

lacked the pale rump of this species. Several juveniles were also present indicating possible local breeding. Additionally, of a loose flock of 40 birds seen in dry grassland along the north coast near Utan, 75% of birds were Black faced Munia with 25% being Javan Munia and a single Pale headed Munia. Again this flock contained several juvenile birds. These would appear to be the first records of Javan Munia from Surnbawa, previously only recorded as far east as Lombok. The presence of this species and possible competition with other endemic Munias is perhaps worthy of further study.

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## TWENTIETH CENTURY RECORDS OF THE ROSE CROWNED FRUIT DOVE ON FLORES.

by

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The Row crowned Fruit dove *Ptilinopus regina* is a widespread resident throughout coastal areas of northern and eastern Australia (Higgins & Davies 1996) and there is one confirmed record from Dari Island, southern Papua New Guinea (Coates 1985). This species is also widespread in the southern Moluccas and Nusa Tenggara particularly on small islands, and is locally common in lowland forest, woodland and scrub (Coates & Bishop 1997). The only Flores record, however, appears to be that of Everett in Hartert (1897) although Schmutz (1977) reported several additional records. These were at Nisar (250 m on January 9, 1977, 8°47' S, 119°58' E), above Nunang at 1000 m (8°46' S, 120°03' E), and Golo Lusang (1600 m on May 1, 1976, 8°35' S, 120°30' E). Given the preference of the Rose crowned Fruit dove for lowland habitat, the latter two records seem unlikely.

Since 1986 numerous birders and two extended University expeditions have carried out relatively comprehensive bird surveys, especially in the wetter and more heavily forested west of Mares (e.g. Gibbs 1990, Verbelen 1993, Butchart *et al.* 1993, Pilgrim *et al.* 1997, Verhoeve and Holmes 1999). Row crowned Fruit dove was not recorded by these observers.

In 1998 a Birdlife/PKA/WWF tow collected biological and natural resource use data at 17 forest areas (patches) on Flores to review the protected area network. Forest areas surveyed were representative of the remaining environmental variation, with sampling from sea level to 2100 m, on available lithologies with natural habitat (alluvium almost entirely converted to agriculture), from the

west of the island to the east. Casual perusal of the location of previous biological surveys on Flores revealed that the east had been especially poorly covered. Survey gaps in central Flores (Ende district) were also highlighted by Jepson and Bowe (1997) and early drafts of Verhoeve and Holmes (1999). Consequently we concentrated our survey effort on central and east Flores (Keli Mutu, Mausambi, Egon Ilimudu [including Patiahu], Ili Wengot and Lewotobi forest areas). From these surveys we report two 1998 Flores records of the Rose crowned Fruit dove, at Mausambi and Patiahu. Together with those of Schmutz (1977) which we consider acceptable, these appear to be the only records of this species for Flores during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

**Mausambi** (8°30' S, 121°44' E). On September 3, a single small green pigeon was observed by DL for several minutes, within 12m, sitting in the sub canopy of Dry Deciduous Forest. The pigeon was immediately identified as a Rose crowned Fruit dove, confirmed by a later check with Coates and Bishop (1997). Habitat was Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest (on volcanic substrate) dominated by *Albizia procera*, *Albizia falcataria*, *Ficus variegata*, *Clerodendron villosum* and *Buchanania arborescens* (W. Prayitno, WWF Indonesia pers.comm) at an elevation of 120 m. The previous day CT and RD had brief views of a small pigeon flying between large *Tamarindus indicus* trees in degraded Beach Forest. Identification was not possible at the time, however with the clarity afforded by hindsight this bird was most likely a Rose crowned Fruit dove.

**Patiahu** (8°35' S, 122°30' E). On September 9, two Rose crowned Fruit doves were observed by RD in identical habitat to Mausambi (about 60 km to the west), though occurring on limestone substrate at an elevation of 40 m.

The species has now been recorded at four sites on Flores, namely Nisar, Mausambi, Maumere (Hartert's Flores record) and Patiahu. The records by Schmutz (1977) for Nunang and Golo Lusang still require confirmation. Perhaps remarkably the Rose crowned Fruit dove has not been recorded elsewhere on Nusa Tenggara islands of the inner volcanic arc (from Lombok through to Alor), and may with diligent searching eventually be found there as our observations attest.

### Acknowledgments

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## BREEDING RECORDS FROM FLORES

by

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The late Father Jilis Verheijen (see p. 179) published a major report on breeding seasons of birds on Flores in 1964, with more than 2000 records from 100 species (Verheijen 1964). Below we note additional breeding records from a seven month BirdLife/PKA/WWF survey of the island of Flores during 1998. Of these, Verheijen (1964) did not list records for the Metallic Pigeon, Dark backed Imperial Pigeon, Timor Leaf warbler or Russet backed Jungle Flycatcher

**Metallic Pigeon** *Columba vidensis*. One on the nest at Keli Mutu (1,550m, 8°46'S, 121°49'E) on 23 to 26 Aug. The nest was only one metre off the ground, made in dense shrub (Siam Weed sad Bracken) in seasonal montane forest dominated by open stands of *Casuarina junghuhniana*. There was a single egg on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Dark backed Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula lacernulata*. Two nests were observed at Keli Mutu (1,530 m) in seasonal montane forest on 24 to 26 Aug. Both were in *Casuarina* trees (10 and 15 m above ground), with pigeons sitting on the nest.

**Flycatcher** *Gerygone sulphurea* One sitting a nest at Mausambi (sea Wal, 8°30'S, 121°45'E) in degraded beach forest on 30 Aug. The nest was 4 m above ground in a large *Tamarindus* tree.