

Indonesia: West Java, Banyaks, Simeulue, & Aceh



Javan Scops Owl



Javan Cochoa



Nias Hill Myna



Sumatran Mesia

Independent Budget Birding
June 30 – July 15, 2019

Ross & Melissa Gallardy

www.budgetbirders.com



Overview:

With only a little over two weeks, I had to be pretty selective on where to visit in Indonesia. The decision was made to concentrate on a number of species that are unfortunately critically endangered. Although we spent four months birding Indonesia back in 2017, this was our first time in the Greater Sundas (except for a quick three day visit to East Java on that initial trip.) While planning this trip I had a few discussions with Michael Kearns who had already visited Simeulue and Aceh once before, but was eager to get back and look for a few species that he had missed. This included Barusan Shama and Nias Hill Myna. While doing some initial research it became evident that the shama is likely extinct in the wild and that the Nias Hill Myna could only be found on Bangkaru in the Banyak islands. That information was the impetus for the rest of the trip and I soon decided on an itinerary where Melissa and I would bird West Java by ourselves and then meet fellow birders Michael Kearns and Irene Dy for the trip through the Banyaks, Simeulue, and Aceh. Overall the trip was a great success and we managed to track down almost all of our targets. The only big misses were Javan Woodcock and Aceh Bulbul, but with a highlight list of Nias Hill Myna, Sumatran Mesia, Roll's & Red-billed Partridge, Sumatran Woodpecker, Sumatran Laughingthrush, Sumatran Leafbird, Silvery Pigeon, Babi Monarch, Javan Blue-banded Kingfisher, Javan Serin, Volcano Swiftlet, and Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush, it's hard to complain! In total, including domestic flights, we spent \$2,005 for the two of us and an additional \$2,400 for international airfare (pricey flights this time!). This \$2,005 includes \$747 for internal flights and \$529 for our share of the "Bangkaru extension". Due to lack of available time, I decided to get this trip report completed quickly so it might not be completely thorough, but it should still give a lot of good info. As usual I do not list all of the possible birds at a site but mostly focus on the more important ones. Please check out some other reports/eBird for more info on all the species present at a location.

Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive Jakarta Airport, travel to Halimun (0850-1630), evening walk Halimun. Night: Cikaniki Research Station

Day 2: Halimun National Park. Night: Cikaniki Research Station

Day 3: Halimun National Park (0300-1130), travel to Cibodas (1130-2000). Night: RedDoorz Cibodas

Day 4: Start at Gede entrance at 0600 for Sunda Thrush, hiking up to Campsite 2 with a little birding (0600-1200), birding around Air Panas (1230-2100). Night: Campsite 2

Day 5: Campsite 2 to summit (0400-630), Summit area (0630-0930), hike down to Campsite 2, pack up tent and move to Campsite 1, afternoon middle section, heavy from starting at 1530 until well after dark. Night: Campsite 1

Day 6: Middle section of trail (0400-1400), lower section of trail (1400-1800). Heavy rain started at 1600 and didn't stop until middle of the night. Night: RedDoorz Cibodas

Day 7: Lower section of trail (0200-0630), Cibodas Botanical gardens (0700-0900), sitting in the worst traffic of our lives Cibodas to Jakarta (1000-2300!). Night: VK Pods Jakarta @ PIK

Day 8: Muara Angke (0500-1000), Palau Rambut (1200-1500), Fly to Medan at 2000. Night: Overnight car to Singkil

Day 9: Depart Singkil at 0930, arrive Bangkaru 1430. Night: Camping at Bangkaru Ranger Station

Day 10: Birding Bangkaru (0530-1000), travel to Babi 1100-1445. Night: Camping at cell tower Babi

Day 11: Birding Babi (0530-0830), travel Babi to Simeulue (0850-1020), Silvery Pigeon Quarry (1330-1700), owling near Simeulue (1800-1930). Night: Loseman Simeulue

Day 12: Radstaak Trail (0530-0900), Busung Indah Road (0930-1100), lunch Sinabang, Busung Indah Road (1500-1830). Night: Loseman Simeulue

Day 13: Busung Indah Road (0400-0830), Fly to Meulaboh (0935-1045), travel to Aceh birding area (1100-1300), birding Meulaboh-Takengon Highway (1300-1900) then rain. Night: Camping at shelter along roadside

Day 14: Birding Meulaboh-Takengon Highway (0400-1900) then rain. Night: Camping at shelter along roadside

Day 15: Birding Meulaboh-Takengon Highway (0300-2100). Night: Camping at shelter along roadside

Day 16: Birding Meulaboh-Takengon Highway (0400-0830), travel to Meulaboh airport, fly to Jakarta at 1200

Weather: For the most part, the weather cooperated, although a number of the evenings it started to rain near dusk which greatly impacted evening and night birding. It got quite chilly at night camping on Gunung Gede as well as at the higher elevations in Aceh, so if you plan to camp, make sure you bring a decent sleeping bag.

ATM: It is recommended to use ATMs at the airports before heading off to the various areas on this itinerary, but most towns should have an ATM. We used the ATM in Medan before heading to Singkil, but Singkil had an ATM as well. Sinabang also has ATMs.

Acknowledgments: As always thanks to Melissa for putting up with me and going on another epic birding trip. Also thanks to Michael Kearns and Irene Dy for joining the second half of the trip, especially Michael for coordinating everything with Tedi. Also thanks to Alec Hopping for alerting us to the Javan Serin and for some comic relief during what quite possibly could have been the worst day ever of sitting in Jakarta traffic for 14 hours!! Also thanks to Julien Mazenauer and Jonas Olah for lots of info on Java. Thanks to Brian Cox for info on Aceh and a few hard to get recordings. Thanks to Frank Rheindt for information about the mynas as well as status updates on Barusan Shama in the wild (or lack thereof unfortunately). Frank and his team are doing work to start a captive breeding program with the last remaining shamas and would be the best person to contact about the possibility of tracking this bird down in the wild. Thanks to Simon Bruslund and Tomas Ouhel for info on getting to Bangkaru. And thanks to local fixer Dar Mawan for coordinating the boat and Tedi Wahyudi for guiding in Aceh.

Resources:

Maps.me: If you don't have this app yet, you should. Maps.me allows you to download offline maps for anywhere in the world. You can easily upload a kmz file that will import all the waypoints and tracks into the map which is great for use in the field. You can also mark your own sightings in the app and then upload the kmz after your trip for others to use.

Google Translate: Another extremely helpful app is google translate. You can download Indonesian and then use it offline. This is extremely helpful when trying to communicate with porters, drivers, and other people that you meet if you can't fluently speak the language.

www.nusatrip.com: Easiest place to search and buy domestic airfare for Indonesia

www.eBird.org: all checklists from the trip can be searched for on eBird

www.xeno-canto.org: Recordings for the trip were downloaded from here, my recordings will eventually be added

www.cloudbirders.com: Access to hundreds of trip reports

Reports:

A few helpful trip reports that were used during planning and referenced during the trip:

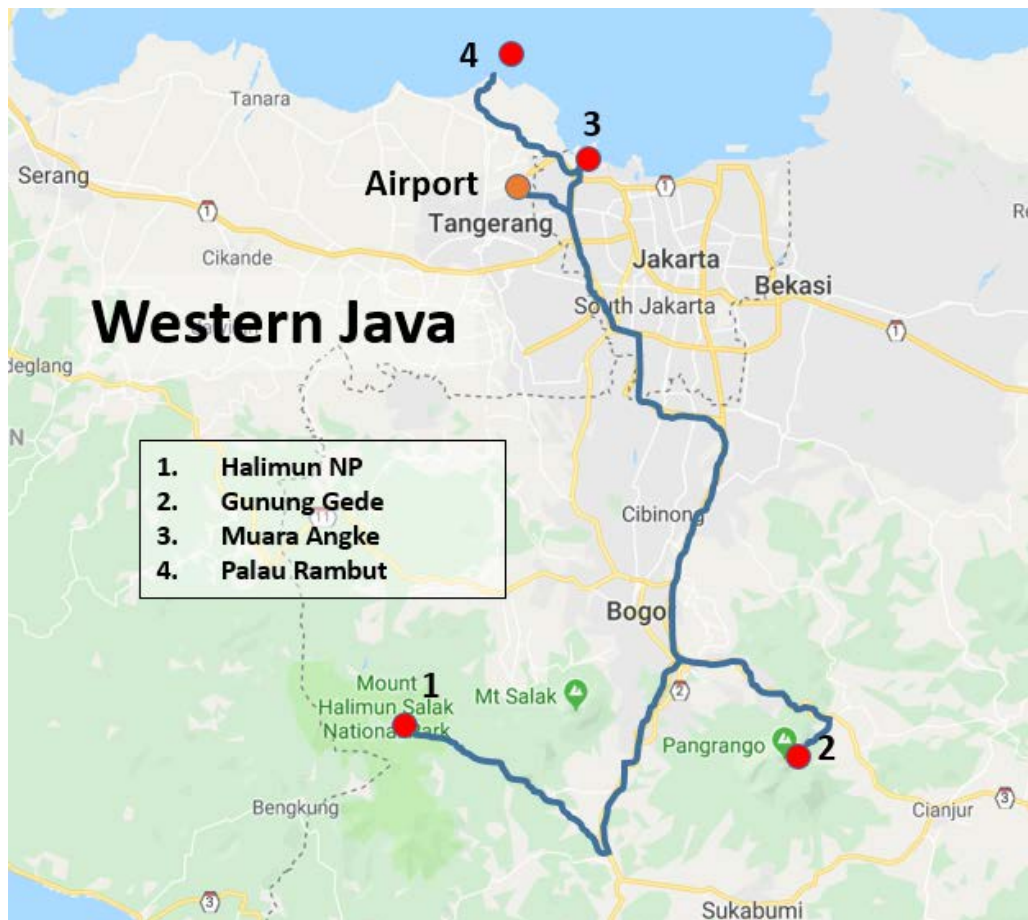
W-Java & C-Sumatra; 2015: Sjoerd Radstaak

Mentawai, Simeulue, & Aceh; 2017: Sjoerd Radstaak

Gunung Gede & Jakarta; 2015: Vincent van der Spek

Gunung Gede: Peter Collaerts





Gunung Gede:

General Information

Overview: With only a single trail, birding Gunung Gede is pretty straight forward, although having a good strategy is important as most species are typically found between certain elevation ranges from the start of the trail at 1364m up to the summit at 2941m. Along with birding strategy, the most important thing to remember when birding Gunung Gede is avoiding the weekends (and school breaks!) We succeeded partially in avoiding the crowds as we visited Wednesday through Saturday, but unfortunately it was during school break, so even mid-week the trails were loaded with hundreds of teenagers making the trek to the top. Of course, like most Indonesians they all were friendly (maybe too friendly), which gets annoying after you have to stop and take a selfie for the 50th time of the morning. Our last morning, Saturday, was an absolute zoo and I only birded the lower section at dawn and I legitimately passed over 500 people in the lower section as I quickly made my way over to the botanical gardens to get the hanging parrot (more on that later). I'm not sure if the weekends are always THIS crowded or if it was exceptionally bad due to the school break. Also it is very important not to try and leave mid-day on Saturday or Sunday because they close down the road towards Bogor and you won't go anywhere for hours (see below.)

Getting There: We came directly from Halimun, but getting to Cibodas from Jakarta is pretty straight forward. You can take a bus to Bogor bus station (-6.60468,106.80673) and then another onward to Cibodas. When leaving, DO NOT TRY TO LEAVE ON SATURDAY AFTER 0800. If you get anything out of this report, it should be that. On

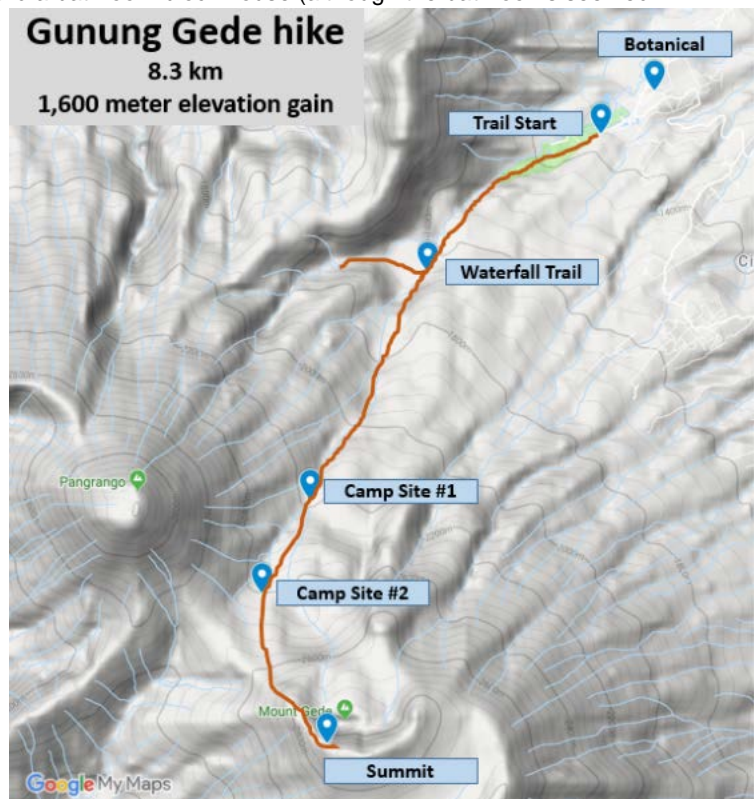
Saturdays (and I think Sundays) they close down the main road heading towards Bogor at 0900 to only allow traffic to come up hill towards Cibodas. We left at 1000 and got stuck in this hellish traffic. It took us a staggering 14 HOURS to go the 91km (57 miles) from Cibodas to Jakarta because the road was closed from 0900-1500 and then traffic was so backed up it just didn't move. An absolute disaster and complete waste of time. Getting from Halimun to Gede we ended up being driven by a local who lived in a small village near Halimun. It was a chance encounter and he just wanted to drive up to Cibodas for fun (what's more fun than road tripping with two Americans for a few hours?!) The drive ended up taking about 7 hours because we ran into heavy traffic. The guy didn't want money but we gave him 800,000 for helping us out.

Entrance Fee: If you're hiking in along the trail before dawn, you'll avoid having to pay for an entrance ticket. Since we waited around for the Sunda Thrush the first morning, we ended up getting stopped and paid 165,000 each for entrance. I've heard that you're not allowed to camp on the mountain without a guide, but it was pretty obvious that we'd be camping and the gate guard didn't say anything. Also, when camping at Camp Site 2 the first night, two guys came by our tent at 0200 and they might have been checking for tickets, but I'm not sure. I just didn't move/say anything as I'm not a fan of opening my tent up and talking to people at 0200 in the morning. They only waited 15 seconds and went on their way.

Accommodation/Camping: Most independent birders stay at Freddie's, but we decided to get a room at RedDoorz Hotel which is essentially across the street. On booking.com the rate for RedDoorz was 150,000 a night. At reception they wanted 300,000 a night, so I just made the reservation online in front of them and got the 150,000 a night rate. We booked the room for the entire time we were there even though we spent half the time camping. This way we could just store the rest of the gear in our room. The room was basic (but had hot water & wifi). The other birders we met (Alec and Scott) were staying at Freddie's and were paying 150,000-200,000 a night and their room didn't have wifi, hot water, or even an outlet! I'd highly recommend not staying at Freddie's as RedDoorz seemed to have it beaten out in every way. Of course there's fancier options too if you're a fancy person.

There are two camp sites at Gunung Gede. Camp site 1 is located just after Air Panas at -6.769455,106.979039 and Camp Site 2 is located 1.2 km further up the trail at -6.777036,106.975051. Most Indonesians stay at campsite 2 and use it as their base for hiking up to the summit. On our way up, no one was even staying in Camp Site 1, but on our second night we camped at Camp Site 1 and there were a few others staying as well (probably due to the rain and not wanting to hike in it). Camp Site 1 has access to fresh water directly behind the campsite down a small hill to the creek and Camp Site 2 has an actual water point and a bathroom block house (although the bathrooms seemed pretty nasty and we never went in them). Of course we filtered water at both points before drinking, but the Indonesians didn't. Also don't drink from the actual hot springs!

Guiding: We didn't use a guide, but we did run into Adun along the trail who is a local bird guide and very knowledgeable. My friend Rick used him 2 weeks before our arrival and was very happy with the results. I would highly recommend getting in touch and using Adun if you're on a tight schedule or want to ensure you get some of the trickier birds. Freddie's son (who actually runs Freddie's now, since Freddie is dead) is also a guide, but he didn't even know that Sunda Thrush was being seen on the entrance steps (which it has been for over a year at this point), so I don't think he'd be worthwhile taking. Also I don't think it's worth hiring any of the Jakarta based guides as Adun speaks good English and is very aware of what is going on at Gede. His contact info on FB (Adunbahrum) or WhasApp (+62 877-7867-6186).



Birding

Entrance Steps: The entrance of the trail starts at -6.739713, 107.002764 and along the very first section of steps there is a current stakeout for Sunda Thrush (-6.739726,107.003119). The thrush is regularly seen at dawn. Sunrise for us was at 5:50 a.m. and we saw the thrush for about 10 minutes starting at 6:02.

Lower Section (entrance to waterfall): We didn't spend much time along this section, but a number of species are much more common along this section than higher up. From the entrance you hike up to a small lake (-6.748492,106.99401) a clearing (-6.749622,106.98983) and then the start of the waterfall trail (-6.750932,106.98865). This section is also very good for night birds, but I only got to spend a few hours pre-dawn as the evening before I got rained out.

Main Targets:

Salvadori's Nightjar: With only a single morning to get this bird, I set off at 0200, but despite major effort barely got any responses until almost dawn (not totally unexpected). Single birds were heard at -6.74425,106.99915 and -6.74694, 106.99648 but wouldn't come in and then at dawn birds were seen just inside the forest on both sides of the clearing.

Javan Owlet: Single bird heard in the afternoon and again before dawn at -6.748336, 106.991979 and single bird seen before dawn at -6.746331, 106.996912.

Javan Scops-Owl: Silent bird found at -6.747142, 106.995828

Javan Tit-Babbler: Small group at dawn at -6.747177,106.996167

Javan Kingfisher: Didn't see (or really look for it) but sometimes found at the Blue Lake

Javan Crocias: Sometimes found along this section, although we only had it up higher

Chestnut-bellied Partridge: Along here, but also very easy higher up

Javan Hawk-Eagle: Sometimes seen from the clearing, we didn't look as we had seen a few at Halimun

Brown-headed Barbet: The species gets increasingly more difficult higher up, so get it here or on the lower parts of the next section

Middle Section (waterfall to Air Panas): Although this section covers a lot of ground (3km in total), there's a section within this section that contained the majority of our targets and is where I'd recommend concentrating most of your time. About 200 meters before the shelter at -6.760275,106.985434 to about 100 meters past the shelter at -6.764617,106.983078 was an extremely enjoyable area to bird and we saw the majority of Gede's main targets along this section.

Main Targets:

Javan Trogon: An adult and juvenile seen at -6.763806,106.982352 were probably from the nest that was present just uphill around the shelter at -6.764617,106.983078 the week prior

Javan Crocias: These guys were a pain, but we managed to see them twice in the canopy getting scope views once. Two birds at -6.759399, 106.98578 on the way up and then another small group in a large flock at -6.761466,106.985127

Javan Cochoa: Although typically seen a bit higher, keep an ear out for cochoas along this section as it is still very possible. We heard a single bird at -6.759399, 106.98578 (didn't look for it as had already seen them) and Rick had seen one in a fruiting tree the week



prior at -6.765774, 106.982854. So in other words, this whole section could produce cochoas. Also, be aware that they are an extremely soft singer/caller so although it might sound way off, it's probably within sight.

Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush: It seems to be a bit taboo to give exact GPS coordinates for this critically endangered species and I understand why, but at the same time, Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush is very well known from Gede, there's one trail, and any trapper worth half a grain of salt, would be quite aware of their calls. For what it's worth, there seems to be 1-2 groups that work their way along this large section of trail. If you spend enough time in this section and listen for their calls you'll run into them eventually. We had a group of 3 and another group of 8. We also heard them on another occasion.

Pink-headed Fruit-Dove: We didn't hear any along this section, but lots of speculative playback finally resulted in a pair at -6.764617,106.983078

Javan Serin: During our visit, this section of trail had a ton of the little white flowers that Javan Serin is known to feed on. A pair were seen at -6.763806,106.982352 and I also had one a bit further down the trail at -6.763305, 106.98338.

Brown-headed Barbet: This species becomes scarce higher up (didn't hear a single one in higher elevations). We managed to see two at a fruiting tree lower down along this section at -6.753429, 106.988052

Checker-throated Woodpecker: A responsive pair at -6.76105,106.9857 and another in a flock at -6.761466,106.985127

Javan Scimitar Babbler: We didn't have any (not a target for me on this trip) but Rick had some at -6.76752,106.98136 the week before we visited.

Tawny-breasted Parrot Finch: We didn't see any (again, not a target) but Rick had one where we had the Serins at -6.763806,106.982352

Air Panas to Campsite 2: Once you cross actual Air Panas (which translates to "Hot Water" for all you non bahasa speakers) you'll reach the actual campground at -6.769455,106.979039. Not many Indonesians stay at this campsite, but this is where all the bird tours camp. From here you head up the steepest section of trail before reaching a nice flat section of trail that eventually reaches Camp Site 2 (-6.777036,106.975051)

Main Targets: Javan Scops Owl: Present throughout, but a convenient bird just past the camp site at -6.770097,106.978701

Javan Woodcock: The dip of the trip. We put in a ton of effort for the bird, but still came up empty. The clearing (-6.768738,106.97946) just before the campground was at one point a reliable spot for Javan Woodcock, who knows if it still is. Also, after passing Camp Site 1, you come to a waterfall and start up the steep section. Along the first steep section you pass over two little bridges. This general area is also supposed to be good for the woodcock. I spent a ton of time with the thermal (both day and night) searching this section to no avail. There's also apparently a roding snag that the woodcock uses higher up near the flat section, but staking that out twice also produced nothing. Also this needs to be mentioned. ****THE NASAL CALL THAT IS ON XENO-CANTO IS NOT THE WOODCOCK – it's a bat. And pretty apparent that it's a bat (we heard them calling plenty of times). Even on XC in the discussion it says it's a bat, but I think still being listed under Javan Woodcock continues to cause confusion (the recordings have been removed). The woodcock has only been recorded to my knowledge roding from a snag. It doesn't fly around roding or calling so please keep the stringing to a minimum ;)



Javan Trogon: A group of three at the same spot at the Cochoas -6.770097,106.978701

Javan Cochoa: This section is the most reliable spot for Javan Cochoa. We had mind blowing views of a pair for 45 minutes just past the campsite at -6.770097,106.978701 and also heard another along the flat section before Camp Site 2

Chestnut-bellied Partridge: Known to come in and eat scraps at Camp Site 1. I briefly saw one there (didn't spend much time hanging around the campsite), but also common along the flat section before Camp Site 2 where we had good looks at a group feeding just off trail and heard more in the morning calling.

Tawny-breasted Parrotfinches: Around both campsites is a good place to look. We didn't see any, but they apparently will come in if you put some feed out in Camp Site 1

Horsfields Thrush: Also didn't see (not a target) but sometimes seen along the flat section and around Camp Site 2. We did spend a little time at dawn looking along the flat section (mostly for woodcock), but didn't see the thrush either

Pink-headed Fruit-Dove: Only heard along this section

Upper Section: There's not too much to look for from Campsite 2 up to the summit, so I wouldn't plan spending too much time along this section, just continue through up to the summit.

Main Targets:

Volcano Swiftlet: We decided to get to the summit at dawn because I was paranoid that it would get fogged in. This wasn't the greatest decision. We missed a morning of woodcock searching. In hindsight we should have started at the woodcock area, spent the first 90 minutes of birding and then hiked quickly up to the top. That being said, we arrived at dawn and it took 3 (!) hours until the first Volcano Swiftlet was seen. I spotted the first bird distantly just after 0900 and it came barreling in from over Mt Pangrango to flying just over our heads. Within the next 20 minutes about 8 more showed up putting on a show flying up and down along the ridge. Maybe I was naïve but I thought the swift was going to be easy once you get to the top, but it's still a tricky bird. Alec and Scott went the following day arriving midday and spent over an hour with Scott only getting a very quick flyby. Since then I've talked to others that have had to wait a while as well. So plan on spending some time at the top. I'd recommend getting there by 0830 to make sure you don't get fogged in.



Island Thrush: Fairly common just before the summit and at the summit

Sunda Bush Warbler: very common around the summit

Javan Serin: Possible at the top, I had a few friends see it here in 2017, but overall it seems in the mid-section of the trail is better, especially if the white flowers are in bloom.

Cidobas Botanical Gardens: These gardens are huge and I didn't spend much time in them. Entrance is at -6.736224,107.0072. The gardens don't officially open until 0800 but you can show up at the gate, talk to the guard, and get in early. You might have to leave an ID at the gate to ensure you'll pay when you come back out or you might not (I didn't have to leave an ID). We only had two targets here and easily had both.

Main Targets:

Yellow-throated Hanging-Parrot: Birds were currently visiting a huge fruiting tree at -6.739642,107.009782. I spent the first part of the morning on the Gede trail, but Melissa went directly here and found the birds almost as soon as she arrived. In total we had 15-20 flying in and out of the tree

Pygmy Tit: Seemed to be quite common in the park and it didn't take long to find a small flock near the hanging-parrot location

Javan Kingfisher, Javan Forktail, Javan Frogmouth, Salvadori's Nightjar, and Sunda Thrush: All these birds can be found in the botanical garden, but we didn't look for them having seen them all other places

Halimun-Salak National Park

General Information:

Overview: As Java's largest national park, Halimun-Salak claims the largest tract of forest still intact in Java. Although most of the bird tours visit this spot, there isn't too much information online for the independent birder. Although there's some overlap with Gunung Gede, there are a number of species that are best found here.

Getting There: The biggest issue with Halimun is getting in and out. Even if you have a private car it takes time and if you're doing it by public transport, it takes even longer. We arrived in Jakarta at 0800 and wanted to make sure we got to the research station before dark. The cheapest way would be to take a bus from the airport to the bus station in Bogor, but because we were a little strapped for time, we decided to grab a taxi. We paid 400,000 to get to the Bogor Bus Station (-6.60468,106.80673) and being a Sunday morning the drive was quite quick (left at 0850 arrived at 1000). From here you need to get a bus to Parungkuda (-6.847396,106.760848). Luckily one was about to leave when we arrived, so we took it. Cost 50,000 per person (left at 1015 arrived at 1220). In Parungkuda we ate lunch and bought some supplies for our time at Halimun (there's no food there). Options were limited, it probably would make more sense to buy food in Jakarta before leaving, but if not Parungkuda at least has the basics. From Parungkuda you need to take a "mini" to Kibandugan. The mini bus leaves from -6.846266,106.760332 and leaves when full. We tried to buy extra seats to get it to leave early, but that was totally lost in translation. Cost is 20,000 per person. Left at 1330 and arrived at ranger station in Kibandugan at 1445. The ranger station is at -6.784197,106.624849 and when we arrived Sunday afternoon, not surprisingly no one was around. After knocking on doors and talking to a few locals, we weren't getting anywhere so I just talked two ojek drivers into driving us to the research station. We paid a total of 350,000 for two people. Left at 1500 and arrived at 1620 at the Research Station (-6.746643,106.537654). This section of road is extremely bumpy cobblestone and your ass is bound to take a serious pounding, especially with a large backpack on. Something to look forward to.

Getting out is a lot more tricky. There's no reception at the research station and most ojeks that pass by are already full. Also, some trucks pass by, but they are also typically full. Your best bet would either be to coordinate a pickup day/time with the ojek driver you get dropped off with, or spend some time to walk up to the nearby village and try to coordinate a ride out from there. Luckily for us, we happened to walk out of the woods at lunchtime on our second day and two vehicles were stopped at the bottom on the driveway taking a break. We had originally planned to spend another night, but having seen the majority of the targets (and Melissa wanting a non-ojek ride out, seriously that road hurts) we decided to hitch a ride out with the two vehicles. Long story short they were only going to the next close-by village, but the one guy spoke broken English and once we told him we were heading to Cibodas, he decided he'd just drive us there. Why not, after all? What's a 7 hour drive out of your way? That's Indonesia for you though, extremely friendly people who are often very eager to lend a helping hand.

Entrance fee: The cost is quite steep at 150,000 per day and can be paid to the guard that is at the research station IF they are around.

Accommodation/Camping: Luckily when we arrived unannounced, there was a guard present who gave us keys to one of the rooms. The cost was steep at 200,000 a night, but having just traveled for about 36 hours, we decided to splurge. I did ask if we could set up a tent for cheaper and he said it would only be 50,000 a night. There is a small kitchen where you can cook the food that you bring. The ranger wasn't around often, and when Alec went a week after me, he never even saw the ranger. So be prepared to camp if need be, but you'd at least be able to set up under a covered area. Also, there's a homestay in the village a few km past Halimun that birders sometimes stay at but if you don't have your own transport, I think that would be a larger hassle than it's worth.

Birding:

Most of the birding at Halimun is done along the main road, although there is a trail behind the research station. Overall there is three main areas covered below

Main Road: The research station is actually located near the edge of the forest with the main road that you drove in on cutting through the best section of forest. Therefore from the research station most of the birding is done by walking east back towards where you drove in from. From the research station walking east, you are almost constantly heading uphill, but it isn't steep and is fairly enjoyable. The vast majority of the targets can be found by working mixed flocks. Unfortunately these large mixed flocks can be hard to come by, with some days being quite good and others being almost completely dead. The first morning we had a number of flocks but on the second day I only had one tiny flock in an entire morning!



Main Targets:

Javan Frogmouth: Common throughout and stopping anywhere and playing tape resulted in a response

Javan Scops-Owl: Single bird at -6.747463, 106.541786 and two birds at -6.748574, 106.543092 including finding one on a day roost

Collared Scops-Owl: Single bird at -6.748156, 106.542791 before light the second morning. Also had a Javan Scops come into Collared Scops recording so make sure you get a solid look at either species before counting it.

Oriental Bay Owl: Single bird the first morning at -6.748156, 106.542791. Alec had this bird calling in the same area the next week

Javan Hawk-Eagle: Single bird perched on a very distant snag at -6.747478, 106.53972. Also seen in the tea plantation (see that section)

Javan Banded Kingfisher: An obnoxious dip as I dedicated the majority of my time trying to find one. The next week Alec took an amazing video of a male at -6.74811, 106.539276

Javan Broadbill: Common along the road, just listen for the song in the morning

Javan Trogon: pair at -6.748574, 106.543092

Sunda Forktail: Seen along the road, but more common along the stream

Javan Forktail: Seen a number of times along the road

Grey-and-Buff Woodpecker: The second obnoxious dip. Fairly common here and should be in the mixed flocks. Pretty sure I heard it once, but not sure. Both Alec and Scott had sightings the following week.

Javan Babbler: Heard a few times along the road with sightings at -6.74837, 106.541744 and -6.75061, 106.544539

White-bibbed Babbler: Heard a few times, nice group seen at -6.748844, 106.543418

Large Wren Babbler: Heard a few times, responsive pair at -6.748366, 106.546605

Temminck's Babbler: Seen at -6.749155, 106.543526

Javan Leafbird: Surprisingly fairly common, with birds seen in a number of the mixed flocks

Javan Sunbird: Male singing in a mixed flock at 6.75061, 106.544539

Javan Spiderhunter: A few encountered. Make sure you know the call.

Other targets: Checker-throated Woodpecker, Crimson-winged Woodpecker (just before the clearing), Banded Woodpecker (seen by Alec), Black-thighed Falconet, Sumatran Green Pigeon (seen/heard a few times)

Trail: The trail behind the research station leads to an abandoned canopy walkway and eventually reaches the small village (we never hiked the whole thing). Overall, we didn't spend much time along this trail except for when we were looking for the Javan Banded Kingfisher.

Main Targets:

Javan Banded Kingfisher: Back in 2018, Halimun was home to an extremely reliable pair of Javan Blue Banded Kingfishers that were visiting the small pond at the research station as well as the creek that runs along the trail. Unfortunately the kingfishers are not nearly as reliable, but are still gettable if you're lucky. The trail starts directly behind the research station (sorry forgot GPS) and parallels the river. Just before the canopy walkway you'll see a bathroom block house on your right and a small trail that leads to the river (-6.744854, 106.538042). From here there's a very large log that crosses the river. This is the main spot to sit and wait for the kingfisher and it was just upstream from here that I saw a female on the first morning at 0945. Unfortunately it flew before Melissa could see it and despite sitting there for 2 more hours that day and then Melissa staking out the spot for 6 hours the following morning, we had no more sightings. The next week Alec also briefly saw the female at this same spot.

Tea Plantations: Located along the main road just past the research station is a large tea plantation. This large clearing is a great spot to scan from mid-morning for Javan Hawk Eagle. Also saw a Bersa at this location.

Main Targets:

Javan Hawk-Eagle: Single bird seen at around 1100 from -6.743453, 106.540787

Brown Prinia: It took a bit of time to track a few prinias down, but that's probably because it was the middle of the day. Seen at -6.742902, 106.538126 and heard at -6.743453, 106.540787

Striated Grassbird: Responded to playback at -6.742902, 106.538126



Jakarta Area

Muara Angke

Overview: This area is broken up into the southern section and the northern section. We visited the southern section, but Irene visited the northern section the day prior and Alec visited about a week later. Overall the northern section seems better, but neither saw the coucal there. It seems more birders take a boat out into the mangroves to get the coucal. It also is sometimes seen along the southern section by walking along the main road and scanning into the park. This strategy could work, but the main road is very noisy and unpleasant.

Southern Section:

Access: We visited the dilapidated boardwalk at the southern entrance of the park. The entrance is at -6.116065,106.769256. Irene had tried to visit this spot the day prior but was waved away by an old man. The morning I visited, Irene and I arrived before light and no one was around and the boardwalk gate was open so we went in. When we came out at 0700 to meet Melissa and Alec no one was still around and we went back on the boardwalk. When we came back out at 1000 the boardwalk gate with locked and we had to go around it. The boardwalk is in extremely bad shape with only a single lane of a new board running perpendicular to the boards. Even with this, some of the main structures creaked under our weight and part way out the new board stops and you can't go further

Main Targets:

Javan Coucal: Heard then seen next to the boardwalk at -6.114897,106.768396. Typically people see them perched up sunning in the early morning, but we didn't find any like this

Bar-winged Prinia: Single bird seen well at -6.11388,106.768504

Sunda Teal: Pair seen just before the gazebo. Much easier at the northern section

Javan Myna: A few fly-bys at dawn

Javan Munia: Small groups seen in the reeds

Palau Rambut

Overview: Palau Rambut is home to a large heron rookery which includes Milky Stork. Along with the stork, the wooden polls along the ride out often harbor large flocks of Frigatebirds. The island can be accessed via boat from the small village of Tanjung Pasir. The rookery is best to visit in the April time frame and by our visit was fairly dead. Also, visiting in the middle of the day is a bad idea as most birds aren't around. The ranger didn't think we'd see Milky Stork, but luckily we saw a single bird from the tower and another while walking back to the boat. In hindsight, going out to the island probably isn't worth it and it's probably better to try and get the storks at low tide along the mangroves of Muara Angke by taking a boat.



Access: If you head to the main boat area of Tanjung Pasir you'll have trouble hiring a boat as everyone will try to put you on the large public boat to Pulau Untung Jawa which is next to Palau Rambut. Instead head a bit further into the village and start asking to hire a boat from the local fishermen. I walked to -6.015998,106.675198 and hired a boat for the four of us for four hours. Cost was 400,000. Boat speed is going to be variable, but it took us about 45 minutes to make it out to Palau Rambut. Along the way back we stopped and looks at the Frigatebirds, but to be honest more birds were present on the way out and we should have stopped then. Once on the island we had some trouble as the range wanted 300,000 per person (!) to visit. This is way off from the info online that says 20,000 per person should be enough. We explained we didn't expect to pay that much and showed the ranger the info we had from online. After some negotiating he said we could briefly go to the tower. He also said that technically we should have gotten the tickets from the office in Jakarta before coming. Overall expect some issues if you just show up out there.

Main Targets:

Christmas Island Frigatebird: Easy to see on the wooden poles in route to Palau Rambut. Lesser and Great Frigatebirds should also be around, but we didn't have a large number of Frigatebirds and didn't see any of the other species.

Milky Stork: Single seen from the tower and another when we were getting back on the boat. These birds breed earlier in the season so at this time of year, it is best to go in the late afternoon when they will be returning to the island to roost.

Banyak Islands & Babi

Overview: The reason for this portion of the trip was to see the critically endangered Nias Hill Myna. After a bit of research, we determined that the only way to see this species any more is to visit Bangkaru, an island in the western part of the Banyak. Luckily Bangkaru is heavily protected due to nesting sea turtles. Rangers have an outpost on the island and regularly do foot and sea patrols. The protection of the sea turtles has provided umbrella protection for a number of other species including the Nias Hill Myna. From Bangkaru, we wanted to visit Babi and Simeulue, so instead of back tracking and taking a flight to Simeulue, we did a one way trip via boat. Once on Simeulue, we spent two nights in Sinabang visiting nearby spots for all the endemics before catching a flight to Meulaboh.



Bangkaru

General Information:

Getting there: Getting to Bangkaru is a process. First you need to fly to Medan. Next you need to drive 8 hours to the village of Singkil. Then you have to travel about 80km by speed boat to Bangkaru. We flew to Medan in the late evening arriving around 2300. Michael didn't arrive until 0000 and from there we headed off with our pre-arranged driver for the overnight drive to Singkil (900,000). Unfortunately, arriving very late at night, we got the last pick of drivers and he wasn't good at all. Not only was he a terrible driver, but after 3 hours he started falling asleep at the

wheel. I wasn't haven't any of that so I "fired" him, putting him in the passenger seat and I drove the rest of the way to Singkil. We arrived around 0930.

Once we arrived at Singkil, we went directly to the boat where we met Dar and within 10 minutes were heading off towards Pulau Balai, the main island in the Banyakas. It took about 90 minutes to get to Pulau Balai. Where we made a short stop to buy our food for the next few days and for the boat drivers to fill up their multiple jerry cans of petrol. From Pulau Balai it took about 3 more hours to reach the ranger station on the western side of Bangkaru. The rangers didn't know we were coming and were a bit confused, but also were fine with us staying. They were more confused when we explained we were only staying one night (they are used to researchers not birders).

The cost for the boat for the entire journey (Singkil to Bangkaru to Babi to Simeulue) 3 days/2 nights was 9,000,000. I found this to be an extremely reasonable price since most people pay 1.5-2.5 mil just to go out to Babi and back. Plus we didn't have to buy flights to Simeulue. The boat was a fiber glass speed boat and with two motors and life jackets. Though most of the time we only used one motor as the other did have some issues, but once on Babi they fixed it and we used both motor for the last leg of the trip. Also, being a fiber glass boat, we were able to land directly on Babi and didn't have to take the small dingy referenced in other reports.

When planning this section of the trip, be aware that the seas can often be rough and you might lose a day or two having to wait on calmer seas. We didn't have any problems with sea conditions, but it is something to keep in mind and I wouldn't make your schedule tight flight wise, especially with international flights.

Accommodation: There were about 10 Indonesians and 3 Czechs on Bangkaru. They were in the process of rebuilding the living accommodations and were putting on a new roof. The Czechs are part of a non-profit and help with research and protection on the island (there are actually multiple NGOs involved with the island). We brought tents and camped and even after the new building is done, I think camping is probably still the best option as the building is for the rangers/volunteers. You need to bring your own food and water although there is some fresh water that could be purified if need be.

Entrance/Other Fees: It was 100,000 per person for an entrance ticket. Also, since it's a National Park we were only allowed in the forest with a ranger. This cost was 250,000 per trip per ranger and we had to take 2 rangers. So that was a bit costly! We were also charged 50,000 per person for them to cook meals for us which was also steep since we brought our own food. We probably could have argued that a bit, but to be honest they were nice enough to not just kick us off the island so I won't complain.

Contacts: Dar Mawan (on facebook) was our fixer and did a great job. He coordinated the driver from Medan to Singkil (and even apologized that we had a shitty driver) and arranged our boat which is far from a simple task when you're trying to find a boat to do a one-way trip of almost 200km! Dar speaks good English and should have no problem arranging this trip for others. The main ranger on the island Yusup also gave us his contact info and said other birders would be welcomed. It might be a good idea to contact him as well just so they know you are coming. Samudra Usup Plind (facebook), +6285361983311 whatsapp.

Birding

Summary: We spent an afternoon and a morning on the island. Of course the main target was the Nias Hill Myna, so we set off along an old trail towards what was supposed to be an overlook. The issue is that the rangers hadn't taken the trail in years so it was quite overgrown. We heard a number of myna while hiking in but the dense canopy made it hard to try and see them. In hindsight we should have just tried to see a few as we never made it to the overlook before dark (the rangers kept saying just a little further). It was pretty disappointing and we were all exhausted (at that point I had gotten 8 hours of sleep in the last three nights). I originally had hoped to do some owling, but instead passed out. Typically the mynas can be seen around the clearing where the ranger station is, but they just weren't around. We scanned the canopy from the beach for a while, but didn't see any myna. We heard a few near camp and Michael had a brief look at one. We then ventured back into the forest mid-morning and finally were able to track down the mynas and get great looks. When the trees near camp are fruiting they should be very easy and shouldn't involve hiking.

Pelagics:

During the crossing to Palau Balai and again on the crossing to Babi we saw single dark storm-petrels. Both times we only managed distant views (and poor photos), so ID's are tentative, but they were probably Swinhoe's Storm-petrels. We also ran into a few groups of Bridled Terns during the crossing to Babi and the crossing to Simeulue. A few cement structures around Palau Balai (2.292060,97.409456 & 2.291098, 97.395007) had large numbers of Black-naped Terns and a few Roseate Terns

**Babi****General information:**

Getting There: The boat ride from Bangkaru to Babi took about 2 hours 45 minutes.

Accommodation: There's a single cell tower on the island with a building at its base where a few guys live. Also there is a small shanty camp set up along the beach with a few more locals living at. No clue what they were doing there. We camped on the beach. Although we brought our own water, there is a fresh water point where you could filter water if needed.

Birding

Summary: We asked the guys near the tower if there were any trails. They pointed behind the building to some obscure trails and then one of them, Alex, decided to guide us. He was a nice kid and actually really enjoyed following us around and pointing out some birds. There weren't any major trails but it was pretty easy following around some pig trails through the forest. We spent the afternoon and an early morning here.

Main Targets:

Babi Monarch: Very easy. Took about 5 minutes to find the first one at 2.116967,96.670195 but we found them throughout the forest

"Babi" Red-breasted Parakeet: A few heard and one seen

Silvery Pigeon: 1 seen by Melissa, heard only for the rest of us. There were some large fruiting trees at 2.117735,96.670137 that held looks of Pied and Green Imperial Pigeons but no Silvery. At another point in the forest Melissa got a good look at a pigeon that flew in, but then it quickly flew back out.

Simeulue

General Information:



Overview: After visiting the Banyaks and Babi, we had the speedboat drop us off on the western side of Simeulue. Michael had to go directly to the airport to catch a flight (he had already visited Simeulue on a previous trip so he was heading directly to Meulaboh) while the rest of us took an overpriced truck (400,000) to the main town of Sinabang. We used Sinabang as a base for the next 1.5 days. We mostly concentrated on some forested areas south of the main road that connects Sinabang to the airport, but also visited the quarry for Silvery Pigeon. For what it's worth, when Michael first visited Simeulue in March of 2018, he was told by knowledgeable locals that the best time for the Silvery Pigeon was July-September, but there are also records on eBird outside of that time frame.

Accommodation: We stayed at Loseman Simeulue (2.478163,96.38075) and paid 275,000 a night. Which for the condition of the hotel (pretty crappy) was a huge rip off. It did have Wifi though. Unfortunately we had little info as to where else to stay as most birders stay at the expensive surfing lodges located on the island. When we were quoted 275,000 a night we said no thanks and had our driver check another place but it was full, so we returned to Loseman Simeulue. After the fact, while I was walking around trying to find a

driver to hire for birding, I came across a few other Losemans so there does seem to be a few other options.

Transportation: While trying to find a different loseman, a man approached me and gave me his card saying that he was a taxi for hire. I wasn't ready to try and coordinate a driver for birding yet (was focused on finding a place to sleep), so took his card, but pretty much ignored him. Fast forward an hour and I had a lot of trouble trying to find a vehicle to hire, so I sent the man a WhatsApp message. Adi ended up being a great driver and very reasonable with price. We ended up using him the first afternoon, second afternoon, and in the morning before flying out. In general my rule of thumb when hiring a driver in Indonesia is to pay 50,000 per hour (assuming we aren't going a very far distance), which he agreed with. The first afternoon he brought his young son, and then the second afternoon/last morning he brought his father who owns the vehicle and actually speaks basic English. They became very interested in the birds and thoroughly seemed to enjoy birding with us. I'd highly recommend hiring him as your driver if you visit. WhatsApp +62 813-7953-0040

Getting There/Out: Currently Lion Airways has a single flight daily to and from the island via Medan. The flight Medan (KNO) to Simeulue (SMG) is from 1235-1340 and from Simeulue to Medan 1410-1510. On top of this there's a flight on Susi Airways from Simeulue (SMG) to Meulaboh (MEQ) every Friday (and maybe Monday?) that leaves at 0935 and arrives in Meulaboh at 1045. If you plan to visit Aceh after Simeulue, the SMG to MEQ flight is crucial. The only issue is, this flight cannot be found online. Luckily our guide for Aceh, Tedi was able to book this flight for us. It was a very small plane (12 seater) so I'm sure the schedule is likely to change. Don't get set with an itinerary until you have your transport sorted out.

Birding

Overview: Well according to Clements, there's one endemic on Simeulue, Simeulue Scops-Owl. But with a few other likely splits (Serpent Eagle, Parrot, and Woodpecker) and about 25 endemic ssp there's plenty to track down. Most of the birds were seen along a single road near the airport with a few others only being seen near the quarry with the Silvery Pigeons.

Silvery Pigeon Quarry: Please contact me for an exact location. We spent the first afternoon here, arriving around 1330 and staying until 1700. We mostly scanned from a single spot waiting for pigeons to fly by. We had dozens of Green Imperial Pigeons fly-by along with Thick-billed and Pink-necked Green Pigeons, Little Cuckoo-Dove, and a few Pied Imperial Pigeons. At 1530 a Silvery Pigeon flew in and landed on a snag for about 10 seconds (luckily I got it in the scope) and then at 1620 I got a nice fly-by of a pair of pigeons through the scope as I was scanning the distant hillside. Other interesting birds included Red-breasted Parakeet, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike, and Scarlet and Fiery Minivets.



Radstaak Trail: If you're visiting the area, I'm sure you'll be reading Sjoerd Radstaak's very helpful trip report as well. We spent our first morning along the trail referenced in his report that starts along the main road, but it was terrible. The habitat was degraded and overall a waste of a morning. I know Sjoerd did well here a few years ago, but I wouldn't recommend it. That being said as we were walking in along this trail, we did have our only Simeulue Parrot of the trip fly over. But the other location we birded should definitely have the parrot as well. We also flushed a Simeulue Serpent Eagle that was sitting along the trail on the walk back out.

Busung Indah Road: After our miserable morning at the trail mentioned above, we decided to check another road that headed through good forest. It was a bit of a pain getting there (we hitched/walked), but when we arrived late morning we quickly found our last main target, Simeulue Woopecker. Fairly exhausted from the morning's adventure, we decided to head back to Sinabang for lunch and then hired Adi for the afternoon to return to the road. We also visited this road for a short period the last morning before going to the airport. Overall this road provides some of the best and easiest birding on the island. The turnoff is at 2.420376,96.356082 and the decent forest starts around 2.390209,96.354457, but keep an eye out on the drive in as well as we had a Simeulue Serpent Eagle fly by in the more open area.

Main Targets

Simeulue Scops Owl: Extremely common here (and everywhere for that matter). The last morning we started night birding at 2.390209,96.354457 and had Scops-Owls from this point as well as a few more as we continued to walk

Simeulue Parrot: Only a single bird seen along Radstaak's trail

Simeulue Woodpecker: Very common on this road. I stopped marking GPS points as we probably had over a dozen. (2.387342,96.35276), (2.383414,96.35164), (2.377037,96.352829), (2.3734,96.354753)

Simeulue Serpent Eagle: Seen twice along the road and heard a few other times. Also watch out for them along the main road, especially early in the morning

Barusan Shama: Unfortunately probably extinct in the wild

List of endemic ssp on Simeulue (a few are also found on neighboring islands)

Great-eared Nightjar – *jacabsoni*: Multiple birds as dawn at 2.388517,96.353533

White-bellied Woodpecker – *parvus*: Seen above

Crested Serpent Eagle – *abbotti*: See above

Changeable Hawk Eagle – *vanheurni*: Single seen at the quarry

Red-breasted Parakeet – *cala & major* (Babi): Small flock at the quarry and a few heard (one seen) on Babi

Rufous-backed Dwarf Kingfisher – *jungei*: Heard at various points along the road. Good looks at one at 2.383939,96.351765 and another fly-by in the more open area before you reach the forest

Stork-billed Kingfisher – *simalurensis*: At the quarry

Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike – *simalurensis & babiensis* (Babi): Fly-bys at the quarry. Babi ssp not seen

Lesser Cicadabird – *compta*: a pair along Busung Indah Road

Dollarbird – *oberholseri*: Single seen along the road while driving to the quarry

Barusan Cuckoo Dove – *hypopercna*: A few along Busung Indah Road

Little Cuckoo Dove – *simalurensis*: Single bird at the quarry

Green Imperial Pigeon – *mista & babiensis* (Babi): Very common at the quarry, a number seen on Babi as well

Black-naped Oriole – *mundus*: A few along Busung Indah Road

Asian Glossy Starling – *altirostris*: Small groups seen at quarry

Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher – *procera*: Male seen at 2.379244, 96.352285

Oriental Magpie-robin – *zacnecus*: Single seen at the quarry

Black-headed Bulbul – *hyperemnus*: Common

Black-naped Monarch – *consobrina*: Multiple birds along Busung Indah Road

Scarlet Minivet – *minythomelas*: Common

Fiery Minivet – *trophis*: Less common than Scarlet but seen at the quarry and Busung Indah Road

Ashy Drongo – *celaenus*: Busung Indah Road

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker – *antioproctum*: Common

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker – *simalurense*: A few seen at the quarry and Busung Indah Road

Van Hasselt's Sunbird – *mecynorhyncha*: Busung Indah Road

Aceh

General Information



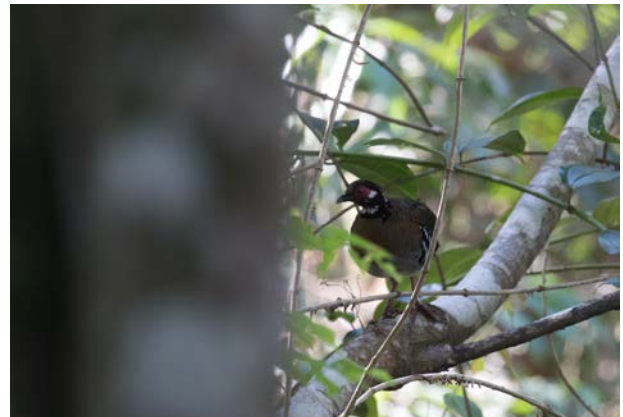
Overview: The highway connecting Meulaboh to Takengon passes through a section of the Leuser Conservation area and has recently become the “go to” spot for Aceh specialties over the past few years. Birding is done along the main road and there aren't any major trails (although plenty of small trails exist due to trappers and illegal loggers). This part of the trip was a bit interesting as Michael was there on the 11th, 12th, and morning of the 13th, Irene the 12th, 13th, and morning of the 14th, and we were there from the 12th-the morning of the 15th. We used local guide Tedi during this portion of the trip, but at times were by ourselves along the road for extended periods due to the difference in the itineraries.

Access: From what I understand you need a permit and guide to be able to bird along the road. That being said, Michael Kearns visited independently in 2018 and didn't have any issues. During our trip, our guide, Tedi, applied for the permits for us, and on one occasion we were stopped by two guys (not uniformed), but Tedi had to show them our permits. We did spend large sections of time along the road by ourselves while Tedi either birded with the others or when he had to drive Irene down to the airport. During these times we were never bothered for being there by ourselves. The highway is also well traveled (although not too crazy) so hitching up and down the road is very easy

(it's an extremely steep road in places!). We hitched a ride to the top after finding Roll's Partridge lower down while Tedi was driving Irene to the airport.

Guiding: There's two local guides in the area, Tedi Wahyudi, and Agus. Agus is the main birding guide and the guide our groups use. The only issue with that, is that he is very expensive. Instead we decided to go with Tedi who was much more reasonably priced. Tedi was a very nice guy and an extremely hard worker. We were out from 0300 to dark every day and he didn't complain once. He is also extremely flexible (see our weird staggered itinerary) and even drove through the night to pick up Michael in Banda Aceh. Although Agus is a more experienced guide, Tedi still knows the birds well and has stakeouts for all the main targets. If you're not someone who needs to rely 100% on a guide, then I would definitely recommend Tedi. The only issue is that Tedi doesn't have a current stakeout for the Aceh Bulbul while Agus does (although it's still not very reliable). That being said, we did run into Agus while out birding and he was extremely unreceptive to helping out when I asked him about the bulbul. I'm not a big fan of suppressing info especially when you're literally out on the road birding and run into someone. I know some people will go down the "it's their lively hood" path, but I've met dozens of other local guides who are more than friendly and willing to help out. You can contact Tedi Wahyudi (facebook) or at joroxs.tgr@gmail.com

Accommodation/Food: The only accommodation is 1 ½-2 hours away in Meulaboh. Therefore to save on commuting time we camped along the road for the duration of the trip. There isn't any really good camping spots, but there are two shelters along the road and we stayed at one of them (which was nice as it rained every evening/night). It was quite chilly camping so make sure you bring a good sleeping bag. Tedi was able to provide a tent for Irene and Michael. There also isn't any food/water on the road. We bought a bunch of supplies prior to heading up and Tedi was able to cook lunch/dinner. There is a small village about 30min-1 hour away (depending on where you're at) where you can get good food. On occasion we sent Tedi off to buy lunch while we stayed on the road to bird.



Birding:

I'm not going to go into specifics of finding the target birds due to the sensitivity of most of the species. Feel free to contact me if you want more info.

Main Targets:

Red-billed Partridge: One group seen extremely well (3 ft away) and another group heard

Roll's Partridge: This one took a lot of work, but finally found a group that we taped in and had running around at our feet

Sumatran Woodpecker: Found at three sites

Sumatran Mesia: A true enigma. Despite dedicating most of our time into looking for this species, not seen until the 14th and then a group of 2 and a group of 6 seen for over an hour by Melissa and I (the others had left by then!)

Sumatran Laughingthrush: Seen every day, but in the same general area and probably the same group

Black Laughingthrush: Seen twice

Sunda & Spectacled Laughingthrushes: Multiple small groups

Sumatran Leafbird: Female and immature seen in an afternoon at a location a bit further away from the main birding area

Blue-masked Leafbird: Only one seen

Rajah Scops Owl: A few heard and seen

Mountain Scops Owl: One seen well

Sumatran Frogmouth: One seen

Brown Wood Owl: One seen

Sumatran Collared Owl: One seen, a few heard

Graceful Pitta: Good looks at a single bird

Sumatran Babbler: Seen on the way back to Meulaboh at a stakeout

