

## NEW AND INTERESTING RECORDS OF BIRDS IN WALLACEA

by

K. David Bishop

(Final draft received 5 November 1991)

### Introduction

During ten years (1981-1990) of birdwatching throughout the islands of Wallacea, I have accumulated a number of records which supplement and compliment information presented in White & Bruce's (1986) annotated checklist of the birds of this region and in subsequent publications. With the impending publication of a handguide to the birds of the region (Bishop & Coates in prep), it was considered important to document these observations prior to their inclusion in such a publication.

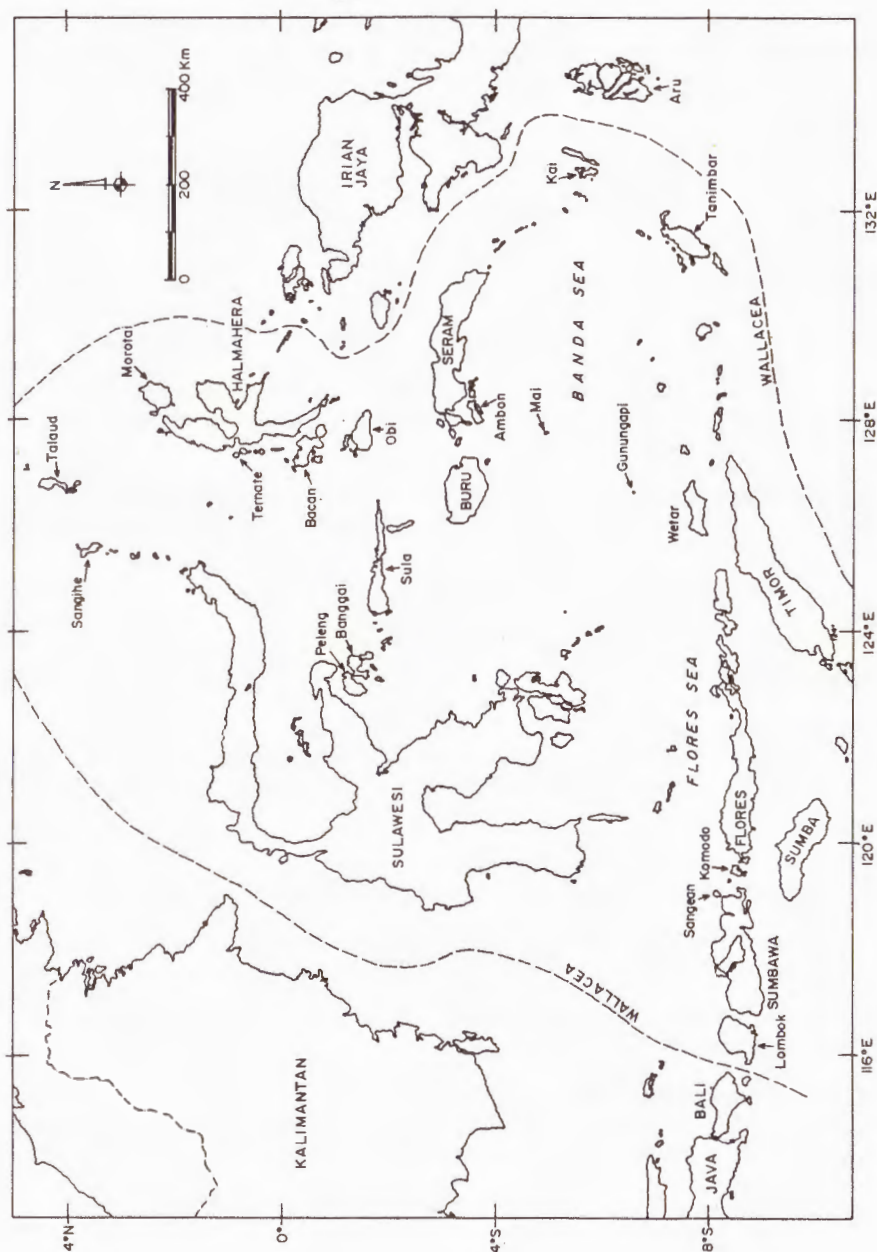
Unless otherwise stated, all records under individual species accounts represent new island, archipelago and/or regional records. White & Bruce (1986) in some instances failed to define the location within a given island group where a species had been recorded. For example, Talaud is not an island but a group of three islands: Karakelong, Kabruang and Salebabu, in addition to a number of small islets. Similarly, the Banggai Islands are composed of Peleng, Banggai and Labobo islands in addition to small islets. Some records are therefore included here in order to define more exactly species' distributions within such island groups. Other records extend the known dates of migrants in Wallacea, or present breeding records. Unless otherwise stated, all records are the author's. Additional records are cited by observer's initials (see acknowledgements).

The paper is presented in three parts. Part I presents seabird records, other than those from Gunung Api; the breeding colony of this island has been described by de Korte (1984, 1991), and an update will appear in a later paper (Bishop, in prep.). Part II covers miscellaneous observations from the larger islands, while Part III provides preliminary lists of birds of small islands for which no ornithological data exist.

Figure 1 shows the main island groups of Wallacea; the co-ordinates will assist in the identification of localities that are too small to depict at small scale. Co-ordinates of named localities are derived from Anon (1982) or, failing that, by reference to the series ONC 1:1,000,000 topographic maps.

Nomenclature follows the KUKILA checklist. For the sake of brevity, the frequently cited White & Bruce (1986) is abbreviated to 'W & B 1986' in the species accounts. Dates of records are given either under the individual species accounts, or under the introduction to each island where the date of visit is recorded.

Figure 1. Map of the Wallacean Region



### Acknowledgements

The contributions of Harry Adamson (HA), Paul Andrew, the late Tim Andrews (TA), Brian Coates (BC), Dana Gardner (DG), Derek Holmes (DH), Steve Hilty and Frank Lambert (FL) are greatly appreciated. I am most grateful to William Rodenberg and his family for their generous hospitality during a two-month stay in NE Sulawesi, and for inviting me on their sojourn through the Banggai islands. I also wish to thank Victor Emmanuel Nature Tours Inc. and the numerous clients who have participated in my tours to this region for their invaluable contributions; working with Society Expeditions Inc. enabled me to visit remote localities which would otherwise be very difficult of access.

I am grateful to the following museums for access to their collections: American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), British Museum (Natural History) Sub-Dept. of Ornithology, Museum Zoologicum Bogoriense and the Netherlands National Natural History Museum. The Frank Chapman fund generously enabled me to study specimens at the AMNH, and the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology kindly provided additional funds for work in the field. I owe a considerable debt of gratitude to the librarians of the Australian National Museum and British Museum (Natural History), Sub-Dept. of Ornithology, for their generous assistance.

Finally I am most grateful to the Government of Indonesia's Directorate-General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (PHPA) for permission to visit its national parks and nature reserves.

## Part I - Seabirds

### Species Accounts

#### **Bulwer's Petrel** *Bulweria bulwerii*

- 14 June 1990. One bird seen at close range in the south Banda Sea. (BC & FL). This is only the fourth record of this little known species in Wallacean waters (W & B 1986, Kukila 1990).

#### **Streaked Shearwater** *Calonectris leucomelas*

- 19 Sept 1989. c.40 individuals moving mainly east to west c.2 km off the north coast of Sumbawa.
- 15 June 1990. A flock of c.100 - 150, with c.150 Short-finned Pilot Whale *Globicephala macrorhynchus*, Wilson's Storm-petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*, Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus*, Red-footed Boobies *Sula sula*, and Greater and Lesser Frigatebirds *Fregata minor* and *F. ariel*, was observed attending a large shoal of fish in the rich upwellings off the NW coast of Wetar.

#### **Wedge-tailed Shearwater** *Puffinus pacificus*

Although apparently present in Wallacean waters throughout the year, there are surprisingly few published records of this species for the region.

- 19 Sept 1989. From dawn to c.14.00 h numerous (c.200 total) dark morph birds flying east to west c.2 km off the north coast of Sumbawa and Komodo.
- 24 Sept 1989. Scattered individuals (c.30 total) between the islands of Obi and Ternate to the west of Bacan and its satellite islands.
- 15 June 1990. 2-3 dark morph birds with a large mixed fishing flock (see under Streaked Shearwater) in the south Banda Sea off NW Wetar.

**Wilson's Storm-petrel** *Oceanites oceanicus*

- 15 June 1990. A group of 2-3 birds with the mixed fishing flock described above. Thereafter, scattered individuals observed regularly c.5 km off the south coast of Flores and more frequently along the south coast of Komodo and Sumbawa, occasionally in groups of 5-10.
- There are few published records of this species for Wallacean waters. Current information indicates that it is a passage migrant and that large numbers may winter in the region (see Cadee 1985).

**White-faced Storm-petrel** *Pelagodroma marina*

- 18 June 1990. Seven individuals seen well, albeit briefly, flying very close to the ship, off the south coast of Sumbawa (HA, BC, FL). These observations represent the first published record of this species in Wallacea and only the second record (the first since 1930) in Indonesia (see Marle & Voous 1988). The dispersal of the species is imperfectly known and these birds were presumably Australian breeders which had drifted off course from what is thought to be their normal route north-west to the rich up-wellings in the Arabian Sea (Harrison 1983).

**Matsudaira's Storm-petrel** *Oceanodroma matsudairae*

- 15 June 1990. At least three birds seen well as they followed in the wake of the ship midway between Gunungapi and the island of Wetar, for about two hours. Although the first published record of this species in the Banda Sea, these observations together with previous records (see W&B 1986) suggest that Wallacean waters may be important non-breeding feeding grounds for this little known pelagic species.

**Red-footed Booby** *Sula sula*

- 19 Sept 1989. c.15 individuals (75% immatures) recorded from dawn to 14.00 h along the north coast of Sumbawa.
- 12-19 June 1990. Individuals and loosely associated groups (<20 per group) observed daily between Gunungapi and NW Wetar and along the south coast of Flores, Komodo and Sumbawa.

**Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*

With the exception of the Sulawesi region (see Kukila 1990), there are few published records of this species in Wallacea.

- 24 April 1984. >25 in various plumage states midway between Ternate and Sidangoli, Halmahera (0°25'N, 127°23'E).
- 22 Oct 1987. A group of >10 in basic plumage at the same location.



- 19 Sept 1989. Scattered groups of 5-20 birds in basic plumage seen regularly from dawn to 14.00 h along the north coast of Sumbawa and Komodo.
- 24 Sept 1989. Groups of 5-20 occasionally seen en route from Obi to Ternate via the west coast of Bacan.

**Pomarine Jaeger** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

- 19 Sept 1989. Three individuals flying west along the north coast of Sumbawa and off the south coast of Sangean. These individuals were seen well and could be confidently identified as this species (overall large size, robust build and deep belly were clearly apparent and are diagnostic in the absence of the characteristic tail feathers). Many other unidentified jaegers *Stercorarius* sp were also observed in groups of 3-5 regularly throughout the morning at the same time and location as the above (06.00 to 14.00 h). A flock of c.50 jaegers flying close inshore to the north coast of Komodo was particularly noteworthy. However, their identification was not conclusive. Some individuals exhibited features characteristic of Arctic Jaeger *S. parasiticus*, a species for which there is only one previous Wallacean record (Kukila 1990).

**White-winged Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*

- 21 May 1986. A flock of c.20 'marsh terns' including one *C. leucopterus* in almost complete breeding plumage, c.500 m off the east coast of Karakelong, near the village of Liriung, Talaud Is (03°56'N, 126°41'E).
- 21 May 1990. One in breeding plumage foraging over rice fields with numerous other unidentified 'marsh terns', near Hasanuddin airport, Ujung Pandang, South Sulawesi (5°04'S, 119°33'E). Both records are exceptionally late dates for this passage migrant in Wallacea.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

- 24 April 1984. A flock of c.20 fishing c.1 km off the coast, near Sidangoli, Halmahera (0°25'N, 127°23'E).
- 21 Oct 1988. A flock of c.20 fishing at the edge of coastal mangroves near Sidangoli, Halmahera (TA).
- 8 June 1990. A flock of c.20 in flight c.2 km off the east coast of Halmahera (01°25'N, 128°21'E).

There are no recent published records of this species for Maluku (W & B 1986).

**Black-naped Tern** *Sterna sumatrana*

- 30 April 1988. At least 1,000 birds flushed from a rocky stack near Komodo (TA).

**Bridled Tern** *Sterna anaethetus*

- 8 June 1986. A single adult bird among a large flock of 'crested terns' near the village of Oipaha, south-west coast of Timor.
- 30 April 1988. Nine on floating debris between Sumbawa and Komodo (TA).
- 19 Sept 1989. Scattered individuals recorded from 06.00 to 14.00 h along the north coast of Sumbawa and Komodo.

- 24 sept 1989. A total of c.100 individuals between Obi and Ternate via the west coast of Bacan.
- 14 June 1990. Ones and twos fishing a few kilometres from the north-west coast of Wetar.

**Lesser Crested Tern** *Sterna bengalensis*

- 23 April 1988. A single inshore near Labuan, Lombok (TA).

**Brown Noddy** *Anous stolidus*

- 7 Oct 1988. c.200 in a large mixed feeding flock at the mouth of Taluti Bay, south coast of Seram (TA).

## Part II - Miscellaneous Observations

Except for the Little Grebe, species are described by islands.

**Red-throated Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

There are few records of this species in Wallacea. The following observations indicate that the species may be more common and widespread than previously perceived.

- 27 Aug 1983. A group of 17 on Lake Laguna, Ternate (00°45'N, 127°21'E).
- 11 June 1986. At least four birds in breeding plumage, Kadumbal marsh, NE Sumba (09°40'S, 120°17'E).
- 22 July 1987. c.6 birds in breeding plumage and displaying, Danau Tolire, Ternate (00°50'N, 127°18'E), (DH).
- 20 March 1988. One pair (pers obs with J.M. Diamond) displaying at Lake Ngadi (05°34'S, 132°45'E), Pulau Dolok, Kai Is. Local informants also reported a small grebe from Lake Nglingoff, Pulau Roa.
- 29 June 1989. A group of c.30, including many adults in breeding plumage, on a small, un-named, freshwater pond in alang-alang *Imperata cylindrica* grassland, near Waingapu, Sumba (09°41'S, 120°13'E).
- 6 July 1989. One in breeding plumage, Danau Rana Mese, W Flores (08°39'S, 120°33'E).

## BANGGAI ISLANDS

**Banggai Island :**

A coralline limestone island with no significant hills but nevertheless rugged terrain. Extensive areas of limestone karst littered with sinkholes and rough, jagged rock made walking difficult if not dangerous. The entire island has been severely damaged by logging activities and virtually no original forest remains. Observations were made near the large village of Banggai (01°34'S, 123°30'E) on 10 to 14 Nov 1981 and near the village of Mataga on 14 and 15 Nov 1981. Most observations are from the coast, occasionally to c.5 km inland, in secondary woodland, mangrove forest, scrub and native gardens.

**Australian Pelican** *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

Two to three individuals observed along the coast near the town of Banggai.

**Woolly-necked Stork** *Ciconia episcopus*

Single bird soaring over forest near Mataga.

**Spotted Kestrel** *Falco moluccensis*

A pair over secondary woodland near Mataga.

**Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica*

Two birds, probably a pair, brought in by Banggai villagers. Plumage of the two birds was very similar although one exhibited a slightly greyer forehead, brighter red bill and slightly browner head and neck. Legs: pink-red; Iris: dark brown.

**Needletail** *Hirundapus* sp.

A flock of six over coastal forest near the town of Banggai.

**Black-billed Kingfisher** *Pelargopsis melanorhyncha*

A pair of birds regularly fishing from a tiny islet in the midst of busy Banggai harbour. Unusually demonstrative behaviour for this normally retiring species.

**Crow** *Corvus* sp.

Scattered individuals near the village of Banggai. For a discussion of crows in the Banggai Islands, see below under Peleng Island.

**White-eye** *Zosterops* (cf *chloris*)

Birds with a notably large white eye-ring observed near the village of Banggai.

**Black-faced Munia** *Lonchura molucca* - Banggai village.**Peleng Island :**

Observations were made on the morning of 8 Nov 1981 near the village of Pongding-Pongding (01°15'S, 123°26'E) and from mid-afternoon on 8 to 10 Nov 1981 at Luksagu village (01°16'S, 123°26'E), both on Peleng's north coast. All observations were made on or close to the coast in secondary woodland, scrubby regrowth, remnant degraded forest patches, native gardens, coconut plantations and tall *Rhizophora* sp mangrove forest. As on Banggai Island, all primary forest appears to have been cut and the ensuing slash-and-burn farming and clearance for cash crops has created a much degraded environment.

**Australian Pelican** *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

A single adult captured in 1980 was maintained in captivity by villagers at Luksagu, who reported that other individuals had been seen occasionally nearby.

**Great Egret** *Casmerodius albus*

A single bird in non-breeding plumage in flight along the beach, Ponding-Ponding.

**Black Eagle** *Ictinaetus malayensis*

A single adult hunting over remnant forest at Luksagu.

**Oriental Hobby** *Falco severus*

A single adult bird circling, swift-like, over coastal coconut plantation; Ponding-Ponding.

**Sunda/Grey Teal** *Anas gibberifrons/gracilis*

Two birds captured on a swamp forest pool were brought to the author at Luksagu. Unfortunately their specific identity was not determined.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

A single bird on the beach, Luksagu.

**Pink-necked Green Pigeon** *Treron vernans*

A single male in coastal secondary woodland, Ponding-Ponding.

**Slender-billed Cuckoo-dove** *Macropygia amboinensis*

Two birds in flight in a coastal coconut plantation, Ponding-Ponding. One calling, then flushed from remnant tree along a logging road in coastal forest, Luksagu.

**Black-naped Fruit-dove** *Ptilinopus melanospila*

Common (20-50), foraging in the lower canopy of tall mangrove forest. Most active during the late afternoon. Mangrove forest appeared to be an important roosting site for these and many other species of birds at Luksagu.

**White/Pied Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula luctuosa/bicolor*

A flock of c60 flew to a small islet near the village of Luksagu. Numerous small groups of 2-6 were seen moving to and from the canopy of tall mangrove forest, also near Luksagu.

**Ornate Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus ornatus*

Heard frequently and seen occasionally in fast-moving groups of 2-5 in scrubby coastal coconut plantations, Ponding-Ponding. Also recorded regularly in tall mangroves and secondary woodland near Luksagu. Many individuals kept as pets in native villages.

**Golden-mantled Racquet-tail** *Prioniturus platurus*

Ones and twos occasionally heard in tall mangroves near Luksagu.

**Blue-backed Parrot** *Tanygnathus sumatranus*

Two in scrubby coastal coconut plantations, Ponding-Ponding. Two in mangrove forest, Luksagu.



**Grey-rumped Tree-swift** *Hemiprocne longipennis*

Regularly seen during the late afternoon in groups of six, hawking within tall mangrove forest at Luksagu. One pair observed copulating, both birds screaming loudly, the male atop the female with wings fully extended. Copulation lasted about three seconds.

**Glossy Swiftlet** *Collocalia esculenta*

Approximately 20 pairs nesting in a small limestone cave behind the village of Luksagu. Most nests were attended by two adults and contained two eggs.

**Collared Kingfisher** *Halcyon chloris*

Frequently heard, and individuals observed in mangrove forest, rice fields and secondary woodland, Luksagu.

**Sacred Kingfisher** *Halcyon sancta*

A single bird in very fresh plumage (clear colours, slight barring on upper breast) brought in by a villager, Luksagu.

**Sulawesi Triller** *Lalage leucopygialis* - Luksagu.**Crow** *Corvus* sp.

A group of four crows seen in flight over Ponding-Ponding and three birds chasing one another in mangroves near the village of Luksagu. The only *Corvus* species recorded to date from the Banggai Islands is the Banggai Crow *C. unicolor*. However, this endemic species, known from just two type specimens, is unknown in life and the exact island from which it was collected within the Banggai archipelago remains unknown. Although the identity of these crows must unfortunately remain unresolved, these observations may refer to Slender-billed Crow *C. enca* which would be an addition to the avifauna of the Banggai Islands.

**Grey-streaked Flycatcher** *Muscicapa griseisticta*

One bird, 8 m high in tall coastal mangroves, Luksagu.

**White-breasted Wood-swallow** *Artamus leucorhynchus*

Ponding-Ponding.

**Brown-throated Sunbird** *Anthreptes malacensis*

A pair attending a nest on the side of a coconut palm in scrubby secondary woodland/coconut plantation, Ponding-Ponding.

**Olive-backed Sunbird** *Nectarinia jugularis*

Ponding-Ponding and Luksagu.

**Starling** *Aplonis* sp

Starlings, either *Aplonis minor* or *A. panayensis*, were regularly observed in and around coastal villages, secondary woodland, scrub and mangroves near Ponding-Ponding and Luksagu. (Separation of these two species in the field is extremely difficult).

**Helmeted Myna** *Basilornis galeatus*

A pair foraging noisily in the lower canopy of tall coastal mangroves near Luksagu.

**SANGIHE** (03°26'N, 125°34'E).

I visited Sangihe from 16 to 19 May 1986 (the following three observations are dated 16 May). Observations were made in and around the capital Tahuna, on nearby hills, and on the slopes of the active volcano Gunung Awu. Habitats included dense tree-crop plantations, a little secondary woodland, and scrub.

**Spotted Kestrel** *Falco moluccensis*

Single adult female hunting over scrub at the edge of Naha airport.

**Golden Bulbul** *Hypsipetes affinis*

The endemic subspecies *platenae*, previously known from just two specimens, was observed commonly in secondary woodland and mixed tree crop plantations.

**Elegant Sunbird** *Aethopyga duyvenbodei*

A group of four female plumaged birds and one male calling and huddling together, during the late afternoon, within a dense bamboo thicket in secondary woodland, midway up Gunung Awu. This appears to be the first published field observation of this little known endemic. No other individuals of this species were encountered during three subsequent days of intensive search on the island, suggesting that the species is indeed extremely rare and, unlike other members of its genus, unable to adapt to man-made habitats. This sunbird may now be one of the most endangered species in Wallacea.

**TALAUD ISLANDS**

Observations were conducted from 20 to 22 May 1986 mainly in a mosaic of coastal cultivation, scrub, secondary woodland and remnant forest patches behind the village of Liriung (03°56'N, 126°41'E) on the island of Salebabu. A brief visit was made to the tiny islets of Pulau Sebra Kecil and Pulau Sebra Besar (03°56'N, 126°41'E) and to Tule village (04°01'N, 126°48'E) on the east coast of Karekelong, on 21 May.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* - Pulau Sebra Kecil.

**Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus*

Regularly along the coast near Liriung.

**White-bellied Sea-eagle** *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Pulau Sebra Kecil.

**Philippine Scrubfowl** *Megapodius cumingii*

At least one male heard and an active, one-metre high nest-mound noted in dense forest on Pulau Sebra Besar.

**Pink-necked Green Pigeon** *Treron vernans*

A flock of c10, including at least one adult male, feeding at a fig tree *Ficus* sp in a remnant patch of degraded monsoon woodland, near Liriung.

**Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon** *Treron griseicauda*

A flock of c10 feeding at a fig tree *Ficus* sp near Liriung.

**Black-naped Fruit-dove** *Ptilinopus melanospila*

A flock of five foraging in remnant forest trees, at the edge of cultivation, behind Liriung. Also recorded on Pulau Sebra Besar.

**Blue-tailed Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula concinna*

Scattered individuals seen in remnant tall trees in lightly wooded cultivation near Liriung.

**Grey Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula pickeringii*

A group of two to three birds in degraded monsoon woodland within cultivation behind Liriung. This is the first recent observation of this threatened species (see Collar & Andrew 1988) other than on islands off the coast of Sabah, Malaysia.

**Pied Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula bicolor*

A single bird over coastal scrub and coconut plantation near Liriung.

**Red-and-blue Lory** *Eos histrio*

Ones and twos feeding at flowering coconuts along the coast near Tule, Karakelong. A number of captive birds (<20) were kept by villagers who stated this species was common in the forests of the interior.

**Golden-mantled Racquet-tail** *Prioniturus platurus*

Liriung.

**Blue-backed Parrot** *Tanygnathus sumatranus*

A flock of 15 in a remnant patch of forest, Liriung.

**Koel sp.** *Eudynamys* (cf. *scolopacea*)

Heard daily in lightly wooded cultivation behind Liriung.

**Sacred Kingfisher** *Halcyon sancta* - Liriung.**Common Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis* - Liriung.**Red-bellied Pitta** *Pitta erythrogaster*

A single bird calling in a remnant forest patch, Liriung.

**Sulawesi Cicadabird** *Coracina morio* - Liriung.

**Black-naped Oriole** *Oriolus chinensis* - Liriung.

**Philippine Paradise-flycatcher** *Terpsiphone cinnamomea*  
Liriung, a pair in a nutmeg plantation.

**Asian Glossy Starling** *Aplonis panayensis*  
Nesting in coconut palms in coastal villages, Liriung.

**Black Sunbird** *Nectarinia aspasia*  
Pulau Sebra Besar and Liriung.

**Grey-sided Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum celebicum*  
Three immatures in degraded hill forest, Liriung.

## MOROTAI

Brief observations were made on 26 Sept 1989 and 9 June 1990 in mangrove forests and associated scrub on the extreme south coast of the island (02°08'N, 128°15'E).

**Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis*  
Scattered individuals observed in coastal scrub/coconut plantation.

**(Helmeted Friarbird** *Philemon buceroides*)  
On both visits, a bird remarkably similar to this species was heard regularly giving its distinctive vocalisations in tall mangroves and bordering coconut plantations and scrub. Although this is an extraordinary record, all three recorders are familiar with the vocalizations of this and several other friarbirds. If confirmed, this would represent the first record of this species on North Maluku (KDB, FL & BJC).

**Olive-backed Sunbird** *Nectarinia jugularis*

## HALMAHERA

Most observations were made on several visits c.12 km inland from the village of Sidangoli (00°54'N, 127°30'E) on the west coast of the central isthmus of Halmahera. Additional observations were recorded in lowland and limestone hill forest c.12 km north-east of Sidangoli at a site known as Tanah Putih (00°59'N, 127°35'E); in tall lowland forest on the extreme east coast, south of the village of Ake Lamo (01°28'N, 128°41'E); and on the west coast of the northern peninsula above the village of Peot (01°12'N, 127°23'E).

**Darter sp.** *Anhinga melanogaster/novaehollandiae*  
- 27 Aug 1983. A single bird of unidentified species in tall sago swamp forest near Sidangoli. This is the first record of this species for North Maluku.



**Dusky Scrubfowl** *Megapodius freycinet*

According to local informants this species occasionally deposits its eggs in active nesting mounds of the threatened Moluccan Scrubfowl *Eulipoa wallacei* located in the limestone hill forests (c.100-450 m) near Tanah Putih.

**Buff-banded Rail** *Gallirallus philippensis*

- 23 Aug 1983 to 25 Sept 1990. Regularly observed in along-alang grassland near Sidangoli. There appears to be only one previous published record of this species on Halmahera.

**Oriental Plover** *Charadrius veredus*

- 21 Oct 1987. Five birds in basic plumage along a vehicle track within grassland, Sidangoli. This is the second record for Maluku of this uncommon Wallacean passage migrant (W & B 1986).

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

- 27 Sept 1989. A single bird in breeding plumage on the gravel banks of an un-named river c.1 km inland from the east coast, near Ake Lamo.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

- 23 Aug 1983. A single bird with other shorebirds on the beach, Sidangoli.

**Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

- 23 Aug 1983. c.10 with other shorebirds on mudflats, Sidangoli.
- 27 Sept 1989. A single bird in basic plumage along an un-named creek, east coast, near the village of Ake Lamo.

**Slender-billed Cuckoo-dove** *Macropygia amboinensis*

- 25 Aug 1983. A bird flushed from a nest 2 m high in an unidentified palm, c.550 m above Peot. The nest was a flimsy construction of fine twigs and contained a single white egg.

**Pink-necked Green Pigeon** *Treron vernans*

- 21 Oct 1988. A flock of c.20 in coastal mangroves and adjacent along-alang grassland, Sidangoli (TA). This record represents a considerable extension of this species' known range, perhaps reflecting its remarkable capacity to colonise islands.

**Moustached Tree-swift** *Hemiprocne mystacea*

- 30 May 1986. One pair attending a nest situated on an exposed horizontal branch, c.12 m high in an isolated tree within a native garden at the edge of limestone hill-forest, c.100 m, Tanah Putih. Presumably it was this same pair that were attending the same nest throughout the first week of July of the same year.

**Fork-tailed Swift** *Apus pacificus*

- 27 Sept 1989. Two individuals over coastal woodlands, near Ake Lamo (SH). There are few records of this passage migrant in Wallacea.

**Blyth's Hornbill** *Rhyticeros plicatus*

This important, large indicator species remains notably common throughout the lowland and hill forests of Halmahera (intermittent observations August 1984 to June 1990). However, the species has declined noticeably in recent years immediately inland of Sidangoli, where commercial logging in concert with slash-and-burn farming has destroyed extensive areas of lowland and hill forest to c.200 m.

**Drab Whistler** *Pachycephala griseonota*

- 16 Sept 1984 - 25 Sept 1989. Seen and heard regularly during visits to Tanah Putih (subsequently reported pers. comm. and in litt. by a number of observers).

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

- 22 Oct 1987. A flock of c.100 feeding actively in cattle pasture, Sidangoli.
- 27 Sept 1989. Two foraging at the top of the beach, Ake Lamo.

**TERNATE** (00°48'N, 127°24'E)**Great-billed Heron** *Ardea sumatrana*

- 18 June 1989. Single adult in flight along the town waterfront.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

- 29 May 1986. Two birds, probably a pair, belonging to the resident race *ernsti* (readily identified by their dark colouration), calling in flight as they soared low over tree-crop plantations. There was some doubt concerning the previous Ternate record of the species (see W & B 1986), which is listed as the migrant subspecies *calidus*. This is the first record of the resident race in Maluku.

**Grey-streaked Flycatcher** *Muscicapa griseisticta*

- 17 Oct 1988. One on a scrubby hillside, south of the town of Ternate (TA).

**Metallic Starling** *Aplonis metallica*

- 17 Oct 1988. A single bird specifically identified (TA).

**AMBON****Chestnut Munia** *Lonchura malacca*

First recorded Feb. 1986 at Pattimura airport, Ambon (03°42'S, 128°04'E), where a pair was observed building a nest in an ornamental hibiscus hedge. Subsequently observed by various observers (incl. D. Yong per DH) on a number of occasions. As suggested by D. Yong (*in litt* to DH 18 Jan 1989) this population is almost certainly introduced as it differs notably from the Wallacean resident *jagori* in its clear grey-brown instead of black crown, and may be related to Philippine and/or Taiwanese populations (*cf brunneiceps*).

---

**SERAM**

Most observations refer to a point midway between Wahai and the border of Manusela National Park to the east (02°48'S, 129°29'E) during six hours (dawn to midday) on the morning of 11 June 1990. Habitats included coastal scrub, cultivation, secondary woodland and remnant lowland forest patches. Additional observations were made in the south-west of the island from 28 Aug to 1 Sept 1983 in cultivation, secondary woodland and forest to c.1000 m.

**Gurney's Eagle** *Aquila gurneyi*

- 11 June 1990. A single adult soaring over degraded lowland forest. This is only the second confirmed record of this uncommon eagle on Seram (see Bowler & Taylor 1989).

**Oriental Hobby** *Falco severus*

- 11 June 1990. A single adult, seen well and studied at length through a Questar telescope, perched in an exposed dead tree within degraded coastal lowland forest. This is also a second record for Seram (Bowler & Taylor 1989).

**Large-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus macrurus*

- 29 Aug 1983. A single bird attending a 'nest' which contained one mid-brown egg laid in leaf litter on the floor of a ridge within open, lightly disturbed ultrabasic forest at c.690 m, south-west Seram.

**Lazuli Kingfisher** *Halcyon lazuli*

- 11 June 1990. Notably common (at least three pairs observed during six hours) in a mosaic of degraded coastal lowland forest and garden clearings. All previous summaries of the status of this endemic species indicated it was uncommon to rare (see W & B 1986, Collar & Andrew 1988, Bowler and Taylor 1989).

**KOMODO** (08°35'S, 119°30'E)

All observations were made on the island of Komodo within the Komodo National Park. This reserve of 40,729 ha was primarily established to protect the Komodo Dragon *Varanus komodoensis*. However, it also supports some of the least disturbed lowland coastal monsoon woodland remaining in Nusa Tenggara. These woodlands are characterised by such tree species as: *Acacia* sp., *Tamarindus indica*, *Dalbergia latifolia* and *Cassia fistula*. Observations were recorded during October 1984; 20-21 Sept 1989 and 16-17 June 1990.

**Short-toed Eagle** *Circus gallicus*

- 20 Sept 1989. A single bird and later two, soaring and apparently hunting over monsoon woodland.
- 17 June 1990. A single bird again observed at this site. These observations suggest that this species is resident on the island of Komodo as it is on a number of Nusa Tenggara islands.

**Australian Hobby** *Falco longipennis*

- 17 June 1990. A single adult seen well, perched in the canopy of monsoon woodland close to the beach. It is unclear whether this was a migrant or a previously overlooked resident.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

- 19-20 Sept 1989. Scattered individuals foraging along the beach.

**Island Collared Dove** *Streptopelia bitorquata*

- Oct. 1984, and each subsequent visit. Scattered individuals at the edge of dry thorny monsoon woodland.

**Yellow-crested Cockatoo** *Cacatua sulphurea*

- 20 Sept 1989. A total of c 20 observed during one morning in dry coastal monsoon woodland. Komodo National Park may currently provide the best protection for this species which is seriously threatened throughout its restricted range. Only a few individuals were recorded during the visit in 1990.

**Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx basalis*

- 17 June 1990. One individual seen well in monsoon woodland.

**Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina novaehollandiae*

- 21 Sept 1989. Single adult birds in monsoon woodland.

**White-breasted Wood-swallow** *Artamus leucorhynchus*

- 20-21 Sept 1989 and 16-17 June 1990. Ones and twos over coastal grassland with scattered shrubs and trees.

**Brown Honeyeater** *Lichmera indistincta*

- 20-21 Sept 1989. Scattered individuals in dry thorny woodland.

**Olive-backed Sunbird** *Nectarinia jugularis*

- 21 Sept 1989. A pair feeding at a flowering tree along with Flame-breasted and Brown-throated Sunbirds *N. solaris* and *Anthreptes malacensis* and Black-fronted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum igniferum*.

**Flame-breasted Sunbird** *Nectarinia solaris*

- 21 Sept 1989. See under *N. jugularis*. Also recorded 17 June 1990.

**FLORES**

Except where otherwise stated, records are from Lewotobi village and surrounds (08°35'S, 122°40'E). This area of Flores, lying east of the volcano Keli Mutu, has been little if at all



explored ornithologically. Given the paucity of published information on the birds of Flores, the following list, compiled during just a few hours on two separate occasions, 21 Sept 1989 and 17 June 1990, provides important basic distributional information. Observations were recorded in coastal monsoon and secondary woodland, scrub and cultivation to within 2 km of the village of Lewotobi.

**Great-billed Heron** *Ardea sumatrana*

- 21 Sept 1989. A single bird on the volcanic sand beach at dawn.

**Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus* - 17 June 1990.

**Short-toed Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus*

- 21 Sept 1989. Two birds soaring and hunting over scrubby woodland c.200 m above sea level.

**Spotted Kestrel** *Falco moluccensis*

- 21 Sept 1989. 2-3 pairs hunting over scrub, cultivation and coconut plantations.

**Pacific Black Duck** *Anas superciliosa*

- 06 July 1989. A flock of c.200 on Danau Rana Mese (08°39'S, 120°33'E), in montane forest, is an unusually large flock for this species in Nusa Tenggara. Unfortunately they were being hunted with shot-guns.

**Brown Quail** *Coturnix ypsilophora*

- 21 Sept 1989. A covey of three erupted from low scrub in an overgrown garden.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

- 21 Sept 1989. A single bird on the beach.

**Barred Cuckoo-dove** *Macropygia unchall*

- 21 Nov 1984. A single adult male in scrubby secondary woodland, c.1100 m, south slope of Gunung Rana Aka (08°38'S, 120°31'E). This is only the second record of this species on Flores (see W & B 1986).

**Spotted Dove** *Streptopelia chinensis*

- both visits. Scattered individuals in the village and surrounding scrub and cultivation.

**Barred Dove** *Geopelia maugei* - 21 Sept 1989.

**Flores Green Pigeon** *Treron floris*

- 21 Sept 1989. Notably shy. Scattered ones and twos in remnant tall trees within monsoon woodland.

**Rainbow Lorikeet** *Trichoglossus haematodus*

- 21 Sept 1989. A group of c.6 seen in scrubby monsoon woodland.

**Collared Kingfisher** *Halcyon chloris* - 21 Sept 1989.

**Sacred Kingfisher** *Halcyon sancta* - 21 Sept 1989.

**Rainbow Bee-eater** *Merops ornatus* - 21 Sept 1989.

**Common Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis* - 21 Sept 1989.

**Elegant Pitta** *Pitta elegans*

- 21 Sept 1989. Notably common in monsoon woodland including one pair calling from scrubby woodland a few yards from the edge of the village. Although the middle of the dry season, birds appeared very territorial, responding aggressively to tape play-back of their calls, suggesting that this is the breeding season. They were noticeably less vocal and territorial during the June visit.

**Pacific Swallow** *Hirundo tahitica* - both visits.

**Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina novaehollandiae* - 21 Sept 1989.

**Large-billed Crow** *Corvus macrorhynchus* - both visits.

**Slender-billed Crow** *Corvus enca* - 21 Sept 1989.

**Wallacean Drongo** *Dicrurus densus*

- 17 June 1990. Two individuals in monsoon woodland.

**Great Tit** *Parus major* - 17 June 1990.

**Pied Bush-chat** *Saxicola caprata* - 21 Sept 1989.

**Russet-capped Tesia** *Tesia everetti*

- both visits. 2-3 individuals heard singing within dry scrubby thickets in a narrow gully behind the village.

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis* - 21 Sept 1989.

**Asian Paradise-flycatcher** *Terpsiphone paradisi*

- both visits. At least one white morph male in monsoon woodland.

**Hill Myna** *Gracula religiosa* - 17 June 1990.

**Flame-breasted Sunbird** *Nectarinia solaris* - 21 Sept 1989.

**Olive-backed Sunbird** *Nectarinia jugularis* - both visits.

**Black-fronted Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum igniferum*

- 21 Sept 1989. Two males singing loudly and behaving very territorially in the sub-canopy of monsoon woodland. Also recorded in June.

**Yellow-spectacled White-eye** *Zosterops wallacei* - 21 Sept 1989.**Lemon-bellied White-eye** *Zosterops chloris* - 21 Sept 1989.**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus* - 17 June 1990.**Black-faced Munia** *Lonchura molucca* - 17 June 1990.**SUMBA**

Unless otherwise stated, all records refer to Kadumbal marsh; an ephemeral freshwater wetland c.15 km to the south-east of the capital Waingapu and c.3 km inland from the coast (09°43'S, 120°30'E). Although heavily grazed by cattle, this wetland appears to be an important seasonal resource for waterbirds.

**Little Black Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

- 11 June 1986. Two observed in flight over the marsh.

**Australian Pelican** *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

- 11 June 1986. Two birds. This is only the second record of this species for Sumba.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

- 11 June 1986. A single adult carrying sticks to a dense reed bed provides evidence that this species breeds on the island. The Purple Heron was previously known on Sumba from just three specimens.

**White-faced Heron** *Egretta novaehollandiae*

- 01 July 1989. One adult attending a stick nest in the crown of a bare *Erythrina* sp. tree, monsoon woodland (c.800 m), near Lewa (09°44'S, 120°00'E).

**Great Egret** *Casmerodius albus*

- 10 June 1986. Two adults in non-breeding plumage.

**Cinnamon Bittern** *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

- 11 June 1986. A single adult.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

- 11 June 1986. A group of 6. This is only the third record of this species in Nusa Tenggara (see Andrew 1986, McKean in Bruce 1987).

**Harrier** *Circus* sp

- 30 June 1989. A single female or immature harrier was observed flying over the marsh during the late afternoon. Although only observed for a short time, it clearly did not resemble any known plumage of the Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*; the only harrier so far recorded from Wallacea (W & B 1986). Generally dark brown with heavy dark streaking on the breast and belly; the rump was not seen. Size and manner of flight in combination with the above characters were strongly reminiscent of a female Swamp Harrier *C. approximans* of New Guinea, Australia and the islands of the South-west Pacific (pers obs). Although not specifically identified, this record is included in order to draw the attention of future observers to the possibility of other species of harriers occurring in Wallacea.

**Wandering Whistling-duck** *Dendrocygna arcuata*

- 11 June 1986. A flock of c.300 is an exceptionally large number for any duck in Nusa Tenggara.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

- 11 June 1986. A single bird in basic plumage.

**White-headed Stilt** *Himantopus leucocephalus*

- 10 June 1986. Group of 8. Only the second Sumba record of this widespread species (see McKean in Bruce 1987).

**Australian Pratincole** *Stiltia isabella*

- 30 June 1989. One adult at the edge of a dried mud pool.

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybridus*

- 11 June 1986. A flock of c.25 in non-breeding plumage (the pale grey mantle concolorous with rump and upper tail coverts was diagnostic) resting on the ground and occasionally flying at the edge of the marsh. This is only the second Sumba record (see McKean in Bruce 1987).

### PART III - PRELIMINARY LISTS OF BIRDS OF SMALL AND ORNITHOLOGICALLY PREVIOUSLY UNEXPLORED ISLANDS

This section records species seen on visits to eight small islands or islets for which there appear to be no previous published ornithological records (see W & B 1986). Although these records pertain to seemingly unimportant and insignificant small islands, their documentation helps provide a more complete picture of the exact distribution of little known and, in some cases, threatened or potentially threatened endemics. These islands may make an important contribution to the conservation of such species in the future.

A brief description of each island's physiography is presented at the beginning of the individual island accounts. Additional information on habitat is included within the species accounts. The co-ordinates will assist in the identification of the islands in Figure 1.



---

Island/Species Accounts

---

## BANGGAI ISLANDS

The Banggai Islands are one of the most poorly studied island groups in Wallacea. The first collector, Heinrich Kuhn, visited in 1884 to 1885 (Ribbe 1889, Meyer and Wiglesworth 1898). C. W. Cursham made a collection of both birds and mammals during visits to Peleng and Banggai in May to July 1895 (Meyer and Wiglesworth 1898). With the exception of two small collections made by W. Kaudern in February 1920 (specimens in the Netherland National Museum) and the missionary Van Den Bergh during 1932 (Nieuwenhuis 1946), there was no further work until J.J. Menden's important expedition from 3 July to 5 September 1938 (Eck 1976). However, although Menden added considerably to our knowledge of the main island, Peleng, many of the Banggai Islands remain ornithologically unexplored. Furthermore, there are no published field observations of the birds of these islands, other than those presented for the main islands of Banggai and Peleng in Part II of this paper.

**Banda Island** (01°44'S, 123°33'E):

A tiny, low-lying, coralline island almost entirely converted to coconut plantations with scattered patches of scrubby secondary woodland. The island was visited on 16 Nov 1981.

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*  
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*  
Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*  
Black-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis megalorhynchus*  
Golden Bulbul *Hypsipetes affinis*  
Starling *Aplonis* sp.  
Black Sunbird *Nectarinia aspasia*

**Lalobo** (01°45'S, 123°20'E):

The smallest of three main Banggai Islands encompassing approximately 80 sq km, Labobo nevertheless appeared to be much less disturbed than either Banggai or Peleng. Although no primary forest was discovered on the island, the mosaic of remnant forest patches, secondary woodland, scrub and native gardens supported a surprisingly large number of species. Observations were made on 17 to 19 Nov 1981 in the vicinity of the village of Lipulalong.

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*  
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*  
Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*  
Sulawesi Serpent-eagle *Spilornis rufipectus* - One or two regularly seen in flight.  
Spotted Kestrel *Falco moluccensis*  
Sula Scrubfowl *Megapodius bernsteinii* - at least two birds giving male-type calls from mangrove forest and thickets within a coconut plantation.

- Greater Sand-plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*  
 Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*  
 Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*  
 Grey-tailed Tattler *Heterscelus brevipes*  
 Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*  
 Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*  
 Black-naped Fruit-dove *Ptilinopus melanospila*  
 Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea*  
 Moluccan Hanging-parrot *Loriculus amabilis* - notably common in coconut plantations where they fed at flowering trees.  
 Golden-mantled Racket-tail *Prioniturus platurus*  
 Moluccan Scopsowl *Otus magicus*  
 Great Eared Nightjar *Eurostopodus macrotis*  
 Grey-rumped Tree-swift *Hemiprocne longipennis*  
 Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*  
 Black-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis melanorhyncha*  
 Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda* - a single individual of the resident subspecies *pelingensis* observed calling from a 3m-tall sapling within a coconut plantation. Photographs held on file by the author document the subspecific identity of this bird.  
 Collared Kingfisher *Halcyon chloris*  
 Kingfisher sp. *Alcedo atthis/meninting*  
 Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*  
 Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*  
 Golden Bulbul *Hypsipetes affinis*  
 Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*  
 Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*  
 Island Monarch *Monarcha cinerascens*  
 Common Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*  
 Wagtail sp. *Motacilla* sp.  
 White-breasted Wood-swallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*  
 Starling *Aplonis* sp.  
 Brown-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis*  
 Black Sunbird *Nectarinia aspasia*  
 Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis*

#### LOLEBA BESAR (02°10'N, 128°13'E)

One of a cluster of numerous small islets located off the south coast of Morotai, North Maluku. All original habitat was cleared many years ago and is now replaced with tall coconut palms and an understorey of dense scrub. Patches of low *Rhizophora* sp mangroves persist in a few places. A brief visit was made there on the morning of 9 June 1990.

---

Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>
White-eyed Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula perspicillata</i>
Eclectus Parrot	<i>Eclectus roratus</i>
Great-billed Parrot	<i>Tanygnathus megalorhynchos</i>
Cuckoo sp.	<i>Cacomantis</i> sp
Moustached Tree-swift	<i>Hemiprocne mystacea</i>
Beach Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon saurophaga</i>
Sacred Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon sancta</i>
Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>
White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina papuensis</i>
Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>
Moluccan Starling	<i>Aplonis mysolensis</i> - small groups entering holes in dead trees.
Black Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia aspasia</i>
Olive-backed Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia jugularis</i>

#### Loleba Kecil (02°10'N, 128°13'E):

Habitat similar to Loleba Besar. A brief visit was made on the afternoon of 26 Sept 1989.

Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
Grey-tailed Tattler	<i>Heteroscelus brevipes</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>
Greater Sand-plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>
Blue-capped Fruit-dove	<i>Ptilinopus monacha</i> - single male in scrubby woodland.
Great-billed Parrot	<i>Tanygnathus megalorhynchos</i> - three in scrubby woodland.
Beach Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon saurophaga</i> - one adult in stunted <i>Rhizophora</i> sp mangroves.
White-breasted Wood-swallow	<i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>
Black Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia aspasia</i>

#### DAGASULI (02°10', 127°45'E)

The largest of the Loloda Island Group, located off the north-west tip of Halmahera. Birds were recorded in six hours (dawn to midday) on 26 Sept 1989. Habitats included gardens, tall secondary woodland, scrub and coconut plantations.

Lesser Frigatebird	<i>Fregata ariel</i> - 1 male, 1 female, 1 imm. soaring together over the island.
Pacific Baza	<i>Aviceda subcristata</i> - a group of 3-4 soaring over coastal scrub and coconut plantations.
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i> - a pair building a nest in a large Strangler Fig <i>Ficus</i> sp within an active Metallic Starling <i>Aplonis metallica</i> colony.
Spotted Kestrel	<i>Falco moluccensis</i>

- Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula rosacea* - a single adult in scrubby woodland.  
Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus* - notably common in garden regrowth and secondary woodland.  
Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus* - a single adult in secondary woodland and a second bird perched in the mid-storey at the woodland edge.  
Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis* - a single adult in scrub at the edge of a coconut grove.  
Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*  
Collared Kingfisher *Halcyon chloris*  
Common Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis* - a single nearly fledged juvenile begging loudly for food from an isolated Strangler Fig above the village of Dagasuli. Evidence of this species breeding in N. Maluku provides additional support for treating the Purple Dollarbird *E. azureus* as a good species.  
Torresian Crow *Corvus orru*  
Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica* - a nesting colony of > 150 individuals in a large isolated Fig in the midst of cultivation.  
Black Sunbird *Nectarinia aspasia*

**BISA (01°15'S, 127°28'E).**

Bisa comprises an area of approx. 250 sq km of coralline limestone largely covered with monsoon woodland and scattered patches of cultivation along the coast. Extensive mangrove formations were noted at the south-eastern tip of the island. Habitats examined included: secondary coastal woodland, native garden and tall monsoon woodland edge. Bisa lies approx. 2 km north of the island of Obi. There are no mountainous areas on the island although much of the terrain to the west is rugged and hilly. The low-lying, alluvial flats to the east have been extensively cultivated and/or converted to secondary woodland. The ship's schedule permitted just four hours (12.00 - 16.00) exploration of the island's central south coast on 11 June 1990. A few specimens were collected by Doherty during a visit to Obi in September 1897 (Hartert 1903).

- Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* - a pair nesting in degraded coastal woodland.  
Dusky Scrubfowl *Megapodius freycinet*  
Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*  
White-eyed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula perspicillata*  
Violet-necked Lory *Eos squamata*  
Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi*  
Great-billed Parrot *Tanygnathus megalorhynchos*  
Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*  
Moustached Tree-swift *Hemiprocne mystacea*  
Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*  
Beach Kingfisher *Halcyon saurophaga* - a single adult perched in a 4-m tall tree at the edge of coastal mangroves.  
Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*



Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*  
Common Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*  
Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*  
Slender-billed Crow *Corvus enca*  
Paradise Crow *Lycocorax pyrrhopterus* - 2-3 individuals seen in secondary coastal woodland.  
Dark-grey Flycatcher *Myiagra galeata*  
Spectacled Monarch *Monarcha trivirgatus*  
Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris*  
Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*  
Moluccan Starling *Aplonis mysolensis*  
Dusky Myzomela *Myzomela obscura*  
Black Sunbird *Nectarinia aspasia*  
Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis*  
Flame-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum erythrorhox*

#### MAI ISLAND (05°27'S, 127°47'E).

The largest and most westerly of the Lucipara Group (see de Korte 1991), Mai is a classic coralline island with a spectacular broad, shallow, surrounding reef. During visits on 23 Sept 1989 and 13 June 1990, it supported a three-man naval garrison and various numbers (< 10) of itinerant fishermen. The island is entirely covered by low woodland (c.6 m tall), although at the western end some woodland has been cleared and planted with coconuts. This process appears to be accelerating as a result of the presence of resident personnel on the island.

- Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos* - (1989) two adult birds on the beach and subsequently swimming off-shore. No signs of nesting; presumably wanderers from a nearby Wallacean nesting site.
- Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus* - (1990) remains of three birds recently killed by fishermen hanging up to dry. Presumably a wanderer from Australia although the recent increase in sightings of this species in Wallacea suggests it may be a regular visitor to the region.
- Reef Egret *Egretta sacra* - (1990) two dark morph birds at low tide along the beach.
- White-bellied Sea-eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* - (1990) a single immature soaring low over the canopy. Within the Banda Sea this species has only previously been recorded from Manuk Island.
- Orange-footed Scrubfowl *Megapodius reinwardt* - (1989) one active mound and a pair of adults seen. (1990) an adult and chicks seen near the mound.
- Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* - (1989) a single bird in basic plumage.
- Greater Sand-plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* - (1989) several in basic plumage.
- Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* - (1989) a group of six with other shorebirds foraging on the beach.
- Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* - (1989) two in basic plumage congregating with other shorebirds.

- Rufous-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* - (1989) three in basic plumage.  
 Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes* - (1989) five in basic plumage.  
 Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* - (1990) at least two along the beach.  
 Australian Pratincole *Siltia isabella* - (1990) a group of seven foraging along the beach.

There are no previous records of this species from the Banda Sea.

- Great Crested Tern *Sterna bergii* - (1990) 2-3 fishing close inshore.  
 Collared Kingfisher *Halcyon chloris* - (both visits) one resident pair in woodland.  
 Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sancta* - (both visits) a single bird in scrubby woodland edge  
 Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica* - (1989) many (<30) flying over the beach.  
 Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae* - (1990) a single bird.  
 Ashy-bellied White-eye *Zosterops citrinellus* - (both visits) approximately six birds counted: presumably resident.

#### SERBETTI ISLET (08°09'S, 123°02'E).

A tiny volcanic islet, approximately 0.5 ha in extent, located c.2 km off the extreme eastern tip of Flores. Serbetti was vegetated with a few trees and patches of dense thickets and surmounted by a ship warning beacon. The island was visited on 21 Sept 1989.

- Reef Egret *Egretta sacra* - a group of 15 dark morph and 3 white morph birds roosting on the islet.  
 White-bellied Sea-eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* - a pair perched in the top of a tree. No signs of nesting.  
 Collared Kingfisher *Halcyon chloris*.

#### References

- Andrew, P. 1986. Notes on some birds of Timor. *Kukila* 2 (4): 92-95.  
 Anonymous. 1981. *Results of Feasibility Studies and Proposal for Conservation Areas in Maluku Tenggara*. Field report of UNDP/FAO National Parks Development Project INS/78/061.  
 Anonymous. 1982. *Gazetteer of Indonesia*. Washington: Defence Mapping Agency. Vol I: 1 - 816. Vol II: 816 - 1529.  
 Bowler, J. & J. Taylor 1989. An annotated checklist of the birds of Manusela National Park, Seram. Birds recorded on the Operation Raleigh Expedition. *Kukila* 4 (1-2): 3-29.  
 Bruce, M.D. 1987. Additions to the birds of Wallacea. I. Bird records from smaller islands in the Lesser Sundas. *Kukila* 3 (1-2): 38-44.  
 Cadee, G.C. 1985. Some data on seabird abundance in Indonesian waters. July/August 1984. *Ardea* 73: 183-188.  
 Collar, N.J. & P. Andrew 1988. *Birds to Watch. The ICBP World Checklist of Threatened Birds*. ICBP Technical Publication No. 8.  
 De Korte, J. 1991. *Status and conservation of Indonesia's seabird colonies* in: Croxall, J.P. (Ed): *Seabird Status and conservation: a supplement*, ICBP Tech Publ. No. 11, Cambridge.

- Eck, S. 1976. Die vogel der Banggai-Inseln, insenbesondere Pelens (Aves). *Zool. Abh.* 34 (5): 53-100.
- Harrison, P. 1983. *Seabirds, an identification guide*. Revised edition. Croom Helm, London & Sydney.
- Hartert, E. 1903. The birds of the Obi Group, Central Moluccas. *Novitates Zoologicae* 10: 1-17.
- Kukila. 1990. Sulawesi Bird Report. *Kukila* 5(1): 14-26.
- Marle, J.G. van & K.H. Voous. 1988. *The birds of Sumatra*. Brit. Orn. U. Check-list No.10. London.
- Meyer, A.B. & L.W. Wigglesworth. 1898. *The birds of the Celebes and neighbouring islands*. 2 volumes. Berlin.
- Nieuwenhuis, E.J. 1946. Lepidoptera van den Banggai-Archipel. *Tijdschr. Entom.* 87: 37-61.
- Ribbe, C. 1889. Einige neue Schmetterlinge von Banggaja. *Iris* 2: 183-185.
- White, C.M.N. & M.D. Bruce 1986. *The birds of Wallacea (Sulawesi, the Moluccas and Lesser Sunda Islands, Indonesia): an annotated checklist*. London. B.O.U. Check-list No. 7.

**Address:**

'Semioptera', Lot 15, Kerns Road, Kincumber, NSW 2251, Australia.