

Trip report: Java and Bali, Indonesia (21/07/2019 – 03/08/2019)

By Sin Yong Chee Keita @ Okamoto Keita

Together with a friend I embarked on a trip covering the typical sites in west and east Java (independently) and ended off with a guided day at Bali. This trip report will try to focus on the logistical aspects of my trip since I dipped many target species. (Please contact me directly for information such as quoted rates etc.)

Main Locations Birded

West Java: Gunung Halimun, Gunung Gede

East Java: Gunung Ijen, Baluran National Park

Bali: Bali Barat National Park, Bukit Batakaru



Mountain Serin at Gunung Gede

Itinerary

20 July	Arrive at Jakarta, Java, via Soekarno-Hatta Airport Travel to Cikaniki Research Station, Gunung Halimun
21,22 July	Birding at Gunung Halimun
23 July	Morning birding at Gunung Halimun Travel to Cibodas (Gunung Gede)
24 July	Birding at Gunung Gede
25, 26 July	Birding at Gunung Gede
27 July	Birding at Cibodas Botanic Gardens
28 July	Travel from Cibodas to Soekarno-Hatta Airport
29 July	Morning flight from Jakarta (Soekarno-Hatta) to Banyuwangi (Udara Banyuwangi) Afternoon birding at Gunung Ijen
30 July	Birding at Gunung Ijen
31 July	Morning birding at Gunung Ijen Afternoon birding at Baluran National Park
1 August	Birding at Baluran National Park Travel from Banyuwangi to Bali
2 August	Guided birding at Bali
3 August	Depart via Bali Ngurah Rai International Airport

Planning the trip

“The 100 Best Bird Watching Sites in Southeast Asia” by Yong Ding Li and Low Bing Wen was a great book that helped form the backbone of the plan.

Detailed information from [Burung Nusantara](#) was also extremely useful.

Massive thanks to the authors of the following trip reports.

West Java: [Grundsten \(2013\)](#) (I did a separate birding trip to Gunung Gede in March 2018 and was hence more familiar with the site).

East Java: [Gregory \(2010\)](#), [Smith \(2011\)](#), [Hottola \(2015\)](#), [Yann Muzika \(2012\)](#)

Field Guide used: Eaton, J. A., van Balen, S., Brickle, N. W., & Rheindt, F. E. (2016). Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago: Greater Sundas and Wallacea. Lynx.

General Logistics

Language

Almost all the locals we spoke to in Java could not speak English, and we could not speak their language at all either. The Google Translate mobile application was therefore a life saver. At Bali, our limited interactions with the locals in the town of Denpasar were smoother as many could speak English.

Weather

We visited during the dry season (typically around April to October) as opposed to the wet season (typically November to March). However, at Gunung Halimun, we were unlucky as the weather was very gloomy on both afternoons. Elsewhere, we experienced pretty good and dry weather.

West Java

Guide

We wanted to engage our friend, Khaleb Yordan, who is likely the best guide around today when it comes to birding in west Java. He was unfortunately unavailable due to schedule clashes. However, we fortuitously met him in the field as our plans were similar, during which he very generously provided us various tips. Khaleb, who I highly recommend, is contactable via Facebook.

Transport

Jakarta to Cikaniki, and Cikaniki to Cibodas

For the west Java section, Khaleb offered us a massive helping hand by arranging the logistics (driver and accommodation) for us. The first section of the journey from the airport to Bogor (another major town in Java) was about 1 hour 40 minutes. After a short lunch at Bogor, the journey to Cikaniki Research Station was another 4 hour 40 minutes, with the delay mostly due to horrible traffic in towns, and terrible roads after getting out of town. It took 5 hours 40 minutes to get from Cikaniki to Cibodas. Due to the very remote nature of Cikaniki it might be best for independent birders to arrange a vehicle.

Cibodas to Soekarno-Hatta Airport (Jakarta)

We travelled by public transport from Cibodas to the airport.

All around the towns of Indonesia, there are city transportations called Ankots. These are vans with fixed routes (usually displayed at the front of the vehicles). Flag the van down to board and alight anywhere along the route by informing the driver (we didn't really know how to do that, so we just tapped the driver's shoulders and showed him our Google Translate screen). The Ankots are apparently about 10,000 IDR per person per ride, but cost seemed variable.

Note: The Ankots in Cibodas are quite useful as the steep walk from town to the entrance of Gunung Gede can take up to 20 minutes.

On our travel day, we departed our accommodation in Cibodas at 0930, took the Ankot (yellow) heading downhill and alighted at the town of Cipanas (around GPS: -6.737441, 107.043924). The journey was just 15 minutes and was 5,000 IDR per person.

There, we communicated to the locals that we wanted to take public transport to the town of Bogor. Several men told us that it was impossible and insisted that we take their "taxi" services instead. One man offered 500,000 IDR, then reduced the price to 300,000 IDR, but we did not bother with him. (Not only was his vehicle tiny, the duration would *really* not have changed because traffic was a standstill more than 80% of the time).

We eventually received advice from other locals and walked a short distance to GPS: -6.732052, 107.038465. Here, we took another Ankot (yellow on pink) to the town of Puncak (where we alighted at GPS: -6.700598, 106.987132). This journey took 30 minutes and was 15,000 IDR per person.

There we took a blue Ankot to the town of Ciawi (just a few kilometres from Bogor). The traffic was terrible and the journey took 3 hours. The cost was 30,000 IDR per person. The location we alighted at (GPS: -6.655816, 106.847107) was a bus terminal and there we looked for buses heading to the airport. We were told by local who spoke English that the buses heading directly to the airport departed from Ramayana Mall instead.

Thus, we took our last Ankot (green on blue) to Ramayana Mall (GPS: -6.643984, 106.838932), a short 6 minutes journey for 5,000 IDR per person.

At Ramayana Mall, there were several buses queued up and the drivers were just hanging around the area. Our bus departed at 1500 and the journey to the airport was 2 hours, for 50,000 IDR per person.

From	To	Ankot	Duration	IDR/pax
Cibodas	Cipanas (-6.737441, 107.043924)	Yellow	15 mins	5,000
Cipanas (-6.737441, 107.043924)	Puncak (-6.700598, 106.987132)	Yellow on pink	30 mins	15,000
Puncak (same spot)	Ciawi (= Bogor) (-6.655816, 106.847107)	Blue	3 hours (bad traffic)	30,000
Ciawi (same spot)	Ramayana Mall in Ciawi (-6.643984, 106.838932)	Green on blue	6 mins	5,000
Ramayana Mall	Soekarno-Hatta Airport	Big bus	2 hours	50,000
TOTAL			Departed Cibodas at 0930, reached airport at 1700	105,000

Note 1: During my previous trip in March 2018, travelling from Cibodas to Jakarta was less complicated. After taking the Ankot from Cibodas, we alighted at the foot of the slope at GPS: -6.719851, 107.031653 in Cipanas, and from there boarded a blue Ankot (probably the same route as the Puncak-Ciawi section) that headed straight to the bus terminal at Ciawi. At Ciawi, we just repeated “Jakarta” to the staffs and eventually boarded a bus that brought us to somewhere in Jakarta city (which location I cannot remember) and from there took a short Uber (now replaced by Grab) to our Airbnb.

Note 2: For those planning to travelling from the airport to Cibodas independently, there are buses from the airport to the town of Bogor. After exiting the airport, ask around and look for buses, but don’t trust the taxi drivers as every single one of them will tell you that there are no buses available. During my previous trip, we boarded a bus that departed the airport past midnight. From Bogor, it should be possible to take the Ankot to Cipanas, and from there straight up to Cibodas.

Jakarta to Banyuwangi (east Java)

An early morning (0515) direct flight via Citilink, with 20kg of free check-in luggage. The journey was 2 hours.

Accommodation

20 – 23 July, Gunung Halimun: Cikaniki Research Station

250,000 IDR per night. A simple room with two beds, bathtub and toilet attached.

23 – 28 July, Cibodas (Gunung Gede): RedDoorz near Kebun Raya Cibodas

884,000 IDR for 5 nights, final cost 804,440 IDR for “early payment benefit” (whatever that means) via booking.com. This hotel used to be an independent one called Mon Bel previously but has since then been taken over by the RedDoorz chain. The room was very stuffy and had no fan, so we left our windows open. As there was no laundry service, we hung our washed clothes with strings we brought at the small balcony in the room. The toilet flush was barely working (we had to manually fill it up with the shower) and the shower door was faulty.

28-29 July, Soekarno-Hatta Airport

As our flight was scheduled to depart at 0530 the next morning, we spent the night at the airport.

Food

Gunung Halimun: Cikaniki Research Station

We purchased bottles of water and snacks at a random town on the way (there is an endless supply of convenience stores in Java) before heading to Gunung Halimun. Dinners were provided at the accommodation. The food was similar throughout the three nights but were pretty good.

Cibodas (Gunung Gede)

The town of Cibodas had convenience stores and many Warungs (roadside stalls), some of them open until late at night (past 2200) and we hence did not have any problems finding food. The Nasi Padang (rice with a custom selection of side dishes) was enjoyable. The cost was usually up to about 35,000 IDR per person. There is nowhere to procure food nor (distilled) water at Gunung Gede itself.

East Java

Guide

We birded East Java independently.

Transport

Within East Java

We engaged Sekar Ayu Tours by contacting Haribo at +62 852-five-eight-one-five-8997. A driver was assigned to us throughout the trip from Banyuwangi airport to Ketapang Harbour. We provided the meals for our driver. Since majority of our own food was settled by snacks, we passed him a sum of money and he had his own meals while we birded. Sekar Ayu Tours was reliable and I recommend them.

East Java to Bali

We took a ferry across from Ketapang Harbour in Banyuwangi to Gilimanuk Harbour in Bali. When we initially asked for a ticket, we were quoted 400,000 IDR per person for some “mandatory” pass. After repeated haggling we eventually managed to purchase the ticket alone for 8,000 IDR per person. We were also told that a ferry departed from the harbour every seven minutes, which obviously did not happen. The ferry we boarded had toilets and a small stall. The journey was about 50 minutes in total. Take note that the time zone in Bali is one hour ahead of Java.

ATTENTION	
CARD PRICE WITHOUT BALANCE	: Rp. 25.000.
MINIMUM BALANCE PURCHASE	: Rp. 8.000
BALANCE	: Rp. 6.500
ADMIN FEE	: Rp. 1.500
TICKET PRICE FOR ADULT AGED UP 10 YEARS	: Rp. 6.500
TICKET PRICE FOR ADULT AGED UNDER 10 YEARS	: Rp. 4.500

MUST FILL DATA ONE BY ONE

Accommodation

29 – 31 July: Hadi Homestay

360,000 IDR for 2 nights. Booked via booking.com. Located in the town of Licin which is at the foot of Gunung Ijen. A very nice homestay. Breakfast is provided, but not early enough for pre-dawn birders.

31 July – 1 August: Baluran National Park

150,000 IDR per night. There are several rooms in the “town” of Bekol in Baluran National Park. We contacted Tri, the park ranger, at +62 819-three-four-eight-two-4434 to arrange our accommodation. Water supply stopped at 2030 at night and started around 0500 in the morning.

Food

East Java: Ijen

The Pos Paltuding area at Gunung Ijen had a small stall where water and food were available. We only visited the area during lunch time and are not sure of the opening and closing hours.

At Licin, food choices were limited but there were several stalls at the entrance of Gunung Ijen that were open late at night (past 2100).

East Java: Baluran

There was a convenience store right outside Baluran National Park where we stocked up on food (one dinner and one breakfast), water and snacks. The drive out is not short so purchase enough supplies before entering. Within Baluran National Park itself, there was one stall at Bekol and two at Bama. We were told that the Bekol canteen was open from 0800 to 1750 but never visited it as we spent more time in Bama. One of the canteens at Bama did not open at all during our two days there, while the other was open at least for lunch.

Bali

Guide

We engaged Hery Kusumanegara (+62 813-three-eight-zero-seven-8010). He was familiar with the fruiting trees in the area for the target species. There were many birds that we tried for and dipped, but such is birding. Most importantly, he showed us the Bali Myna and the Black-winged Starling.

Transport

Gilimanuk Harbour to Accommodation at Bama

We contacted Haribo (from Sekar Ayu Tours in east Java), who connected us with a local called Samson at +62 822-three-six-eight-zero-1043. Samson then helped arranged a driver for us. The name of the driver was Muji, who can be directly contacted at +62 823-three-four-one-seven-5840. The journey from Gilimanuk harbour to the accommodation was about 30 minutes.

Birding day

As we engaged Hery, transport for the next day was fully managed by him. He picked us up from our accommodation near Bali Barat and dropped us off at our hotel in Denpasar at the end of the day.

Accommodation

1 – 2 August – The Local Menjangan Homestay

240,000 IDR per night. Booked via booking.com. Great breakfast was available and early enough for birders (at 0530!).

2 – 3 August – RedDoorz @ Raya Kuta

198,000 IDR per night. A pretty normal hotel room.

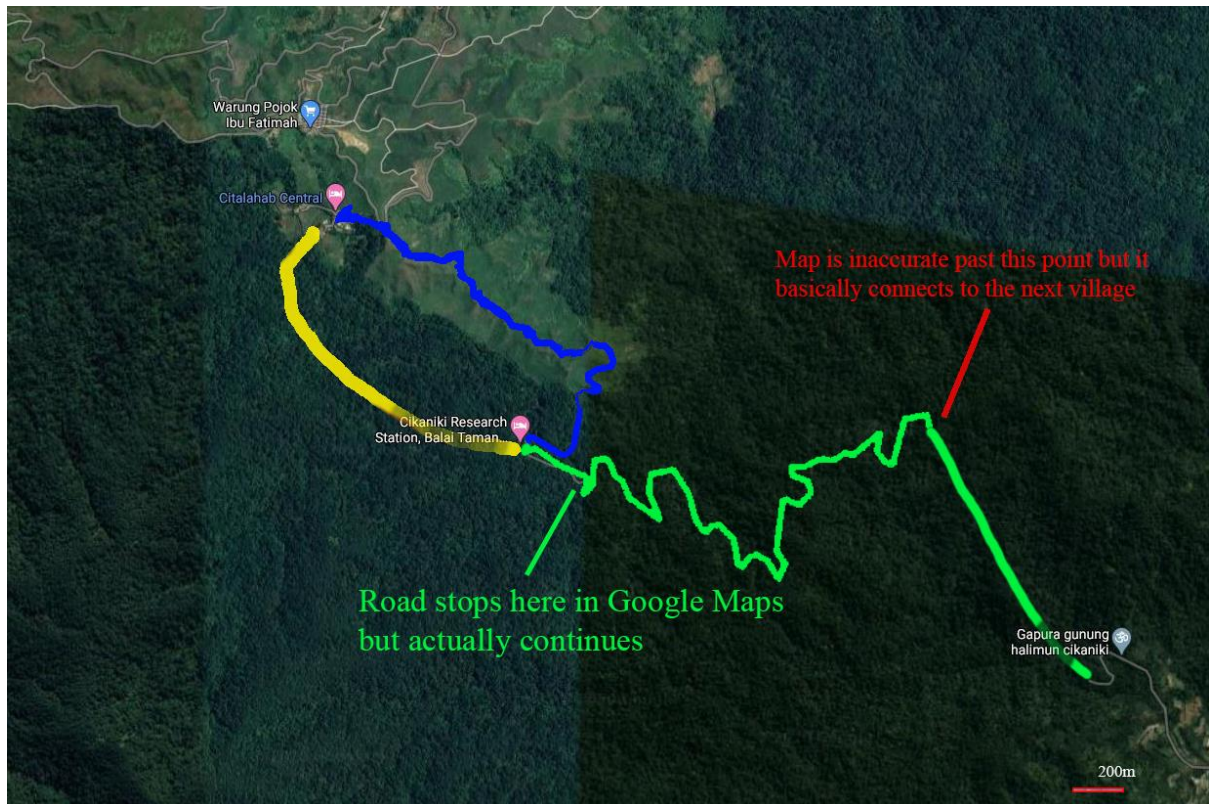
Food

At Gilimanuk, we packed food from a nearby stall while we waited for our transport. For the birding day, lunch was paid for by Hery. There were plenty of dinner choices in Denpasar.

Birding

West Java

Gunung Halimun



General area we birded: Tea Plantation Road in Blue; Loop Trail in Yellow; and "Roadside Trail" in Green. Yellow and green trails are not entirely accurate.

There were three main area around in Gunung Halimun that we birded. The main road which is on Google maps from Citalahab village to Cikaniki Research station that cuts through a tea plantation (blue), a "loop trail" that runs through the forest from the back of Cikaniki Research Station to Citalahab Village (yellow), and the roadside forest trail that connects to another village on the eastern fringe of the national park (green). The green track on the map was taken from my wonky phone GPS and is probably not very accurate, but it doesn't really matter since it's one unmistakable dirt track.

There were very few people in the entire area and the only locals we met were those on motorcycles travelling along the roadside forest trail, and those who lived in Citalahab village. The loop trail had nobody at all.

Cikaniki Research Station

The small and unmissable pond in Cikaniki Research Station is the well-known site for the (Javan) Blue-banded Kingfisher. We spent several hours waiting at the platform overlooking the pond but the bird was extremely skittish – always appearing silently and then disappearing as soon as we made some movement. My friend was the only one who managed to get a good look. The park ranger had some fantastic back-of-the-camera photographs of the bird so those with time to spare should invest some in this soon to be gone taxon. A very friendly **(Javan) Blue Whistling Thrush** was also here and canopy mixed flocks consisting of **Sunda Minivets** and **(Javan) Blue-winged Leafbirds**, both common species throughout Gunung Halimun, entertained us while we waited.



(Javan) Blue Whistling Thrush

Roadside Forest Trail (green)

During both the early morning and night-time birding along this trail we managed to hear a **Javan Scops Owl** and a pair of **Javan Frogmouth** about 200-300 metres from the Cikaniki Research Station. We never succeeded in seeing them. We did not hear any Salvadori's Nightjar.

Bird activity consisting of many of the lowland forest birds was considerably high in the morning. **Horsfield's Babbler** was abundant we found both the **White-crowned** and **Sunda Forktails** running around the puddles on the road. **Pygmy Cupwing** was another common species. **White-bibbed Babbler** took a while to find, while **White-breasted Babbler** and **Javan Fulvetta** participated in understory to mid-canopy mixed flocks. On one occasion they were accompanied, unexpectedly (to me), by a **Flame-fronted Barbet**. We were hoping to find the White-bellied Fantail just like others in previous trip reports did, but Khaleb told us that they have not been seen here since around 2017. We had glimpses of the **Orange-breasted Trogon** along the road as well. The occasional canopy mixed flocks contained huge numbers of **Sunda Minivets** accompanied by species including **Cinereous Tits**, **Ruby-cheeked Sunbird**, **Trilling Shrike-vireo**, **Blyth's Shrike-vireo**, **Ashy Drongo**, **Blue Nuthatches** among others.

Tea Plantation Road (blue)

The open habitat of the Tea Plantation Road was where we saw our only **Javan Hawk-eagle** of the trip. The main target here was the **Deignan's Prinia** that were common by call but difficult to see. Uncaged **Sooty-headed Bulbuls** and **Long-tailed Shrikes** were also around, but this site was otherwise rather unproductive. I did see a *treron* pigeon fly by which was probably a Sumatran Green Pigeon. The forest edge (around GPS: -6.744792, 106.539560) is apparently a good site for the Salvadori's Nightjar but we did not have any luck with one.

Loop Trail (yellow)

The loop trail is accessed from the back of Cikaniki Research Station (follow the path that starts from the platform overlooking the pond). This trail first passes by a canopy walkway, which key can be obtained from the ranger (we did so, but it was a complete waste of time from a birding perspective). After the canopy walkway, there are several side trails that lead to the stream, but just keep walking straight until an obvious y-junction. Take the path on the right and there will be a small stream crossing at GPS: -6.743889, 106.535972. The trail is very straightforward after the stream and eventually leads to Citalahab village around GPS: -6.739835, 106.530750. To head to the Tea Plantation Road from the trail exit, walk across the field and cross a small wooden bridge at GPS: -6.739084, 106.531414. Directions after that are roads displayed on Google Maps. The only notable wild bird we saw in Citalahab village was a **Besra**.

Bird activity along the Loop Trail was a lot higher compared to Roadside Forest Trail. While most of the species overlapped, we did not see any White-breasted Babblers here. Views of the canopy mixed flocks were much better and we had a fantastic one consisting of the **Checker-throated**, **Crimson-winged** and **Grey-and-buff Woodpecker** and a **Grey-cheeked Bulbul** among others. Other species such as the **Eyebrowed Wren-babbler** was easier here too and among the highlights of this trail was a **Spotted Crocias**. We also walked into ground dwelling species such as the **Javan Banded Pitta** and heard the **Chestnut-bellied Partridge**.



Spotted Crocias

Gunung Gede

Our trip to Gunung Gede was during the peak season and it was hence quite crowded despite it being the weekdays. The following statement has probably been included in many other trip reports but is worth repeating – avoid birding at Gunung Gede during the weekends at all cost.

The bird life at Gunung Gede can be partitioned according to the altitudes that are conveniently demarcated by obvious landmarks.

From entrance to Blue Lake area

Following Khaleb's fantastic advice, we waited at the flight of stairs before the ranger station one morning around 0530. About 10 minutes before 0600, we were rewarded with a beautiful **Sunda Thrush** – an enigmatic bird usually only seen around dawn and dusk.

Although there were many lowland species at this general section, we barely spent any time as our focus was on the montane species. There was a friendly **(Javan) Sunda Blue Robin** on the way up and the only species that I otherwise chased was a flock of **Crescent-chested Babblers**. We also heard **Javan Frogmouths** but did not succeed in seeing any.



Sunda Thrush

Blue Lake area to Campsite 1

After passing by the Blue Lake, there will be a long and elevated boardwalk along a grassy/marshy patch, followed by a junction. The left path continues up towards the summit while the right path leads to a waterfall. Again, we did not spend much time at this lower section other than for nocturnals. There were three shelters along the way from the junction towards Campsite 1. Right before Campsite 1 was a hot spring called Air Panas (which means “hot water” in Indonesian) which required a short (<50 metres) walk over slippery rocks with, you guessed it, hot water running through.

There was a **Javan Trogon** (apparently nesting) near Shelter Rawa Denok 1. Right after Shelter Rawa Denok 2 (second shelter from junction), a splendid looking **Pink-headed Fruit Dove** (a species that was mostly heard during my trip) and just 50 metres later a pair of unbelievably friendly **Mountain Serins** (cover photo). The small clearing before the Air Panas crossing is supposed to be a good site for the Javan Cochoa, but we were unable to connect with this bird although Khaleb shared with me his sighting of a juvenile being fed just one day before my attempt.



Pink-headed Fruit Dove

We heard many **Javan Scops Owls** from the Blue Lake onwards but could not see any. The open boardwalk area is supposedly a good site for the **Javan Frogmouth** too, but again, heard only. We did not encounter a single Salvadori’s Nightjar.

Waterfall Area

We only visited the Waterfall on one late evening in hope to find the Spotted Kestrels along the cliffs. I managed to find them during my previous visit but did not see them this time round.

Campsite 1

A nice lone **Chestnut-bellied Partridge** was at Campsite 1. There was also **Javan Cochoa**, but our encounter with this species followed the recurring and frustrating theme of this report – heard only. There was also a **Tawny-breasted Parrotfinch** and another pair of **Mountain Serins** at the scrubby section right after the campsite (before the climb up the steep and crumbed path). I previously saw a nesting pair of Javan Trogons in the campsite but did not see them here during this trip.



Tawny-breasted Parrotfinch

Campsite 1 to Campsite 2

The general set of species around the Campsite 1 area and beyond were more or less consistent, comprising the typical montane species of Gunung Gede including the **Mountain Leaf Warbler**, **White-flanked Sunbird**, **Javan Tesia**, **Mee’s White-eye**, **Rufous-tailed Fantail** and others. The calling **Javan Cochoas** were the bane of my existence but none of these weird thrushes showed.

Campsite 2

There were several species enjoying the food scraps in the rubbish-saturated campsite. These included more **Tawny-breasted Parrotfinches**, **Chestnut-bellied Partridges** and **White-browed Shortwings**. A **Javan Cochoa** called here quite consistently and I once saw a flash of what-must-have-been-it, but I chose to relegate this memory to the darkest corner of my heart. **Javan Scops Owls** called at night but none showed.

Beyond Campsite 2 to the crater

The crater is where most people tick their Volcano Swiftlet off, because soaring above a crater is obviously an unmistakable and diagnostic feature of the *Aerodramus* swiftlet. I decided to embark on this pilgrimage up as well just to see a flying brown blob. The climb up had no clearly demarcated trail but the splitting paths somehow joined back to the same general direction. There was one obvious junction with a big green sign "Jalan Alternatif". The path to the right was an ordinary climb while that on the left was a literal cliff climb using ropes. The reason why I know that is because I ended up down-climbing the cliff while carrying my gear during my downward journey. It was honestly quite fun but was probably unsafe.

I spent a full two hours at the crater and scanned the sky like the deranged man I am, but there were no swiftlets. No swiftlets. None. Zero. The sharp eyes I thought I possessed were absolutely useless. The only bird flying above the crater was a **Peregrine Falcon**, but I think that it should definitely be split off as a West Javan endemic, Volcano Falcon, instead. Watching a juvenile **Island Thrush** being fed was a nice consolation.

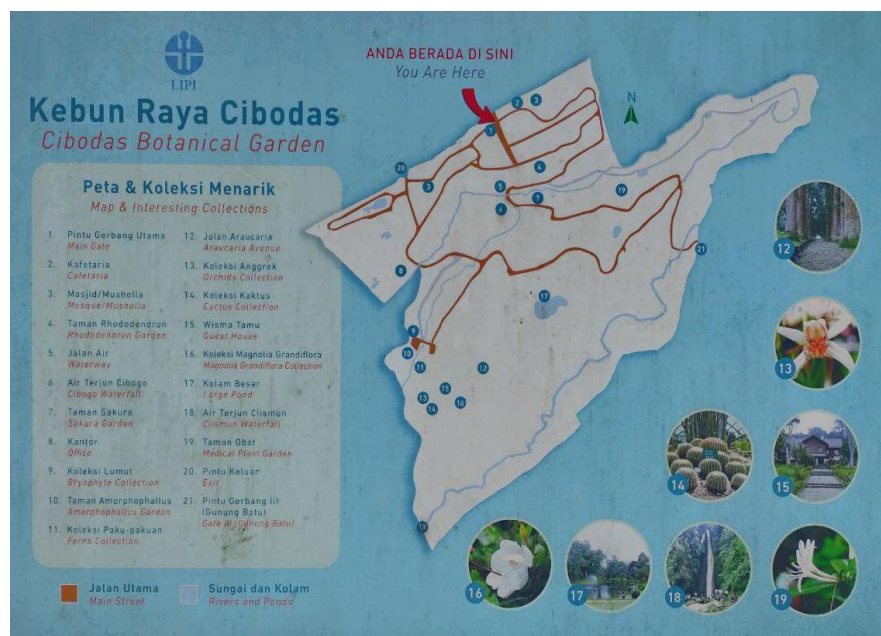


Island Thrush

Cibodas Botanic Gardens

The official opening time of the Botanic Gardens is 0800. The entrance fee was 16,500 IDR per person. During my previous visit, the guards allowed us to enter the gardens early, but they did not this time round. Hence, we walked around the paddyfields of Cibodas and found a **Javan Kingfisher** at GPS: -6.732616, 107.006439.

The Botanic Gardens was packed because we visited on a weekend, but we did manage to find some nice birds including **Yellow-throated Hanging Parrot**, **(Javan) Blood-breasted Flowerpecker**, **Pygmy Bushtit** and a **Giant Swiftlet**.



East Java

Gunung Ijen

Just like Gunung Gede, Gunung Ijen is well demarcated altitudinally by four prominent shelters (detailed information on [Burung Nusantara](#)), until the highest area at Pos Paltuding. There is an entrance fee to take the path beyond Pos Paltuding towards the crater that we considered going when planning the trip in case we missed the Scaly Thrush, but there wasn't a need to. There were plenty of accessible wooded area around Pos Paltuding to search for this species.

Since we had a driver with us, we simply walked down the path slowly and requested him to pick us up at a designated spot rather than to walk back up. Birding here was mostly roadside and while the birds were superb, the experience was tiring. Ear birding was painful as tour vans and convoys of trucks ascended the mountain during morning birding hours and these same vehicles descended during evening birding hours. There were several side trails at random places along the road but all of them were very short and not worth including in the report.

Entrance area to Shelter 2

Birds here comprised the submontane and lowland species of Java. We did not spend much time here as most of our time was spent higher searching for the Grey-breasted Partridge. There were several **Striated Grassbirds** in the plantations at foot of the mountain. Higher up (near shelter 1) had nice views of a striking **Orange-breasted Trogon**. **Black-banded Barbets** were calling all over but we failed to see them, though while scanning the tall trees we instead found a **Banded Kingfisher**. **Wreathed Hornbills** flew over once in a while, and a **Checker-throated Woodpecker** responding to playbacks from the Malaysian subspecies was quite interesting.



Orange-breasted Trogon

Shelter 2 to Pos Paltuding Area

We found the montane birds of Gunung Ijen throughout this general area. **White-bellied Fantail**, one of our key targets, was relatively easy and we saw them in mixed flocks. **Indigo Flycatchers** and **Little Cuckoo Doves** were abundant, as were **Dark-backed Imperial Pigeons**. **Orange-spotted** and **Sunda Bulbuls** were easy too. **Crescent-chested Babblers** foraged in the shrubs and a family of **Chestnut-backed Scimitar Babbler** was quite a magnificent sight. **Sunda Cuckooshrikes** were also present.

We heard multiple **Grey-breasted Partridges** from around Shelter 2 all the way to the Pos Paltuding area. The birds were responsive but we did not manage to see any of them in the end despite putting in a lot of effort. (This tick can be purchased at EreK EreK Jungle Park).

Pos Paltuding Area

The main targets here were the **Javan Bush Warbler** and **(Horsfield's) Scaly Thrush**. We heard multiple individuals of the former from the scrubs of the general area, and eventually had good views of both species at a wooded patch around GPS: -8.072767, 114.222866.

Baluran National Park

Baluran, advertised as “Africa in Java”, was indeed remarkably different from the other sites. The savanna habitat was splendid. Here, the sun wanted to be our best friend and was getting a little too touchy, so our hats and sunblock defended us.

The entrance fee was as follows. Hari kerja = weekdays, hari libur = weekends. Nusantara = Indonesian citizens, mancanegara = foreigners. Rest are vehicle fees.

HARI KERJA	HARGA TIKET MASUK	HARI LIBUR
16.000	NUSANTARA	18.500
165.000	MANCANEKARA	240.000
5.000	RODA 2	5.000
10.000	RODA 4	10.000
50.000	RODA 6	50.000

PEMOTRETAN PRE WEDDING	SHOOTING FILM	VIDEO KOMERSIL
250.000	10.000.000	1.000.000

PERHATIAN :

- Dilarang mengoperasikan drone
- Dilarang memberi makan satwa
- Dilarang masuk savana
- Kecepatan kendaraan 20 km/jam
- Bawa sampahmu kembali

VISITOR CENTER
Taman Nasional Baluran
Taman Nasional Baluran
@tn.baluran
tamannasional_baluran
baluranationalpark@gmail.com
0853-1938-9446 (Call Center)

There are two “towns” in Baluran National Park – Bekol (where the accommodation was) and Bama. We birded along the stretch between the two area (once by car and once by foot), as well as at the trails around Bama. Between the entrance and Bekol, there is a short section of wetter wooded patch called the “evergreen” which we visited twice.

Bekol – Bama

There were a lot of unmissable **Green Peafowls** throughout the national park in the mornings and evenings. **Black Drongos** were abundant and other open habitat species such as **Sooty-headed Bulbul** were present. **Grey-cheeked Green Pigeons** and **Island Collared Doves** also made regular flybys.

At the mangrove/wet forest patch in Bama (there was one obvious entrance at the carpark around GPS: -7.844922, 114.460267 and another less official looking one on the right side of the road slightly before the carpark) there were **Oriental Pied Hornbills** and **Horsfield’s Babblers**. **Grey-cheeked Tit-babbler** is supposed to be easy here (and at the evergreen area) but we somehow only heard one bird throughout our stay. Along the coast we also saw **Greater Crested Terns** and a **Great-billed Heron**.



Green Peafowl

Our main target at Baluran was the **Black-winged Starling**. The staffs mentioned that the birds could be anywhere in the Savanna, and so we searched extensively along the trail system near Bama (starting around GPS: -7.842966, 114.461892). We did not venture far and along the trail easily found **Small Minivets**, **Plain Prinias** and a **Sacred Kingfisher**. We eventually had unsatisfying views of a pair of **Black-winged Starlings** flyby near the first y-junction of the trail.

On the drive back from Bama to Bekol, I heard a Common Myna-like call just 600 metres from the Bama carpark. Upon jumping out of the vehicle there was a solitary **Black-winged Starling** on a dead stump. The bird was rather skittish and vanished less than a minute after we found it.

We found out later from our Bali guide Hery that Javan Sparrows are found at the foot of the observation tower in Bekol “every evening”, but we unfortunately did not visit the site.



Black-winged Starling

Evergreen

This short (~400 metres) patch around GPS: -7.854891, 114.422520 was surprisingly productive, with **Banded Broadbill**, **Mangrove Whistler**, **Racket-tailed Treepie** and multiple **Javan Banded Pittas** calling.

Bali

Birding in Bali was entirely managed by Hery. **Black-winged Starlings** were in the National Park and we had better views of **Bali Mynas** at a random wooded patch behind someone’s house rather than in the National Park itself. At the saltpans there were **Javan Plovers** among other assorted Asian waders, but Beach Thick-knees were missing because the tide was high. We later went to the slopes of Mount Batakaru (roadside birding about 200 metres before “Pura Pengubengan Batukaru” on Google Maps) and heard several **Javan Owlets** but did not see any.



Black-winged Starling



Bali Myna

Systematic List of Birds

184 species seen, 19 heard only

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill F, D Donsker & P Rasmussen (Eds). 2020. IOC World Bird List (v10.1). doi : 10.14344/IOC.ML.10.1.

1 = Seen, HO = Heard Only

GH = Gunung Halimun, GG = Gunung Gede (including Cibodas Botanic Gardens), GI = Gunung Ijen
 B = Baluran, Ba = Bali

No.	English Name	Latin Name	GH	GG	GI	B	Ba
1	Grey-breasted Partridge	<i>Arborophila orientalis</i>			HO		
2	Chestnut-bellied Partridge	<i>Arborophila javanica</i>	HO	1			
3	Green Junglefowl	<i>Gallus varius</i>				1	
4	Green Peafowl	<i>Pavo muticus</i>				1	
5	Sunda Teal	<i>Anas gibberifrons</i>					1
6	Javan Frogmouth	<i>Batrachostomus javensis</i>	HO	HO			
7	Savanna Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>				1	
8	Grey-rumped Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne longipennis</i>	1			1	1
9	Giant Swiftlet	<i>Hydrochous gigas</i>		1			
10	Cave Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia linchi</i>	1	1	1	1	1
11	Brown-backed Needletail	<i>Hirundapus giganteus</i>	1			1	
12	House Swift	<i>Apus nipalensis</i>			1	1	
13	Chestnut-breasted Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus curvirostris</i>	1	1	1		
14	Plaintive Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis merulinus</i>		HO			
15	Rusty-breasted cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis sepulcralis</i>	HO	1	HO	H O	
16	Sunda Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus lepidus</i>		1	HO		HO
17	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>					1
18	Island Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia bitorquata</i>				1	
19	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>		HO	1	1	1
20	Ruddy Cuckoo-dove	<i>Macropygia emiliana</i>			HO		
21	Little Cuckoo-dove	<i>Macropygia ruficeps</i>			1		

22	Common Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>			1	1	
23	Zebra Dove	<i>Geopelia striata</i>				1	1
24	Pink-necked Green Pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>				1	1
25	Orange-breasted Green Pigeon	<i>Treron bicinctus</i>					1
26	Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon	<i>Treron griseicauda</i>			1	1	1
27	Pink-headed Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus porphyreus</i>		1	1		
28	Black-naped Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus melanospilus</i>					1
29	Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>				1	
30	Dark-backed Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula lacernulata</i>	HO		1		HO
31	Pied Stilt	<i>Himantopus leucocephalus</i>					1
32	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>					1
33	Javan Plover	<i>Charadrius javanicus</i>					1
34	Malaysian Plover	<i>Charadrius peronii</i>					1
35	Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>					
36	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					1
37	Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>					1
38	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>					1
39	Grey-tailed Tattler	<i>Tringa brevipes</i>					1
40	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>					1
41	Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>				1	1
42	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>				1	
43	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>					1
44	Javan Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola speciosa</i>				1	1
45	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>					1
46	Great-billed Heron	<i>Ardea sumatrana</i>				1	
47	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>					1
48	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>					1
49	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	1	HO		1	
50	Changeable Hawk-eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>				1	1

51	Javan Hawk-eagle	<i>Nisaetus bartelsi</i>	1				
52	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malaiensis</i>		1			
53	Besra	<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>	1		1		
54	Javan Scops Owl	<i>Otus angelinae</i>	HO	HO			
55	Javan Owlet	<i>Glaucidium castanopterum</i>					HO
56	Javan Trogon	<i>Apalharpactes reinwardtii</i>		1			
57	Orange-breasted Trogon	<i>Harpactes oreskios</i>	1		1		
58	Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>				1	
59	Wreathed Hornbill	<i>Rhyticeros undulatus</i>			1		
60	Oriental Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>					1
61	Banded Kingfisher	<i>Lacedo pulchella</i>	HO		1		
62	Javan Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon cyanoventris</i>		1			
63	Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>	1	1		1	1
64	Sacred Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus sanctus</i>				1	1
65	Cerulean Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo coerulescens</i>					1
66	Blue-eared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo meninting</i>	1				
67	Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>				1	1
68	Fire-tufted Barbet	<i>Psilopogon pyrolophus</i>		1			
69	Lineated Barbet	<i>Psilopogon lineatus</i>					HO
70	Brown-throated Barbet	<i>Psilopogon corvinus</i>	HO	HO			
71	Black-banded Barbet	<i>Psilopogon javensis</i>			HO		
72	Flame-fronted Barbet	<i>Psilopogon armillaris</i>	1	1	1		1
73	Blue-eared Barbet	<i>Psilopogon duvaucelii</i>					1
74	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>				H O	1
75	Grey-and-buff Woodpecker	<i>Hemicircus concretus</i>	1				
76	Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus moluccensis</i>				1	
77	Freckle-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos analis</i>				1	
78	Banded Woodpecker	<i>Chrysophlegma miniaceum</i>	HO				

79	Checker-throated Woodpecker	<i>Chrysophlegma mentale</i>	1		1		
80	Crimson-winged Woodpecker	<i>Picus puniceus</i>	1				
81	Laced Woodpecker	<i>Picus vittatus</i>					1
82	Common Flameback	<i>Dinopium javanense</i>				H O	1
83	Black-thighed Falconet	<i>Microhierax fringillarius</i>	1			1	
84	Spotted Kestrel	<i>Falco moluccensis</i>		1			
85	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		1			
86	Yellow-throated Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus pusillus</i>	1	1			
87	Banded Broadbill	<i>Eurylaimus javanicus</i>	HO	HO	HO	1	
88	Javan Banded Pitta	<i>Hydrornis guajanus</i>	1	HO		H O	1
89	Golden-bellied Gerygone	<i>Gerygone sulphurea</i>					1
90	Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus hirundinaceus</i>	1	1	1	1	
91	White-breasted Woodswallow	<i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>					1
92	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>				1	1
93	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>				1	
94	Sunda Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus miniatus</i>	1	1	1		
95	Javan Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina javensis</i>					1
96	Sunda Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina larvata</i>			1		
97	Pied Triller	<i>Lalage nigra</i>				1	1
98	Mangrove Whistler	<i>Pachycephala cinerea</i>				1	
99	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	1		1	1	HO
100	Pied Shrike-babbler	<i>Pteruthius flaviscapis</i>	1	1	1		
101	Trilling Shrike-babbler	<i>Pteruthius aenobarbus</i>	1				
102	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>				1	1
103	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	1	1	1	1	

104	Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i>	1	HO			
105	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>			1		1
106	White-bellied Fantail	<i>Rhipidura euryura</i>			1		
107	Malaysian Pied Fantail	<i>Rhipidura javanica</i>				1	1
108	Rufous-tailed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura phoenicura</i>		1			
109	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	1				
110	Racket-tailed Treepie	<i>Crypsirina temia</i>				1	
111	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>				1	
112	Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	1	HO	HO		
113	Cinereous Tit	<i>Parus cinereus</i>	1	1		1	1
114	Sooty-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus aurigaster</i>	1	1	1	1	1
115	Orange-spotted Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus bimaculatus</i>		1	1		
116	Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>				1	1
117	Olive-winged Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus plumosus</i>				1	
118	Grey-cheeked Bulbul	<i>Alophoixus bres</i>	1				
119	Sunda Bulbul	<i>Ixos virescens</i>			1		
120	Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>	1			1	
121	Striated Swallow	<i>Cecropis striolata</i>	1	1		1	
122	Pygmy Cupwing	<i>Pnoepyga pusilla</i>	1	1			
123	Mountain Tailorbird	<i>Phyllergates cucullatus</i>		1	HO		
124	Sunda Bush Warbler	<i>Horornis vulcanius</i>		1	1		
125	Javan Tesia	<i>Tesia superciliaris</i>		1			
126	Pygmy Bushtit	<i>Aegithalos exilis</i>		1			
127	Sunda Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus grammiceps</i>		1	1		
128	Mountain Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trivirgatus</i>		1	1		
129	Javan Bush Warbler	<i>Locustella montis</i>			1		
130	Striated Grassbird	<i>Megalurus palustris</i>			1		
131	Deignan's Prinia	<i>Prinia polychroa</i>					
132	Bar-winged Prinia	<i>Prinia familiaris</i>				1	

133	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>	1			1	
134	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>				1	
135	Olive-backed Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sepium</i>	HO		1		HO
136	Chestnut-backed Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus montanus</i>			1		
137	White-breasted Babbler	<i>Stachyris grammiceps</i>	1				
138	White-bibbed Babbler	<i>Stachyris thoracica</i>	1				
139	Crescent-chested Babbler	<i>Stachyris melanothorax</i>	1	1	1		
140	Grey-cheeked Tit-babbler	<i>Macronus flavicollis</i>				H O	
141	Javan Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe pyrrhoptera</i>	1	1			
142	Large Wren-babbler	<i>Napothera macrodactyla</i>	HO				
143	Eyebrowed Wren-babbler	<i>Napothera epilepidota</i>	1	HO			
144	Horsfield's Babbler	<i>Malacocincla sepiaria</i>	HO	1		1	1
145	Spotted Crocias	<i>Laniellus albonotatus</i>	1				
146	Mees's White-eye	<i>Lophozosterops javanicus</i>		1	1		
147	Warbling White-eye	<i>Zosterops japonicus</i>	1				
148	Sangkar White-eye	<i>Zosterops melanurus</i>		1			
149	Blue Nuthatch	<i>Sitta azurea</i>	1		1		
150	Short-tailed Starling	<i>Aplonis minor</i>					1
151	Javan Myna	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>					1
152	Black-winged Starling	<i>Acridotheres melanopterus</i>				1	1
153	Bali Myna	<i>Leucopsar rothschildi</i>					1
154	Sunda Thrush	<i>Zoothera andromedae</i>		1			
155	Scaly Thrush	<i>Zoothera dauma</i>			1		
156	Island Thrush	<i>Turdus poliocephalus</i>		1			
157	Javan Cochoa	<i>Cochoa azurea</i>		HO			
158	Pale Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis unicolor</i>	1				
159	Indigo Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias indigo</i>	1		1		
160	Lesser Shortwing	<i>Brachypteryx leucophris</i>	1	HO	HO		
161	White-browed Shortwing	<i>Brachypteryx montana</i>		1			

162	Sunda Robin	<i>Myiomela diana</i>		1			
163	Sunda Forktail	<i>Enicurus velatus</i>	1				
164	White-crowned Forktail	<i>Enicurus leschenaulti</i>	1		1		
165	Javan Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus glaucinus</i>	1	1			
166	Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>	1				
167	Snowy-browed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hyperythra</i>		1	1		
168	Little Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula westermanni</i>	HO	1	1		
169	Blue-winged Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i>	1				
170	Crimson-breasted Flowerpecker	<i>Prionochilus percussus</i>	1				
171	Orange-bellied Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum trigonostigma</i>	1		HO		HO
172	Blood-breasted Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum sanguinolentum</i>		1	1		
173	Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum trochileum</i>	1				
174	Ruby-cheeked Sunbird	<i>Chalcoparia singalensis</i>	1				
175	Brown-throated Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes malacensis</i>					1
176	Olive-backed Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>					1
177	White-flanked Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga eximia</i>		1	1		
178	Javan Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga mystacalis</i>	1				
179	Streaky-breasted Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera affinis</i>	1				
180	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		1			1
181	Tawny-breasted Parrotfinch	<i>Erythrura hyperythra</i>		1			
182	Javan Munia	<i>Lonchura leucogastroides</i>	1	1			1
183	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>					1
184	Mountain Serin	<i>Chrysocorythus estherae</i>		1			

Note: Crimson-breasted Flowerpecker was listed wrongly as Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker previously. Edited 14 July 2020.