

Around the Archipelago

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This section of *Kukila* presents recent Indonesian records of bird species that are poorly known or rarely observed, as well as breeding records and records of recapture or recovery of birds banded or re-trapped in Indonesia. It includes records that constitute the first (or subsequent) distributional record of a species for a province or island, in which the identity of a species is in no doubt. Author's initials appear in brackets after the record, and their full names are given at the end of the report.

Readers are encouraged to submit their records of rarely seen species, bird lists of previously under-surveyed areas, breeding records, and sightings of flagged waders to Bas van Balen (Greater Sundas region; bvanbalen001@hotmail.com), Colin Trainor (Lesser Sundas; Halmahera@hotmail.com) or Richard Noske (Sulawesi, Maluku and Papuan regions, and waders; richard.noske@cdu.edu.au) for potential inclusion in *Around the Archipelago*. Records in this section of the journal may be cited as in the following examples:

Iqbal, M. 2014. Sumatera. Pp XX in *Around the Archipelago*. *Kukila* 17(2): 74-97; or:

Balen, S. van, C. Trainor & R. Noske. 2014. *Around the Archipelago*. *Kukila* 17(2): 74-97.

Distributional Records

Sumatera

On 23 November 2013 a single MALAYAN NIGHT HERON *Gorsachius melanolophus* (Plate 1) was observed foraging in an orchard near Sibolangit, Sumatera Utara, the first record from this province since 1938 [SvB, MK].



Plate 1. Malay Night Heron, Sumatera Utara, November 2013.

During a survey of industrial and burnt forest areas in July 2013 in the Ogan Komiring Ilir Regency, Sumatera Selatan, SUNDA TEAL *Anas gibberifrons* (Plate 2) was commonly seen, and caught by local people [MK]; these constitute the first provincial records of this species, recorded from Lampung province only to date (Holmes 1996).



Plate 2. Sunda Teal, Sumatera Selatan, July 2013: left, pair; right, close-up of male.

A single REDDISH SCOPSOWL *Otus rufescens* was photographed (Plate 3) on 29 November 2013 in a tiny forest remnant amidst oil palm plantations near Lamie, Nagan Raya, Aceh, the third provincial record of this scarce forest owl [MK]. A pair of ASHY MINIVETS *Pericrocotus divaricatus* was seen on 22 November 2013 associating with Common Ioras and Ruby-cheeked Sunbirds at Sibolangit, Sumatera Utara, and recorded on 24 November at the same locality (XC-170111; SvB); there are few records of this migratory minivet from Sumatera, and this is the first since 1972 in the province. In the above-mentioned forest remnant at Lamie, Aceh, a LANCEOLATED WARBLER *Locustella lanceolata* was photographed (Plate 3) on 26 November 2013 [MK]; at least two were heard and recorded (XC-170109) in the surrounding oil palm plantation area [SvB]. The BAR-WINGED PRINIA *Prinia familiaris* had not been recorded from Aceh (van Marle & Voous 1988) until 1991-92 when it was recorded from Kluet, Singkil and Meulaboh (Holmes 1996); during a survey in 2009 it was locally common at ten additional localities throughout the province (van Balen 2008).

A single melanistic TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* was seen (Plate 4) amongst a group of 20-30 normal birds on the Cut Nak Dien airport of Meulaboh, Aceh, on 30 November 2013 [Plate 4; SvB]. The colour of its plumage and soft parts suggests genuine melanism (H. van Grouw *in litt.* 2014) rather than artificial discoloration resulting from dust-bathing in industrial areas polluted with cinder dust, ash and soot (van Grouw 2012).



Plate 3. Left, Reddish Scopsowl; right, Lanceolated Warbler (right), Aceh, November 2013.



Plate 4. Tree Sparrow, melanistic individual, Aceh, November 2013; left, with normal birds; right, on own.

Kalimantan

Four LESSER ADJUTANTS *Leptoptilos javanicus* were seen in the afternoon of 28 May 2013, perched on branches of a dead tree in Montallat sub-district (114°46' E, 01°17'S), Barito Utara, Kalimantan Tengah [IT, ASW]. In a logging concession on the borders of Melawi and Ketapang regencies, Kalimantan Barat, a pair of BORNEAN PEACOCK PHEASANTS *Polyplectron schleiermacheri* was seen along a transect through primary forest; in the same general area a single male CRIMSON-HEADED PARTRIDGE *Haematortyx sanguiniceps* was seen in primary hill forest at 600 m asl, a major south-western extension of its known range [JSU].



Plate 5. Left, Red-necked Phalarope, Kalimantan Barat, October 2012; right, Forest Wagtail, Kalimantan Barat, September 2012.

A single RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus* (Plate 5) seen at Pesaguan beach (Ketapang, Kalimantan Barat), on 6 October 2012, represents the first record for this province; the bird was running quickly and pecking into mud patches along the sandy beach [AQ]. A single FOREST WAGTAIL *Dendronanthus indicus* seen at Pematanggadung, Kalimantan Barat, in opened-up peatswamp along the tributary of the Kepulok river, on 24 September 2012, represents the second for the Indonesian part of Borneo [Plate 5; AQ].



Plate 6. Left, Sooty-headed Bulbul, Kalimantan Barat, November 2013; right, White-vented Myna, Kalimantan Barat, November 2013.

Two SOOTY-HEADED BULBULS *Pycnonotus aurigaster* were observed at Pematanggadung, Ketapang, Kalimantan Barat, on 11 November 2013, and most likely the same pair was photographed on 23 November 2013 (Plate 6) at the same location, in an open landscape of paddies and rubber forest, where the birds perched in a dead mango tree calling noisily. This species was already known from Tuan-tuan and Padang, 25-30 km north of the present area and shows a major expansion of the known range of this introduced bulbul from easterly direction, where the bulbul is abundant in Kalimantan Tengah. The first and hitherto only published record was from Pontianak in 1992 (S.J. Aspinall in Mann 2008). On the same day at the same locality in Kalimantan Barat a single WHITE-VENTED MYNA *Acridotheres javanicus* was photographed as it perched on the back of a water

buffalo (Plate 6), while three other mynas foraged on the ground nearby. This is the first provincial record, though the mynas had been seen in the same locality since 2010, usually perched on buffaloes or flying over roads, paddies and villages. Among local villagers the species had been known in Pematanggadung for many years, and over the last two years two cases are known of nestlings having been taken from their nest holes in dead coconut trees [AQ].

Jawa and Bali

JAWA - Four AUSTRALIAN PELICANS *Pelecanus conspicillatus* (Plate 7) were seen flying in a northerly direction over Bama Beach in Baluran National Park, Jawa Timur, on 7 November 2013 [AFA]. The species may be a regular visitor to East Jawa (Iqbal 2013) since a massive irruption in 1978, which was most likely the result of a series of successful breeding seasons in Australia, followed by a drought (Somadikarta & Holmes 1979). On 5 June 2009 a SUNDA COUCAL *Centropus nigrorufus* was flushed from grass along a trail and flew into nearby mangroves at Tanjung Jangkar (7°42'S, 114°14'E), Jawa Timur, which is a new locality for this rare endemic coucal [SvB].



A F ASYFAK

Plate 7. Australian Pelicans, Jawa Timur, November 2013.



K YORDAN

Plate 8. Oriental Bay Owl, Jawa Barat.

An ORIENTAL BAY OWL *Phodilus badius* was seen in Carita Nature Reserve, Banten, Jawa Barat on 9 March 2011, and on 18 July 2013 one was photographed with its prey (Plate 8), most likely Long-tailed Giant Rat *Leopoldamys sabanus* [KY]. A flock of five or six RUFIOUS-FRONTED LAUGHING THRUSHES *Garrulax rufifrons* was seen in Gunung Gede-Pangrango National Park on 26 July 2013 [KY, BE]; this Javan endemic species has Near-threatened status (BirdLife 2001) with few recent records (see Collar & van Balen 2013).

BALI - There have been two recent observations of SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* on Serangan Island (8° 44' S, 115° 13' E), south of Sanur, Bali. There are only about three previous records from the Indonesian archipelago over the last 20 years (Riley 1997; Trainor 2005; Iqbal *et al.* 2009). On 28 September 2010 at least one was seen near the bridge to Serangan island [CR]. The second record concerns a Spotted Redshank among other waders on the mudflats of the large (c. 20 ha) coastal lagoon on the south-eastern corner of Serangan Island on 24 August 2011 [TF, CB]. The bird was about 60-70 m away from the observers and was viewed through a Swarovski 30 x 60mm WA spotting scope, allowing its features to be studied in detail. It appeared slightly larger than the nearby Common Redshanks *T. totanus*, and differed from them in having a pale eyebrow, a longer straighter bill and a longer neck, as well as having paler grey upperparts and whiter underparts. The legs were longer than those of Common Redshank, and more crimson-red than orange-red. Both observers have had considerable experience of the species in Britain and elsewhere in Europe. This record constitutes the first for the species in Bali (Mason 2011) and although there are now three records from Sumatra (Iqbal *et al.* 2009) there are evidently none yet from Java. All recent records have been during southward migration in August, September and October. Although probably uncommon and in low numbers, the spate of recent records suggests that they occur more regularly in Indonesia than previously known and are probably occasionally overlooked or confused for the similar-looking Common Redshank.

KARIMUNJAWA ISLANDS – Since the publication of a book on the birds of these islands (Susanto 2012), the following species have been observed for the first time, or confirmed to occur, there.



Plate 9. Left, Great Egret, Karimunjawa Is, November 2013; right, Ruddy Turnstone, Karimunjawa Is, October 2013.

A GREAT EGRET *Ardea alba* in non-breeding plumage was seen near Terusan on 13 November 2013, and photographed (Plate 9) two days later at low tide near the harbour of Karimun island [SvB]. The calls of a SLATY-BREASTED RAIL *Gallirallus striatus* were recorded (XC-nr 170110) from a sedge swamp at Legon Lele on 15 November 2013 [SvB, HS]. On the same day five snipe were flushed, one of which could be identified as a COMMON SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago*, on account of a distinct white trailing edge to the secondaries. Three RUDDY TURNSTONES *Arenaria interpres* (Plate 9) were observed on 20 October 2013 near Karang Kapal [HS].

A BROWN HAWK-OWL *Ninox scutulata* (Plate 10), seen and photographed at Telaga, Kemujan Island, on 27 September 2013 [HS, MU], probably represented the migratory race *japonica*, now considered a full species by some authors, based on its streaked belly rather than the heart-spotted belly of the nominate resident race. Moreover the date falls in the Northern Hemisphere winter and no resident *Ninox* species is known to occur on the islands. Several ASIAN HOUSE MARTINS *Delichon dasypus* and at least two WHITE-THROATED NEEDLETAILS *Hirundapus caudacutus* were identified among a flock of several dozen swifts, swiftlets and swallows, on the main island, on 12 November 2013. A single melanistic TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* was seen in a flock of c. 50 normal birds at the harbour of Karimun on 12 November 2013 [BvB, HS].



Plate 10. Brown Hawk-Owl, Karimunjawa Is, September 2013.

Lesser Sundas

LOMBOK – A LITTLE PIED CORMORANT *Microcarbo melanoleucos* was seen near a lagoon on Gili Meno, an islet off northwest Lombok on 26 July 2008; there are few records of this species on Lombok [SvB]. A ORIENTAL HONEYBUZZARD *Pernis ptilorhynchus* (Plate 11) was observed at Senaru in northern Lombok, on 16 June 2012 [KN]. This individual appears to show the relatively long primaries of migratory *orientalis* (cf Vaurie & Amadon 1962). Ferguson-Lees & Christie (2001) state that “many juveniles probably remain in winter quarters until their second spring”.



K NAKANISHI

Plate 11. Oriental Honey-buzzard, northern Lombok, June 2012.

A BROWN HAWK-OWL *Ninox scutulata* was seen well in forest on Mt Rinjani during December 2009-January 2010 [ST]. This species is likely to occur anywhere in Wallacea, but was hitherto unknown from Lombok. It would be interesting to know whether this is the migratory Northern Boobook *N. s. japonicus*, now considered a full species by some authors (see also above), or *N. s. scutulata*, resident in western Indonesia, and also recorded for Bali. Observations of EDIBLE-NEST SWIFTLETS *Collocalia fuciphaga* during December 2009-January 2010 indicate that they were nesting in buildings in downtown Cakranegara, Lombok; the swiftlets were attracted to vocalisations being broadcast over loudspeakers [ST]. Myers & Bishop (2005) reported the swiftlet for Lombok but did not mention the houses that are especially constructed to attract and accommodate nesting swiftlets and which are now nowadays found all over western Indonesia, even in north Sulawesi, where *C. fuciphaga* does not occur naturally.

FLORES – A DUSKY MOORHEN *Gallinula tenebrosa* was seen at Lake Rana Mese, near Ruteng, during December 2009 - January 2010 [ST]. This species has previously been recorded from Flores only once (White & Bruce 1986; Coates & Bishop 1997), though this record is based on a specimen, which has disappeared since it was collected in the 19th century (Mees 2006).

Sulawesi

A flock of about six STREAKED WEAVERS *Ploceus manyar* was seen fleetingly as they flew low over fishponds near Makassar, Sulawesi Selatan, on 12 August 2012 [RN]. On 22 October 2012 another flock of about ten birds was observed foraging on the ground at the edge of the airport of Makassar; none of the birds was in breeding plumage though one had yellow spots on the side of the neck [NJ]. These are the first records for the island, but most likely represent escaped cagebirds or even deliberate introductions. The species occurs in Sumatera and Jawa, but not Borneo, nor any of the intervening small islands, so it does not appear to cross water barriers.

Moluccas

TERNATE – Several HOUSE SWIFTS *Apus nipalensis* were seen foraging around buildings in the city of Ternate, and a single, possibly abandoned, nest was photographed (Plate 12) on 22 May 2012 in a part of a shopping mall still under construction. This is the first record of the species for Ternate [SvB, IR].



S.VANBALEN

Plate 12. House Swift nest, Ternate, May 2012.

Papua

A group of RAINBOW BEE-EATERS *Merops ornatus* was heard flying over the Freeport mining area above Timika, south-central Papua, on 28 April 2011, indicating a passage over this alpine area at 4,200 m asl [SvB]. The sudden appearance of dozens of TREE MARTINS *Cecropis nigricans* at the airport of Timika on 1 May 2011, where none was evident on the previous day, indicates a recent arrival of these visitors from Australia [SvB]. On 28 April 2011 a SNOW MOUNTAIN ROBIN *Petroica archboldi* (Plate 13) was found perching on man-made structures along the road through the Freeport mining area at 4,200 m asl; it seemed habituated to humans and able to cope with the altered environment [SvB]. A single YELLOW-EYED STARLING *Aplonis mystacea* was seen in a roost of METALLIC STARLINGS *A. metallica* at Mile 38, near Timika, on 27 April 2011 [SvB]. Since the first sighting of a pair of TREE SPARROWS *Passer montanus* in 1997, this species has established populations throughout the built-up areas in the Freeport concession area, Timika Regency, Papua, including the township of Tembagapura at c. 1800 m asl [SvB].



Plate 13. Snow Mountain Robin, Papua, April 2011.

Breeding Records

Sumatera

A nest of BLACK-SHOULDERED KITES *Elanus caeruleus*, containing two full-grown young was observed in a medium-sized tree in an oil palm plantation near Lamie, Nagan Raya, Aceh, on 28 November 2013. The previous morning the male was seen displaying its ‘butterfly-flight courtship’ as described by Ferguson-Lees & Christie (2001): “flying around slowly with stiff exaggerated flaps”. The nest was discovered when both parent birds were heard screaming loudly (XC-170107, 170108), as they attacked a large monitor lizard that had climbed the tree to within 4 m of the nest. At night it appeared that one of the young had fallen down from the tree into a young oil palm, where it was photographed, while on the following morning the other fledgling was seen perched on a branch not far from the nest [Plate 14; BvB, MK].

A pair of BAT HAWKS *Macheiramphus alcinus* was found nesting in a huge leafless *Koompassia malaccensis* tree at Tanjung Jabung Timur District, Jambi, on 18 February 2013; the nest was constructed mainly from thin twigs and was located on the main branch, c. 33m above ground (Plate 15). On 10 May 2013 the site was visited again, when the pair was observed chasing off an Oriental Honey-buzzard and Black-shouldered Kite, whereas smaller birds that perched near the nest, such as a White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus* and Dollarbird *Eurystomus*

orientalis, were left undisturbed. This is the first breeding record of Bat hawk in Jambi Province [APS]. An ORIENTAL HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis ptilorhynchus* was observed standing near its nest at 20m in a pine tree in Punti Kayu recreation forest (2°56'S, 104° 43'E), Suka Bangun subdistrict, Palembang city, on 27 March 2012. The nest was a large and bulky cup-shaped structure. A few moments later, the bird entered the nest presumably to brood, whilst another bird was heard calling nearby [MI, CZ].



Plate 14: Black-shouldered Kites, Aceh, November 2013: left, nest with two nestlings; right, fledgling.



Plate 15: Bat Hawks, Jambi, February 2013 (upper), and May 2013 (lower).



CADHA PUTRA

Plate 16. Barred Cuckoo-Dove, male, Sumatera Utara, August 2013.

A male BARRED CUCKOO-DOVE *Macropygia unchall* (Plate 16) was found brooding on his nest on 23 August 2013 in Desa Silalahi Forest, Sumatera Utara [CAP, DH]. Two RAFFLES' MALKOHAS *Rhinortha chlorophaea* were seen building a nest at the edge of peatswamp forest in Tanjung Jabung Timur District, Jambi, on 12 February 2013 [APS]. A SAVANNA NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus affinis* (Plate 17) was flushed from its 'nest' containing one egg in July 2008 in coastal shrubland near Gampong Baro, Mesjid Raya district, Aceh Besar regency, Aceh [MA]. On 30 July 2011, three recently fledged PACIFIC SWALLOWS *Hirundo tahitica* (Plate 17) were seen in gardens in Pulokerto village area (3°11'S, 104°40'E), Gandus subdistrict, Palembang city [MI, HZ, DS].



M. ISMAIL



M. IOBAL

Plate 17. Left, egg of Savanna Nightjar, July 2008, Aceh; right, fledgling Pacific Swallows, Sumatera Selatan, July 2011

The breeding of BAR-WINGED PRINIAS *Prinia familiaris* in Sumatera has been largely overlooked (van Marle & Voous 1988). A nest of this species was found in a cucumber *Cucumis sativus* garden in Pulokerto village, Palembang city, on 30 July 2011 (Plate 18). It contained three young downy chicks and was a purse-shaped construction of fine grass, attached to the surrounding cucumber leaves. The only known previous breeding record in Sumatera is that of an undated nest found in Pematang Siantar, Sumatera Utara (van Marle & Voous 1988). A newly fledged bird, showing yellow on the base of its bill, was found on Bangka island on 10 March 2012 [MI]. Young Bar-winged Prinias have been encountered on several occasions in the pet trade in Sumatera Selatan province [MI, HZ, DS]. Two recently-

fledged ASHY TAILORBIRDS *Orthotomus ruficeps* were found near their nest, c. 1.5m above the ground, in Punti Kayu recreation forest (2°56'S, 104°43'E), Suka Bangun subdistrict, Palembang city on 28 May 2012 [MI]. A pair of WHITE-RUMPED MUNIAS *Lonchura striata* was seen actively collecting fine grass material from a local garden in the same forest on 27 March 2012, to add to a nest c.3.5m above ground in a rambutan *Nephelium lappaceum* tree [MI, CZ].



Plate 18. Nest of Bar-winged Prinia, Palembang city, July 2011.

Jawa

A juvenile PLAINTIVE CUCKOO *Cacomantis merulinus* was seen being fed by an OLIVE-BACKED TAILORBIRD *Orthotomus sepium* at Banguntapan village, Bantul, Yogyakarta, on 11 August 2012 (Plate 19). The tailorbird searched for food in the surrounding mango, jackfruit and other fruit trees, while the cuckoo called noisily, especially when approached by its host [AZA, NR].

A nest of HORSFIELD'S BABBLER *Malacocincla sepiarium* was found above Ngaromulyo (7°33'S, 110°22'E), on the southwest slope of Mt Merapi, Jawa Tengah, on 26 November 2013 [JS, SD & IT]. It was placed c. 1m above the ground in a small tree, and was composed of bamboo leaves externally, with fibres of aren palm *Arenga pinnata* lining the inside. The nest contained two pinkish eggs with a conspicuous pattern of reddish spots and irregular lines (Plate 20), matching the description in Hoogerwerf (1949).



Plate 19. Plaintive Cuckoo juvenile with presumed foster parent Olive-backed Tailorbird, Jogjakarta, August 2012.



Plate 20. Nest and eggs of Horsfield's Babbler, Jawa Tengah, November 2013.

A female WHITE-FLANKED SUNBIRD *Aethopyga eximia* was seen collecting pieces of fern fronds on 26 January 2013 at Taman Wisata Alam Kawah Ijen, Banyuwangi, Jawa Timur (8°03'S, 114°14'E). It flew off with the fern piece over a ravine, but soon returned to repeat the process, suggesting that it was using the material in a nest, though this could not be confirmed [FM]. Hoogerwerf (1950) observed that nests of this sunbird are composed of pale green, soft moss, the nest hole lined with soft white seed down, in almost all examined cases mixed with soft salmon-coloured star hairs plucked from the underside of epiphytic *Cyclophorus* ferns.

Lesser Sundas (including Timor-Leste)

LOMBOK – A fledgling INDONESIAN CUCKOO *Cacomantis sepulcralis* (Plate 21) was seen being fed by a GREAT TIT *Parus major* in forest near Gunung Rinjani National Park, Lombok, on 22 May 2011 [APS]. On the same day at the same site a juvenile SUNDA CUCKOO *Cuculus lepidus* was observed being attended by an ISLAND LEAF-WARBLER *Phylloscopus trivirgatus* (Plate 21) on 22 May 2011 [APS]. The first record of a probable host of the Sunda Cuckoo in Wallacea involved a pair of Timor Leaf-warblers *Phylloscopus presbytes* feeding a cuckoo in Flores (Schellekens 2009).



Plate 21. Left, fledgling Sunda Cuckoo; right, juvenile Indonesian Cuckoo, Lombok, May 2011.

FLORES – A juvenile Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana* was caught close to its old nest in the mangroves at Enambia, close to Danau Bowu, Dusun Bele, Desa Kota Baru, Kabupaten Ende, Flores, on 11 October 2013 [DF]. An adult female OLIVE-BACKED SUNBIRD *Cinnyris jugularis* was photographed collecting nest material (Plate 22) at Riung, Flores, on 28 April 2012 [OH]. Verheijen (1964) showed that breeding by OLIVE-BACKED SUNBIRDS is highly seasonal on Flores, most nests being found during the late wet season, from March to June.



Plate 22. Left, female Olive-backed Sunbird collecting nest material, Flores, April 2012; right, Metallic Pigeon pullus, Lore, Timor-Leste, January 2004.

TIMOR – A single near-fledged METALLIC PIGEON *Columba metallica*, still showing pin-feathers, was collected by local villagers at Lore, Timor-Leste, near sea-level, on 9 January 2004 (Plate 22). There are few breeding records of this distinctive subspecies. One old breeding record from Timor suggested laying in December (Noske 2003), and a bird was noted sitting on a nest in August in central Flores (Drijvers *et al.* 2000).

A fledgling EMERALD DOVE *Chalcophaps indica*, collected from a nest and held by local villagers, was photographed (Plate 23) at Moro, Lautem District, Timor-Leste, on 27 March 2006 [CT]. Records of juveniles collected in Timor suggested egg laying from February to April (n=3; Noske 2003), while on Flores, 88% of breeding records occurred from March to July (n=24; Verheijen 1964).



C. R. TRAINOR

Plate 23. Juvenile Emerald Dove, Moro, Timor-Leste, March 2006

A BARRED DOVE *Geopelia maugeus* chick was taken from a nest by local villagers at Moro village, Lautem District, East Timor, and photographed on 27 March 2006 (Plate 24); and a stick nest with a single white egg, about 1.5m above ground, was photographed on 28 March 2006 from nearby savanna [CT]. A juvenile collected in Timor suggested egg laying in December (Noske 2003), and on Flores, Verheijen (1964) noted highly seasonal breeding by this bird with five breeding records from April to June.



C. R. TRAINOR



C. R. TRAINOR

Plate 24. Barred Dove at Moro, East Timor, March 2006: left, nest and egg; right, juvenile.

A fledgling BLACK-BACKED FRUIT-DOVE *Ptilinopus cinctus* with two adults were purchased from roadside traders at Metinaro, East Timor, on 6 June 2005 [CT]. These had been killed by hunters from a local village, who regularly hung up birds by the roadside for sale to travellers. The fledgling had the head light grey with some green feathering rather than pure white as in adults; the wing coverts, tertials and secondary feathers had dull green edges, whereas in adults these are slate grey (Plate 25), the black chest band shown in adult birds was absent (green and grey feathers), and the underparts were a mixture of grey and green feathers rather than uniform green in adults. Noske (2003) mentions an immature bird with similar colouring and presumably of similar age observed near Soe, Timor Barat, on 5 December 1995, and a juvenile bird collected on 7 May 1911 (Hellmayr 1914). This range of dates suggests that the species may breed throughout much of the year.



Plate 25. Black-backed Fruit-doves: left, adult on Romang Is, October 2010; right, two adults with juvenile, Metinaro, East Timor, June 2005.

A single fledgling SNOWY-BROWED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hyperythra* was photographed (Plate 26) at c. 1,500m on Mt. Mutis, Timor Barat, on 5 January 2010 [CT]. There are very few breeding records regionally, with none mentioned in Mayr (1944) or Noske (2003). On Jawa this bird has a long breeding season (mentioned in Noske 2003 from Hoogerwerf 1949).



Plate 26. Left, Snowy-browed Flycatcher fledgling, Mt Mutis, Timor Barat, January 2010; right, fledgling Brown Honeyeater, Kupang, Timor Barat, July 2012.

A fledgling BROWN (INDONESIAN) HONEYEATER *Lichmera (limbata) indistincta* (Plate 26) was seen in Kupang, Timor Barat, on 1 July 2012 [OH]. See also records from Atauro and Alor Islands. Two juvenile STREAK-BREASTED HONEYEATERS *Meliphaga reticulata* were held captive at Motain, Timor Barat (near the Timor-Leste border), on 8 June 2004 [CT]. These had pinkish gape patches, lacked yellow ear patches, were mainly cream below (rather than streaked brownish) with yellow plumes and black patches on chest (Plate 27).

A THICK-BILLED FLOWERPECKER *Dicaeum agile* was photographed collecting nesting material in *Gossampinus malabarica* tree (Plate 28; OH) at Baumata, Timor Barat, on 17 October 2013. From three records of young birds in Timor Barat, Noske (2003) extrapolated months of egg-laying as May and October.



Plate 27. Streak-breasted Honeyeaters: left, juvenile, Motain, Timor Barat, June 2004; right, adult, Dili, Timor-Leste, May 2010.



Plate 28. Left, Thick-billed Flowerpecker collecting nest material, Timor Barat, October 2013; right, nest of Scaly-breasted Munia in urban Kupang, Timor Barat, May 2012.

Four nests of SCALY-BREASTED MUNIAS *Lonchura punctulata* were found in fronds of *Borassus flabellifer* palm trees (Plate 28) in Nostalgia Townpark, Jl Frans Seda, Kupang, Timor Barat, in May 2012 (OH). A pair of ZEBRA FINCHES *Taeniopygia guttata* were observed attending a nest in a steel recess of an electricity pylon (Plate 29) at Manututo, East Timor, on 5 August 2010 [CT]. On 17 August 2012 several colonies of this species were located with nests constructed in Poinciana *Delonix regia* trees (Plate 29) on Jl Frans Seda in urban Kupang, Timor Barat [OH]. Some nests were built directly over a busy main road [OH]. A Zebra Finch was observed carrying nest material in Lelogama, Timor Barat, in November (Noske 2003), and on Roti and Ndao, eggs were collected in March and April (Verheijen 1976).

A fledgling PADDYFIELD PIPIT *Anthus rufulus*, with cream gape flange and a few remnant down feathers (Plate 30), was caught by hand at Dili sewerage treatment works, Tasitolu, East Timor, on 3 November 2003 [CT]. A juvenile collected in 1911 indicated egg laying in April (Noske 2003).



Plate 29. Nests of Zebra Finches: left, nest and pair of adults, Timor Barat, August 2012; right, nest in electricity pylon, Timor-Leste, August 2010.



Plate 30. Left, fledgling Paddyfield Pipit, Timor-Leste, November 2003; right, juvenile Brown Honeyeater, Alor, January 2009.

ALOR – A juvenile BROWN (INDONESIAN) HONEYEATER *Lichmera (limbata) indistincta* was found perched in a *Eucalyptus alba* tree (Plate 30) above Mainang, at c. 1,000m asl, on 11 January 2009 [CT]. A male fledgling PIED BUSH CHAT *Saxicola caprata fruticola* was photographed at Apui (c. 1,000m asl) on 6 December 2009 (Plate 31; CT), but not mentioned by Trainor *et al.* (2012).

ROTI – One of two fledgling PIED BUSH CHATS was photographed (Plate 31) at Lidabesi village, Roti Island (10°44'S, 123°06'E) on 5 January 2013 [OH]; and another fledgling was photographed at Bipolo forest, Timor Barat, on 9 February

2013 [OH]. Trainor (2012) observed fledglings in Timor Barat and Kisar Island during January and October, respectively; see also Alor record above. These three records accord with previous conclusions of Noske (2003), whose extrapolated laying dates for the species spanned from October (late dry season) to February (mid wet season), with young fledging during periods of high insect abundance.



Plate 31. Fledgling Pied Bush Chats: left, male fledgling, Alor, December 2009 ; middle, female fledgling, Timor Barat, February 2013; right, female fledgling, Roti, January 2013.

A ZITTING CISTICOLA *Cisticola juncidis* carrying nest material (a grass stem) was photographed on 7 January 2013 at Lidabesi village, Roti Is. [Plate 32; OH]. A juvenile collected in 2011 (Hellmayr 1914) probably came from a clutch laid in April (Noske (2003)).



Plate 32. Left, Zitting Cisticola with nest material, Roti Is., January 2013; right, juvenile Brown Honeyeater, Atauro Is., December 2009.

ATAURO – A juvenile BROWN (INDONESIAN) HONEYEATER *Lichmera (limbata) indistincta* was photographed (Plate 32) at Macadade, at c. 500m elevation on Atauro Island, on 27 December 2009 [CT]. Relatively few Nusa Tenggara breeding records of this species have been published, despite their ubiquity on some islands, and none known from Timor (Noske 2003). They probably breed year-round.

WETAR – A SCALY-BREASTED HONEYATER *Lichmera squamata* was photographed (Plate 33) at a nest about 7m above ground in a *Tamarindus indica* tree at Lerokis, Wetar Island, on 29 September 2010 [CT]. The nest, apparently

mainly composed of grass stems, was cup-shaped and c. 10cm in diameter. A nest from Damar Island was previously described as “a neat structure, ornamented on the outside with white little cobwebs and wool and cotton, with a ‘tail’ hanging down from the bottom, and an entrance hole on the side, which is sometimes overhung by a protecting leaf and with a little porch-like roof” (Hartert 1900) – however this may be refer to a mis-identified *Gerygone* nest. Immature birds have been collected on Wetar during October, and on Romang during July-August (Hartert 1904) suggesting that this species breeds during the dry season. On Kai Island, fledglings have been observed in April (Johnstone & van Balen 2013).



Plate 33. Left, Scaly-breasted Honeyeater at nest, Wetar Is, September 2010; right, Willie Wagtail nesting, Ternate, May 2012.

Moluccas

TERNATE – At least five active nests of AUSTRALASIAN GREBES *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae* were found, and courtship displays observed, at Lake Tolire on the northeast side of Ternate on 21 and 22 May 2012 [SvB, HB, IR]. A WILLIE WAGTAIL *Rhipidura leucophrys* was observed sitting on its nest on the Ternate airport (Plate 33) on 20 May 2012; the species was also seen nesting near Sofifi and Binagara on the mainland of Halmahera on 23-24 May 2012 [SvB].

HARUKU – On the moonlit night of 23 November 2010, about 30 MOLUCCAN MEGAPODES *Eulipoa wallacei* were seen at the well-managed breeding area for the species in Kailolo, Haruku [CR].

SERAM – A female MOLUCCAN SCRUBFOWL *Eulipoa wallacei* was observed (at very close range) laying eggs in the nest mound of a FORSTEN’S MEGAPODE *Megapodius forstenii*, in broad daylight on 8 December 2010 on Sawai Island [CR]. A pair of MOLUCCAN CUCKOO-SHRIKES *Coracina atriceps* was observed taking turns to incubate on a nest high in the fork of a large forest tree on 2 December 2010 [CR]. One recently fledged, but still dependent, juvenile ISLAND VERDITER FLYCATCHER *Eumyias panayensis* of the Seram-endemic race *harterti* was observed higher up along the Trans-Seram Highway, where the species was fairly common, on 7 December 2010 [CR]. An adult was also seen carrying nest

material in this vicinity on 27 November 2012 [CR]. A juvenile of what was believed to be SNOWY-BROWED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hyperythra* was seen near the highest point of the Trans-Seram Highway on 7 December 2010 [MG]. On the same highway an adult STREAK-BREASTED FANTAIL *Rhipidura dedemi* was seen feeding its dependent young, and a pair of SPECTACLED MONARCHS *Monarcha trivirgatus* was accompanying its newly-fledged offspring, on 6 and 7 December 2010, respectively [CR].

TANIMBAR – A dependent juvenile RUFIOUS-SIDED GERYGONE *Gerygone dorsalis* was seen on Yamdena on 26 November 2010 [CR]. This is just one month later than records of dependent juveniles and a recent fledgling of this species on Romang (Trainor & Verbelen 2013). Several recently-fledged juveniles of the TANIMBAR FLYCATCHER *Ficedula riedeli*, a recent ‘split’ from RUFIOUS-CHESTED FLYCATCHER *F. dumetoria*, were seen on Yamdena on 26-28 November 2010 [CR]. A pair of SCALY-BREASTED MUNIAS *Lonchura punctulata*, recorded occasionally on Yamdena, was seen nest building on 26 November 2010 [CR]. A nest of the GOLDEN-BELLIED FLYROBIN *Microeca hemixantha*, containing a single chick, was discovered near Lorulun, Yamdena, on 18 November 2012 [CR]. This appears to be the first nest record for the species.

KAI - A pair of VARIABLE GOSHAWKS *Accipiter hiogaster albiventris* was seen at a nest at Letfuan, Kai Kecil, on 30 November 2010 [CR].

TALIABU - A male SLATY CUCKOO-SHRIKE *Coracina schistacea* was seen on a nest near Binadesa on 19 November 2011 [CR]

Papua

A nest of TORRESIAN IMPERIAL PIGEON *Ducula spilorrhoea* was found on 15 May 2007, when the incubating bird was flushed from its flimsy twig nest containing one white egg (Plate 34); it was situated 2m above the ground in a Stilt Mangrove *Rhizophora* on a river bank at Wakamba, about 200m from the Warembori estuary, northwest Mamberamo Basin. On a nearby sandy beach a LARGE-TAILED NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus macrurus* was flushed from its clutch of two eggs (Plate 34) amidst some driftwood and a coconut husk on the high tide mark [SvB].



Plate 34. Left, nest and egg of Torresian Imperial Pigeon; right, eggs of Large-tailed Nightjar; Papua, May 2007.

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