

Bali, Indonesia

1-8 October 2005

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General

This was a weeklong family holiday trip during the Chinese National Day, where I as usual slotted in some birding. Naturally I tried to find the last few remaining Bali Mynas, but the timing of the year was not ideal and I sadly missed the opportunity to see this soon extinct bird. Nevertheless I saw a nice selection of Sunda endemics during my limited birding time.

Itinerary

1/10

We left Beijing with Singapore Airlines at 8.45 and had a 1.5 hour transit stop in Singapore before catching another flight 16.40 to Denpasar on Bali. Arrived 19.10 and after a smooth visa control we were soon in a taxi on our way to the Bali Dynasty hotel. Just when we were getting in to the taxi, I heard a blast that I discarded as a thunder. About one hour later we had the news that there were a couple of suicide bombings that was the cause for the blast.

2/10

The entire day was spent by the poolside, which was much enjoyed by the kids. I still managed to add one lifer in the form of Olive-backed Tailorbird in the hotel garden.

3/10

The full morning was again spent by the poolside and at 13.00 we drove northwest towards Bali Barat National Park in the northwest of Bali. The road infrastructure leaves much room for improvement and we spent ages on small streets before entering the narrow country-side road across the mountains. It took us 3.5 hours to reach Mimpi Resort near Bali Barat. The rest of the day was spent in the garden of the resort, which is situated by the mangroves and thus yielded both Sacred and Small Blue Kingfisher. In the evening we enjoyed a good seafood dinner and the most beautiful sunset.

4/10

The guide, Mr Wahyudi, came and picked me up at 5.00 for a short drive to the jetty at Labuhan Lalang. The boatman waited for us and swiftly (but expensive) ferried us across the water to Tuluk Tenor, which is the best area for Bali Mynas. We then spent the full morning until 9.30 looking in vain for the Mynas. Some consolation was the sightings of Black-winged Starlings and a Spotted Kestrel. In the late morning we returned with the boat to a small creek near Labuhan Lalang, which we birded until midday, when I took a few hours rest by the poolside at the resort. At 15.30 we all went out again, this time to Gilimanuk in order to locate Javan Plover. The attempt failed and we instead went for a few minutes to the creek near Labuhan Lalang in order to show some Black Monkeys to the kids. Next was to look for Green Junglefowl, which turned out very easy indeed. Lots of showy individuals as well as many Sambar and Barking Deers were seen at Menjangan Resort. We also climbed a huge restaurant tower and watched the scenery until dark.

5/10

Wahyudi picked me up at 6.00 and we then spent the full morning until 10.00 in the forest along the boundary of Bali Barat National Park in a last desperate attempt to find Bali Myna. At the end of our walk we arrived at the breeding centre where several captive Mynas were seen. The forest was fairly rich in birds and I was pleased to find a male Black-naped Fruit-Dove and a nearby Javan Kingfisher.

Eventually we aborted the quest and walked out to the road and caught a bemo back to where we had left the car. After a lunch at Mimpi Resort we were picked up by a car and driven back to Kuta, which took almost four hours.

6/10

Another relaxing day with a 2 hour trip to Celu Sewage Farm in the outskirts of Nusa Dua. It actually took a few minutes to convince the lady at the travel desk at the resort, that I wanted to go to a sewage farm. The place was however easy to find and an excellent place for waterbirds and especially the wanted Sunda Teal, which was bagged within seconds after arrival. The rest of the day was spent poolside.

7/10

For the second time I received a surprise look by the lady at the travel desk, when I asked for a pick-up at 3.30 in the morning. The intention was to go to Bedugul Botanical Garden and be there pre-dawn and then the driver would return to the hotel and pick up the family and meet up at the botanical garden at midday. As the traffic in the early part of the day was rather scant, it only took less than 1.5 hours to reach Bedugul. I then birded the area for six hours and saw some of the typical birds like Flame-fronted Barbet, Sunda Warbler, Javan Kingfisher, Crescent-chested Babbler and Grey-cheeked Pigeon. The hoped-for Sunda Thrush did however elude me. By 12.30 my family had arrived and we had a lunch at a scenic restaurant nearby. The rest of the day was spent sightseeing back towards Kuta with stops at a touristy place named Monkey Forest as well as a temple in the sea.

8/10

In the late morning I spent an hour sea-watching from the beach and actually saw a lot more birds than I anticipated (five species of terns, Brown Boobies, Lesser Frigatebird and Wilson's Storm-Petrels). In retrospect I should of course have done this much more frequently. By 11.00 we left the hotel for the airport and flew via Singapore back to Beijing.

Weather

The weather at this time of the year seemed to be very stable and it was sunny and warm most of the time. Twice there were a few minutes of local rain.

Logistics

We found and booked both the resorts through internet. There are an immense number of hotels in the south of Bali and the choice is up to anyone's liking. In the Bali Barat area there seems to be both simpler hotels and more expensive resorts available. We chose to do it the convenient way and pre-booked a resort close to Bali Barat, so that I could easily go birding in the mornings and afternoons while the rest of the family could enjoy the pool. The resort we found was Mimpri Menjangan, which turned out to be a good choice with a very scenic setting and a restaurant overlooking a mangrove-fringed bay with attractions like Small Blue Kingfishers and a beautiful sunset.

Site descriptions

Bali Barat

This site is described in many birding reports and does not need a full coverage here. It is the only place in the world where it might, just about, be possible to see the cosmic Bali Myna. There is a breeding center with 72 birds and a release centre (which was empty at the time of my visit). The breeding program does not seem to be as successful as the released birds are very easy targets for natural predators as well as human ditto. The breeding centre is guarded like Fort Knox with double fences and watch-towers. In the wild there are definitely less than 15 birds today and most (all?) are released birds. During the dry period August to October they are apparently dispersing all over Bali Barat and there is no reliable spot where they are more likely to be seen. The last sighting prior to my visit was over a month ago. The best time to visit seems to be February to June when they are breeding close to Tuluk Tenor (the release centre).

It is probably only a matter of months or possible a couple of years before this species faces the same destiny as the Spix's Macaw, i.e being classified as "Extinct in the wild". To see the species at the breeding centre and realize what a beauty it is and at the same time think about the world being an inferior place when it is soon gone extinct was a more than sad experience.



Captive Bali Mynas at the breeding centre

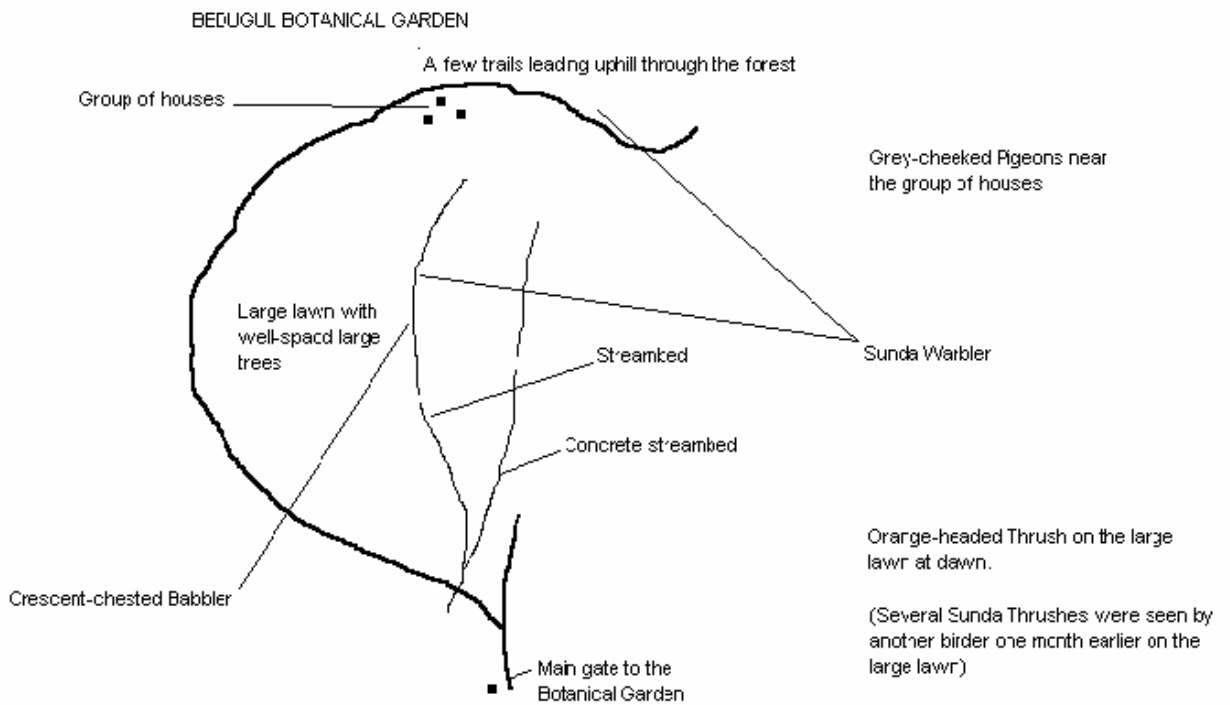
Apart from the Bali Myna there are of course many other birds to be seen at Bali Barat. I hired a guide named Wahyudi, who was a very nice and a good birdwatching guide. He can be reached at kt.yudi@plasa.com or by mobile +62 816 470 6265 or home phone at +62 365 61224.

Celu Sewage Farm, Nusa Dua

Entrance to the area is by the handwritten “Gate”.



Bedugul Botanical Garden



Birds

Wilson's Storm-Petrel, *Oceanites oceanicus* ssp

A total of three seen from the beach at Kuta.

Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster plotus*

A total of eight seen from the beach at Kuta.

Great Frigatebird, *Fregata minor* ssp

One male at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua.

Lesser Frigatebird, *Fregata ariel ariel*

One male and two females at Kuta, one male and one female at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua.

Little Pied Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos melanoleucos*

50+ at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua.

Little Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax niger*

20-30 at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua.

Great-billed Heron, *Ardea sumatrana sumatrana*

One at Tuluk Tenor at Bali Barat, one at Gilimanuk Bay and one very probable seen only when flying away at the beach at Kuta.

Purple Heron, *Ardea purpurea manillensis*

10-15 at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua.

Great Egret, *Ardea alba modesta*

40-50 at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua.

Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta nigripes*

50+ at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua.

Pacific Reef-Heron, *Egretta sacra sacra*

One dark phase at Tanok Loh [?](“temple in the sea”)

Javan Pond-Heron, *Ardeola speciosa speciosa*

Two at Mimpi Resort near Bali Barat, 10+ at Gilimanuk Bay, one at Bali Barat and 20+ at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua.

Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis coromandus*

Three at Bali Barat.

Striated Heron, *Butorides striatus steini*

Small number around Bali Barat and at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua.

Black-crowned Night-Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*

30-40 at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua.

Rufous Night-Heron, *Nycticorax caledonicus manillensis*

One adult and probably one immature at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua.

Lesser Adjutant, *Leptoptilos javanicus*

Six at Gilimanuk Bay.

Wandering Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna arquata arquata*

57 at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua.

Sunda Teal, *Anas gibberifrons gibberifrons*
About 20 at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua.



Sunda Teals

Oriental Honey-Buzzard, *Pernis ptilorhynchus (orientalis?)*

Four migrating east over Bali Barat.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

One immature at Tuluk Tenor at Bali Barat and one pair at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua.

Japanese Sparrowhawk, *Accipiter gularis ssp*

Four migrating east over Bali Barat and two the day after.

Spotted Kestrel, *Falco moluccensis microbalia*

One female at Tuluk Tenor at Bali Barat.

Green Junglefowl, *Gallus varius*

About 50 at Mejangan Resort near Bali Barat. This seems to be a very reliable place to have good views of this pheasant, especially in the late afternoon until sunset. About five heard at Bali Barat boundary.



Green Junglefowl

White-breasted Waterhen, *Amaurornis phoenicurus phoenicurus/leucomelanus*

Two at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua.

Grey Plover, *Pluvialis squatarola*

10+ at Gilimanuk Bay.

Little Ringed Plover, *Charadrius dubius ssp*

One at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua.

Greater Sand-Plover, *Charadrius leschenaultii leschenaultii*

About five at Gilimanuk Bay.

Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus variegatus*

50+ at Gilimanuk Bay and one at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua

Wood Sandpiper, *Tringa glareola*

Five at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua.

Common Sandpiper, *Actitis hypoleucos*

Small numbers around Bali Barat and at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua.

Lesser Crested Tern, *Sterna bengalensis torresii*

A few at the beach at Kuta.

Great Crested Tern, *Sterna bergii cristata*

Common at Kuta, 100+ at Gilimanuk Bay and about 50 at Tuluk Tenor at Bali Barat.

Roseate Tern, *Sterna dougallii ssp*

A total of eight seen from the beach at Kuta.

Black-naped Tern, *Sterna sumatrana sumatrana*

Four coming back from Tuluk Tenor at Bali Barat and two seen from the beach at Kuta.

Bridled Tern, *Sterna anaethetus anaethetus*

20-30 seen from the beach at Kuta.

Island Collared-Dove, *Streptopelia bitorquata bitorquata*

Common at Menjangan Resort near Bali Barat, might also have been overlooked at other places around Bali Barat.

Spotted Dove, *Streptopelia chinensis tigrina*

Common at Kuta and around Bali Barat.

Barred Cuckoo-Dove, *Macropygia unchall unchall*

One at Bedugul Botanical Garden.

Emerald Dove, *Calcophaps indica indica*

One at Bali Barat LLL and on at Bali Barat boundary.

Zebra Dove, *Geopelia striata*

Fairly common at Bali Barat.

Pink-necked Pigeon, *Treron vernans vernans*

One at Bali Barat LLL, one at Bali Barat boundary and about 40 at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua.

Grey-cheeked Pigeon, *Treron griseicauda griseicauda*

At least four seen well at Bedugul Botanical Garden, but a small flyby flock of about ten were probably also this species.

Black-naped Fruit-Dove, *Ptilonopus melanospila melanauchen*

One male perched nicely in a treetop at Bali Barat boundary.



Black-naped Fruit-Dove

Green Imperial-Pigeon, *Ducula aenea polia*

One heard and a pair seen at Bali Barat boundary.

Dark-backed Imperial-Pigeon, *Ducula lacernulata williami*

About five heard at Bedugul Botanical Garden.

[?Large Hawk-Cuckoo, *Cuculus sparverioides*

One bird sounding like this species heard calling frequently at Bedugul Botanical Garden.

Is there a resident subspecies or why is a migrant bird calling?]

Sunda Cuckoo, *Cuculus lepidus*

Two seen and a total of about four heard at Bedugul Botanical Garden. Call is either, most often when starting up, a two-note “hoop-hoop”, or a three-note “huk-hoop-hoop”. This resident species is separated from Oriental and Horsfield’s Cuckoos of mainland Asia.

Barred Eagle-Owl, *Bubo sumatranus strepitans*

One calling pre-dawn at Bedugul Botanical Garden just inside the entrance gate. Two deep hoots, each separated by about two seconds. Call repeated about once per 1-2 minutes.

Large-tailed Nightjar, *Caprimulgus macrurus macrurus*

One or two heard pre-dawn at Bedugul Botanical Garden.

Savanna Nightjar, *Caprimulgus affinis affinis*

3-4 at Tuluk Tenor at Bali Barat.

Cave Swiftlet, *Collocalia linchii dedii*

Common at Kuta, around Bali Barat and Bedugul Botanical Garden, but frequently seen in most areas.

Edible-nest Swiftlet, *Aerodramus fuciphaga (fuciphaga?)*

Common at Bali Barat and at Bedugul Botanical Garden. ID according to the range, the rather obviously forked tail as well as the reportedly edible nests.

Brown-backed Needletail, *Hirundapus giganteus giganteus*

About ten at a lunch-stop 20 minutes below Bedugul.

Fork-tailed Swift, *Apus pacificus ssp*

One at Tuluk Tenor at Bali Barat.

House Swift, *Apus nipalensis furcatus*

One at Kuta.

Grey-rumped Treeswift, *Hemiprocne longipennis longipennis*

Four at Bali Barat.

Small Blue Kingfisher, *Alcedo coerulescens*

One at Mimpri Resort near Bali Barat, one near Labuhan Lalang and about 20 at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua.



Small Blue Kingfisher

Black-backed Kingfisher, *Ceyx erithacus motleyi*

One heard at Bali Barat boundary.

Javan Kingfisher, *Halcyon cyanoventris*

One seen well as it perched low in the farmland near Bali Barat boundary. Two seen at Bedugul Botanical Garden, one which had taken a 20 cm long snake.



Javan Kingfisher

Collared Kingfisher, *Todiramphus chloris palmeri*

20-25 at Bali Barat and one at Bedugul Botanical Garden.

Sacred Kingfisher, *Todiramphus sanctus sanctus*

One at Mimpi Resort near Bali Barat and one near Labuhan Lalang.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater, *Merops philippinus*

100-150 at Mimpi Resort near Bali Barat and small numbers at Bali Barat.

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater, *Merops leschenaultia quinticolor*

Small numbers at Bali Barat.

Dollarbird, *Eurystomus orientalis ssp*

Three at Bali Barat boundary.

Oriental Pied Hornbill, *Anthracosceros albirostris convexus*

One near Labuhan Lalang at Bali Barat.

Lineated Barbet, *Megalaima lineate lineata*

Three at Tulus Tenor at Bali Barat.

Flame-fronted Barbet, *Megalaima armillaris*

About five at Bedugul Botanical Garden.

Coppersmith Barbet, *Megalaima haemacephala rosea*

Five at Tulus Tenor at Bali Barat, two near Labuhan Lalang and 20 at Bali Barat boundary.

Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos macei analis*

Four at Tulus Tenor at Bali Barat and one at Bali Barat village.

Common Flameback, *Dinopium javanense exsul*

One at Tulus Tenor at Bali Barat and one at Bali Barat boundary.

Banded Pitta, *Pitta guajana guajana*

Four or five heard at Bali Barat boundary.

Australasian Bushlark, *Mirafra javanica javanica*

One at Tulus Tenor at Bali Barat.

Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica ssp*

Small numbers at Kuta and Bali Barat.

Eastern Yellow Wagtail, *Motacilla tschutschensis ssp*

Two at Tulus Tenor at Bali Barat and one at Bali Barat boundary.

Oriental Pipit, *Anthus rufulus malayensis*

Two at Bali Barat boundary.

Javan Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina javensis*

Five at Tuluk Tenor at Bali Barat, one near Labuhan Lalang and one at Bedugul Botanical Garden.

White-shouldered Triller, *Lalage sueurii*

10+ in dry savanna forest at Tuluk Tenor at Bali Barat and at least one male showing small white eyebrow and clearly black-centered greater coverts and white median and small coverts. One male in evergreen forest near Labuhan Lalang showing broad white eyebrow and entire wing-coverts white and other similar birds at Bali Barat boundary and two at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua. According to literature, all these should be White-shouldered Triller, but some certainly look like Pied Triller, *L. nigra*.

Small Minivet, *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus saturatus*

10+ at Tuluk Tenor at Bali Barat.

Scarlet Minivet, *Pericrocotus flammeus siebersi*

Two near Labuhan Lalang. Much paler and more orangey than in China

Sooty-headed Bulbul, *Pycnonotus aurigaster aurigaster*

Ten at Bali Barat boundary.

Yellow-vented Bulbul, *Pycnonotus goiavier analis*

Common at Kuta, around Bali Barat and around Bedugul.

Common Iora, *Aegithina tiphia scapularis*

Two at Tuluk Tenor at Bali Barat and one near Labuhan Lalang.

Orange-headed Thrush, *Zoothera citrina orientis*

One at Bedugul Botanical Garden in the early morning, when looking for Sunda Thrush...

Bar-winged Prinia, *Prinia familiaris familiaris*

A few at Tuluk Tenor at Bali Barat, at Mimpri Resort near Bali Barat, at Bali Barat boundary and at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua.

Mountain Tailorbird, *Orthotomus cuculatus cuculatus*

Five at Bedugul Botanical Garden.

Olive-backed Tailorbird, *Orthotomus sepium sepium*

One at Kuta, a few at Bali Barat and one at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua.

Mountain Leaf-Warbler, *Phylloscopus trivirgatus trivirgatus*

Five at Bedugul Botanical Garden.

Sunda Warbler, *Seicercus grammiceps*

Two at Bedugul Botanical Garden.

Striated Grassbird, *Megalurus palustris palustris*

One heard at Bali Barat boundary.

Fulvous-chested Jungle-Flycatcher, *Rhinomyias olivacea olivacea*

One at Bali Barat village, one at Bali Barat boundary and a few at Bedugul Botanical Garden.



Fulvous-chested Jungle-Flycatcher

Snowy-browed Flycatcher, *Ficedula hyperythra vulcani*
 Four at Bedugul Botanical Garden.

Little Pied Flycatcher, *Ficedula westermanni hasselti*
 Three at Bedugul Botanical Garden.

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher, *Culicicapa ceylonensis ceylonensis*
 About ten at Bedugul Botanical Garden.

Oriental Magpie-Robin, *Copsychus saularis amoenus*
 Two at Bali Barat and one at Bali Barat boundary.

Pied Fantail, *Rhipidura javanica javanica*
 One at Tuluk Tenor at Bali Barat.

Crescent-chested Babbler, *Stachyris melanothorax baliensis*
 Two separate sightings at Bedugul Botanical Garden.

Golden-bellied Gerygone, *Gerygone sulphurea sulphurea*
 Five at Bali Barat boundary and two at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua.

Great Tit, *Parus major cinereus*
 One heard at Tuluk Tenor at Bali Barat, one heard at Bali Barat boundary and four at Bedugul Botanical Garden.

Olive-backed Sunbird, *Cinnyris jugularis ornatus*
 Common at in most areas.

Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum trochileum trochileum*
 One male at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua.

Mountain White-eye, *Zosterops montanus (montanus?)*
 About ten at Bedugul Botanical Garden.

Yellow-bellied White-eye, *Zosterops chloris ssp*
 Common at Tuluk Tenor at Bali Barat and three at Bali Barat boundary.

Javan Grey-throated White-eye, *Lophozosterops javanicus elongatus*
 30-40 at Bedugul Botanical Garden, often in noisy flocks in the canopy.

Black-naped Oriole, *Oriolus chinensis maculatus*
 One at Tuluk Tenor at Bali Barat and two at Bali Barat boundary.

Long-tailed Shrike, *Lanius schach bentet*
 One at Mimpi Resort near Bali Barat, two at Tuluk Tenor at Bali Barat, two at Bali Barat boundary, one at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua and one at Kuta.

Black Drongo, *Dicrurus macrocercus javanus*
 A few at Tuluk Tenor at Bali Barat, near Labuhan Lalang, at Bali Barat boundary and one at Celu Sewage Farm at Nusa Dua.

Ashy Drongo, *Dicrurus leucophaeus leucophaeus*
 One at Mimpi Resort near Bali Barat, two near Labuhan Lalang and one at Bali Barat boundary.

White-breasted Woodswallow, *Artamus leucorhynchus amydrus*
 Five at Kuta and small numbers around Bali Barat.

Crow sp, *Corvus sp*
 One flying across the road in the foothills in south Bali.

Glossy Starling sp, *Aplonis sp*
 Three at Bali Barat boundary.

Short-tailed Glossy Starling, *Aplonis minor*
 Common at Bedugul Botanical Garden.

Javan Myna, *Acridotheres javanicus*
 One at north coast of Bali.

Black-winged Starling, *Acridotheres melanopterus*
 A total of about five at Tuluk Tenor at Bali Barat.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow, *Passer montanus malaccensis*

Locally common.

Javan Munia, *Lonchura leucogastroides*

Two at Kuta, eight near Labuhan Lalang and about ten at Bedugul Botanical Garden.

Scaly-breasted Munia, *Lonchura punctulata nisoria*

Common in Kuta, one that was almost entirely green (olive back and head, rufous-brown on median and greater wingcoverts, pale grassy green below from bill to undertailcoverts, faint patchy scaling on breast sides was the only clue to ID, bare parts as normal form).

White-headed Munia, *Lonchura maja maja*

Five at Kuta.

Mammals

Sambar Deer

Common at Bali Barat.

Barking Deer

Common at Menjangan Resort near Bali Barat.

Giant Squirrel

One near Bali Barat village.

Small unid squirrels

Bali Barat, Bedugul Botanical Garden...

Long-tailed Macaque

Common at Bali Barat and "Monkey Forest".

Black Monkey

Fairly common at Bali Barat.

Fruit Bat

Common at "Monkey Forest"

