

Java

(Gunung Gede, Gunung Halimun & Pamanukan)
15-19 February 2012



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General

I had the opportunity to do some birding on western Java during a couple of days. It was my second trip to this part of the island, and I therefore focused entirely on finding a small number of target birds that had previously eluded me. The bird list may therefore look a bit odd, with lots of rather common birds missing. I visited three sites; Gunung Gede, Gunung Halimun and the coastal mangroves and rice-fields near Pamanukan.

Highlights

I scored on six of my target birds, which was a rather successful result. Seeing a Javan Scops-Owl in the undergrowth was a major highlight at Gunung Gede. At the same site I once again experienced a sad dip on Sunda Thrush. At Gunung Halimun I found three of my targets; Javan Leafbird, White-bellied Fantail and Temminck's Babbler, and even more exciting was a nesting Javan Frogmouth that we found in the forest. Pamanukan delivered the planned for Javan White-eye and White-capped Munia in spite of initial rain and extremely muddy conditions.

Itinerary

15/2

I arrived from Melbourne in mid afternoon and was picked up by a friend of Indra. Then it took us almost 3 hours to drive to Cibodas at the foot of Gunung Gede. After a quick change of clothing I jumped onto Eddie's moto and drove to the entrance gate of the national park. From there we steadily walked up to the junction to the waterfall, where we started to work on our target bird, Javan Scops-Owl. Unfortunately it soon started to rain, and it seemed that we had just lost the evening. Luckily the rain soon stopped and then it did not take us long to get a response from a Scops-Owl. As it was a bit into the forest and refused to come out, we walked in and soon had views of it when perched rather low in the vegetation.

16/2

The entire day was devoted to my second target bird, Sunda Thrush. I spent time waiting at the start of the Interpretation Trail and then checked the trails around the information center. No luck was with me at the critical first light, and thereafter I spent more or less the whole day working the area with no result. Rather few other birds were seen, and my attempt around dusk also yielded no thrush.

17/2

This morning we started looking for the thrush at the first steps just above the stream, and thereafter searched on all the trails around the information center. Very disappointingly we again came out empty-handed and after a couple of hours we decided to give up on this bird and transfer to Gunung Halimun, which had a few target birds on offer. The journey took about five hours on small winding and very busy roads. The last bit on the entrance road to the research station ran through 6 km of excellent forest. As it was raining, we carried on all the way to the station. Originally we had planned to stay in a small village a bit further on, but luckily we were able to stay at the research station. Besides having no electricity, it was a quite nice place and located conveniently in the forest. By mid afternoon we walked along the entrance road and soon picked up a flock with the first target bird; Javan Leafbird, split from Blue-winged based on morphology and vocalizations. Just as we had found it, the rain came back and continued for the rest of the day and evening, so we retired to the lodging.

18/2

At 04.00 the rain had stopped, so we walked back on the entrance road for a couple of hours of night-birding, but apart from a few shouts of a Javan Frogmouth it was absolutely quiet. Shortly after dawn we found a mixed flock containing the second target bird; a White-bellied Fantail. Back at the station, we walked the Loop Trail for 1 km. This trail starts right next to the station and eventually leads to a village. Along this trail we found the third target bird; Temminck's Babbler that responded to playback, but refused

to show more than a glimpse. Indra also located a Javan Frogmouth sitting on its nest, and a pair of White-breasted Babblers entertained us.

By late morning we again walked the entrance road and continued all the way to the entry point, i.e. the forest edge. The driver picked us up and then it was a five hour drive to the hotel in Jakarta.

19/2

An early start (03.00) was called for as we wanted to reach the mangroves and rice-fields at Pamanukan early in the morning. The highway took us swiftly east of Jakarta and along some farmland roads we arrived at the site at dawn. By this time it had started to rain and the trails to the mangroves were extremely muddy. We trashed around the edges of the ponds that were fringed with mangroves, but it was not until we were back at our starting point when there was finally a small flock of Javan White-eyes. Minutes later the other target bird, White-capped Munia, appeared in a patch of vegetation. The rain had stopped and we spent some time photographing in the area. By late morning we returned to Jakarta with the mission completed for the day. Javan Lapwing is for next time...

Weather

February is towards the end of the rainy season and even though we lost a few hours due to rain, the birding was not that affected.

Logistics

I contacted Indra Ferdinand, who is the son of Freddy at Freddy's Homestay in Cibodas. Indra arranged the car and made me company in the field, except for the first evening when his brother Eddie joined me for the Javan Scops-Owl session.

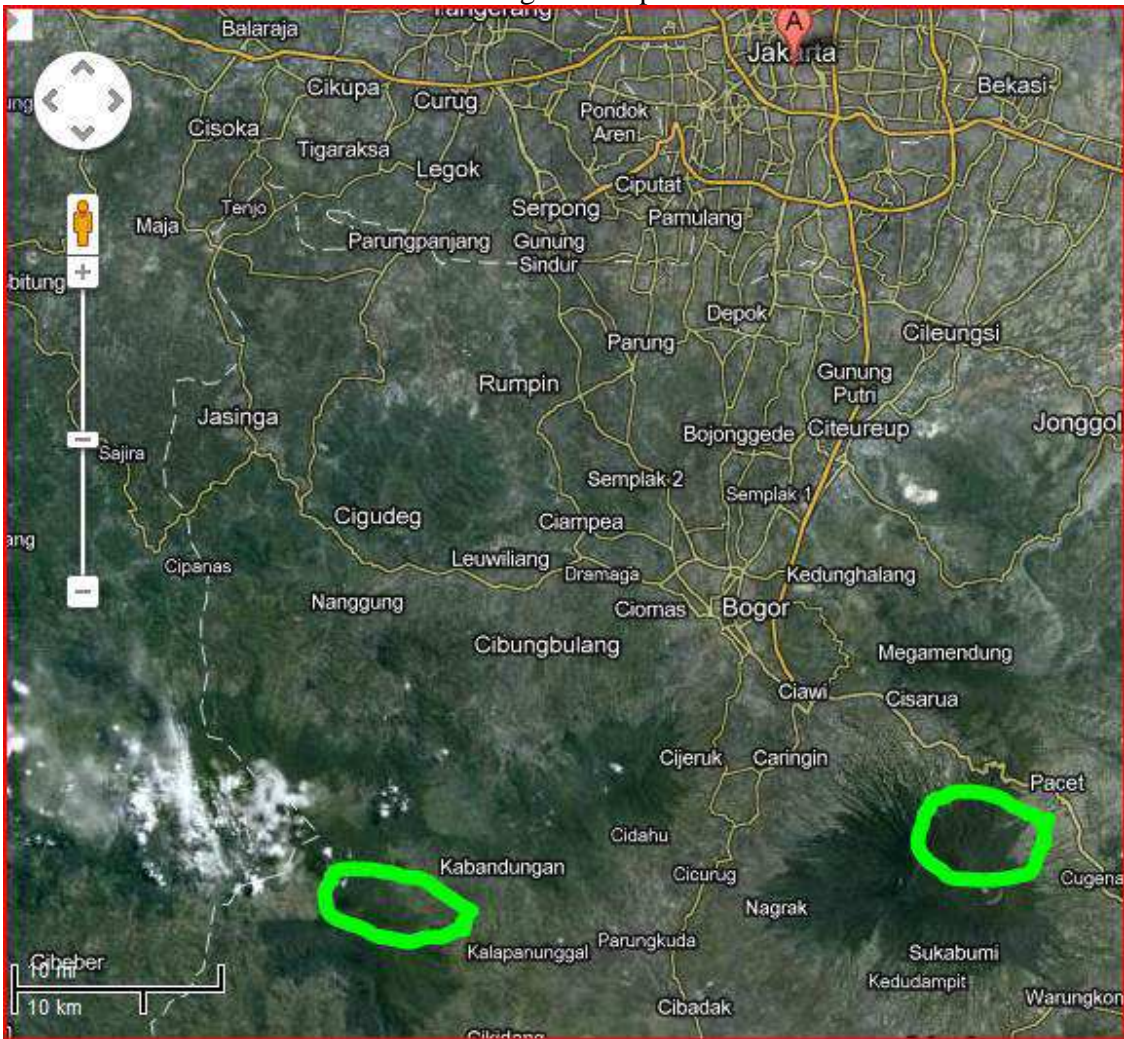


Indra in action

Site descriptions

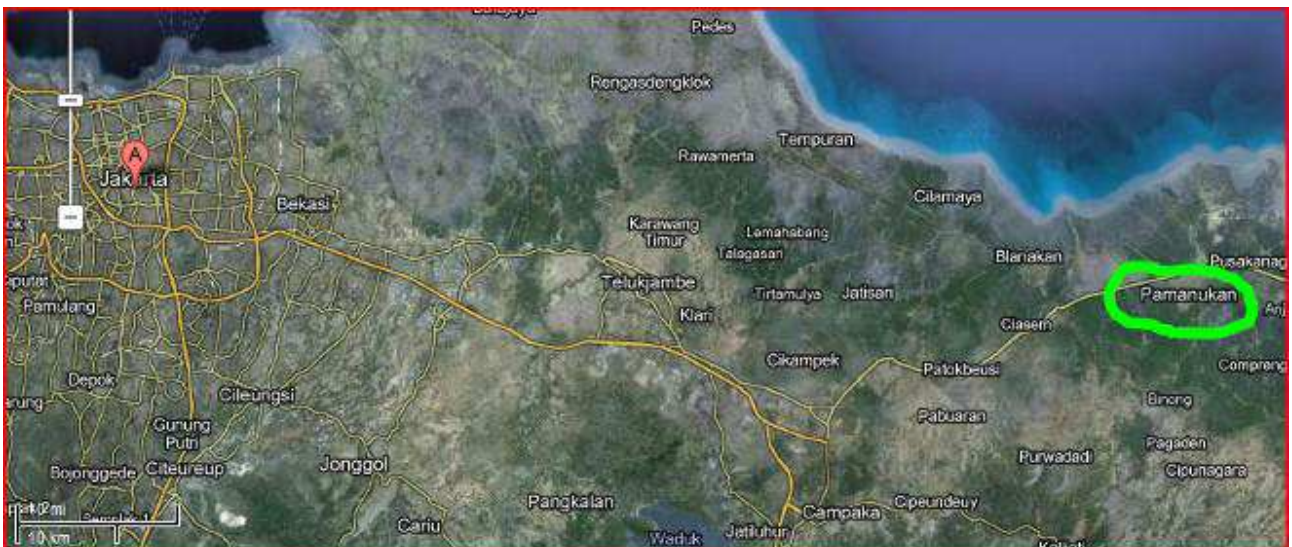
Gunug Gede is well known to the birding community and does not need any further presentation. Gunung Halimun is slightly less well known, but still well worth a visit. From Cibodas it takes almost five hours to drive, and the second last bit is on narrow, winding roads that are packed with cars and motos. The last six kilometers are leading through primary rainforest along a narrow dirt road. This entire stretch is one of the prime birding sites at Halimun. Almost at the end of the forest on the other side is a research station. This is the place we managed to stay (otherwise one has to stay a bit further on in a village) and just behind it are a couple of trails. One of these is named Loop Trail, and we birded along the first kilometer of this trail. Gunung Halimun is slightly lower elevation compared to Gunung Gede, and therefore has a slightly different avifauna. White-bellied Fantail and Javan Leafbird are much easier, and Pin-tailed Parrotfinch is

sometimes (I dipped) seen along the road. Javan Trogons are often hanging out just near the research station and Temminck's Babblers are found along the Loop Trail.



Gunung Halimun to the left and Gunung Gede to the right.

Pamanukan is a village some two hours east of Jakarta. To the north of Pamanukan, i.e. towards the coast, is huge areas of rice-fields and fish-ponds. Some of the ponds are fringed with mangroves, and this is the site for Javan White-eye. White-capped Munia is seemingly the most common Munia and is a specialty of the area.



Birds

Purple Heron, *Ardea purpurea*

A few at Pamanukan.

Great Egret, *Ardea alba*

Several at Pamanukan.

Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta*

Many at Pamanukan.

Javan Pond-Heron, *Ardeola speciosa*

Many at Pamanukan.



Striated Heron, *Butorides striatus*

Many at Pamanukan.

Black-crowned Night-Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*

One at Pamanukan.

Yellow Bittern, *Ixobrychus sinensis*

A few at Pamanukan.



Cinnamon Bittern, *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

Several at Pamanukan.



Glossy Ibis, *Plegadis falcinellus*

About 40 at Pamanukan.

Sunda Teal, *Anas gibberifrons*

Several at Pamanukan.

Crested Serpent-Eagle, *Spilornis cheela*

Two at Gunung Halimun.

Javan Hawk-Eagle, *Nisaetus bartelsi*

One soaring above the Research Station at Gunung Halimun.



White-browed Crake, *Porzana cinerea*

Abot five at Pamanukan.



Common Moorhen, *Gallinula chloropus*

One at Pamanukan.



Common Greenshank, *Tringa nebularia*

A few at Pamanukan.

Wood Sandpiper, *Tringa glareola*

A few at Pamanukan.

Common Sandpiper, *Actitis hypoleucos*

Several at Pamanukan.

Rock Pigeon, *Columba livia*

Tick...

Island Collared-Dove, *Streptopelia bitorquata*

Many at Pamanukan.

Dark-backed Imperial-Pigeon, *Ducula lacernulata*

One at Gunung Halimun.

Plaintive Cuckoo, *Cacomantis merulinus*

Several heard at Gunung Gede.

Rusty-breasted Cuckoo, *Cacomantis sepulcralis*

One heard near Gunung Halimun.

Chestnut-breasted Malkoha, *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*

Two at Gunung Halimun.

Javan Scops-Owl, *Otus angelinae*

One heard and seen about 100 meters above the waterfall junction.



Javan Frogmouth, *Batrachostomus javensis*

Two heard at Gunung Gede, and heard at Gunung Halimun and one male sitting on a nest at Loop Trail at Gunung Halimun.



Cave Swiftlet, *Collocalia linchi*

Common around Jakarta, Gunung Gede, Gunung Halimun and Pamanukan.

Edible-nest Swiftlet, *Aerodramus fuciphagus*

Many at Gunung Halimun.

House Swift, *Apus nipalensis*

One at Pamanukan.

Javan Trogon, *Harpactes reinwardtii*

A few at Gunung Halimun.

Small Blue Kingfisher, *Alcedo coerulescens*

A few at Pamanukan.

Javan Kingfisher, *Halcyon cyanoventris*

One at the golf course at Gunung Gede.

Collared Kingfisher, *Todirhamphus chloris*

A few at Pamanukan.

Rainbow Bee-eater, *Merops ornatus*

One at Pamanukan.

Brown-throated Barbet, *Megalaima corvine*
 One heard at Gunung Halimun.

Flame-fronted Barbet, *Megalaima armillaris*
 Several heard at Gunung Gede and at Gunung Halimun.

Pacific Swallow, *Hirundo tahitica*
 Common around Jakarta and at Pamanukan.

Javan Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina javensis*
 One at Gunung Halimun.

Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike, *Hemipus hirundinaceus*
 One at Gunung Gede and one at Gunung Halimun.

Sooty-headed Bulbul, *Pycnonotus aurigaster*
 One in Jakarta.

Gray-cheeked Bulbul, *Alophoixus bres*
 One at Gunung Gede and several at Gunung Halimun..

Javan [Blue-winged] Leafbird, *Chloropsis [cochinchinensis] nigricollis*
 Several at Gunung Halimun.



Javan Whistling-Thrush, *Myophonus glaucinus*
 One at Gunung Gede.

Blue Whistling-Thrush, *Myophonus caeruleus*
 One at Gunung Halimun.

Siberian Thrush, *Zoothera sibirica*
 One with a canopy mixed flock at Gunung Halimun.

Lesser Shortwing, *Brachypteryx leucophrys*
 Many heard at Gunung Gede and at Gunung Halimun.

Zitting Cisticola, *Cisticola juncidis*
 Many at Pamanukan.



Clamorous Reed-Warbler, *Acrocephalus stentoreus*
 A few at Pamanukan.

Mountain Warbler, *Phylloscopus trivirgatus*
 One at Gunung Gede.

Sunda Warbler, *Seicercus grammiceps*
 A few at Gunung Gede.

Mugimaki Flycatcher, *Ficedula mugimaki*
One at Gunung Gede and two at Gunung Halimun.



Rufous-chested Flycatcher, *Ficedula dumetoria*
One at Gunung Gede.

Little Pied Flycatcher, *Ficedula westermanni*
A few at Gunung Gede.



Indigo Flycatcher, *Eumyias indigo*
One at Gunung Gede.

Pale Blue-Flycatcher, *Cyornis unicolor*
A few at Gunung Halimun.



Gray-headed Canary-flycatcher, *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
Several at Gunung Gede and many at Gunung Halimun.

Sunda Robin, *Cinclidium diana*

Many at Gunung Gede and at Gunung Halimun.



White-crowned Forktail, *Enicurus leschenaulti*

One at Gunung Gede and a few at Gunung Halimun.

White-bellied Fantail, *Rhipidura euryura*

One in a mixed canopy flock at Gunung Halimun.

Pied Fantail, *Rhipidura javanica*

Two at Pamanukan.

Black-naped Monarch, *Hypothymis azurea*

Two at Gunung Halimun.

Asian Paradise-Flycatcher, *Terpsiphone paradise*

One female at Gunung Halimun.

Horsfield's Babbler, *Malacocincla sepiarium*

A few at Gunung Gede.



Temminck's Babbler, *Pellorneum pyrrogenys*

One responded to tape at 650 m in on Loop Trail at Gunung Halimun, but was only glimpsed.

Pygmy Wren-Babbler, *Pnoepyga pusilla*

Many at Gunung Gede and at Gunung Halimun.

White-breasted Babbler, *Stachyris grammiceps*

One pair at Loop Trail and one group along entrance road at Gunung Halimun.



Crescent-chested Babbler, *Stachyris melanothorax*

One at Gunung Gede.

Trilling Shrike-Babbler, *Pteruthius aenobarbus*

Several at Gunung Gede. Recent split from Chestnut-fronted Shrike-Babbler.



Javan Fulvetta, *Alcippe pyrrhoptera*

Several at Gunung Gede and at Gunung Halimun.

Spotted Crocias, *Crocias albonotatus*

Several at Gunung Halimun.

Golden-bellied Gerygone, *Gerygone sulphurea*

Many at Pamanukan.

Blue Nuthatch, *Sitta azurea*

Several at Gunung Halimun.



Scarlet Sunbird, *Aethopyga mystacalis*

One at Gunung Halimun.

Little Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera longirostra*

A few heard at Gunung Halimun.

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum trigonostigma*

A few at Gunung Halimun.

Oriental White-eye, *Zosterops palpebrosus*

Several at Gunung Gede and at Gunung Halimun (yellow stripe down the underparts).

Javan White-eye, *Zosterops flavus*

One flock of eight was eventually seen at Pamanukan, after wading through need deep mud.

Javan Gray-throated White-eye, *Lophozosterops javanicus*

Many at Gunung Halimun.

Long-tailed Shrike, *Lanius schach*

One at Gunung Gede.

Ashy Drongo, *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

One heard at Gunung Gede.

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo, *Dicrurus remifer*

A few at Gunung Halimun.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow, *Passer montanus*

Many.

Javan Munia, *Lonchura leucogastroides*

A few near Gunung Halimun.

White-capped Munia, *Lonchura ferruginosa*

Many at Pamanukan. A good-looking endemic Munia.



Mammals

Javan Mongoose, *Herpestes javanicus*

One at Gunung Gede.

Ebony Leaf-Monket, *Trachypithecus auratus*

Several at Gunung Gede and at Gunung Halimun.

Squirrel sp,

One at Gunung Halimun.

Javan Gibbon, *Hylobates moloch*

One heard at Gunung Halimun.