



Sulawesi/Halmahera Tour Report 4 - 24th September 2017

Tour Highlights

Because of rarity, excellent views or simply a group favourite.

- Sulawesi Honey-buzzard
- Sulawesi Serpent Eagle
- Spotted Harrier
- Sulawesi Hawk Eagle
- Maleo
- White-faced Cuckoo-Dove
- Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon
- Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon
- Chattering Lory
- Eclectus Parrot
- Moluccan King Parrot
- Yellow-billed Malkoha
- Goliath Coucal
- Sulawesi Scops Owl
- Cinnabar Boobook
- Ochre-bellied Boobook
- Speckled Boobook
- Satanic Nightjar
- Moustached Treeswift
- Green-backed Kingfisher
- Scaly-breasted Kingfisher
- Common Paradise Kingfisher
- Lilac Kingfisher
- Great-billed Kingfisher
- Ruddy Kingfisher
- Sombre Kingfisher
- Beach Kingfisher
- Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher
- Purple-bearded Bee-eater
- Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbill
- Knobbed Hornbill
- Blyth's Hornbill
- Ashy Woodpecker
- Ivory-breasted Pitta
- Piping Crow
- Wallace's Standardwing
- Great Shortwing
- Red-backed Thrush
- Sulawesi Thrush
- Lompobattang Flycatcher
- Ivory-backed Woodswallow
- Sulawesi Crested Myna
- Flame-browed Starling
- Hylocitrea

LEADERS: Nick Upton & Royke Mantana

SUMMARY:

The list of highlight species above, seen on this birding tour to Sulawesi and Halmahera, gives a quick insight to why it remains a highly-desirable destination for birding trips with not only a wealth of endemic species but a large number of really striking birds. We found a very high proportion of our target species which included birds from a wide range of families and almost all of our top priority targets. Beginning at Palu, Central Sulawesi we visited Lore Lindu National Park where we got to grips with many of Sulawesi's endemic birds including Malia and Hylocitrea. A flight to Makassar and a quick side trip for the highly regionalized Lompobattang Flycatcher with afternoon of shorebirds preceded

another flight to Manado in the North of Sulawesi. From here we visited the wonderful forests of Tangkoko, full of Kingfishers, and several other sites including a Maleo sanctuary. We then took a short flight to Ternate, our stopping off post before the island of Halmahera with its own host of endemic species to enjoy and witnessing Wallace's Standarwing at a lek is something that lives on a long time in the memory. For a large number of birds that are endemics and of high conservation concern, Sulawesi and Halmahera are two must-visit islands of Indonesia for birders.

Note: With the publication of *Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago* (Eaton, van Balen, Brickle & Rheindt) in 2016 there is currently much confusion over the common names (and in many cases the scientific names) of many species occurring in the area. Along with many splits as yet unrecognized on the lists of the most commonly used authorities by world listers there are many species which have been renamed for various reasons. As it seems likely that many, if not all, of these splits will be accepted in future and that most birders to the region will be using this field guide I will use the species names as given in *Eaton, van Balen, Brickle & Rheindt* with the older, more established, names in brackets.

Days 1-2; 4-5th September

With flights from London, Newcastle, Calgary and Bangkok we assembled the whole group at the Ibis Styles Airport Hotel, Jakarta, where we got to know each other over a few beers and a nice buffet dinner in the hotel before getting our heads down for a very early start the next day.

Day 3; 6th September

Having been warned that domestic flights are frequently delayed in Indonesia it was a sigh of relief that our 5am flight to Palu was on time and a comfortable flight for a couple of hours, coupled with an hour's time difference put us in Palu airport at 8.30am where we met our local guide, Royke Mantana, and our drivers who helped us pack our 3 vehicles, provided us with our second breakfast and then took us off towards our first birding of the trip in some farmland along the Olobogo river. Well, it is always nice, when on trips like this, to get the first birding under the belt and see some of those highly anticipated birds that we have been looking at longingly in the field guide over the previous months at home and it was great to get good views of **Pale-capped Munia**, **Grey-sided Flowerpecker**, **Lesueur's (White-shouldered) Triller**, **Little Bronze Cuckoo**, **Sulawesi Brush Cuckoo** and spectacular, prolonged flight views of **Savanna Nightjar** all within minutes of getting out of the car. Although it was already hot we had a short walk around in a fruitless search for Buttonquail but we did add several soaring **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters**, **White-breasted Woodswallow**, a whole load of **Lemon-bellied White-eyes**, **Red-collared Dove**,



Zitting Cisticola, flypast **Javan Pond Herons**, **Sulawesi Swiftlet** as well as the only **Asian Palm Swift** and **Pied Bushchat** of the trip. Although we tried a couple more roadside stops it was getting too hot so we moved on to have a pleasant lunch at a local church!

With everyone keen for more, sharp eyes revealed a pair of distant **Knobbed Hornbills** in flight at a roadside stop to buy bananas, but thankfully better views of this magnificent bird would be forthcoming in the next few days. Heading towards Lore Lindu National Park we

made a series of stops as soon as we reached the forest, the first of which gave us incredible close-up views of a subadult **Sulawesi Hawk Eagle** hunting in front of us at eye-level and then directly overhead – fantastic. Some **Short-tailed Starlings** were added to the tally along with a **Crimson Sunbird** and a **Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker**. Our second stop was pretty quiet to begin with but we waited patiently watching some **Grey-rumped Treeswifts** and **Glossy Swiftlets** before we were rewarded by a pair of superb **Purple-bearded Bee-eaters** which came swooping into a tree above us. We had to move back a little to get the best views of this stunner and it felt great to get one of our major targets so quickly and to see it so well. That wasn't it for this stop though with a distant **Peregrine** and a much closer **Black Eagle** to add as well as more views of **Sulawesi Hawk Eagle**.

Another stop in the forest, in the late afternoon, gave us some of the slower forest birding that one can expect in tropical forests but we were very happy to see some of the commoner birds of Lore Lindu with **Turquoise Warbling-flycatcher**, **Pale-blue Monarch**, a brief **Sulawesi Leaf Warbler**, **Little Pied Flycatcher**, **Black-crowned White-eye**, **Citrine Canary-flycatcher** and a couple of nice **Sulawesi (Rusty-bellied) Fantails** dancing around in the trees doing what their name describes. With the day coming to a close we drove to Sedy Homestay where we would spend the next 5 nights seeing a **Sulawesi (Slender-billed) Crow** along the way and **Olive-backed Sunbird** alongside **Yellow-sided Flowerpecker** in a flowering tree in the car park. Although the accommodation was fairly simple it was clean and dinner was excellent particularly accompanied by a Bintang beer.

Day 4; 7th September

Breakfast was taken in the car park at Danau Taming, the small lake that we did much of our birding in the vicinity of while at Lore Lindu. There was a considerable morning chorus as we tucked into our coffee, bananas, cakes, bread and jam which promised much for the birding to come and as soon as it was light the birds began to come thick and fast with small flocks of **Flame-browed Starlings** and **Meyer's (Yellow-and-green) Lorikeets** in the treetops although the latter were tricky to see properly and it took until the early afternoon before everyone got a good view of these small parrots. Our first **Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker** was found soon after and a **Turquoise Warbling-flycatcher** seemed like it wanted some of our breakfast perched on a wire right next to us.

Although there was a lot of action in the trees it was a good time to try for a couple of difficult targets and a very short walk into the forest put us in a good position to watch a pair of noisy **Malias** as they behaved rather nuthatch-like and squawked like a jay; strange birds! A little call playing from Royke and a large dose of patience gave most of the group point-blank views of **Heinrichia (Great Shortwing)** while a couple of us got a sighting of **Sulawesi Thrush** (not that the illustration in the field guide was much use in identifying it) and shortly after a **Scaly (Scaly-breasted) Kingfisher** was called in although it frustratingly flew away before everyone saw it properly. So, some good birds straight off the bat but as not all members of the group saw them well there would be some catching up to do later with those.

The next hour or so was spent birding along the road through the forest and we really did not have to go far at all with flocks of small birds actively feeding around us. **Sulawesi (Rusty-bellied) Fantail**, **Mountain White-eye**, **Sulphur-vented Whistler**, **Golden-bellied Gerygone**, joined by a nice **Blue-faced Parrotfinch**, were all seen quickly and the call of **Hoeyell's Warbling-flycatcher (Blue-fronted Blue Flycatcher)** was easily tracked down to give us close-up 'scope views of an attractive male. While all of this was happening a trio of very striking **Cerulean Cuckooshrikes** came swooping in and a **Little Bronze Cuckoo** kept doing its best to draw our attention. As the activity slowed we moved down a short trail to the lake edge where things suddenly became very raptorial with top quality views of **Sulawesi Honey-buzzard**, **Sulawesi**

Serpent Eagle, Lesser Fish Eagle and Oriental Hobby over the course of the next hour to the joy of the raptor-enthusiast department of our group while back in the car park a very colourful **Sulawesi (Yellow-billed) Malkoha** very nearly stole the show.

However, over the next few hours things became very quiet indeed with a picnic lunch to keep us amused and just a **Lesser (Dark-eared) Myza** and a **Black-naped Oriole** for company. Why this Oriole is still considered the same species as the Black-naped Orioles in mainland Southeast Asia is a mystery to me as it is considerably smaller, has a different bill structure, small plumage differences and a completely different contact call – someone needs to do some splitting!

Unfortunately activity levels never really increased and towards the end of a long day we stopped at a lookout where we got nice 'scope views of **Sulawesi Goshawk** sitting on an exposed perch and then a **White-bellied Imperial Pigeon** performed some acrobatics to close the show. Then back to the accommodation, dinner and off to bed in preparation for a very early start.

Day 5; 8th September

“Good morning”, or should that be “Good middle of the night”? A 3.30am start and a transfer to the start of the Anaso track put us in place to get to the higher reaches of the mountain for sunrise, or at least it



would have done had there been a sunrise.

Instead thick fog and drizzle made things extraordinarily difficult for almost the entire morning. No nightjars on their roost, no birds perched out and no activity whatsoever made things look really awful but with a patient and persistent group things were to change later in the day. **Snowy-browed Flycatchers** were our first (and only?) birds of the first few hours, followed by a very murky view of a **Lesser Myza** and we had got to highest point without seeing anything else. As we turned around and began to descend a couple of us who were straggling came across **Greater (White-eared)**

Myza and most of the group managed to catch up with this bird later in the day. By now it was close to 11am and we had very little to show for our considerable efforts; things were about to change though. As we walked along the track one member of our party almost stepped upon a pair of **Satanic Nightjars**, which flew a short distance into the forest. Fortunately we were able to find one of these birds sitting on the forest floor and we were able to really enjoy superb views of this wonderfully-named bird and get some superb photographs. This was the luck we needed to change things and it was not much further along the trail that Royke pointed out some red berries and told me that these were the sort of fruits that **Hylocitrea** liked. I took a look through my binoculars and guess what, a pair of **Hylocitreas** were right there feeding on them! A great relief to find another of our major targets for the day in the dreadful conditions we were experiencing.

After a picnic lunch we continued downhill and the weather improved giving us sunny spells between rain showers which allowed us to get really nice views of a male **Sulawesi Myzomela** feeding on some flowers quickly followed by more stunning views of a pair of **Satanic Nightjars** on a daytime roost. While watching a flock of small birds everyone caught up with a very obliging **Sulawesi Thrush** that spent a long time

foraging among the leaves of some palm trees. **Red-eared Fruit Dove** was next and then at a lookout we found another **Purple-bearded Bee-eater**, really one of the best birds we saw at Lore Lindu, with a **Rufous-bellied Eagle** showing well at the same spot. Although our bodies may have been registering that the day should be over, the birds were not paying any attention and a final flock appeared for us to pick through with our first **Pygmy Cuckooshrike** among many of the commoner species that we had seen previously. It was nice to end the day with a new bird before heading back for a much-needed shower and dinner.

Day 6; 9th September

With a lot of night birds to find in the area we were up and about way before first light. After trying to call in Sulawesi Masked Owl next to a Mosque with the accompanying call to prayer, sanity prevailed and we went back to a quiet field behind our accommodation. After a short time, just as it was beginning to get light, a pair of **Speckled Boobooks** began to call and after a few fly-past views we eventually got a great sighting of one of these great birds perched in the open as it was getting light. Calling **Great Eared Nightjars** were also nearby and we obtained a spectacular sighting of several birds as they flew overhead while contorting themselves as they vocalized.

This morning we had a change of scenery again, birding along the forest edge from the roadside and then along a dirt track into some farmland overlooking the forest. As we were driving along I heard the deep call of a Hornbill and a word to the drivers got us stopped quickly and we soon spotted a wonderful **Knobbed Hornbill** sitting on an exposed perch, preening. We were able to enjoy this bird for some time as he moved around the large trees along the valley; it is always special to see large Hornbills well like this. While we enjoyed this, a group of **Tonkean Macaques** was spotted on the other side of the road leaving many of us not knowing which way to look. Moving along a dirt track we had an appointment to keep with a large flock of **Grosbeak Mynas** and **Flame-browed Starlings** enjoying the morning sunshine on top of some trees and by searching through the flock we found at least 4 **Sulawesi Mynas** which turned out to be surprisingly nice birds. A foray through some farmland to scan the forest edge for Piping Crow was



unsuccessful but we got the consolation prize of photographing a **Golden-headed Cisticola** in full breeding plumage as well as a stunning encounter with 3 **Barred Rails** that hung around right next to the vehicles for several minutes. Back along the road we added **Sulawesi Cicadabird** to our list along with some more **Cerulean Cuckooshrikes**, **Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker**, **Black-naped Orioles** and many of the other small birds we had started to become familiar with before finishing the session with excellent views of a pair of **Sulawesi Jungle (Blue) Flycatchers**. By now it was getting a bit

hot along the exposed road so we drove back to our accommodation for lunch and an afternoon break.

It was good to take a break but, of course, birders find it hard to rest when there may be more species to add to the list and **Grosbeak Myna**, **Black Eagle**, **Chestnut Munia**, **Indonesian (Spotted) Kestrel** and **Grey-sided Flowerpecker** were all added to the accommodation garden list and one lucky person had a **Tree Sparrow** in their room!

In the late afternoon we headed back to the forest putting some effort into looking for Piping Crow and Ashy Woodpecker but coming up with little reward. Things were pretty quiet although we did come across one nice flock containing a pair of **Pygmy Cuckooshrikes** for better views than before. Mostly though we had to enjoy seeing many of the commoner birds again until dusk when we got ourselves to the right place for **Cinnabar Boobook**. It was all remarkably civilized, drinking coffee while we waited and very shortly after dark we got a reply from our target bird and it did not take long to spotlight our second Boobook of the day. A nice ending to a good day.

Day 7; 10th September

We had another very early start this time at the back of our accommodation having another go at finding some owls. It did not take that long to get a response although actually seeing the **Sulawesi Masked Owl** was not so easy. Eventually we managed to spotlight it in flight as it cruised past us but every time it settled it managed to do so in dense foliage. Never mind, the flight views we had were as good as any you could get and the sheer size of the bird was impressive. With that success we headed into the forest for the last time here, to make another attempt at some birds that had only been seen by part of the group. While waiting in the forest we got more good views of **Malia** and in a stroke of luck a **Maroon-backed Whistler** turned up right in front of us. This time things went pretty well for us with **Heinrichia (Great Shortwing)** performing in an exposed gully for some time, allowing everyone to get great views of this difficult bird. With that one in the bag we made another attempt at **Scaly Kingfisher** and it was surprising how quickly we found it although it took some tracking down to make sure everyone got the type of view they wanted of this top bird. The rest of the morning was spent birding along the road and although things were a bit quiet we found another **Purple-bearded Bee-eater**, **Sulawesi Cuckoo Dove**, more



Sulawesi (Yellow-billed) Malkohas and some photography with **Mountain White-eye**, **Lesser (Dark-eared) Myza** and a pair of **Flame-browed Starlings** that really showed off. Bringing the morning to a close we had a coffee and cake at the vehicles before a nice flock of birds appeared very close to the road. Here we saw many of the birds that we had grown familiar with over the past few days including a very close Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker and adding **Sulawesi Heleia (Streak-headed White-eye)** to our list. As we

drove back to the accommodation for an afternoon break we stopped at a lookout where some of us saw 3 **Purple Needleetails**, a pair of fly-by **Sulawesi Mynas** and then 'scope views of a party of at least 8 **Ivory-backed Woodswallows**; a very nice way to end the morning.

Refreshed from our lunch, in the late afternoon we drove out to an open area in hope of finding those pesky Piping Crows. On the way we stopped at some rice fields where a flock of at least 35 **Glossy Ibis** were circling. **Chestnut Munia** and **Purple Heron** made it onto the day list here too but much to the disappointment of the children of the village we deprived them of their afternoon's entertainment and moved on. Well, those crows remained elusive as did pretty much everything else but after finding a decent lookout spot we stood patiently and eventually had good views of a subadult **Sulawesi Hawk Eagle**

perched, several **Grey-headed Imperial Pigeons** and **White-bellied Imperial Pigeons** as well as a fly past **Purple Needletail**. Finally, back to our accommodation to enjoy our last dinner at Sedy Homestay.

Day 8; 11th September

Having squeezed pretty much all the birds that we were able to from the forest, we said our goodbyes and drove an hour or so to some open country on our way back to Palu and our afternoon flight. Stopping along the way we found **Sulawesi Babbler** singing in the open and a couple of **White-breasted Waterhens**. By the time we got back to the Olobogo River, where we had birded on the way in, it was already hot. We spent an hour walking around, building up quite a sweat but it was quite profitable with good numbers of **Savanna Nightjar** seen, a couple of **Lesser Coucals**, **Pale-headed Munias**, **Lemon-bellied White-eyes** and a few **Barred Buttonquails**. Eventually, after much searching, we also flushed a **Red-backed Buttonquail** for a reasonable flight view and a few people also got onto **Buff-banded Rail**.

After that successful little stop we drove to an area of fish farms just outside the city of Palu. It turned out to be a bit of a scruffy place but the target birds were there, 3 **Javan Plovers**. This species has been extending its range in Indonesia and this was a tip off from one of Royke's contacts about a possible range extension for this bird. Separation from Kentish Plover is not easy but we confirmed the bird's identification by call. A few **Common Sandpipers** and a **Wood Sandpiper** were also present and at the waterfront there was a **Striated Heron** and 3 **Pacific Reef Egrets**.

That was about it for the birding. The rest of the day consisted of lunch in Pizza Hut, our flight to Makassar, delayed by an hour and a drive through all sorts of crazy side roads to get out of Makassar and then into the darkness arriving at our accommodation, in the foothills of Mount Lompobattang, a bit early than expected. The only things of ornithological interest were a few **House Swifts** at Makassar airport.

Day 9; 12th September

Breakfast was at 4am but it did not take long to drive to the start of the trail. An undulating walk got us to where we wanted to be rather earlier than we wanted to be there but for the mammal fans there was some sort of Tree Rat to try and identify. Eventually it became light but although we were at the designated spot the birds had not read the script and for the first hour things were looking grim. Our key target here was Lompobattang Flycatcher and although we heard its song it refused to show itself. Well,



eventually the forest became alive and we tracked down a lovely pair of **Ashy Woodpeckers** which showed extremely well and for a long time and while we were watching these a flock of **Piping Crows** came in noisily calling. I would have named them Screaming Crows myself little did their call resemble 'piping' to me. Anyway this was a great bird to catch up on having thought we may have missed it with our lack of success with this species at Lore Lindu. Next up was a **Spot-tailed Sparrowhawk** seen sitting in a tree and then a pair of "**Lompobattang**" **Leaf Warblers**. This latter species is not yet split by

most authorities but as its plumage varies quite a lot from the Sulawesi Leaf Warblers elsewhere and its

song is noticeably different we were happy to see and photograph this bird. Close by were **Sulawesi (Rusty-bellied) Fantail**, **Sulawesi Heleia (Streak-throated White-eye)** and then a small party of **Black-ringed White-eyes**, yet another of our endemic target species, this one restricted to this small area of Southwestern Sulawesi. We were starting to run out of time with our main target still elusive but just in time we found a co-operative **Lompobattang Flycatcher** that even allowed us to take photographs. With this success we decided to leave so that we would have time for some birding in the wetlands near Makassar, getting spectacular views of a pair of **Sulawesi Serpent Eagles** on the way out.

After lunch we drove for several hours, arriving at a large area of fishponds near Makassar in the late afternoon. The fishponds themselves were not exactly alive with birds but there were large numbers of **Little Egret** and **Whiskered Terns** and we found a pool with a few waders in; a single **Pied Stilt**, a **Common Greenshank**, numerous **Wood Sandpipers**, **Common Sandpiper**, several **Common Redshanks** and at least 2 **Long-toed Stints**. A flock of **Rufous (Nankeen) Night Herons** was a little distant but **Little Tern** and **Gull-billed Tern** were closer. We walked through some remnant mangroves to get to the shore, with a number of **Australasian Reed Warblers** showing well (there is some debate over the taxonomy of these with most authorities retaining the birds here within Clamorous Reed Warbler. The rather slender bills and non-migratory habits of the birds in Indonesia would suggest they should not be included with Clamorous Reed Warbler in my opinion). We had timed our visit to the shore well with an incoming tide there were lots of birds close by on the mudflats including **Terek Sandpiper**, **Great Knot**, **Grey-tailed Tattler**, lots of **Grey Plovers** and **Whimbrel**, a few **Bar-tailed Godwits** and a couple of **Sacred Kingfishers** on the edge of the mangroves. Moving to a second spot where there was some shelter from the intense sun we found ourselves overlooking a bay full of birds including large numbers of **Little Black Cormorant** coming in from the sea, the flock of **Rufous Night Herons** rather closer than before and a couple of **Far Eastern Curlews** at close range. It was nice to be able to do some open country birding after a lot of forest birding and by scanning the mud flats we added (**Eastern) Great Egret** and 4 **Great-billed Herons** to our tally as well as 2 **Greater Sand Plovers**, a **Pacific Golden Plover**, 2 fly by **Red Knot** and a small flock of **Black-tailed Godwits**. A couple of extremely distant **Caspian Terns** tested the eyeballs but it had been an enjoyable session of birding before we drove into Makassar for dinner and onto the airport only to find that our 8.40pm flight to Manado had been delayed by over 2 hours. Eventually we arrived at Manado only to be left waiting as our bags were last off of the plane and finally we reached our very comfortable hotel at 1.30pm. Never mind we did not have to wake up until 4.30am!

Day 10; 13th September

Waking up 2 hours before we went to bed we had breakfast in the hotel and left at 5.30am to beat the Manado traffic, arriving at a lookout over the forest at Tangkoko at around 6.30. Unfortunately the only thing we saw was rain so we decided to go and check in at our accommodation and wait for a break in the weather. After a short while and a coffee the rain, indeed, did stop and immediately a few birds were active close to the restaurant – **Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon**, **White-rumped Cuckooshrike**, **Brown-throated Sunbird** and **Uniform Swiftlet**. With the weather dry for the moment we drove a short distance to the forest entrance and spent the remainder of the morning in the lowland forests of Tangkoko. Birding was slow and difficult in low light conditions but a quartet of **Sulawesi Cuckoo Doves** showed nicely as did some **Grey-faced Green Pigeons** and a **Bear Cuscus** in the car park. As we moved through the forest we came across a pair of **Tabon (Philippine) Scrubfowl** feeding on the forest floor and shortly after we had a wonderful male **Green-backed Kingfisher** posing in front of us. The next highlight were the **Spectral Tarsiers** hiding in a tree trunk but luckily one came out to greet us for an incredible experience with a very cute little mammal. More mammals were next in the form of **Sulawesi Crested Macaques** which came

incredibly close without paying any attention to us at all. Birds were in pretty short supply though but we did see an **Ashy Woodpecker** and **Sulawesi (Yellow-billed) Malkoha** on the way back and a second **Green-backed Kingfisher**, this time a female.

After lunch back at our accommodation we drove a short distance to a village on a beach. From here we boarded two rustic boats and sped off down the coast towards an area of mangroves. The scenery was very good although large clouds building up promised more rain, which held out until we had finished our trip thankfully. Along the way there were a couple of **White-bellied Sea Eagles** and **Brahminy Kites** as well

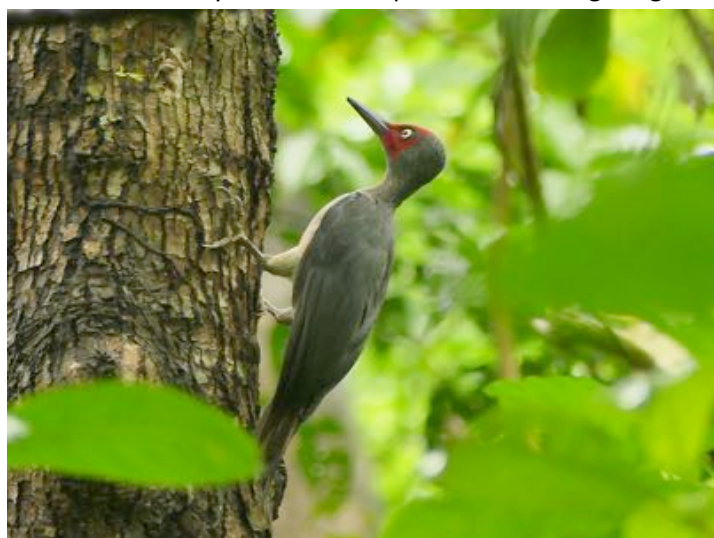


as a **Grey-tailed Tattler** on the beach as we arrived and a **Pacific Reef Egret**. We slowly went down a channel in the mangroves, with our boatmen taking us very slowly and quietly along we saw some **Grey-faced Green Pigeons** as well as a few **Pink-necked Green Pigeons** in the mangrove trees. **Sulawesi (Slender-billed) Crows** and **Pied Imperial Pigeons** were everywhere and eventually we got sight of our main target – **Great-billed Kingfisher**. This monster sat very still on the edge of the mangrove and allowed us to approach quite close and gave us excellent

views. Shortly after this we also saw **Ruddy Kingfisher**, flying back and forth and perched – wonderful. On the way out we saw a couple more **Great-billed Kingfishers** as well as a pair of **Common Kingfishers**, **Collared Kingfisher** and **Sacred Kingfisher**. This very nice afternoon was very enjoyable with success with the target bird and a very good supporting cast of species. By the time we finished the boat trip it was time to go back for an early dinner and catch up on some sleep.

Day 11; 14th September

Our second morning at Tangkoko was again plagued by rain but although we got completely soaked, by the end of the day we had an impressive list of sightings behind us. In the lowland forest things started



slowly but one by one we enjoyed some good birds. A **Lilac Kingfisher** was a big scruffy in the rain, but lovely none the less, while a group of **Ashy Woodpeckers** gave me some great photo opportunities. **White-eyed Spangled Drongo** showed well and a **Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher** glowed like a beacon in the dark forest. After this the rain came down with intent and we were forced to shelter but as soon as the rain stopped we were alerted to something special. A short walk up the trail and our local guides had found **Red-backed Thrush**. For the next

30 minutes we watched 4 of these smart birds foraging on the forest floor and they proved to be far more popular with the group than any of us had expected. With lunch calling us we began our walk back to the vehicles but had time to stop for a nice **Purple-winged Roller**.

In the afternoon we tried a different trail through the forest and our first sighting was a **Sulawesi Dwarf Cuscus** disturbed from its sleeping place. We heard the distant call of Sulawesi Pitta but it was always far away on the wrong side of a river so we could not get closer. However, after some searching our local guides found what they had been looking for here – **Ochre-bellied Boobook** which we all got great views of although it was a bit gloomy for photos. A pair of **White-necked Mynas** were found next although with their long tails they were more reminiscent of magpies than mynas.

Back out on the road we traveled up to a viewpoint for the remainder of the afternoon, scanning the treetops for birds. Here we saw plenty of **Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeons**, **Green Imperial Pigeons** as well as a few **White-rumped Cuckooshrikes** but where were the flocks of parrots we had heard about? Well, never mind soon enough we had a wonderful pair of **Sulawesi Hornbills** in the 'scope and we were able to watch these beauties at length although Black-billed Koel just laughed at us from the thick forest. Eventually we began to run out of light but there was one more stop for **Sulawesi Scops Owl** which showed itself to all with the minimum of fuss – that's the sort of owl I like. We had a short try for other owl species but there was no reply so we called it a day and went for dinner.

Day 12, 15th September

Our final morning at Tangkoko and we revisited the lookout in hope of some Parrots. Well, we got a few but not quite what was expected with a few **Sulawesi (Great) Hanging Parrots** and a fly-past **Blue-backed Parrot**. In the early morning there were plenty of other birds to be seen with some distant **Sulawesi Hornbills**, **Green Imperial Pigeons**, a **Sulawesi Goshawk**, two lovely **White-faced Cuckoo Doves** and another pair of **White-necked Mynas** while some of the group saw the only Bay Coucal of the trip. Standing on a slope was not easy so we moved to a second lookout spot where we saw many of the same species with the addition of a very welcome **Black-naped Fruit Dove**. Although we hung around a while most of the action was done quickly and we got back to the vehicles where the only **Sulawesi Triller** of the trip was hanging out.

Before leaving we had another go at finding Sulawesi Pitta but it was still calling from an inaccessible place so we had to make do with our first **Black Sunbird**. After this it was lunch and leave for a marathon journey back to Manado, through some appalling traffic and out the other side where we made a stop in some rice fields. **Cinnamon Bittern**, **Chestnut Munia**, **Scaly-breasted Munia**, **Common Kingfisher**, **White-breasted Woodswallow**, **Javan Pond Heron** and a pair of **Buff-banded Rails** were all nice but we had a long way to go the sinisterly-named Kota Mobagu so we left for the next leg of our long drive, eventually arriving some time around 9pm for dinner in a nice hotel that would be our base for the next 3 nights.

Day 13, 16th September

Another early start so that we could get in place to wait for a very special bird – **Maleo**. On first arrival we were lured away from our main target by a **Sulawesi (Isabelline) Bush Hen** lurking around the edges of the garden of the Maleo sanctuary headquarters. Walking down a short, slippery trail we were checked in to a very well-built little hide right next to a riverside beach that Maleo use to lay their eggs in. Somehow, despite the builders carrying in bags of cement, iron poles, tin roofing etc. whoever had been in charge of chairs had forgotten their duty leaving an excellent hide being rather uncomfortable to wait in. We all knew what we had to do to see Maleo; sit quietly and wait. Unfortunately, someone had forgotten to tell the Maleos and a 3 hour wait was all for nothing and we returned to the HQ area to recover. One of the rangers decided that we should go for a walk so down to the riverside we went and did not go far before flushing a pair of **Maleos** which thankfully decided to land on a branch on the other side of the river so

that we could see them nicely. Much of the rest of the day was spent hanging around the garden of the HQ from where we enjoyed repeated views of **Knobbed Hornbills**, **Lesser Fish Eagle**, **Black Eagle**, **Brahminy Kite**, **Sulawesi Hawk Eagle** and **Black-naped Oriole** before making a second effort in the Maleo hide to try and get close-up views. They did not come so we left, giving ourselves time to stop at a roadside marsh where we found **Little (Tricoloured) Grebe**, **Purple (Black-backed) Swamphen**, plenty of **Dusky Moorhens**, a single **Common Moorhen** and **White-browed Crake** before it became too dark and we went back to enjoy our dinner and Guinness!

Day 14, 17th September

This was to be quite a long day and with drizzle on arrival we stopped in some rice fields where a couple of **Cinnamon Bitterns** were accompanied by a single **Yellow Bittern**. On arrival at Dumoga Bone the rain would not stop but neither do birders! Crossing a river on a bamboo raft we saw **Ruddy Kingfisher** and several **Black Kites** along the way before spending the next few hours on a nature trail through the forest.



Blue-backed Parrot showed itself nicely which was followed by a pair of **Pied Cuckooshrikes** perched up on a treetop. Finally the playing of **Black-billed Koel** calls paid off as one gave us a couple of good fly past views and we also added **Oberholser's Fruit Dove** to our collection as well as another **Black-naped Fruit Dove**. Further along the trail we heard the call of **Sulawesi Pitta** and as we got ourselves into place it hopped right out onto the trail.

Unfortunately, not everyone was ready and the Pitta was scared off before most people got a tickable view leaving us spending the next hour or more trying to relocate it. Although it called a lot we were not able to see this bird again but a **Lilac Kingfisher** helped us get over this upset.

Out in an open area we finally came across what could be described as flocks of parrots and although the rain kept on it did not stop us from seeing several **Blue-backed Parrots**, a pair of **Minahasa (Yellow-breasted) Racquet-tails**, a few **Sulawesi (Golden-mantled) Racquet-tails**, **Sulawesi (Great) Hanging Parrots** and a couple of very striking **Ornate Lorikeets**. Then it really began to rain hard so we re-crossed the stream, with our ranger nearly falling in, and had some lunch.

After lunch we were unable to go back across the stream as the rain had swollen the river so much it was now a raging torrent and dangerous. Instead we walked along the forest edge and adjacent farmland where we got our best views of **Purple Needletails**, a group of around a dozen hawking low over the forest. We were in search of a particular raptor with our attention repeatedly drawn to the numerous **Black Kites** and **Brahminy Kites** as well as a single **Sulawesi Honey-buzzard**. Eventually, though, we were treated to one of the sightings of the entire trip, a pair of **Spotted Harriers** nest-building and mating on the tree tops at close range. We watched this action for quite some time and everyone agreed that not only was this a good bird but being able to see it the way we did put it in the running for the bird of the trip.

Driving down the road we returned to some rice fields where we got good views of a few **Wandering Whistling Ducks**, some very wet **Lesser Coucals** and an **Indonesian (Spotted) Kestrel** before tiring of

getting wet ourselves and going for dinner on site. Following this was the drive back to our hotel and a nice warm shower.

Day 15, 18th September

Our final birding on Sulawesi was to be on Mount Ambang and another early start to get there in time. A pothole in the road had other ideas about that causing us a delay but shortly after first light we were walking up the slopes of the mountain, glad we had brought our umbrellas. After around 40 minutes of walking we began our search for the target species but for a long time it was fruitless. Some great persistence from Royke finally got an answer from **Matinan Flycatcher** and after it eluding most of us at first we all finally got a view of this extremely regional endemic. Apart from a **Sulphur-vented Whistler** and a **Turquoise Flycatcher** there was little else to see in the rain so we made an early escape and with the rain getting harder we found a small group of birds just outside the forest that consisted of **Black-crowned White-eye**, **Yellow-sided Flowerpecker** and a single **Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker** before the only **Sulawesi Streaked Flycatcher** of the tour was spotted. A couple of **Rainbow Bee-eaters** provided a splash of colour on a very grey day before we went for a very early lunch and then the massive drive back to Manado. Things were pretty good and we stopped at the same rice fields as before where we finally got good views of **Black-faced Munias** and many of the birds previously seen there but as we got into Manado the traffic became truly awful and what was supposed to be an early arrival at our very comfortable hotel ended up being 7pm for some. We had a good dinner here and a great night's sleep.

Day 16, 19th September

Breakfast at 7am, sheer luxury! A 15 minute drive to the airport and a flight delayed by an hour took us to the island of Ternate where Alfred Russel Wallace wrote his thoughts on natural selection. However, anyone who remembers the UK quiz show, of the 1980s, will understand why for the rest of the day I had the theme tune of "Bullseye" in my head after being shown that we were to be traveling in a speedboat to Halmahera. Bird watching was basically impossible on this 45 minute journey as we bounced around inside a boat with very small windows although somehow we managed to identify **Lesser Frigatebird**, **Greater Crested Tern** and **Common Tern** along the way. However, things improved dramatically for the rest of the day as although it was a travel day we picked up some good birds along the way.

Stopping for a lunch break by the roadside was a good plan and here we saw our first Halmahera endemics; **Moluccan Cuckooshrike**, **Grey-headed Fruit Dove**, **Blue-capped Fruit Dove**, some beautiful



Rufous-bellied Trillers, **Halmahera Swiftlet** and **Halmahera (Cream-throated) White-eye**. Added to this were **Metallic Starling**, **White-bellied Cuckooshrike** and numerous **Willie Wagtails** with their nests perched on top of overhead wires.

Further along the road we stopped for a stunning view of **Blyth's Hornbill**, then some **Red-flanked Lorikeets** and finally at some mangroves where we found 2 superb **Beach Kingfishers** as well as a pair of **Moustached Treeswifts** which, compared to the size of other Treeswifts, were monsters. All pretty

good stuff for a travel day and after this last stop we drove directly to our accommodation for the final 5 nights of the tour.

Day 17, 20th September

In visiting Halmahera one of the prime target species was always going to be **Wallace's Standardwing**, a weird Bird-of-Paradise that is only found on this island. Arriving before dawn was essential and after a slippery drive uphill then an equally slippery walk downhill we were in place at exactly the right time to see this amazing creature at its lek. The male proceeded to screech for any listening females for about 20 minutes, at eye level, flaring out his "standards" and flexing his bottle green breast patch putting on a great performance. The females were not impressed though as none showed up although a second male arrived overhead and a third bird could be heard calling not too far away. This was quite a wonderful start to the day and as we slogged up the short but steep muddy trail we came upon a **Red-cheeked Parrot** and a **Moluccan (Spectacled) Imperial Pigeon** sitting on a dead snag. Back at the vehicle it was time for a coffee and time to appreciate some **Long-billed Crows** and **Blyth's Hornbills** sitting in the open before we moved along to a lookout point seeing some **Red-flanked Lorikeets** and a **Dusky Myzomela** along the way. Looking out across the forest we picked up some more good birds including really good views of **Moluccan Starling, Grey-headed & Blue-capped Fruit Doves** as well as **Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon**.

Although viewing here was good birding we had another very special target bird to look for so after going down a forest trail we stood quietly and waited for a response to our call playback, hoping for sign from Ivory-breasted Pitta. At first there was no answer but we took a moment out to enthuse over a spectacular female **Eclectus Parrot** which seemed like a red neon light against the dark green background of the forest. Here we also 'scoped **Halmahera Flowerpecker** and **Halmahera Hanging Parrot** before hearing an answer from a pair of Pittas and very shortly afterwards we were enjoying good views of two extremely smart **Ivory-breasted Pittas** hopping along the track in front of us and then behind us. We spent about 30 minutes with these birds as they flew back and forth, with whirring wings, and repeatedly emerged onto the track, amazed how big they were compared to other Pittas; what a fantastic morning.

Glowing in that success we went back to our lookout and began a big sit viewing across the forest both before and after lunch which we had on site. A pair of **Violet-necked Lories** were beautiful perched in a tree preening each other and a pair of **Great-billed Parrots** flew past. Over the course of our time here we saw many of the previously seen species again, getting better views of some, as well as **Halmahera (Dusky-brown) Oriole, Wallacean (Common) Cicadabird, Halmahera Cuckooshrike** and lots more **Blyth's Hornbills**. Unfortunately, heavy rain cut short the afternoon and after spotting a distant **Oriental Hobby** eating its prey we began to walk back to the vehicles in order to leave. Along the way there were breaks in the rain and we made several stops to watch perched birds sitting out attempting to get dry. In this way we added **Umbrella (White) Cockatoo, Halmahera Goshawk, Varied Goshawk** and, best of all, a pair of **Gurney's Eagles** before the rain came down again. Despite the day shortened because of rain it had been very successful, if tiring, but it was nice to get a warm shower and dinner.

Day 18, 21st September

We spent the day birding along the road to Buli, which is forested for much of the way. Arriving before daylight we attempted to call in Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar but although we got a response we eventually ran out of darkness in which to lure the bird in. A pair of **Blue-and-white Kingfishers** at the same spot, as it got light, was a nice consolation though. Further along the road we stood and waited for birds to

emerge as it got light, and emerge they did with our first **Goliath Coucals** very impressive as they hopped from branch to branch shortly followed by a couple of **Paradise-crows** which repeatedly visited the same tree to find food. There was another **Umbrella (White) Cockatoo** and plenty more **Red-cheeked Parrots** but it was a fine male **Moluccan King Parrot** that stole the show. Bird activity levels were high here for a while with **Moluccan (Spectacled) Imperial Pigeon**, **Grey-headed Fruit Dove**, **Halmahera Cuckooshrike** and **Wallacean (Common) Cicadabird** side-by-side for comparison and everyone finally got good views of **Halmahera (Northern) Golden Bulbul** having seen them several times just flying away beforehand. While watching these we heard a shrieking sound we all recognized, **Wallace's Standarwing**, sure enough there was a male high in the trees calling away and it was nice to see this species again. Things quietened down



a fair bit as the morning wore on but with patience we managed to find a lovely male **Moluccan (Black-chinned) Whistler** followed by **White-naped Monarch**, a small party of **Moluccan Monarchs (Moluccan Flycatcher)** and a nice **Wallacean (Spectacled) Monarch** all within a short stretch of forest and the birds must have been struggling with an identity crisis as much as we were struggling to remember the old and new names of all these species. **Black Sunbirds** proved to be common in this area and after some effort we got great

views of **Halmahera (White-streaked) Friarbird** feeding on small flowerlets before moving along the road to an area where we spotted a soaring **Gurney's Eagle**. With the day becoming hot we began our journey back to our accommodation for lunch and an afternoon break, stopping in an area of rice fields along the way. This quick stop produced some interesting birds including **Eastern Yellow Wagtail**, **Wandering Whistling Duck**, **White-browed Crake**, **Buff-banded Crake** and several **Common Snipe**, something of a surprise but undoubtable with white trailing edges to the wings and white underwings when in flight. A little further along a great flock of **Whiskered Terns** contained a few **White-winged Terns** for a nice finish before lunch.

We returned to the same area in the late afternoon but rain began almost as soon as we arrived and did not stop, putting an end to our plans for night birding on this evening.

Day 19, 22nd September

We were out early to look for night birds and at the same spot as the previous day we got a response from **Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar**. This strange bird was high on our list of priorities and after about 5 minutes we had it in the spotlight. Unfortunately, a car came along, tooting its horn to scare the bird away before we were able to really appreciate it fully and despite getting brief views again later we could not get it to sit out in the open before dawn came along. Much of the remainder of the morning consisted of visiting many of the same spots as the previous day with highlights being several stunning **Chattering Lorries**, **Great-billed Parrot** in flight, a female **Superb Fruit Dove**, for some a **Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove** and after a long search a wonderful pair of **Sombre Kingfishers**. These birds were very difficult to locate at first, laughing at us from within the forest, but when they did show, they performed wonderfully well. Species including **Goliath Coucal**, several **Wallace's Standardwings**, **Paradise-crow** and **Eclectus Parrot** were all good to see again too.

Having seen so many of Halmahera's birds it felt like it would start to become difficult to find anything new but a nice find was a **Shining Monarch** along with a very friendly pair of **Moluccan (Black-chinned) Monarchs** before lunch.



Out again in the late afternoon the undoubted highlight was a stunning **Common Paradise-kingfisher** which Royke found with extreme determination. **White-bellied Cuckooshrike** was nice to see again and once more there were good numbers of **Blyth's Hornbills** to enjoy. I have never been anywhere else where a large Hornbill species was so common as here and we never grew tired of this magnificent bird. Before it got dark we toyed with Pale-vented Bush Hen and Gray's Grasshopper Warbler but neither bird would emerge from the dense vegetation and shortly after dark we

heard both Moluccan Scops Owl and Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar only for the search to be confounded once again by heavy rain.

Day 20, 23rd September

A drive of a couple of hours took us to a known site for Invisible Rail. A secretive forest rail, all black with an orange bill, most of the allure of seeing this bird lies in the name; who does not want to say that they have seen an invisible bird? Alas, for us it remained predictably invisible although we did at least hear it calling once. However, on arrival at the site we were greeted by numerous **Black-faced Munias** and as we walked down a forest trail we got our best view of **Violet-necked Lory** in a rare moment of sunshine. In the sunny treetops there were also **Grey-headed Fruit Doves**, **Paradise-crows**, **Moluccan Imperial Pigeons** and **Rufous-bellied Trillers** but a **Nicobar Pigeon** scurrying away was only glimpsed by a few members of the group, untickable views unfortunately.

When we actually heard the Invisible Rail we stalked off into the forest, along a stream failing to even get another response out of the bird. If we were to perform this effort in mime it would be with a troop of earnest souls, striding off, with purpose, into the forest in a slow motion version of the Ministry of Silly Walks only to emerge as a group of teary-eyed Pierrot clowns, with heads down, a weary trudge.....well, you get the picture, it was a disappointment but not entirely unexpected given the nature of the bird.

The effort had been quite tiring and with the sun blazing down we returned to our accommodation for lunch and to regain our strength for one last effort at night birding.

With huge clouds looming it did not look promising but we were determined. As usual with this type of oppressive weather bird activity was extremely low, our biggest success being our best views of **Chattering Lory** perched and feeding in a tree. **Long-billed Crows** having a tussle with a **Brahminy Kite** was interesting but as soon as it became dark the rain started! We waited for 45 minutes as the rain got harder and harder before abandoning the effort and returning for our last dinner together and to vote for the bird of the trip.

Day 21, 24th September

With it raining through the night and into the morning we did not make another effort at night birding but instead said our goodbyes to our hosts for the last few days, some parting group photographs and we were on our way making a number of birding stops along the road as well as a number of stops to repair punctures. **Great-billed Parrot**, **Blyth's Hornbill**, a pair of **Blue-and-white Kingfishers**, lots of **Willie Wagtails**, **Blyth's Hornbills** and **Black Sunbirds** as **Shining Monarch** were all nice but we did not add anything to our list until our return speedboat journey to Ternate. On this bumpy journey it was impossible to look at anything through binoculars but a small group of **Red-necked Phalaropes** came up off the sea, close to the boat, as we passed for our final new species of the tour.

Lunch in a busy restaurant in Ternate was good and our flight back to Jakarta was only about 30 minutes late. We gave our thanks to Royke for looking after us and being so persistent in his search for birds and a comfortable flight of about 3 hours took us back to Jakarta where most of the group took their connecting flight back to UK and some of us spent a night in Jakarta before taking later flights.

Conclusion

With 265 species seen, including 117 endemics and lots more good birds besides, the trip had been a success and we did not feel like anything that we had not seen was because of any lack of effort. Voting for the bird of the trip was interesting because the group was quite diverse in terms of what types of birds they enjoyed. Our votes did not only reflect the quality of the birds but also the quality of the observations and how we experienced those birds; in other words the bird of the trip was something of a surprise.

1. **Red-backed Thrush** – seen so well and for so long with the birds very active. More stunning than any of us expected from the illustrations in the book.
2. **Wallace's Standardwing** – more colourful than any of us expected and a wonderful sighting, flared standards, calling, jumping around at eye-level.
3. **Ecletus Parrot** – the female was just breath-taking, one of the few birds that made us use expletives!
4. **Ivory-breasted Pitta** – awesome in size and colour.
5. **Common Paradise-kingfisher** – a much-wanted bird, found when most had given up on it. It posed for everyone to take photos – lovely.

I would also like to thank all participants on this trip for their good humour and easy-going natures that made birding and meal times together a real pleasure. I hope to see you all again.

SYSTEMATIC LIST – SULAWESI/HALMAHERA SEPTEMBER 2017

ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae

Wandering Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna arcuata arcuata

Sunda Teal

Anas gibberifrons

GALLIFORMES: Megapodiidae

Maleo

Macrocephalon maleo

Tabon Scrubfowl (Philippine Megapode)

Megapodius cumingii gilbertii

PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae

Little (Tricoloured) Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis (tricolor) tricolor

PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae

Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus

PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae

Yellow Bittern

Ixobrychus sinensis

Cinnamon Bittern

Ixobrychus cinnamomeus

Rufous (Nankeen) Night Heron

Nycticorax caledonicus australasiae

Striated Heron

Butorides striata javanica

Javan Pond Heron

Ardeola speciosa speciosa

Eastern Cattle Egret

Bubulcus coromandus

Great-billed Heron

Ardea sumatrana

Purple Heron

Ardea purpurea manilensis

Eastern Great Egret

Ardea (alba) modesta

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta nigripes

Pacific Reef Heron (Egret)

Egretta sacra sacra

SULIFORMES: Fregatidae

Lesser Frigatebird

Fregata ariel ariel

SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae

Little Black Cormorant

Phalacrocorax sulcirostris

SULIFORMES: Anhingidae

Oriental Darter

Anhinga melanogaster

ACCIPITRIFORMES: Pandionidae

Western Osprey

Pandion haliaetus haliaetus

ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae

Sulawesi (Barred) Honey-buzzard
Sulawesi Serpent Eagle
Sulawesi Hawk Eagle
Rufous-bellied Eagle
Black Eagle
Gurney's Eagle
Sulawesi Goshawk
Spot-tailed Sparrowhawk
Varied (Variable) Goshawk
Halmahera (Moluccan) Goshawk
Spotted Harrier
Black Kite
Brahminy Kite
Brahminy Kite
White-bellied Sea Eagle
Lesser Fish Eagle

Pernis celebensis
Spilornis rufipectus rufipectus
Nisaetus lanceolatus
Lophotriorchis kienerii formosus
Ictinaetus malaiensis malaiensis
Aquila gurneyi
Lophospiza (Accipiter) griseiceps
Tachyspiza (Accipiter) trinotatus
Tachyspiza (Accipiter) hiogaster griseogularis
Tachyspiza (Accipiter) henicogramma (us)
Circus assimilis
Milvus migrans affinis
Haliastur indus intermedius
Haliastur indus girrenera
Haliaeetus leucogaster
Haliaeetus humilis humilis

GRUIFORMES: Rallidae

Barred Rail
Buff-banded Rail
Isabelline Bush Hen
Pale-vented Bush Hen
White-breasted Waterhen
White-browed Crake
Purple (Black-backed) Swampphen
Common Moorhen
Dusky Moorhen

Gallirallus torquatus celebensis
Gallirallus philippensis philippensis
Amaurornis isabellina
Amaurornis moluccana moluccana
Amaurornis phoenicurus leucomelana
Porzana cinerea
Porphyrio porphyrio (indicus) indicus
Gallinula chloropus orientalis
Gallinula tenebrosa frontata

CHARADRIIFORMES: Turnicidae

Red-backed Buttonquail
Barred Buttonquail

Turnix maculosus beccarii
Turnix suscitator rufilatus

CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvisrostridae

Pied (White-headed) Stilt

Himantopus leucocephalus

CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae

Pacific Golden Plover
Grey Plover
Javan Plover
Greater Sand Plover

Pluvialis fulva
Pluvialis squatarola squatarola
Charadrius javanicus
Charadrius leschenaultii leschenaultii

CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae

Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago gallinago</i>
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa melanuroides</i>
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica menzbieri</i>
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus variegatus</i>
Far Eastern Curlew	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus ussuriensis</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Grey-tailed Tattler	<i>Tringa brevipes</i>
Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Great Knot	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>
Long-toed Stint	<i>Calidris subminuta</i>
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>

CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae

Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica affinis</i>
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii cristatus</i>
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons sinensis</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo longipennis</i>
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida hybrida</i>
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>

COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae

Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
Red Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica humilis</i>
Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis tigrina</i>
Sulawesi (Sultan's) Cuckoo Dove	<i>Macropygia (doreya) albicapilla</i>
Sultan's Cuckoo Dove	<i>Macropygia doreya albiceps</i>
White-faced Cuckoo Dove	<i>Turacoena manadensis</i>
Zebra Dove	<i>Geopelia striata</i>
Pink-necked Green Pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>
Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon	<i>Treron griseicauda wallacei</i>
Red-eared Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus fischeri centralis</i>
Oberholser's Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus epius</i>
Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus bernsteinii bernsteinii</i>
Superb Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus superbus superbus</i>

Blue-capped Fruit Dove
Grey-headed Fruit Dove
Black-naped Fruit Dove
White-bellied Imperial Pigeon
Grey-headed Imperial Pigeon
Green Imperial Pigeon
Spectacled Imperial Pigeon
Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon
Pied Imperial Pigeon
Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon

Ptilinopus monacha
Ptilinopus hyogastrus
Ptilinopus melanospilus melanospilus
Ducula forsteni
Ducula radiata
Ducula aenea paulina
Ducula perspicillata
Ducula basilica basilica
Ducula bicolor
Ducula luctuosa

CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae

Bay Coucal
Goliath Coucal
Lesser Coucal
Lesser Coucal
Sulawesi (Yellow-billed) Malkoha
Sulawesi (Yellow-billed) Malkoha
Black-billed Koel
Little Bronze Cuckoo
Sulawesi Brush (Rusty-breasted) Cuckoo

Centropus celebensis celebensis
Centropus goliath
Centropus bengalensis sarasinorum
Centropus bengalensis medius
Rhamphococcyx calyorhynchus meridionalis
Rhamphococcyx calyorhynchus calyorhynchus
Eudynamys melanorhynchus
Chrysococcyx minutillus jungei
Cacomantis (sepulcralis) viriscens

STRIGIFORMES: Tytonidae

Sulawesi Masked Owl

Tyto rosenbergii rosenbergii

STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae

Sulawesi Scops Owl
Ochre-bellied Boobook
Cinnabar Boobook
Speckled Boobook

Otus manadensis
Ninox ochracea
Ninox ios
Ninox punctulata

CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae

Satanic Nightjar
Great Eared Nightjar
Savanna Nightjar

Eurostopodus diabolicus
Lyncornis macrotis macropterus
Caprimulgus affinis propinquus

APODIFORMES: Aegotheidae

Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar

Aegotheles crinifrons

APODIFORMES: Hemiprocnidae

Grey-rumped Treeswift

Hemiprocne longipennis wallacii

Moustached Treeswift

Hemiprocne mystacea confirmata

APODIFORMES: Apodidae

Glossy Swiftlet

Collocalia esculenta manadensis

Glossy Swiftlet

Collocalia esculenta esculenta

Glossy Swiftlet

Collocalia esculenta spilura

Halmahera Swiftlet

Aerodramus infuscatus

Sulawesi Swiftlet

Aerodramus sororum

Uniform Swiftlet

Aerodramus vanikorensis aenigma

Purple Needletail

Hirundapus celebensis

Brown-backed Needletail

Hirundapus giganteus indicus

Asian Palm Swift

Cypsiurus balasiensis infumatus?

Pacific Swift

Apus pacificus pacificus

House Swift

Apus nipalensis nipalensis

CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae

Purple-winged Roller

Coracias temminckii

Common (Oriental) Dollarbird

Eurystomus orientalis pacificus

CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae

Green-backed Kingfisher

Actenoides monachus monachus

Scaly (Scaly-breasted) Kingfisher

Actenoides princeps erythrorhamphus

Common Paradise-kingfisher

Tanysiptera galatea browningi

Sulawesi Lilac (Lilac) Kingfisher

Cittura (cyanotis) cyanotis

Great-billed Kingfisher

Pelargopsis melanorhyncha melanorhyncha

Ruddy Kingfisher

Halcyon coromanda rufa

Blue-and-white Kingfisher

Todiramphus diops

Sombre Kingfisher

Todiramphus funebris

Collared Kingfisher

Todiramphus chloris chloris

Beach Kingfisher

Todiramphus saurophagus saurophagus

Sacred Kingfisher

Todiramphus sanctus sanctus

Common Kingfisher

Alcedo atthis hispidoides

Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher

Ceyx fallax fallax

CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae

Purple-bearded Bee-eater

Meropogon forsteni

Blue-tailed Bee-eater

Merops philippinus

Rainbow Bee-eater

Merops ornatus

BUCERITIFORMES: Bucerotidae

Blyth's Hornbill

Rhyticeros plicatus

Knobbed Hornbill
Sulawesi Hornbill

Rhyticeros cassidix
Rhabdotorrhinus exarhatus exarhatus

PICIFORMES: Picidae

Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker
Ashy Woodpecker
Ashy Woodpecker

Yungipicus temminckii
Mulleripicus fulvus fulvus
Mulleripicus fulvus wallacei

FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae

Indonesian (Spotted) Kestrel
Oriental Hobby
Peregrine Falcon

Falco moluccensis
Falco severus
Falco peregrinus ernesti

PSITTACIFORMES: Cacatuidae

Umbrella (White) Cockatoo

Cacatua alba

PSITTACIFORMES: Psittaculidae

Moluccan King Parrot
Sulawesi (Golden-mantled) Racquet-tail
Minahasa (Yellow-breasted) Racquet-tail
Eclectus Parrot
Red-cheeked Parrot
Great-billed Parrot
Blue-backed Parrot
Red-flanked Lorikeet
Chattering Lory
Violet-necked Lorikeet
Ornate Lorikeet
Meyer's (Citrine) Lorikeet
Sulawesi (Great) Hanging Parrot
Moluccan Hanging Parrot

Alisterus amboinensis hypophonius
Prioniturus platurus platurus
Prioniturus flavicans
Eclectus roratus vosmaeri
Geoffroyus geoffroyi cyanicollis
Tanygnathus megalorhynchus megalorhynchus
Tanygnathus sumatranus sumatranus
Charmosyna placentis intensor
Lorius garrulous garrulous
Eos squamata riciniata
Trichoglossus ornatus
Trichoglossus (flavoviridis) meyeri
Loriculus stigmatus stigmatus
Loriculus amabilis

PASSERIFORMES: Pittidae

Sulawesi Pitta
Ivory-breasted Pitta

Erythropitta celebensis
Pitta maxima maxima

PASSERIFORMES: Meliphagidae

Dusky Myzomela
Sulawesi Myzomela
Sulawesi Myzomela
Halamaheha (White-streaked) Friarbird

Myzomela obscura simplex
Myzomela chloroptera chloroptera
Myzomela chloroptera juga
Melitograis gilolensis

Lesser (Dark-eared) Myza
Greater (White-eared) Myza

Myza celebensis celebensis
Myza sarasinorum chionogenys

PASSERIFORMES: Acanthizidae

Golden-bellied Gerygone

Gerygone sulphurea flaveola

PASSERIFORMES: Artamidae

White-breasted Woodswallow

Artamus leucorhynchus albiventer

Ivory-backed Woodswallow

Artamus monachus

PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae

Moluccan Cuckooshrike

Coracina atriceps magnirostris

Cerulean Cuckooshrike

Coracina temminckii rileyi

Pied Cuckooshrike

Coracina bicolor

White-rumped Cuckooshrike

Coracina leucopygia

White-bellied Cuckooshrike

Coracina papuensis papuensis

Halmahera Cuckooshrike

Coracina parvula

Pygmy Cuckooshrike

Coracina abbotti

Wallacean (Common) Cicadabird

Coracina tenuirostris grayi

Sulawesi Cicadabird

Coracina morio morio

Sulawesi (White-rumped) Triller

Lalage leucopygialis

Lesueur's (White-shouldered) Triller

Lalage sueurii

Rufous-bellied Triller

Lalage aurea

PASSERIFORMES: Pachycephalidae

Maroon-backed Whistler

Coracornis raveni

Sulphur-vented Whistler

Pachycephala sulfuriventer

Moluccan (Black-chinned) Whistler

Pachycephala mentalis mentalis

PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae

Halmahera (Dusky-brown) Oriole

Oriolus phaeochromus

Black-naped Oriole

Oriolus chinensis celebensis

PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae

White-eyed Spangled (Hair-crested) Drongo

Dicrurus (hottentottus) leucops

Sulawesi Spangled Drongo

Dicrurus montanus

Halmahera Spangled (Spangled) Drongo

Dicrurus (bracteatus) atrocaeruleus

PASSERIFORMES: Rhipiduridae

Willie Wagtail

Rhipidura leucophrys melaleuca

Sulawesi (Rusty-bellied) Fantail

Rhipidura teysmanni teysmanni

Sulawesi (Rusty-bellied) Fantail

Rhipidura teysmanni toradja

PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae

Pale-blue Monarch

Hypothymis puella puella

Wallacean (Spectacled) Monarch

Symposiachrus trivirgatus bimaculatus

White-naped Monarch

Carterornis pileatus pileatus

Moluccan Monarch (Flycatcher)

Myiagra galeata galeata

Shining Monarch (Flycatcher)

Myiagra alecto alecto

PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae

Sulawesi (Slender-billed) Crow

Corvus enca celebensis

Piping Crow

Corvus typicus

Long-billed Crow

Corvus validus

Large-billed Crow

Corvus macrorhynchos

PASSERIFORMES: Paradisaeidae

Halmahera Paradise-crow (Paradise-crow)

Lycocorax (pyrrhopterus) pyrrhopterus

Wallace's Standardwing

Semioptera wallacii halmaherae

PASSERIFORMES: Hylocitridae

Hylocitrea

Hylocitrea bonensis bonensis

PASSERIFORMES: Stenostiridae

Citrine Canary Flycatcher

Culicicapa helianthea helianthea

PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae

Sooty-headed Bulbul

Pycnonotus aurigaster aurigaster?

Halmahera (Northern) Golden Bulbul

Hypsipetes (Thapsinillas longirostris) chloris

PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae

Barn Swallow

Hirundo rustica guttaralis

Pacific Swallow

Hirundo tahitica javanica

PASSERIFORMES: Cettiidae

Mountain Leaftoiler (Tailorbird)

Phyllergates cuculatus stentor

PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae

Sulawesi Leaf Warbler

Phylloscopus (sarasinorum) nesophilus

Lompobattang (Sulawesi) Leaf Warbler

Phylloscopus (sarasinorum) sarasinorum

PASSERIFORMES: Acrocephalidae

Australasian (Clamorous) Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus (stentoreus) australis celebensis

PASSERIFORMES: Locustellidae

Sulawesi Grasshopper Warbler
(Chestnut-backed Bush Warbler)

Locustella castanea catanea

PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae

Zitting Cisticola
Golden-headed Cisticola

Cisticola juncidis constans

Cisticola exilis rusticus

PASSERIFORMES: Pellorneidae

Sulawesi Babbler
Sulawesi Babbler

Trichastoma celebense celebense

Trichastoma celebense rufofuscum

PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae

Sulawesi Heleia (Streak-headed White-eye)
Sulawesi Heleia (Streak-headed White-eye)
Mountain White-eye
Lemon-bellied White-eye
Black-ringed White-eye
Halmahera (Cream-throated) White-eye
Black-crowned White-eye
Black-crowned White-eye

Heleia (Lophozosterops) squamiceps striaticeps

Heleia (Lophozosterops) squamiceps squamiceps

Zosterops montanus montanus

Zosterops chloris mentoris

Zosterops anomalus

Zosterops (atriceps) fuscifrons

Zosterops atrifrons surdus

Zosterops atrifrons atrifrons

PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae

Metallic Starling
Moluccan Starling
Short-tailed Starling
Short-crested (Sulawesi) Myna
White-necked Myna
Flame-browed Myna (Fiery-browed Starling)
Grosbeak Myna (Starling)

Aplonis metallica metallica

Aplonis mysolensis

Aplonis minor minor

Basilornis celebensis

Streptocitta albicollis torquata

Enodes erythrophris

Scissirostrum dubium

PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae

Red-backed Thrush
Sulawesi Thrush

Geokichla erythronota erythronota

Cataponera turdoides abditiva

PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae

Sulawesi Streaked Flycatcher
Sulawesi Jungle (Blue) Flycatcher

Muscicapa sodhii

Cyornis omissus

Hoevell's Warbling (Blue-fronted Blue) Flycatcher
Matinan Warbling (Blue) Flycatcher
Turquoise Warbling Flycatcher
Turquoise Warbling Flycatcher
Heinrichia (Great Shortwing)
Snowy-browed Flycatcher
Lompobattang Flycatcher
Little Pied Flycatcher
Pied Bushchat

Eumyias(Cyornis) hoevelli
Eumyias (Cyornis) sanfordi
Eumyias panayensis septentrionalis
Eumyias panayensis meridionalis
Heinrichia calligyna calligyna
Ficedula hyperythra jugosae
Ficedula bonthaina
Ficedula westermanni westermanni
Saxicola caprata albonotatus

PASSERIFORMES: Dicaeidae

Yellow-sided Flowerpecker
Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker
Halmahera Flowerpecker
Grey-sided Flowerpecker

Dicaeum aureolimbatum aureolimbatum
Dicaeum nehrkorni
Dicaeum schistaceiceps
Dicaeum celebicum celebicum

PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae

Brown-throated Sunbird
Black Sunbird
Black Sunbird
Sahul (Olive-backed) Sunbird
Sahul (Olive-backed) Sunbird
Crimson Sunbird

Anthreptes malacensis celebensis
Leptocoma aspasia grayi
Leptocoma aspasia auriceps
Cinnyris (jugularis) clementiae plateni
Cinnyris (jugularis) clementiae frenatus
Aethopyga siparaja beccarii

PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae

Eurasian Tree Sparrow

Passer montanus malaccensis

PASSERIFORMES: Ploceidae

Streaked Weaver

Ploceus manyar manyar?

PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae

Blue-faced Parrotfinch
Black-faced Munia
Scaly-breasted Munia
Black-headed (Chestnut) Munia
Pale-headed Munia

Erythrura trichroa sanfordi
Lonchura molucca
Lonchura punctulata particeps
Lonchura atricapilla jagori
Lonchura pallida

PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae

Eastern Yellow Wagtail
Grey Wagtail

Motacilla tschutschensis tschutschensis
Motacilla cinerea cinerea

OTHER SPECIES RECORDED

Great Cuckoo Dove	Heard
Nicobar Pigeon	Very brief, untickable views
Oriental Cuckoo	Leader only
(Moluccan) Drongo Cuckoo	Heard
Invisible Rail	Heard
Rufous-winged Buzzard	One observer only
Small Sparrowhawk	Leader only
Moluccan Scops Owl	Heard
Azure Dollarbird	Very distant, untickable views
Pygmy Hanging Parrot	Several brief flyovers, untickable views
Yellow-vented Bulbul	Leader only
North Moluccan Leaf Warbler	Heard
Gray's Grasshopper Warbler	Heard
Java Sparrow	One observer only
Red-throated Pipit	Heard
Indonesian Serin	Heard

MAMMALS

Mountain Bear *Cuscus Ailurops (ursinus) furvus* - One seen and photographed at Lore Lindu National Park. Handbook of the Mammals of the World elevates subspecies furvus to species level.

Common Bear *Cuscus Ailurops ursinus* - One seen well, high in a tree, at the car park entrance to Tangkoko Forest Reserve.

Sulawesi Dwarf Cuscus *Strigocuscus celebensis* - One seen at very close range along a forest trail at Tangkoko.

Whitish Dwarf Squirrel *Prosciurillus leucornus* - Fairly common at Tangkoko.

Sulawesi Pygmy Squirrel *Prosciurillus murinus* - A few of these tiny squirrels at Lore Lindu National Park.

Montane Long-nosed Squirrel *Hyosciurus heinrichi* – At least one on the Anaso track, Lore Lindu.

Spectral Tarsier *Tarsius spectrum* – One seen incredibly well and at least two more hiding with a tree at Tangkoko.

Sulawesi Crested Macaque *Macaca nigra* – Many of these at very close range at Tangkoko. Obviously very used to humans.

Tonkean Macaque *Macaca tonkeana* – A small group in the trees along the road in the low areas at Lore Lindu National park.



ZOTHERA BIRDING
e-mail: info@zotherabirding.com
www.zotherabirding.com