The 4,000 km wide Indonesian archipelago, stretching east to west across three time zones, is host to more than 300 endemic birds. With more than 18,000 islands, it is almost impossible to see all of those endemics, and a considerable number are amongst the most difficult species to see on earth because they inhabit remote islands where there are no airports and where boat travel is both slow and very uncomfortable. Nowhere is this truer than amongst the mainly volcanic islands that form the eastern arc of the Lesser Sunda islands. Indeed, whilst the larger, species-rich Lesser Sunda islands of Flores, Sumba and Timor are easy to get to and are visited by birders annually, the remote islands of Wetar, Alor, Pantar and a series of even smaller islands in the Banda Sea including Damar, Pantar and Babar have been visited by almost no birders, and their fauna and flora is only known through a limited amount of collecting that took place more than 100 years ago. Visiting these islands by means of public transport would be a seriously difficult undertaking, requiring many months of rough and uncomfortable travel.
In 2011, however, Birdtour Asia organized the first tour to the most ornithologically interesting of these islands, and this year’s Banda Sea Cruise was the second such tour. The Banda Sea Cruise provides a unique opportunity to look for the endemic birds of this region whilst living aboard a luxury chartered ship designed specifically for touring the remotest islands of Indonesia and catering exclusively for special-interest groups such as ours and, for example, divers seeking undisturbed coral reefs. Using the ship’s speedboat we were able to reach even remote unspoilt beaches where no Westerner had probably ever set foot.

Given that many distinctive taxa in Wallacea are undoubtedly going to be split into newly recognized species in the near future, this tour has been designed to not only include all the known endemics but also to seek out any distinctive taxa that will definitely provide participants with ‘armchair ticks’ in coming years. Hence the itinerary evolved to include Tanahjampea, Pantar, Alor, Wetar, Leti, Damar and Babar, and finishes on the rather more developed and better-known island of Yamdena, in the Tanimbar Islands, at the far eastern end of the Lesser Sunda chain.

Our intrepid group of birders converged from across the globe on the more westerly, well-known holiday island of Bali where some people had taken the opportunity of pre-tour excursions in search of the threatened Bali and Black-winged Myna as well as Javan Bush Warbler and a few other localized species. Early on our first day we flew east to the sleepy town of Labuanbajo, already familiar to all of the group – most of whom had already been on one of our Lesser Sunda tours – as the gateway to the famous Komodo Dragons and world-class diving. We were soon aboard the beautifully crafted 40m-long ship which was to be our luxury home for the next 14 days as we traversed the south-eastern part of the Wallacea faunal region. After a brief introduction to the ship and our ever smiling and helpful crew, all the sun-loungers were occupied as we left scenic Labuanbajo en route to our first destination – the rarely visited island of Tanahjampea.

As we entered the open seas our first pelagic species began to appear with a few sightings of Bulwer’s Petrels, a Wilson’s Storm-Petrel, our first Red-footed Boobies, an Arctic and about 15 Pomarine Skuas and Red-necked Phalaropes, a few Lesser and, most surprisingly a Christmas Island Frigatebird that was seen by several of us. We also encountered our first cetaceans – a distant group of leaping Long-snouted Spinner Dolphins.

After a full night of sailing in remarkably calm waters we arrived at the southern end of Tanahjampea just before dawn. This island, not far south of Sulawesi, was the only island visited on the tour that is not part of the Lesser Sundas, but being so interesting ornithologically and not too far off our route, it was included to give us an opportunity to see some very poorly-known species. Indeed, apart from our 2011 Banda Sea Cruise participants, only one other birder has visited this island during the last 80 years. After the anticipated wait for clearance by local officials, we were soon on our way to the forest edge, some 3km away along a wide, flat trail.

More open areas near the village already provided interest with Arafura Fantail, Lemon-bellied White-eye, White-shouldered Triller, and the vocally-distinct black-bellied teysmanni subspecies of Olive-backed Sunbird. As we left the village we passed through small habitat patches and before long we had already found our first endemic. It
turned out that our main target, the striking Tanahjumpea (formerly White-tipped) Monarch, does not actually need good forest to survive, and we found a pair, along with some Broad-billed Flycatchers feeding low in bushes along our route to the forest proper. Our other main targets, however, are more associated with forest, and it was not until we reached the (rather degraded) forest edge and entered the area that we found our second major target, the highly distinctive Tanahjampea Blue Flycatcher. This is a species that has been recognized as a split (by IOC) from the confused ‘Mangrove Blue Flycatcher’ group. On Tanahjampea, sexes of these Cyornis flycatchers show only minor plumage differences – elsewhere in the region male and female blue flycatchers mostly look very different.

A clearing in the forest provided a good view point, and from here we saw Black-naped Fruit Dove, a close perched Great-billed Parrot, Elegant and Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon and had our first decent views of the longa subspecies of Bar-necked Cuckoo Dove – a taxon that will soon be elevated to species-level as ‘Flores Sea Cuckoo Dove’. During the morning we had been listening regularly to the song of this cuckoo dove – this being very distinct from elsewhere in the region, including two other forms that we were to see later during our tour. Whilst we ate our lunch we stumbled on yet another good bird – a Little Grebe of the subspecies tricolor on a small pond, this taxon has been split as Tricolored Grebe by IOC, and is found from Java to New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. During our return walk, and after a brief spell of rain (it only rained a couple of times, and only briefly, during the entire tour) we searched some of the lightly forested areas along our route and had some superb views of the cuckoo-dove and found more Tanahjampea Monarchs, as well as Island Monarch, Sulawesi Myzomela, the everetti race of Golden Whistler and Short-tailed Starling. Very happy with our success in seeing all our targets, we returned to the boat and set sail on our journey southeast towards Pantar – the longest leg of this tour, with 36 hours at sea.

Since all of the following day was spent at sea, we were mostly on deck, scanning the ocean from the comfort of the sun-loungers and this proved very productive with good numbers of seabirds logged. Red-footed Booby was by far the most numerous with at least 350 seen, as well as smaller numbers of Brown Booby, Bulwer’s Petrels (at least 15), Pomarine Skuas (15 or more). Good numbers of Brown Noddy, Bridled Terns and Red-necked Phalaropes were also encountered. Four small shearwaters seen fairly well were most likely Heinroth’s Shearwater, first recorded in Indonesia in this same area of sea during the previous Banda Sea Cruise, but none came quite close enough in good light for certain identification. A few cetaceans put in an appearance during the day at sea, but only Sperm Whales showed enough features to be identified – they were surprisingly common and we saw at least thirty of these deep-diving whales, mostly logging and blowing on the surface, but occasionally raising their flukes before diving.

The following morning we had breakfast just offshore of the island of Pantar whilst waiting for permission to go ashore. By 7am we had landed in some coastal mangroves and were birding in the hot, dry forest of the island. Here we found some widespread Lesser Sundas species such as Five-coloured Munia, Spectacled Monarch, Arafura Fantail, Golden Whistler (split as Yellow-throated by the IOC though this is rather premature as it excluded several far more distinct taxa), Flame-breasted Sunbird, Black-fronted Flowerpecker, Indonesian Honeyeater and Helmeted Friarbird. We did some reconnaissance inland in an area where we were planning to return to after dark, and here we found Elegant Pitta to be common in very degraded habitat, managing to call one in briefly – it landed...
right in front of the group at eye level for a few seconds before heading back into the dense underbrush. Whilst waiting to be taken back to the ship during the heat of late morning we saw Rufous-backed Kingfisher in the mangroves, evidently a common species on this island judging by the number heard.

After lunch back on the boat, we went ashore again in the late afternoon to search for our main target, the *plesseni* subspecies of Southern Boobook, found only on Pantar and Alor. Southern Boobook currently contains no less than 11 subspecies and is regarded to be a hugely over-lumped complex which undoubtedly includes several taxa that should be recognized as full species. The group is currently undergoing a review which will eventually see the Alor Boobook elevated to full species status. About half an hour after dusk we finally found a calling boobook and managed to call it in to provide us all with excellent views before we returned happily to our ship. Apart from members of the previous Banda Sea Cruise, this taxon has only been seen by a handful of pioneering birders!

From Pantar it was a relatively short journey to the neighbouring island of Alor where we anchored in the very early hours of the morning before taking an early breakfast. As it was getting light we heading ashore in the zodiacs and we were fairly quickly driving up into the nearby hills on a glorious sunny morning. Due to a miscommunication with drivers, however, we found ourselves taking a horrendous back-route to our destination and it was not until 1130 that the group arrived in the area of the mountains where we were to search for our targets. Despite the heat and time of day, after about 30 minutes we had found our first target, the recently rediscovered Timor Bush Warbler, singing from across a densely-vegetated steep gulley. However, the bird was immune to playback and just kept calling from a completely inaccessible area, and was only glimpsed briefly by a few participants.

**elegantula Rufous Fantail, Leti and Island Monarch, Tanahjampea © Sumaraja**

Frustrated we looked elsewhere, with Frank running up and down various hills and searching every gulley in the neighbourhood for signs of the bird, but all in vain. Few species were evident at this time of day, but we did have good views of Mountain White-eye, Olive-headed Lorikeet, Sunda Woodpecker and Cinereous Tit. Just before we had to leave for the boat we were lucky to find a single male Wallacean Cuckooshrike of the distinctive pale grey race *alfrediana*, a likely future split as Alor Cuckooshrike, though it was not seen by everyone. As on Pantar, we also saw a reasonable number of Wallacean Drongos, another species that is likely to be in the future.

Having had a rather unsatisfactory day on Alor we decided to delay our planned departure from the island and return to the same area for dawn the next day – something we were able to do because the itinerary of the Banda Sea Cruise has enough time built in to enable such changes without missing any islands. So, just after dawn the next day we found ourselves in a small valley where we had staked out a different Timor Bush Warbler. This bird was, however, not about to give itself up to easy viewing and it took more than two hours before most of the group had had some view of this rare *Locustella* warbler as it employed the most sophisticated stealth to elude even the most observant amongst us – one minute it was singing in one place to one side of the group, and the next minute it would start up again the other side without having disturbed a single blade of grass during its run between singing sites. Despite the frustratingly short views of this rare LBJ, we were happy to have seen what we did because it has only very recently been found on Alor, away from its previous known range in Timor, and to date has only been seen or heard by less than 20 other observers.
After finally giving up on trying for better views of the warbler we headed back to the vehicles, on route gaining better views of the cuckooshrike. Back on the boat, we set sail for our next destination, Wetar, before lunch. Our afternoon was spent scanning the oceans for seabirds and cetaceans, and we were not disappointed with the results. On several occasions Bottlenose Dolphins came alongside the boat, swimming and leaping alongside and bow-riding, and we saw at least 100 individuals. They really are spectacular creatures! Photos of one leaping seem to show an unusually elongated snout, suggesting that this individual might have been an Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphin. As we left Alor we also saw many tens of Red-necked Phalaropes in coastal waters, many bobbing along very close to the ship as we passed. Crested Terns, Brown Noddies, Whiskered and Bridled Terns were also common in places, and we saw our first certain Sooty Terns during the first leg of our long journey to Wetar.

The next morning on our final approaches to the island of Wetar we watched the usual Bulwer’s Petrels, Red-footed and Brown Boobies. At 10am, and despite the heat, we decided to go ashore to start our search for two of the endemic honeyeaters that we knew were rarer along the route we would be taken during our birding the following day. Few birds were seen on our short walk however, and it was not until our afternoon return visit that we started to see the quality birds we had come to look for. Having staked out a flowering tree full of White-tufted Honeyeaters, it was not long before Richard found our first Crimson-hooded Myzomela, but it was some time before everyone managed to see this flighty species. Another honeyeater endemic to Wetar, the localized Black-necklaced Honeyeater, soon showed up at the tree as well, and during the afternoon we all had fantastic views of this unusually attractive species. We also saw our first Wetar Oriole (soon to be split from Timor Oriole), Long-tailed Shrike, Zebra Finches, Plain Gerygone and a single Timor Black Pigeon during the afternoon. After dark we made our first attempt to see Wetar Scops Owl, and although one called briefly near us, it was never seen and never called again.

Oriental Plover, Babar and Damar Flycatcher, Damar © Sumaraja

With all arrangements in place the previous evening, we set out well before dawn the next morning and as the light broke we started our walk up a broad, shallow stony river in search of our missing Wetar endemics. Wading along the shallow river as it navigated a forest-lined gorge was hard-going for most, but the setting was spectacular and the valley was full of interesting birds! Early on we came across species such as Wallacean Cuckoo-shrikes, Wallacean Drongo (soon to be Timor Drongo!), several Timor Black Pigeons, Wetar Oriole, and the soon to be recognized ‘Timor’ Cuckoo Dove (split from Bar-necked Cuckoo Dove), as well as a perched pair of Marigold Lorikeets. Fruiting trees attracted stunning Black-backed Fruit Doves and we had numerous views of this beautiful dove on many occasions.

Getting views of Wetar Figbird took more effort and none ever came particularly near. Timor Imperial Pigeons were quite rare here, and more elusive than the much commoner Pink-headed Imperial Pigeons, which seemed to be everywhere, and hardly shy, but in the end nearly all of us had had good views of this increasingly rare imperial pigeon which in west Timor it is now very hard to find on Mount Mutis. Finally, mid-morning, we heard the calls of one of our main targets here, the rarely-seen Wetar Ground Dove. After about 20 minutes the bird had been located but it disappeared before the entire group had seen it and it took nearly another 30 minutes to relocate the bird – but in the end everyone had spectacular views of this enigmatic species. By the end of our day most people
had seen more than one, and in total we probably saw about five during the day. On our way back we had excellent views of Bonelli’s Eagles, the only sightings of the trip. Returning late afternoon we set sail for our next destination, but as it was getting dark half the group agreed to land on a remote beach to make a final search for Wetar Scops Owl. They were not to be disappointed; shortly after dark we managed to call one in and it gave us spectacular views, and whilst waiting for it to appear we had good views of Timor Blue Flycatcher. In most checklists this distinctive scops owl is treated as the *tempestatis* subspecies of Moluccan Scops Owl, but this is yet another hugely over-lumped super-species, with several vocally and morphologically distinct forms of which ‘Wetar’ Scops Owl is sure to be recognized as distinct.

The next day we arrived at the island of Leti mid-morning, and after the usually formalities we went ashore in the early afternoon, though we were delayed slightly because Frank left his boots on the boat! The habitat near the coast (and indeed, probably throughout the island), is mostly trashed but we found a valley where there were still tall trees and a reasonable understory (though perhaps mostly of introduced and planted species). Our prime target – Kisar Friarbird – was not as easy to see as we had expected, and it took considerable effort for everyone to get reasonable views of this bird. It is endemic to the small islands of Leti, Moa and Kisar, the south-western Banda Sea islands, and although it is certainly not the best looking bird of the trip it is undoubtedly one of the most restricted in range. The local compar subspecies of Golden Whistler, distinctive in that both sexes have female-type plumages was in comparison relatively easy to see, and this taxon is yet another likely split. As soon as it got dark we started looking for another of taxon presently included in the Southern Boobook superspecies. Within a very short time, and quite surprisingly, we had had amazing views of the *moae* subspecies of this species, another potential future split. Content with “cleaning up” on this small island we returned to the boat to begin another long leg on the boat, towards the island of Damar.

At dawn the following day we were anchored off the small island of Terbang Selatan island where we hoped to go ashore for some relaxation before continuing our long journey towards Damar. However, the tides were not in our favour and we could not land there, although half the group did manage to do some snorkeling at the edge of this unspoil coral reef, and Pirjo went diving. The only birds of note we saw here were some Australian Pelicans on the beach, circling White-bellied Sea Eagles and at least eight Oriental Honey Buzzards that had presumably stopped off here on migration. After a couple of hours we were again on our journey towards Damar. The sea was rough, making it hard to see seabirds well or cetaceans, but we did manage to see another pod of at least six Sperm Whales.

As we approached the harbour in Damar in the early afternoon we were surprised to see plumes of smoke seeping out of huge yellow-stained areas on the side of the supposedly extinct volcano adjacent to the town and port. Locals told us that this volcano last erupted some 1200 years ago, and that it was “dead” despite the obvious evidence to the contrary! Having gone ashore after lunch we birded in the scrub and around some remnant mangroves in the inlet, where we found Royal Spoonbill, Marsh Sandpiper, Rufous Night-Heron, Arafura Fantails in abundance and our first Wallacean Whistlers of the trip.
Damar was one of the most eagerly awaited stops on the tour after the sensational rediscovery here of Damar Flycatcher in 2001 by Colin Trainor, who was the first birder to reach this remote island in more than a century, or since 1898 to be precise. Hence it was with great anticipation that we headed up into the hills above the town early the following morning. As we started to gain altitude those at the front of the group glimpsed the first Orange-banded Thrush of the trip, but we did not reach decent forest until the top of the ridge at just over 300m altitude. Here, as soon as we entered the forest our first Damar Flycatchers miraculously appeared in front of us. We spent more than an hour in this area, and found the flycatchers to be fairly common, having seen at least 4-5 males with ease. A singing Orange-banded Thrush nearby finally gave reasonable views to the entire group, though it was singing from very high in one of the tallest trees. An Elegant Pitta was also lured in nearby but only showed itself briefly to a few members of our group. Greatly satisfied with our success in having amazing views of one of the most inaccessible birds on earth we returned to the boat in the early afternoon and set sail again for another remote island, Babar. The weather had turned rough, however, and for the first time we had torrential downpours and heavy seas.

The next morning we headed ashore on the island of Babar, landing on the beach and skirting around the main town. Within a short distance we had found a very obliging Oriental Plover, feeding on a tiny patch of grass near the docks, probably its last stop between Mongolia and Australia. Heading just outside of town we soon found our first of numerous Tricoloured Parrotfinches, as well as Cinnamon-tailed Fantails, a species confined to the easternmost Lesser Sunda islands and which were to become very familiar during our time on Yamdena. We returned to the boat during the intense heat of the day, returning only after it had cooled down in the late afternoon. Whilst on the boat a few of the group spotted an Eastern Curlew near the shore, and we later found Grey-tailed Tattlers and Gull-billed Terns in the same area.

We headed up into the low hills to an area where the previous Banda Sea Cruise group had found the aptly-named endemic *cinnamomina* subspecies of Southern Boobook, another potential split. Here we saw our first Banda Myzomela’s, apparently common on this island, and a few of us had brief views of a Variable Goshawk. After dark, and despite considerable effort, no boobooks were heard here or anywhere on the return journey, and the only nightbird we saw was a Large-tailed Nightjar. We resolved to return before dawn, when the moon would be up and hoped that this would make some difference in our search for the owl.

The next morning, about 3.30am half the group again landed on the beach and we headed into the hills to look for the owl. As we walked the same route into the hills we suddenly heard the boobook calling briefly, and, after considerable effort, it was briefly glimpsed by several people, but time was against us as it was getting light, and nobody ever saw it well. We were disappointed, having made such an effort, but on the return to the boat the early-birds of our group were compensated with something that might prove to be equally interesting, a very rufous, probably undescribed form of what one assumes must be Brown Quail, not previously recorded on Babar. As we returned towards the boat, and met up with the rest of the group, we found some very obliging Orange-banded Thrushes, and later, a Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher close to its nest.
We set sail for our final port of call mid-morning, with a planned stop on Anggarmasa island just off the main island of Yamdena the following early morning. Tanimbar Scrubfowl mainly eluded us, with only a couple of us having very brief glimpses of this shy and retiring species. Nevertheless, there were other birds here which made the stop worthwhile – good numbers of Pied Imperial Pigeons, Great-billed Heron, Pacific Reef Egrets, Beach Thick-knees, which gave superb views, and four Pied Oystercatchers, a scarce bird in Indonesia. By mid-afternoon, after three hours sailing, we had arrived at the port of Saumlaki, the main hub on Yamdena, the largest island in the Tanimbar island group. Here we said goodbye to the ship and its crew before disembarking for the town where we spent the rest of our stay in Tanimbar in a comfortable, nicely located hotel, with the rooms built up over the water.

The forests of Yamdena support more than half of the new birds possible to see on this tour, so we were all keen to get going and we were back in the field again by late afternoon. As expected on a new island of this size the afternoon soon produced some new birds. We headed for a forested valley along the main road where we found Tanimbar Cockatoo and Blue-streaked Lories flying to their roosts, and we quickly found stunning Wallace’s Fruit Doves, Pied Bronze Cuckoos, Tanimbar Triller and a Tanimbar Oriole.

The following morning found us inside a remnant forest patch on a short but productive trail. We had soon heard Tanimbar Bush Warbler, though it gave us a real runaround and few good views. Monarchs, however, were much more obliging and we quickly found Black-bibbed and Loetoe Monarchs and Long-tailed Fantail. During the morning some of us also glimpsed a Slaty-backed Thrush but better views would have to wait. Two oft-touted splits followed; the rather disjunct population of Rufous-throated Flycatcher which is usually now separated as Tanimbar Flycatcher and the local Bar-necked Cuckoo Dove, soon to be split as Tanimbar Cuckoo Dove. The latter was calling frequently and its two-note wolf-whistle is very distinct from the calls of the “Bar-necked” Cuckoo Doves we had heard and seen on Tanahjampea and Wetar. We also saw our first Wallacean Cuckooshrike of the dark local unimodus race. We returned to the hotel for lunch, since bird activity died down appreciably in the heat of the day, and in the evening we ventured to another birding area.

Our second area was teeming with fruit-doves as well as Elegant Imperial Pigeons. We also found our first Golden-bellied Flyrobin here after a considerable effort of trying to figure out where it was calling from. As dusk approached we readied ourselves for another night birding session, and were pleasantly surprised and pleased when a pair of Tanimbar Boobook responded within minutes and gave us all outstanding views. Satisfied, we spent another couple of hours searching for a much rarer species, Lesser Masked Owl, but we found no sign of it whatsoever.

On our second morning we returned to the forest trail of the previous day, where we hoped to get better views of several birds for everyone. This we achieved, as during the morning we had excellent views Tanimbar Bush Warbler and Tanimbar Flycatcher as well as outstanding views of Slaty-backed Thrush. Most of us also managed to see the endemic race, kuehni, of Wallacean Drongo, a distinctive subspecies that is a very likely split–‘Tanimbar’ Drongo of course! Elegant Pitta, however, as with the previous afternoon, taunted us from various localities but never showed itself to anyone. Moving further up the road we visited an area where we had heard Tanimbar Friarbirds calling regularly during our previous visit, and we managed to see them well. Mistletoebirds were also
common in this area, this taxon now usually treated as a full species, Tanimbar Flowerpecker, given just how distinct they are from the true Mistletoebirds of Australia. During the afternoon the group split up to cover more ground, and during that period Peter found a new locality for one of Tanimbars most elusive endemics, Fawn-breasted Thrush. We all visited the area just prior to dusk, without result, but it looked like an excellent location for seeing such a bird and we resolved to return on our final morning.

We were assembled on the road at Peter’s thrush spot at dawn on our final full day on Tanimbar, and were soon watching some nice Shining Monarchs in the streambed. Good numbers of Blue-streaked Lories were regularly passing over, and Tanimbar Trillers called from nearby trees. Most of the group was anxiously waiting for the thrush to appear, and incredibly we were not to be disappointed. After only about ten minutes the bird walked across the streambed exactly where Peter had seen it, and a few minutes later it perched in full view on a sandy patch of the riverbed before continuing foraging in the same vicinity. Everyone there had the most amazing views of this incredible bird – later voted as bird of the trip by the group. After the excitement of the thrush we saw nothing significant that was new during the day, but we did get pleasing views of many species, including close perched cockatoos and lories, Pied Bronze Cuckoos, at least ten Golden-bellied Flyrobins, Tanimbar Orioles and the friarbird that it so closely resembles. Our last search for Lesser Masked Owl failed again, and we reluctantly gave up our search for this difficult species and headed back for yet another excellent dinner at the hotel.

Our time on Tanimbar brought this amazing adventure to a close, as early the next morning we flew back to Jakarta, via Ambon and Makassar, arriving finally in the evening. After a night’s rest in Jakarta we boarded our various international flights home, filled with fantastic memories of our travels and of some of the most rarely seen bird species on the planet.

For information regarding our tours to the Banda Sea islands please click here. Alternatively please contact us via e-mail or phone +44 1332 516254 regarding organising a custom tour to the Banda Sea islands.

Bird-of-the-tour
1 Fawn-breasted Thrush
2 Wetar Ground Dove
3 Damar Flycatcher
4 Wallace’s Fruit Dove
5 Tanimbar Boobook

Systematic List

GALLIFORMES: Megapodiidae
Orange-footed Scrubfowl Megapodius reinwardt reinwardt heard only
**GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae**
- Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophora raaltenii*
- Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus* (introduced)

**PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae**
- Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis tricolor*

**PROCELLARIIFORMES: Procellariidae**
- Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*
- Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas*
- Heinroth's Shearwater *Puffinus heinrothi*

**PROCELLARIIFORMES: Hydrobatidae**
- Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

**SULIFORMES: Fregatidae**
- Christmas Island Frigatebird *Fregata andrewsi*
- Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor*
- Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*

**SULIFORMES: Sulidae**
- Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster plotus*
- Red-footed Booby *Sula sula rubripes*

**SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae**
- Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*
- Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

**PELECANIFORMES: Pelecanidae**
- Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

**PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae**
- Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatranus*
- Eastern Great Egret *Casperodius [alba] modesta*
- Little Egret *Egretta garzetta nigripes*
- Pacific Reef-Heron *Egretta sacra sacra*
- Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus [ibis] coromandus*
- Rufous Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus hilli*

**PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae**
- Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*

**ACCIPTIRIFORMES: Accipitridae**
- Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus orientalis*
- Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus hypoleucos*
- Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus intermedius*
- White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
- Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus gallicus*
- Variable Goshawk *Accipiter hiogaster polionotus*
- Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis*
- Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata renschii*

**FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae**
- Spotted Kestrel *Falco moluccensis microbalia*

**GRUIFORMES: Rallidae**
- White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus leucomelanus*
- Rufous-tailed Bush-hen *Amaurornis moluccanus*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Burhinidae**
- Beach Thick-knee *Esacus magnirostris*
CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae
Pacific Golden-Plover  Pluvialis fulva
Oriental Plover  Charadrius veredus

CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae
Common Sandpiper  Actitis hypoleucos
Grey-tailed Tattler  Tringa brevipes
Common Greenshank  Tringa nebularia
Marsh Sandpiper  Tringa stagnatilis
Wood Sandpiper  Tringa glareola
Whimbrel  Numenius phaeopus
Far Eastern Curlew  Numenius madagascariensis
Red-necked Phalarope  Phalaropus lobatus

CHARADRIIFORMES: Turnicidae
Barred Buttonquail  Turnix suscitator powelli

CHARADRIIFORMES: Haematopodidae
Pied Oystercatcher  Haematopus longirostris

CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae
Brown Noddy  Anous stolidus
Sooty Tern  Onychoprion fuscatus
Grey-backed Tern  Onychoprion lunatus
Bridged Tern  Onychoprion anaethetus anaethetus
Gull-billed Tern  Gelochelidon nilotica macrotarsa
Whiskered Tern  Chlidonias hybrida
Common Tern  Sterna hirundo
Great Crested Tern  Thalasseus bergii

CHARADRIIFORMES: Stercorariidae
Pomarine Jaeger  Stercorarius pomarinus
Arctic Jaeger  Stercorarius parasiticus
Long-tailed Jaeger  Stercorarius longicaudus

COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae
Spotted Dove  Streptopelia chinensis tigrina
Timor Cuckoo Dove  Macropygia magna magna
Tanimbar Cuckoo Dove  Macropygia [magna] timorlaensis
Flores Sea Cuckoo Dove  timorlaensis
Timor Black Pigeon  Turacoena modesta
Asian Emerald Dove  Chalcophaps indica indica
Pacific Emerald Dove  Chalcophaps [indica] timorensis
Barred Dove  Geopelia maugei
Wetar Ground Dove  Gallicolumba hoedtii
Black-backed Fruit Dove  Ptilinopus cinctus cinctus
Wallace's Fruit Dove  Ptilinopus wallacii
Rose-crowned Fruit Dove  Ptilinopus regina flavicoloris
Black-naped Fruit Dove  Ptilinopus regina xanthogaster
Elegant Imperial Pigeon  Ducula concinna
Pink-headed Imperial Pigeon  Ducula rosacea
Timor Imperial Pigeon  Ducula cineracea
Pied Imperial Pigeon  Ducula bicolor

PSITTACIFORMES: Cacatuidae
Tanimbar Cockatoo  Cacatua goffiniana

PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae
Blue-streaked Lory  Eos reticulata
Marigold Lorikeet  Trichoglossus capistratus flavotectus
Olive-headed Lorikeet  Trichoglossus euteles
Red-cheeked Parrot  
Great-billed Parrot  
Ecclectus Parrot  

**CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae**  
Oriental Cuckoo  
Little Bronze-Cuckoo  
Banda Bronze Cuckoo  
Pied Bronze Cuckoo  
Australian Koel  
Lesser Coucal  

**STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae**  
Wetar Scops Owl  
Tanimbar Boobook  
Southern Boobook  
Alor Boobook  

**CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae**  
Large-tailed Nightjar  
Savanna Nightjar  

**APODIFORMES: Apodidae**  
Glossy Swiftlet  
Uniform Swiftlet  
Edible-nest Swiftlet  
Pacific Swift  

**CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae**  
Common Kingfisher  
Rufous-backed Kingfisher  
Collared Kingfisher  
Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher  

**CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae**  
Blue-tailed Bee-eater  
Rainbow Bee-eater  

**CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae**  
Dollarbird  

**PICIFORMES: Picidae**  
Sunda Woodpecker  

**PASSEERIFORMES: Pittidae**  
Elegant Pitta  

**PASSEERIFORMES: Meliphagidae**  
Crimson-hooded Myzomela  
Sulawesi Myzomela  
Banda Myzomela  
Indonesian Honeyeater  
White-tufted Honeyeater  
Black-necklaced Honeyeater  
Kisar Friarbird  
Tanimbar Friarbird  
Helmeted Friarbird  

**PASSEERIFORMES: Acanthizidae**  
Golden-bellied Gerygone  

**Cuculus optatus**  
**Tanygnathus megalorynchos**  
**Eclectus roratus riedeli**  
**Cuculus optatus**  
**Chrysococcyx minutillus poecilurus**  
**Chrysococcyx rufomerus**  
**Chrysococcyx crassirostris crassirostris**  
**Eudynamys cyanopephalus**  
**Centropus bengalensis javanicus**  
**Otus [magicus] tempestatis**  
**Ninox [squamipila] forbesi**  
**Ninox novaeseelandiae cinnamomina**  
**Ninox novaeseelandiae moae**  
**Ninox novaeseelandiae plesseni**  
**Caprimulgus macrurus schlegelii**  
**Caprimulgus affinis**  
**Collocalia esculenta perneglecta**  
**Aerodramus vanikorensis moluccarum**  
**Aerodramus fuciphagus fuciphagus**  
**Apus pacificus**  
**Alcedo atthis floresiana**  
**Ceyx rufidorsa rufidorsa**  
**Todiramphus chloris chloris**  
**Todiramphus australasia odites**  
**Todiramphus australasia dammeriana**  
**Merops philippinus**  
**Merops ornatus**  
**Eurystomus orientalis orientalis**  
**Dendrocos moluccensis grandis**  
**Pitta elegans elegans**  
**Pitta elegans vigorsii**  
**Myzomela kuehni**  
**Myzomela chloroptera eva**  
**Myzomela boiei annabellae**  
**Lichmera limbata**  
**Lichmera squamata**  
**Lichmera notabilis**  
**Philemon kisserensis**  
**Philemon [moluccensis] plumigenis**  
**Philemon buceroides neglectus**  
**Philemon buceroides buceroides**  
**Gerygone sulphurea**
Plain Gerygone
Rufous-sided Gerygone

**PASSERIFORMES: Artamidae**
White-breasted Woodswallow
Artamus leucorynchus albiventer
Artamus leucorynchus musschenbroeki

**PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae**
Wallacean Cuckooshrike
[Alor Cuckooshrike]
White-shouldered Triller
Tanimbar Triller
Coracina personata personata
Coracina personata alfrediana
Coracina personata unimodus
Lalage sueuri
Lalage [atrovirens] moesta

**PASSERIFORMES: Pachycephalidae**
Golden Whistler
Pachycephala pectoralis everetti
Pachycephala pectoralis fulvotincta
Pachycephala pectoralis calliope
Pachycephala pectoralis compar
Pachycephala pectoralis dammeriana heard only
Pachycephala pectoralis sharpei
Pachycephala pectoralis fuscoflava
Wallacean Whistler
Pachycephala leucogastra kebirensis
Pachycephala leucogastra arctitorquis

**PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae**
Long-tailed Shrike
Laniaschach bentet

**PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae**
Wetar Oriole
Tanimbar Oriole
Black-naped Oriole
Oriolus [melanotis] finschi
Oriolus [bouroensis] decipiens
Oriolus chinensis boneratensis
Oriolus chinensis broderipii
Sphecotheres hypoleucus

**PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae**
Wallacean Drongo
Dicrurus densusbimaensis
dicrurus densuspunctor
Dicrurus densuskuehni

**PASSERIFORMES: Rhipiduridae**
Northern Fantail
Cinnamon-tailed Fantail
Long-tailed Fantail
Arafura Fantail
Rhipidura rufiventris pallidiceps
Rhipidura rufiventris hoedti
Rhipidura fuscorufa
Rhipidura opistherythra
Rhipidura dryas semicollaris
Rhipidura dryas elegantula
Rhipidura dryas hamadryas
Rhipidura dryas celebensis

**PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae**
Island Monarch
Loetoe Monarch
Black-bibbed Monarch
White-tipped Monarch
Spectacled Monarch
Broad-billed Flycatcher
Shining Flycatcher
Monarcha cinerascens cinerascens
Monarcha castus
Monarcha mundus
Monarcha everetti
Symposiachrus trivirgatus trivirgatus
Myiagra ruficollis ruficollis
Myiagra ruficollis fulviventris
Myiagra alecto longirostris

**PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae**
Southern Jungle Crow
Corvus macrorhynchos
**PASSERIFORMES: Petroicidae**
- Golden-bellied Flyrobin *Microeca hemixantha*

**PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae**
- Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica gutturalis*
- Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica javanica*
- Striated Swallow *Cecropis striolata striolata*
- Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans*

**PASSERIFORMES: Paridae**
- Cinerous Tit *Parus cinereus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Cettiidae**
- Timor Stubtail 
  *Urosphena subulata [Alor]*
- Tanimbar Bush Warbler *Horornis caroliniae*
- Aberrant Bush Warbler *Horornis flavolivacea*
- Timor Bush Warbler *Locustella timorensis*

**PASSERIFORMES: Acrocephalidae**
- Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis [ssp. Yamdena]*

**PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae**
- Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis constans*
- Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis lineocapilla*

**PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae**
- Tanimbar Flycatcher *Ficedula [dumetoria] riedeli*
- Damar Flycatcher *Ficedula henrici*
- Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*
- Timor Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis hyacinthinus kuehni*
- Tanahjumpea Blue Flycatcher *Saxicola caprata fruticola*
- Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata pyrrhonota*
- Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys*

**PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae**
- Slaty-backed Thrush *Zoothera schistacea*
- Orange-banded Thrush *Zoothera peronii audacis*
- Fawn-breasted Thrush *Zoothera machiki*

**PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae**
- Lemon-bellied White-eye *Zosterops chloris intermedius*
- Ashy-bellied White-eye *Zosterops citrinella albiventrис*
- Yellow-spectacled White-eye *Zosterops wallacei*
- Mountain White-eye *Zosterops montanus ssp*

**PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae**
- Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica circumscripta*
- Tanimbar Starling *Aplonis crassa*
- Short-tailed Starling *Aplonis minor*

**PASSERIFORMES: Dicaeidae**
- Black-fronted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum igniferum*
- Red-chested Flowerpecker *Dicaeum maugei splendidum*
- Tanimbar Flowerpecker *Dicaeum [hirundinaceum] fulgidum*

**PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae**
- Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis*
- Clement's Sunbird *Cinnyris [jugularis] clementiae teysmanni*
- Flame-breasted Sunbird *Cinnyris solaris solaris*
**PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae**
- Eastern Yellow Wagtail
- Grey Wagtail
- Paddyfield Pipit

**PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae**
- *Motacilla tschutschensis*
- *Motacilla cinerea cinerea*
- *Anthus rufulus medius*

**PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae**
- *Eurasian Tree Sparrow*
- *Passer montanus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae**
- Zebra Finch
- Tricolored Parrotfinch
- Black-faced Munia
- Scaly-breasted Munia
- Five-colored Munia
- Chestnut Munia

**MAMMALS**
- Common Palm Civet
- Large Flying Fox
- Sperm Whale
- Long-snouted Spinner Dolphin
- Bottlenose Dolphin

*Cinnyris solaris exquisita*

For information regarding our tours to the Banda Sea islands please click [here](#). Alternatively please contact us via [e-mail](mailto:) or phone +44 1332 516254 regarding organising a custom tour to the Banda Sea islands.