusilla*

Heard at Gunung Gede on 2 dates but I did not try to tape it in.

Eye-browed Wren-Babbler *Napothera epilepidota*

24/25-08: heard at Gunung Gede.

***WHITE-BIBBED BABBLER** *Stachyris thoracica*

23-08: At least 10 showed nicely in the early morning in the first stretch of the trail.

Not seen the days after.

***CRESCENT-CHESTED BABBLER** *Cyanoderma melanothorax*

Commonly and daily observed at Gunung Gede.

***RUFIOUS-FRONTED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** *Garrulax rufifrons* **Near-Threatened**

My most important species on the mountain as I had missed it in the 90-ties.

24-08: Nice views of 3 in a large flock between the junction and Air Panas.

***PIED SHRIKE-BABBLER** *Pteruthius flaviscapis*

Some nice views on 2 dates.

***TRILLING SHRIKE-BABBLER** *Pteruthius aenobarbus*

Recorded on 3 dates at Gunung Gede.

***JAVAN FULVETTA** *Alcippe pyrrhoptera*

Observed Gunung Gede.

***SPOTTED CROCIAS** *Crocius albonotatus* **Near-Threatened**

24-08: 4-5 in the same area as the Laughingthrushes.

Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys*

Regularly heard at Gunung Gede and 1 briefly seen.

White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana*

Heard and a few seen on Gunung Gede.

Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus orientalis*

Observed

***JAVAN BLUE ROBIN** *Cinclidium diana*

Daily at Gunung Gede

***SUNDA FORKTAIL** *Enicurus velatus*

Easily seen around the Waterfall, Gunung Gede.

***JAVAN COCHOA** *Cochoa azurea* **Vulnerable**

23-08: 2 birds heard between the junction and Air Panas.

On the way down 1 male was seen in the same area at middle elevations in a feeding flock.

***JAVAN WHISTLING THRUSH** *Myophonus glaucinus*

Gunung Gede

***SUNDA WARBLER** *Seicercus grammiceps*

Observed Gunung Gede

Mountain Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus trivirgatus*

Mainly observed towards Air Panas, Gunung Gede.

***OLIVE-BACKED TAILORBIRD** *Orthotomus sepium*

Observed twice at Cibodas Botanical gardens.

Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllagates cuculatus*

A total of 6 on 2 dates, Gunung Gede.

***BAR-WINGED PRINIA** *Prinia familiaris*

Observed at Maure Angke.

***JAVAN TESIA** *Tesia superciliaris*

Observed daily at Gunung Gede

Sunda Bush Warbler *Horornis vulcanius*

23-08: 1 further along the trail, above Air Panas.

Indigo Flycatcher *Eumyias indigo*

Observed at Gunung Gede.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra*

Observed on 3 dates at Gunung Gede.

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*

Observed near the boardwalk on 2 dates at Gunung Gede.

***RUFIOUS-TAILED FANTAIL** *Rhipidura phoenicura*

Observed at Gunung Gede.

Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica*

Observed at Maure Angke

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

Maure Angke.

***BLACK-WINGED STARLING** *Acridotheres melanopterus* **Critically Endangered**

26-08: 2 in flight at Maure Angke.

***JAVAN MYNA** *Acridotheres javanicus*

Maure Angke

***WHITE-FLANKED SUNBIRD** *Aethopygia eximia*

Observed on 2 dates, Gunung Gede.

Brown-throated/Plain-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis*

Maure Angke.

Blood-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum sanguinolentum*

25-08: twice a male in the Botanical gardens.

***SCARLET-HEADED FLOWERPECKER** *Dicaeum trochileum*

Maure Angke.

Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus*

Botanical Gardens and Golf Course, Cibodas.

***JAVAN DARK-EYE (Javan Grey-throated White-eye)** *Lophozosterops javanicus*

Daily observed at Gunung Gede.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Observed

PHOTOGRAPHIC IMPRESSION OF THE TRIP



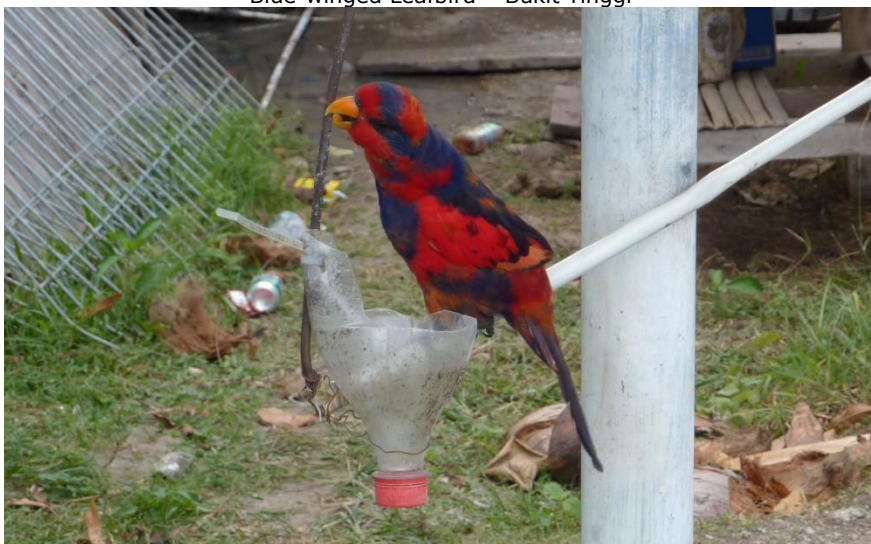
Site of Mountain Peacock-Pheasant at Bukit Tinggi - Malaysia



Mountain Peacock-Pheasant – Bukit Tinggi



Blue-winged Leafbird – Bukit Tinggi



Red & Blue Lory in captivity on Talaud. The species is heavily trapped



Talaud Kingfisher – endemic of Talaud



Hostal/guesthouse in the village of Kokolomboi, Peleng



Viewpoint above Kokolomboi. Still some nice patches of undisturbed forest



Banggai Scops Owl – Kokolomboi. Endemic



Sula Hanging-Parrot - Kokolomboi. Endemic



Banggai Crow – Kokolomboi. Endemic



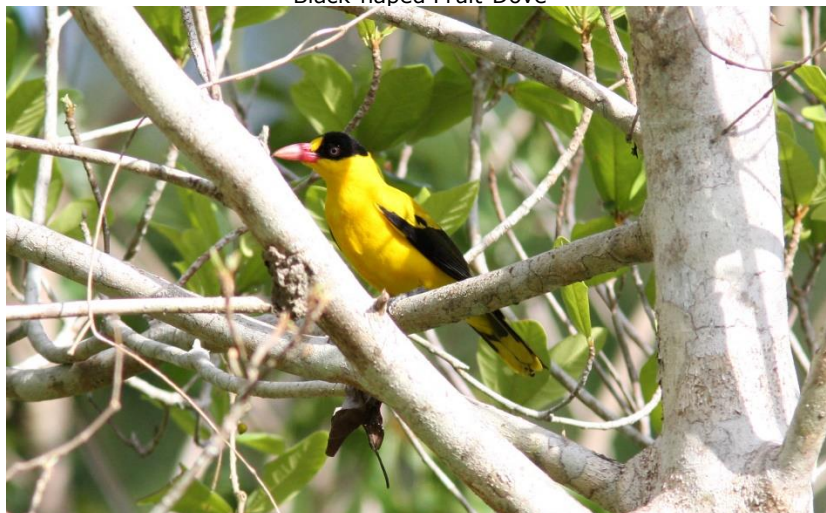
Helmeted Myna – Kokolomboi. Endemic



Labi, Petrus and his dog. With the help of the dog we tried to flush Sula Scrubfowl near Salakan, Peleng



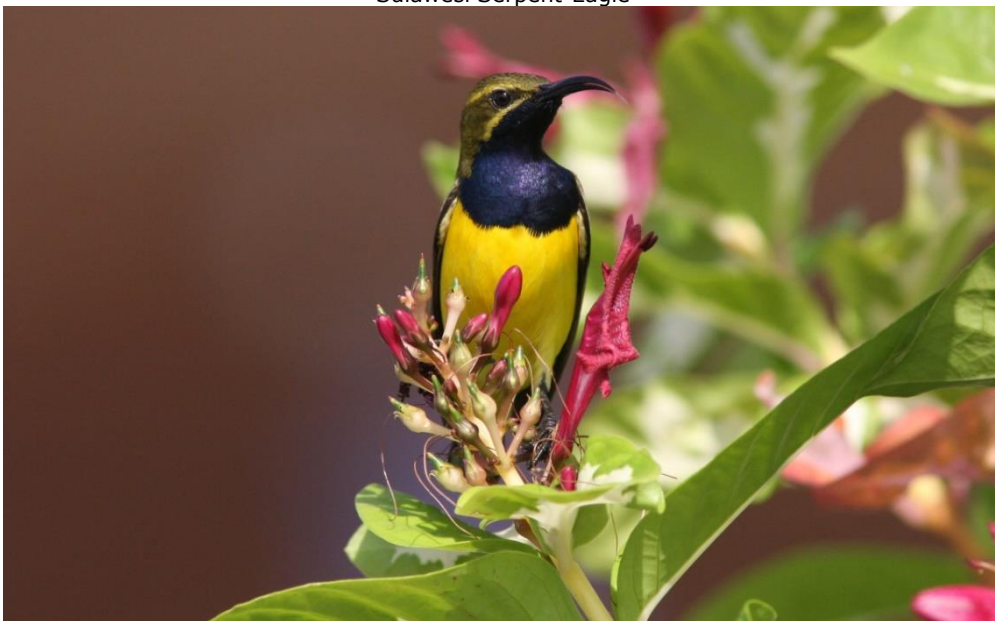
Black-naped Fruit-Dove



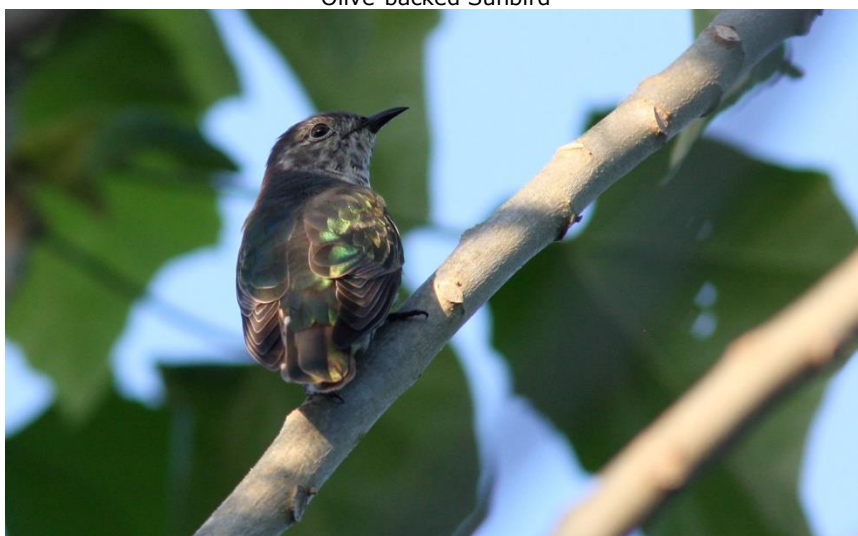
Black-naped Oriole *ssp. frontalis*. Rather distinctive bird



Sulawesi Serpent-Eagle



Olive-backed Sunbird



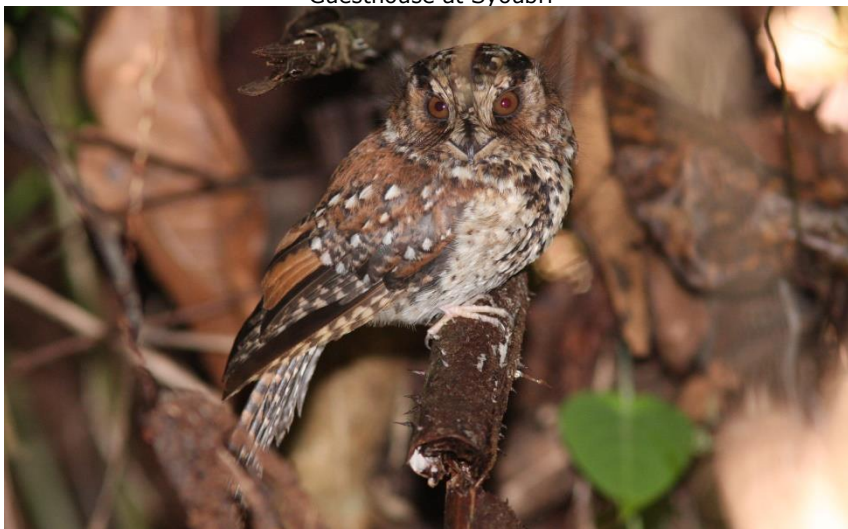
Little Bronze Cuckoo



Old logging Road near Syoubri, Arfak Mountains



Guesthouse at Syoubri



Mountain Owlet-Nightjar



Trail up the mountain



Forest interior, Arfak Mountains



View from the so-called Paradigalla site



So-called "German Camp"



Bower of Vogelkop Bowerbird



Zeth (right) and his crew



Feline Owlet-Nightjar



Black Sicklebill - male on his display trunk



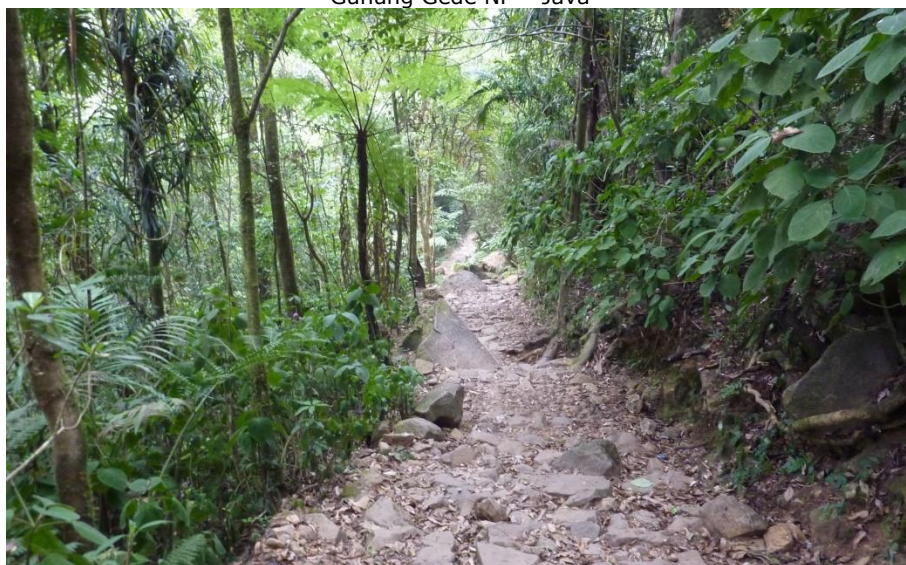
Black Sicklebill displaying



Adult Dwarf Cassowary with chick- absolute highlight of the trip



Gunung Gede NP – Java



Trail up the Gunung Gede



Chestnut-backed Scimitar-Babbler



Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush - Endemic



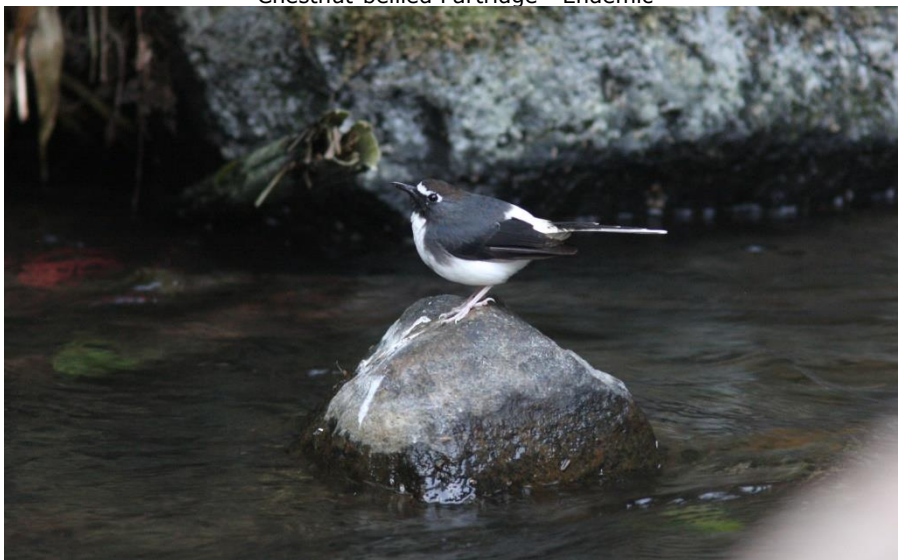
Javan trogon - Endemic



Javan Langgur



Chestnut-bellied Partridge - Endemic



Sunda Forktail - Endemic



Snowy-browed Flycatcher



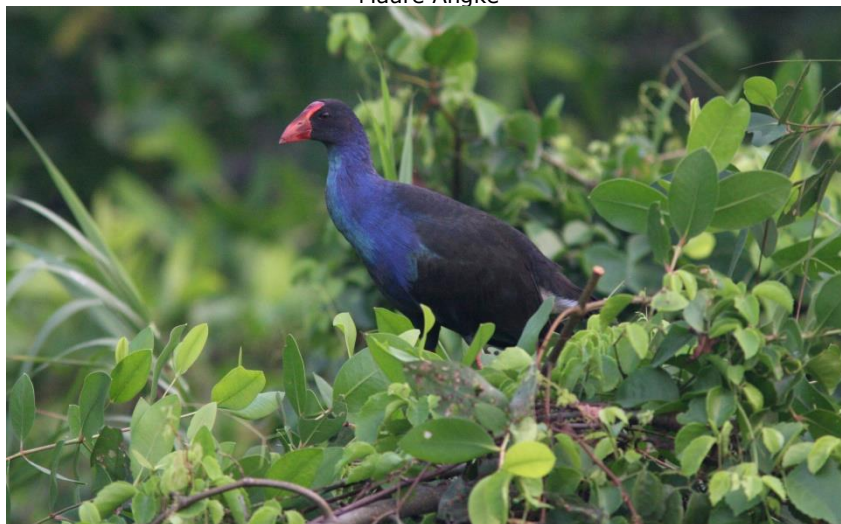
Rufous-tailed Fantail - Endemic



Javan Fulvetta - Endemic



Maure Angke



Black-backed Swamphen



White-browed Crake



Me with Labi and his daughter, Kokolomboi – Peleng on August 10 – 2015

Geldrop November 2015