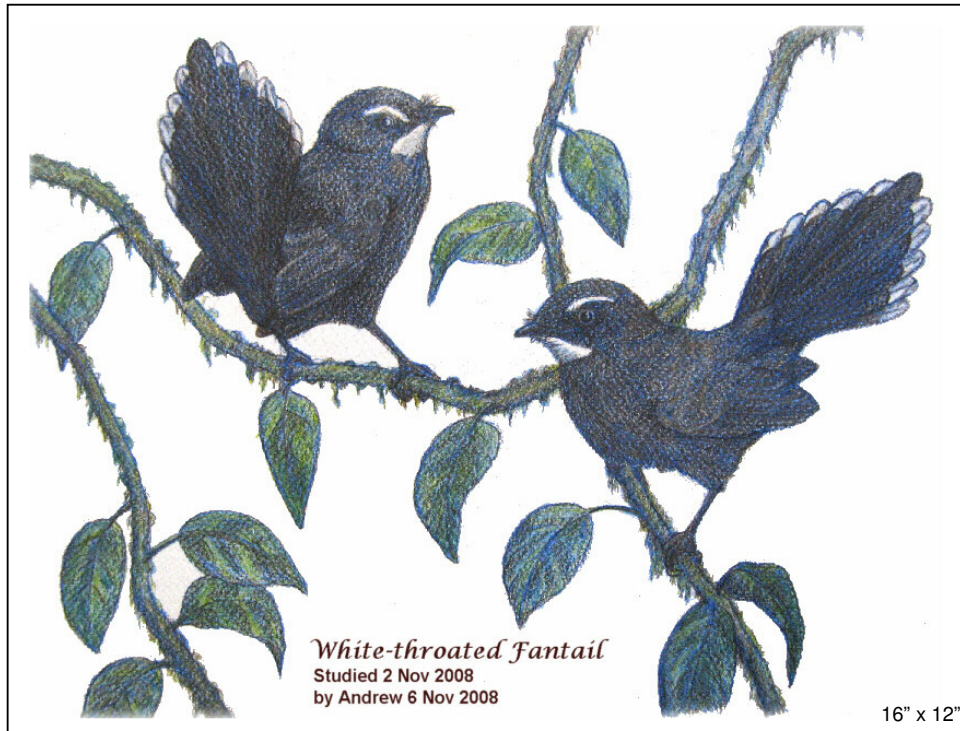


Pictorial Diary from Kerinci

By Chow Chong Peck (Andrew)

2/11/2008



The first forest birds for this trip that I had a good view of, was this pair of White-throated Fantails. They allow me to spend sometime studying the way they manipulate their tails as they forages among the thicket above me.

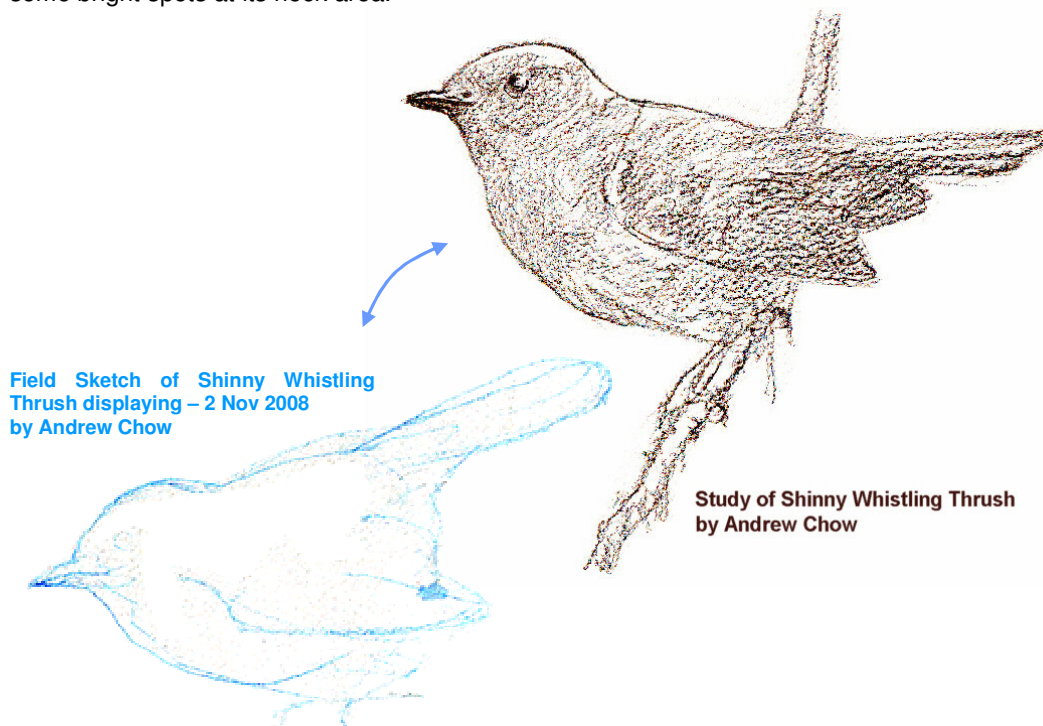


The first Indonesia endemic that I saw on this trip was, this female Sunda Blue Robin at Ayer Minumn. It was observed picking up food stuffs from the open ground until its beak is full. I had a feeling that there must be some large gaps to be filled nearby.



Another pair of birds that were suspected to be nesting is this pair of Sumatra endemic, the Shinny Whistling Thrush. Both on my way up and down, the pair get very excited when I enter their territory. One bird will come near, calling and displaying while the other responded a little further away. It would repeatedly raise and lower its chest while calling. As it lowers its chest, its tail would raise and open slightly. The tail looks rather short and slightly rounded at its end.

It took a while to id these birds as the lighting was poor. The wings and tails appear brown. However, the bright bluish shoulder-patches were distinctive. On few occasions, I could see some bright spots at its neck area.

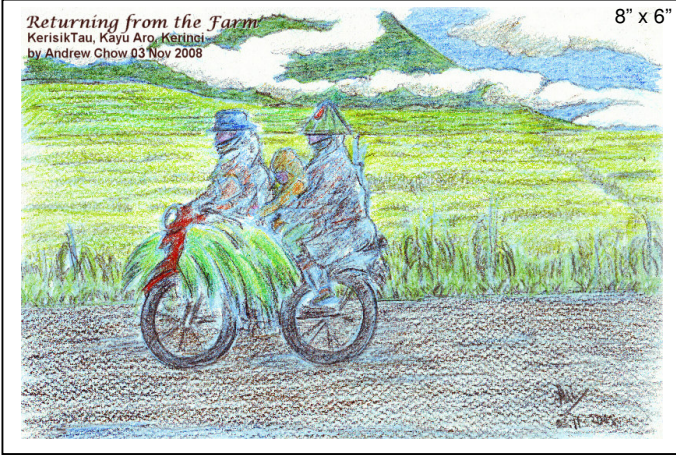


Field Sketch of ? Tree Shrew
by Andrew Chow 2 Nov 2008



The few mammals that were sighted today were the Mitered Langur, Giant Squirrel, Three-striped Ground Squirrel and a Tree Shrew.

3/11/2008



Spend the day going through the field sketches made on 2/11 and producing some studies of the White-throated Fantail and Shiny Whistling Thrush. In the evening, I sat outside Pak Subandi's watching the farmers return from their farm.

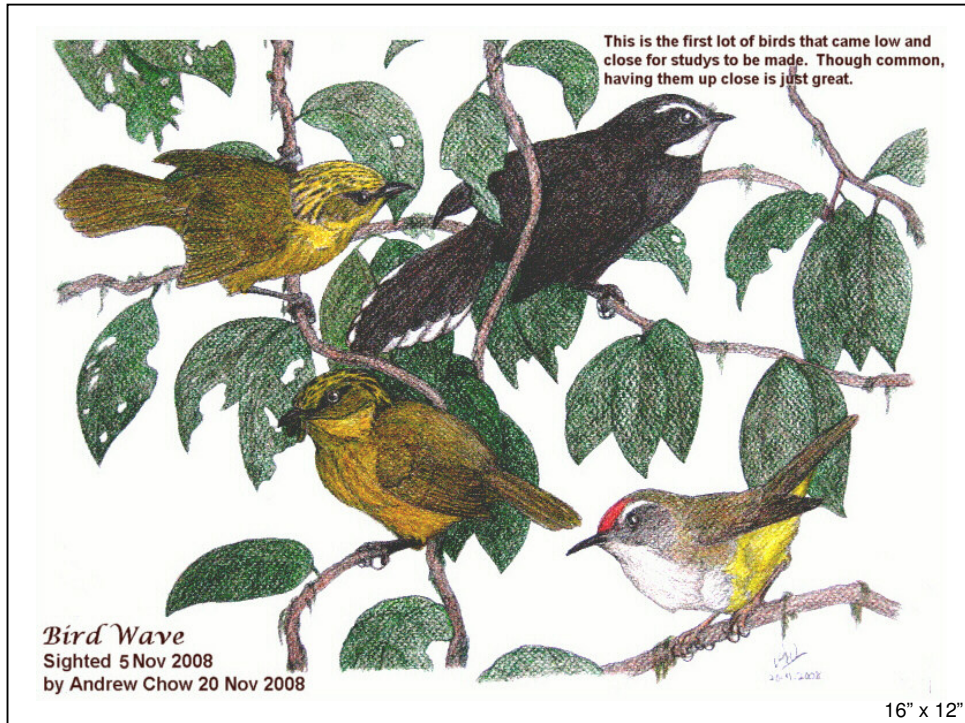
4/11/2008



The Hill Prinias are common in the tea plantations but are difficult to see there. These two individual was seen foraging among some scrubs. The race in Sumatra seems to have the streaking confined to the upper side of the chest. The faces are not black as shown but just a little darker. They were seen on the plant individually rather than together as shown. The sketch was completed on the spot at the Letter-W"ay" Waterfall. Colour was added later at night, at Pak's Subandi's. It was than washed with water on the night of 9 November. Final touch-ups were done on 11 Nov 2008.

5/11/2008

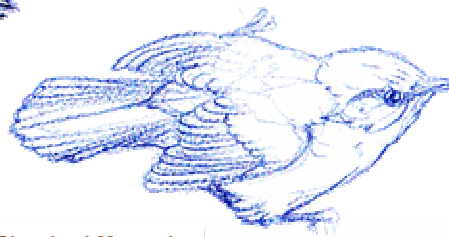
My first close encounter on this trip was with a mix feeding flock of common birds. I was able to make some field sketches that I used to produce studies for the following work.



Field Sketch of White-throated Fantail



Study of Golden Babbler fanning its tail



Field Sketch of Mountain Tailorbird



Field Sketch of Golden Babbler with prev

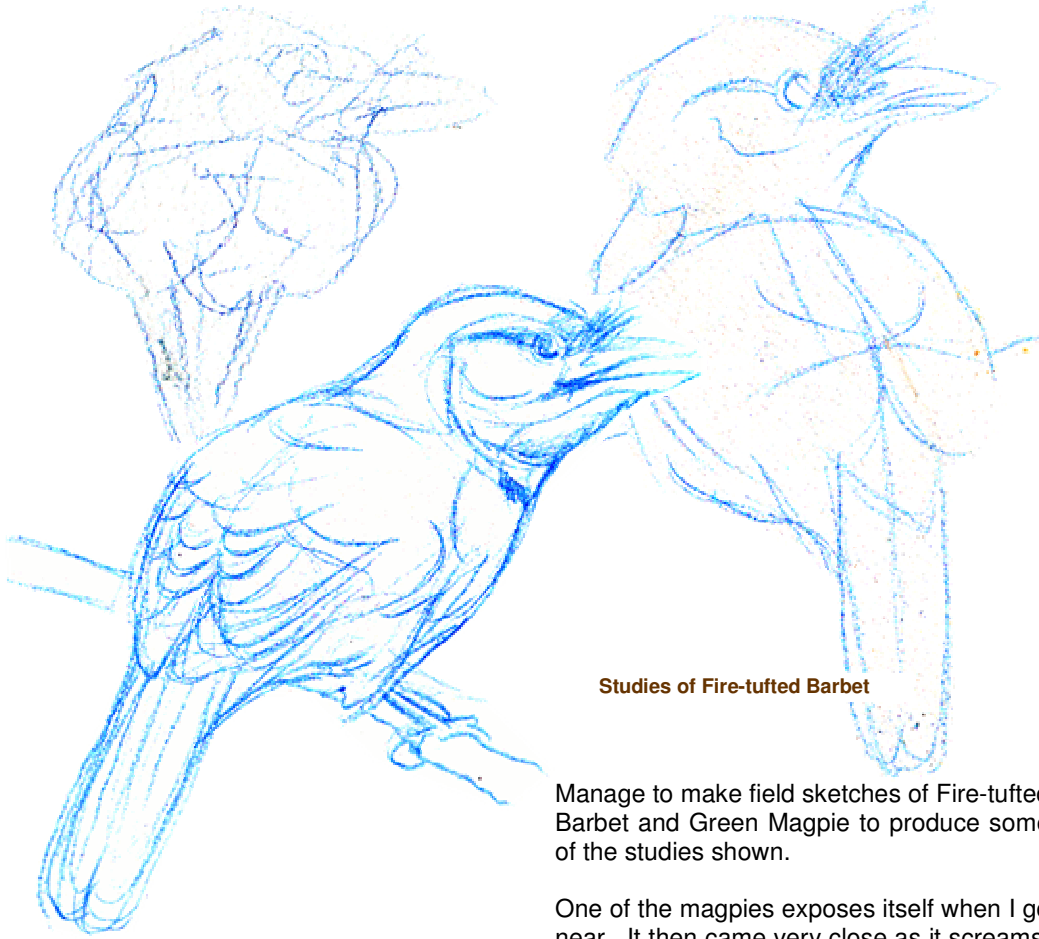


Study of Golden Babbler to reverse the direction it faces



7/11/2008

Field Sketch of Fire-tufted Barbet



Studies of Fire-tufted Barbet

Manage to make field sketches of Fire-tufted Barbet and Green Magpie to produce some of the studies shown.

One of the magpies exposes itself when I go near. It then came very close as it screams. The others then moved across the tack at a distance.

Study of Green Magpie showing the moment it exposes itself.



The two ground squirrels at the 1st Pondok came very close as they were trying to inspect my bag.

**Field sketch of Three-striped
Ground Squirrel.**



Field sketch of Sunda Blue Robin Female



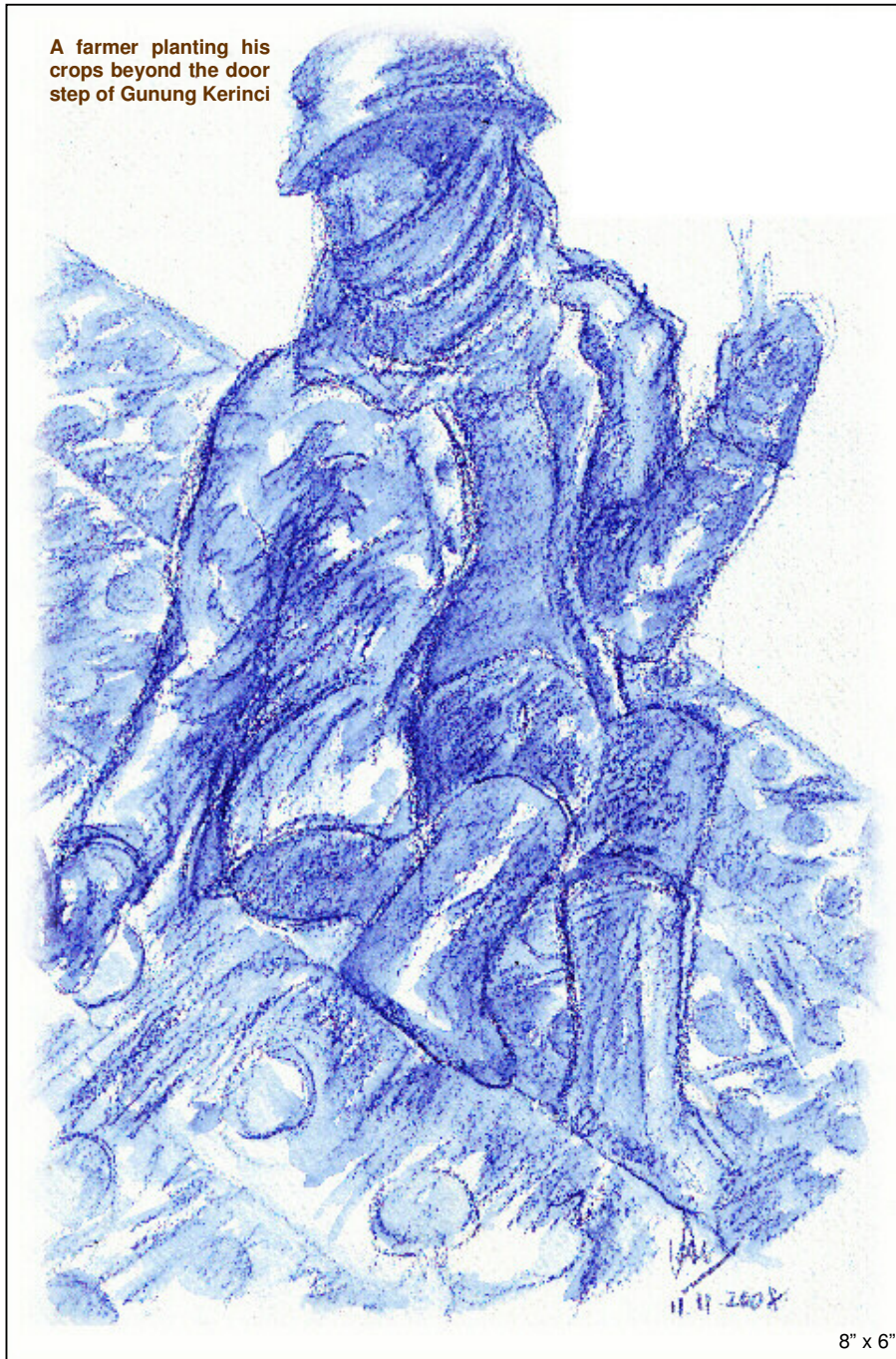
At Ayer Minumn, the female Sunda Blue Robin was very co-operative, posing in the open right in front of me for several minutes. It cocks its tail frequently, reviewing the white at the base of the tail. In the sketch, it was shown to have food in its beak as I have seen it often doing so (though not on this occasion). Also the size should be smaller than half that as shown. It was actually on the ground, behind me back rather than perched on the log as shown.

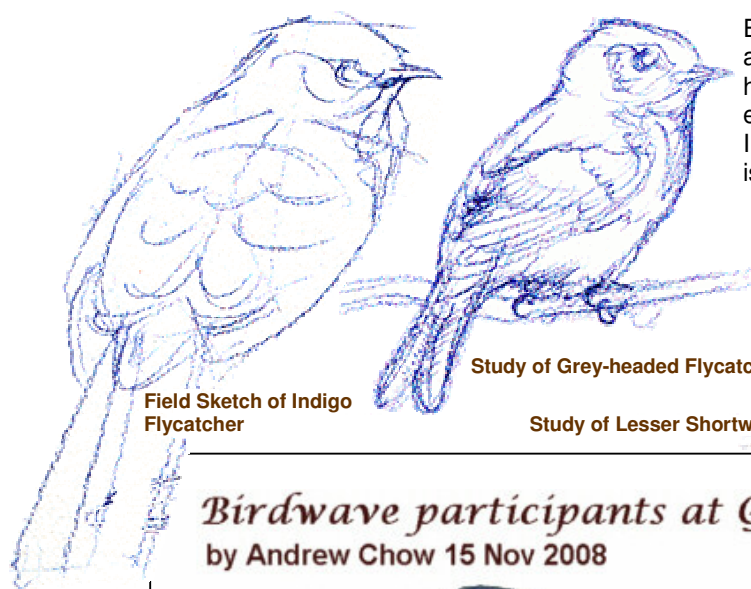
16" x 12"



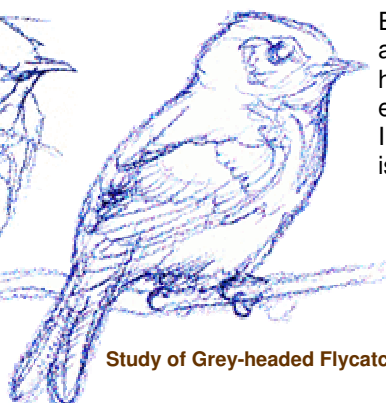
9/11/2008

The farmers in Kerinci are mostly well wrapped up to protect themselves. Many of them covered the ground with long plastic sheets with holes cut for the plants as shown. According to Pak Subandi, this would protect the young crops from the rain and also weeds from growing. The popular crops here are cabbages, tomatoes, chilies and potatoes. The following sketch was done on 9/11 and completed on 11/11 by washing the sketch with water.





Field Sketch of Indigo Flycatcher



Study of Grey-headed Flycatcher

Encounter one of the best wave with an Indigo flycatcher and two Grey-headed Flycatchers close and at eye-level. As with most of the waves I encountered, the Lesser Shortwing is present.



Study of Lesser Shortwing

Birdwave participants at Gunung Kerinci by Andrew Chow 15 Nov 2008



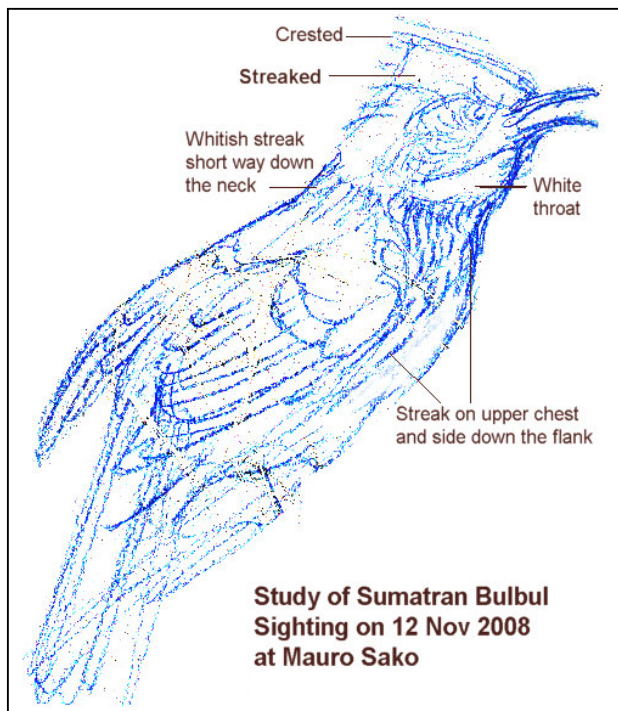
16" x 12"

10/11/2008



16" x 12"

When I was here in Kerinci about 12 years ago, I read from the log about the sighting of the Graceful Pitta at Bukit Kaba. My long trip down through Bengkulu by bus was however unfruitful. I came down again 4 years ago with Kim Chuah and Ding Li and again did not see or hear the bird. I went down to Sako this time with Pak Subandi and a cycling birder (a Robin from Scotland who overlanded on this wheels) and was finally rewarded with 2 sightings at KM 23 and 25, about one hour apart.



The Sumatran Bulbul is one of the Sumatran endemics that I dipped on my last few trips. On this occasion, I was able to study a few individuals as they go about foraging on a fruiting tree together with some Ochraceous Bulbuls. One of the Ochraceous Bulbul was observed feeding its young.

Sumatran Treepie

at Mauro Sako, Kerinci, Sumatra
on 10 Nov 2008
by Andrew Chow, 15 Nov 2008



16" x 12"

Another Sumatran endemic that I managed to have close-up views of was the Sumatran Treepie. This pair was really noisy as they flirted by the side of the road.

Study of Little Cuckoo Dove

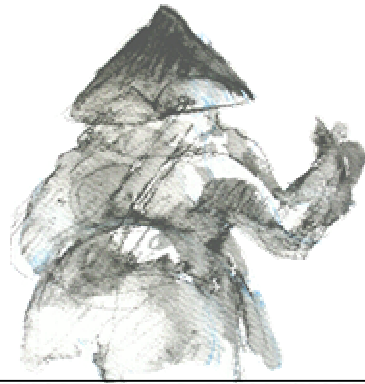


Study of Sumatran Treepie

17/11/2008

The tea pickers were at a distant and I have to observe them through my Bin from Pak Subandi's in the morning. I made some quick sketches before starting on the following work in the afternoon. As usual, it begins to pour at the foothill of Gunung Kerinci.

According to Pak Subandi, the tea plants here was planted in 1927. All tea plantations belong to the government. The average wage of a tea pickers is 800 000 Indonesian Rupiah. The target to meet is 30 Kg per day.



Approaching Storm
Tea pickers at Kerinci
by Andrew Chow 17 Nov 2008

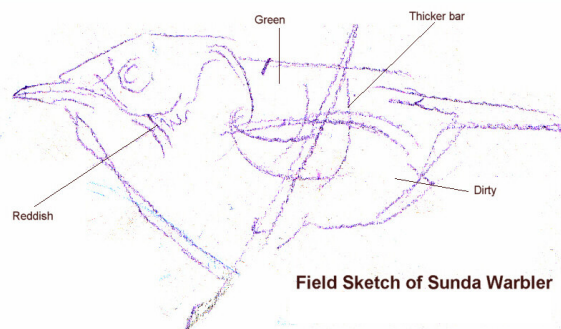
16" x 12"

19/11/2008

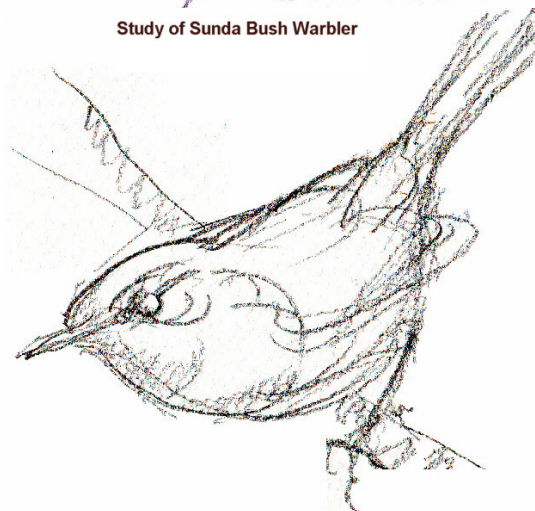


This is the last bird wave that I could get intimate with. I was finally able to study both the Sunda Warbler and the Sunda Bush Warbler up close

Field Sketch of some leaves



Study of Sunda Bush Warbler





On my last visit to Ayer Minumn, I was finally able to study the male Sunda Blue Robin. Like the female, it was loaded with food in its beak. The white on the forehead and the base of tail was seen.

Seen Female first. Male seen short distance from the Female.

