

Sombre Kingfisher (Craig Robson)

# **BEST OF SULAWESI & HALMAHERA**

17 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2017

**LEADER: CRAIG ROBSON** 

This concise version of our long-running Sulawesi and Halmahera tour brought us an excellent selection of regional endemics and specialities. There were many stunning highlights, including Green-backed, Lilac, Great-billed, Scaly-breasted, Sombre, and Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfishers, Sulawesi Masked Owl, roosting Sulawesi Scops Owl and Ochre-bellied Boobook, Sulawesi and Satanic Nightjars, the amazing Moluccan

Owlet-Nightjar, Sulawesi Goshawk, Great and White-faced Cuckoo-Doves, Red-eared and Scarlet-breasted Fruit Doves, Purple-winged Roller, the peerless Purple-bearded Bee-eater, White Cockatoo, Pygmy Hanging Parrot, Chattering Lory, Ivory-breasted and Sulawesi Pittas, White-naped Monarch, Maroon-backed Whistler, lekking Standardwings, Hylocitrea, Malia, Sulawesi and White-necked Mynas, Red-backed and Sulawesi Thrushes, and the skulking Great Shortwing.

We began the tour in Makassar in south-west Sulawesi. Early on our first morning we drove out of town to the nearby limestone hills of Karaenta Forest. Here the endemic Black-ringed White-eye performed for us soon after we had eaten our breakfast at the roadside and, as the forest awoke, we added some of the commoner endemics, as well as a perched Grey-headed Imperial Pigeon, White-rumped Triller and some fly-over Sulawesi Mynas. Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo was unexpected, but our lengthy searches for the other local specialities proved fruitless, though a number of endemic Moor Macaques turned up at the roadside.



Scaly-breasted (or Lore Lindu) Kingfisher at Lore Lindu NP (Craig Robson)

It was soon time to take a domestic flight to Palu in north-central Sulawesi, where a new local crew met us on arrival with their vehicles. We didn't hang around, and soon continued on to Lore Lindu National Park, arriving at our accommodation in the early evening, where a large helping of good food awaited us.

Our lodgings were within easy reach of the cool montane forests, and we had three full days to explore this world-renowned birding hotspot. On our first day, we ascended the famous Anaso Track, which is the best or indeed only place to see a number of Sulawesi's montane endemics. Those of us that were able to make the hike, were rewarded with Red-eared Fruit Doves, pre-dawn close-ups of Cinnabar Boobook, a lovely

roosting Satanic Nightjar, gorgeous Purple-bearded Bee-eaters, noisy flocks of Golden-mantled Racket-tails, Dark-eared and White-eared Myzas, Pygmy Cuckooshrike, the sultry but attractive Maroon-backed Whistler, Rusty-bellied Fantail, a berry-gobbling Hylocitrea (now placed in a mono-generic family related to the waxwings), Sulawesi Leaf Warbler, Streak-headed White-eye, Sulawesi Thrush, and some fly-over Mountain Serins.



Roosting Satanic Nightjar (Craig Robson)

At the foot of the track, where the main road passes Lake Tambing, we had a lengthy battle with the little-known local form of Scaly-breasted Kingfisher, which has been put forward as a full species, Lore Lindu Kingfisher. Our persistence paid off eventually, when a calling bird sat in full view for over 20 minutes, enabling every member of the group to get great views. Another tricky key bird however, Great Shortwing (or Heinrichia), gave itself up surprisingly easily this year. This area also yielded Sultan's (or Sulawesi) Cuckoo-Dove, White-bellied and Grey-headed Imperial Pigeons, Superb (or Western Superb) Fruit Dove, Yellow-billed Malkoha, Ashy Woodpecker, numerous Citrine Lorikeets, Sulawesi Myzomela, Sulawesi Drongo, another Hylocitrea and Sulawesi Thrush, Blue-fronted Blue Flycatcher, Black-crowned White-eye, and numbers of incredible Fiery-browed Starlings. Several endemic Tonkean Macaques were noted, including a couple of big males.

Back towards our guest house in the Sedoa River Valley, we found some really nice birding spots, and we added Jerdon's (or Sulawesi) Baza, Sulawesi Serpent, Sulawesi Hawk- and Black Eagles, Spotted Kestrel, Purple Needletail, Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker, Ivory-backed Woodswallow, lots of Cerulean

Cuckooshrikes, a couple of rare Sulawesi Cicadabirds, Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher, more Sulawesi Mynas (this time perched), and several Crimson-crowned Flowerpeckers.

Our crepuscular and nocturnal forays were very productive also, with multiple views of Sulawesi Masked Owl and fantastic close-ups of a simpering Speckled Boobook.

Travelling back to Palu for our return flight to Makassar, we paused at some interesting-looking habitat on the outskirts of town. A quite different selection of birds for us here, with showy Barred Rails, White-shouldered (or Lesueur's) Triller, and bathing Black-faced and Pale-headed Munias.

After a comfy night at the hotel in Makassar, we took a flight to the island-hub of Ternate, and then quickly took a boat across the straits to Sidangoli on Halmahera. A short birding stop on the outskirts of Sidangoli soon produced the much-wanted Beach Kingfisher which we scoped across an inlet. A fairly long drive to our accommodation at Foli followed, fortunately with time for a couple of birding stops along the way. At the first, we were lucky enough to see a flock of seven rare Torresian (or Australian) Crows as well as a flying Oriental Cuckoo, and several Rufous-bellied Trillers, while a pair of neat Blue-and-white Kingfishers on wires over the road also required another stop! A longer stop in some roadside forest in the evening brought a nice introductory selection, including Grey-headed Fruit Dove, Spectacled Imperial Pigeon, Superb (or Eastern Superb) Fruit Dove, Blyth's Hornbill, White Cockatoo, Red-cheeked and Great-billed Parrots, Moluccan Hanging Parrot, Long-billed Crow, and Northern (or Halmahera) Golden Bulbul. An Ivory-breasted Pitta even popped-up, and was seen by the lucky few.



Lekking Standardwing (John Drummond)

The whole of the next day was spent along the old logging road at Foli. We began before dawn, quietly following a narrow forest trail down the flank of a valley to a pre-arranged location. As daylight crept into the forest we were treated to a great show by at least two lekking male Standardwings, with at least one female observing the proceedings. It was truly awe-inspiring to watch their antics from our concealed location. Moving further along the logging track for the remainder of the morning, and returning after a mid-day break, we added a long list of North Moluccan specialities to our tally, including Pacific Baza, Variable (or Greythroated) Goshawk, Sultan's Cuckoo-Dove, Blue-capped Fruit Dove, Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon, Goliath Coucal, Moustached Treeswift, Eclectus Parrot, noisy flocks of Red-flanked Lorikeets, Violet-necked Lories, more glimpses of Ivory-breasted Pittas, Dusky Myzomela, White-streaked Friarbird, Moluccan and

White-bellied Cuckooshrikes, Spangled (or Halmahera Spangled) Drongo, Moluccan Flycatcher, Creamthroated (or Halmahera) White-eye, Metallic and Moluccan Starlings, and Halmahera Flowerpecker. A calling Azure (or Purple) Dollarbird remained elusive in an inaccessible area. The weather turned nasty towards evening and we made a beeline back to the accommodation in order to 'try' and avoid getting a soaking.

The next morning began pre-dawn, with much finer weather conditions. We had endemic nightbirds to look for. Fortunately, a Halmahera Boobook loafed in full view and then we had multiple close views of some amazing Moluccan Owlet Nightjars. There were further good additions during the early morning, with our first Dusky Megapodes, a pair of Chattering Lories, and Dusky-brown Oriole.



White-naped (or Halmahera Pied) Monarch (Craig Robson)

Deciding that a change of location was called for, we drove the fairly short distance to our small hotel at Subaim and, after lunch, began our exploration of the nearby Buli Road. We spent an afternoon and a morning in this excellent area, reaching an elevation of 500m. At the higher levels we found the soon to be split Halmahera Leaf Warbler, and this nicely forested site also brought the impressive Gurney's Eagle, a perched Great Cuckoo-Dove, Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove, a stunningly close Sombre Kingfisher, the most showy Ivory-breasted Pitta so far, Halmahera Cuckooshrike, a pair of the scarce local form of Common

Cicadabird, Drab Whistler, Moluccan Monarch (split from Spectacled), an incredible performing White-naped Monarch, Gray's Grasshopper Warbler, and the weird Paradise-crow.

From Subaim, we drove to some much-improved accommodation at Sofifi, to the south-west of Sidangoli and, early the next morning birded the track at Tanah Putih. A calling Moluccan Scops Owl showed beautifully as it was getting light and, during a brief birding sortie, we tallied Black-chinned Whistler and some very showy Shining Monarchs.



Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher (Craig Robson)

After another look at the shore (and the Beach Kingfisher) in Sidangoli, we crossed the straights again to Ternate, noting a number of Red-necked Phalaropes en route. Once in Ternate, we enjoyed lunch in a nice restaurant before driving to the airport and taking a flight to Manado. In Manado, we were picked up by another crew and driven the relatively short distance to Tangkoko National Park. On arrival, we spent some time at a viewpoint, over the obligatory coffee and biscuits. There was a nice selection of birds, with a few new ones for us: the local rusty-naped *paulina* form of Green Imperial Pigeon, lots of Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeons, a nice male Yellow-breasted Racket-tail, and White-rumped Cuckooshrike. We moved on to a well-known site for the endemic Sulawesi Nightjar. A bird soon started calling and before long it gave a great performance right in front of us. Further down the track, we had some initial views of Sulawesi Scops Owl. We drove on down to the village, and our well-situated and comfortable accommodation.

Over the next couple of days, led along a network of forest trails by our experienced guides, we had a large number of really important target birds to track down. Things could hardly have gone much better, as we systematically bagged Philippine Megapode, several Sulawesi Goshawks, Isabelline Bush-hen, White-faced Cuckoo-Dove, Stephan's Emerald Dove, Bay Coucal, roosting Sulawesi Scops Owls and Ochre-bellied Boobooks, Purple-winged Roller, Green-backed, Lilac, Great-billed and Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfishers, Sulawesi Hornbill, Sulawesi Pygmy and Ashy Woodpeckers, Blue-backed Parrot, Ornate Lorikeet, a very nice Sulawesi Pitta, Pied Cuckooshrike, White-necked Myna, Grosbeak Starling, and a stonking Red-backed Thrush.



Green-backed Kingfisher at Tangkoko (Craig Robson)

A strangler fig that we visited was the roost site for the wonderful and spooky looking Spectral Tarsier. We were also shown a huge spread-out troupe of Sulawesi Crested Macaques - perhaps the single most important animal in conservation terms in this crucially important protected area, and we had nice views of the sluggish Bear Cuscus too.

We carried on birding up to the last minute, with Pygmy Hanging Parrot making a late appearance before we finally had to head off to the airport.

### SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Wandering Whistling Duck Dendrocygna arcuata Ten at Wanga, near Wuasa.

Pacific Black Duck Anas superciliosa 20 at Wanga, near Wuasa.

Philippine Megapode (Tabon Scrubfowl, P Scrubfowl) Megapodius cumingii Good views at Tangkoko.

Dusky Megapode (D Scrubfowl) Megapodius freycinet Several encounters on Halmahera.

Red Junglefowl (introduced) Gallus gallus (H) Karaenta Forest.

Black-crowned Night Heron Nycticorax nycticorax (H) At Wanga, near Wuasa.

Striated Heron (Little H) Butorides striatus

Javan Pond Heron Ardeola speciosa

Eastern Cattle Egret Bubulcus coromandus

Purple Heron Ardea purpurea

Great Egret (Eastern G E) Ardea [alba] modesta (NL)

Little Egret (Black-footed E) Egretta [garzetta] nigripes

Pacific Reef Heron (P R Egret) Egretta sacra

Lesser Frigatebird Fregata ariel Two en route to Sidangoli from Ternate; one at Foli.



Barred Rail (John Drummond)

**Jerdon's Baza (Sulawesi B)** *Aviceda [subcristata] celebensis* 2+ in the Sedoa River Valley. A potential endemic. **Pacific Baza** *Aviceda subcristata* Five on Halmahera (*rufa*).

Sulawesi Serpent Eagle Spilornis rufipectus One scoped and a couple heard.

Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle Nisaetus lanceolatus Regularly seen, perched and in flight.

Black Eagle Ictinaetus malaiensis One in the Sedoa Valley.

Gurney's Eagle Aquila gurneyi One being harassed at the pass, Buli Road.

**Sulawesi Goshawk** *Accipiter griseiceps* Scoped at Tangkoko; three in total.

Chinese Sparrowhawk Accipiter soloensis A single migrant at Tangkoko.

Variable Goshawk (Grey-throated G, Varied G) A. [hiogaster] griseogularis Several on Halmahera.

Brahminy Kite Haliastur indus

White-bellied Sea Eagle Haliaeetus leucogaster

Barred Rail Gallirallus torquatus

Isabelline Bush-hen Amaurornis isabellinus Three showed on open slopes at Tangkoko.

Pale-vented Bush-hen (Rufous-tailed B) Amaurornis moluccana (H).

Red-backed Buttonquail Turnix maculosus (NL) One was seen in fields behind the guest house at Wuasa.

Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator* (NL) Seen by some of us at Tangkoko (*rufilatus*).

Whimbrel (Eurasian W) Numenius phaeopus

Wood Sandpiper Tringa glareola

Common Sandpiper Actitis hypoleucos

**Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus* 15+ between Sidangoli and Ternate.

Greater Crested Tern Sterna bergii

Little Tern Sterna albifrons

Common Tern Sterna hirundo A handful at Sidangoli.

Rock Pigeon (Domestic Pigeon, Rock P, Feral P) (introduced) Columba livia

Red Turtle Dove (introduced) Streptopelia tranquebarica

Spotted Dove Streptopelia chinensis

Sultan's Cuckoo-Dove Macropygia doreya Common on Halmahera (albiceps).

Sultan's Cuckoo-Dove (Sulawesi C-D) Macropygia [doreya] albicapilla Frequently seen on Sulawesi (albicapilla).

Great Cuckoo-Dove Reinwardtoena reinwardti Two seen well along the Buli Road (nominate).

White-faced Cuckoo-Dove (Sulawesi Black Pigeon) Turacoena manadensis A couple seen well at Tangkoko.

Common Emerald Dove Chalcophaps indica

Stephan's Emerald Dove Chalcophaps stephani Two, including one scoped, at Tangkoko.

Pink-necked Green Pigeon Treron vernans (NL)

Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon Treron griseicauda Best seen at Tangkoko (wallacei).

Red-eared Fruit Dove Ptilinopus fischeri Pretty common along the Anaso Track (centralis).

Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove Ptilinopus bernsteinii Several of these smart endemics on Halmahera (nominate).

Superb Fruit Dove (Western S F D) Ptilinopus [superbus] temminckii Occasional at Lore Lindu NP.

Superb Fruit Dove (Eastern S F D) Ptilinopus [superbus] superbus Several seen well on Halmahera.

Blue-capped Fruit Dove Ptilinopus monacha Several scoped on Halmahera. Monotypic north Moluccan endemic.

Grey-headed Fruit Dove Ptilinopus hyogaster Common on Halmahera. Monotypic north Moluccan endemic.

Black-naped Fruit Dove Ptilinopus melanospila

White-bellied Imperial Pigeon Ducula forsteni Regularly encountered on Sulawesi. Monotypic endemic.

Grey-headed Imperial Pigeon Ducula radiata 1 scoped at Karaenta, 4 flyovers at Lore Lindu. Monotypic endemic.

Green Imperial Pigeon (Paulina's I P) Ducula [aenea] paulina Common on Sulawesi. See notes.

Spectacled Imperial Pigeon Ducula perspicillata Good numbers on Halmahera.

Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon Ducula basilica 19 logged and others heard on Halmahera.

Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor* Seven at Sampirang, near Tangkoko.

Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon Ducula luctuosa 60+ at Tangkoko.

Bay Coucal Centropus celebensis Six seen at Tangkoko.

Goliath Coucal Centropus goliath Several seen on Halmahera; many heard (making us laugh!).

Lesser Coucal Centropus bengalensis

Yellow-billed Malkoha (Sulawesi M) Phaenicophaeus calyorhynchus Nominate in north, meridionalis Lore Lindu.

**Black-billed Koel** *Eudynamys melanorhynchus* Lore Lindu and Tangkoko; 10 seen. Sulawesi and Sula endemic.

Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo Chrysococcyx basalis One at Bantimurung was unexpected.

Little Bronze Cuckoo (Gould's B C) Chrysococcyx [minutillus] jungei One showed will along the Anaso Track.

Brush Cuckoo (Australian B C) Cacomantis variolosus A couple showed very well on Halmahera (infaustus).

Rusty-breasted Cuckoo (Sulawesi Brush C) C. [variolosus] virescens Common on Sulawesi.

Moluccan Cuckoo Cacomantis aeruginosus (H) Singing remotely at Foli (heinrichi).

Moluccan Drongo-Cuckoo Surniculus musschenbroeki Singles seen at Lore Lindu and Tangkoko NP's.

Oriental Cuckoo Cuculus optatus Halmahera & Sulawesi. Good flight views en route to Foli; another at Tangkoko.

Sulawesi Masked Owl Tyto rosenbergii Two different birds, at Wuasa and Wanga.



Clockwise from top left: Great Cuckoo-Dove, Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove, and Red-eared Fruit Dove (Craig Robson)

Minahassa Masked Owl *Tyto inexspectata* (H) Frustratingly only heard once at Tangkoko National Park.

Moluccan Scops Owl *Otus magicus* Great views near Sidangoli (*leucospilus*). Many heard.

Sulawesi Scops Owl *Otus manadensis* Three seen very well at Tangkoko; night and day.

Ochre-bellied Boobook *Ninox ochracea* Night and day at Tangkoko; four seen. Monotypic endemic.

Cinnabar Boobook *Ninox ios* Excellent views of one along the Anaso Track. Endemic.

Halmahera Boobook *Ninox hypogramma* One performed nicely at Foli; others heard. Monotypic endemic.

Speckled Boobook *N. punctulata* Lovely views near our accommodation at Lore Lindu. Monotypic endemic.

Satanic Nightjar *Eurostopodus diabolicus* One roosting along the Anaso Track. Monotypic endemic.



Lilac Kingfisher (Craig Robson)

Great Eared Nightjar (Pacific E N) Lyncornis macrotis A few at Lore Lindu (macropterus).

Sulawesi Nightjar Caprimulgus celebensis A great performance by a male at Tangkoko (nominate).

Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar Aegotheles crinifrons Brilliant lengthy views of three at Foli. Others heard.

Grey-rumped Treeswift Hemiprocne longipennis Frequently seen on Sulawesi (wallacii).

Moustached Treeswift Hemiprocne mystacea Just two on Halmahera (confirmata).

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta* Nominate C,S Sulawesi, *manadensis* N Sulawesi, *spilura* Halmahera. Halmahera Swiftlet *Aerodramus infuscatus* (NL)

Sulawesi Swiftlet Aerodramus sororum Locally common.

Uniform Swiftlet A. vanikorensis Common: heinrichi S Sulawesi, aenigma C Sulawesi, waigeuensis Halmahera.

White-throated Needletail Hirundapus caudacutus A single bird at Tangkoko was unexpected.

Purple Needletail Hirundapus celebensis Just three birds in the Lore Lindu area.

Asian Palm Swift Cypsiurus balasiensis

House Swift Apus nipalensis Only seen around Makassar Airport.

Purple-winged Roller Coracias temminckii Eventually seen very well at Tangkoko; two or three birds.

Azure Dollarbird (Purple D) Eurystomus azureus (H) Heard once at Foli.



Sombre Kingfisher (Craig Robson)

Scaly-breasted Kingfisher (Lore Lindu K) Actenoides [princeps] erythrorhamphus Brilliant views at Lore Lindu. Green-backed Kingfisher Actenoides monachus Great looks at Tangkoko, with five seen.

Common Paradise Kingfisher Tanysiptera galatea (H) Elusive again on Halmahera.

Lilac Kingfisher (Sulawesi L K, L-cheeked K) Cittura cyanotis One superb individual at Tangkoko NP.

Great-billed Kingfisher Pelargopsis melanorhyncha One at Sampirang, near Tangkoko (nominate).

Blue-and-white Kingfisher Todiramphus diops Two nice pairs on Halmahera.

Sombre Kingfisher Todiramphus funebris Crippling views of a female on Halmahera. North Moluccan endemic.

Collared Kingfisher Todiramphus chloris

**Beach Kingfisher** *Todiramphus saurophagus* One seen on both visits to the town shore at Sidangoli (nominate). **Sacred Kingfisher** *Todiramphus sanctus* 

Common Kingfisher (Hispid K) Alcedo [atthis] hispidoides (NL) A couple of sightings at Tangkoko.

Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher Ceyx fallax A jewel, located by our guides at Tangkoko in a small stream valley.

Purple-bearded Bee-eater Meropogon forsteni Several beauties Lore Lindu; Anaso Track and also along main road.



Purple-bearded Bee-eater (Craig Robson)

Blue-tailed Bee-eater Merops philippinus Small numbers on Sulawesi (celebensis).

Blyth's Hornbill (Papuan H) Rhyticeros plicatus Common Halmahera (ruficollis).

Knobbed Hornbill Rhyticeros cassidix Only three were seen on Sulawesi. A monotypic endemic.

Sulawesi Hornbill (S Dwarf H) Rhabdotorrhinus exarhatus A few of the nominate form at Tangkoko.

Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker Yungipicus temminckii Occasional on Sulawesi.

**Ashy Woodpecker** *Mulleripicus fulvus* Nice looks. The nominate race in the north; *wallacei* in Lore Lindu area.

Spotted Kestrel (Indonesian K, Moluccan K) Falco moluccensis Occasional (nominate).

Oriental Hobby Falco severus One at Tangkoko.

Peregrine Falcon (Australian Peregrine) Falco [peregrinus] ernesti

White Cockatoo Cacatua alba Many on Halmahera, particularly Buli Road (18+).

Gold-mantled Racket-tail (Sulawesi Racquet-t) Prioniturus platurus Lore Lindu and Tangkoko (nominate).

Yellow-breasted Racket-tail (Minahasa Racquet-t) Prioniturus flavicans Good views at Tangkoko.



Clockwise from top left: Moluccan Scops Owl, Sulawesi Scops Owl, and Ochre-bellied Boobook (Craig Robson)

Eclectus Parrot Eclectus roratus Quite common Halmahera (vosmaeri); ten seen.

Red-cheeked Parrot Geoffroyus geoffroyi Quite common Halmahera (cyanicollis).

**Great-billed Parrot** *Tanygnathus megalorhynchos* Frequent Halmahera (nominate).

Blue-backed Parrot Tanygnathus sumatranus Four seen at Tangkoko (nominate).

Red-flanked Lorikeet Charmosyna placentis Common on Halmahera (intensior), with over 100 logged.

Chattering Lory Lorius garrulus Small numbers at Foli and Buli Road (nominate). Good perched views

Violet-necked Lory Eos squamata Ten at Foli (riciniata).

Ornate Lorikeet Trichoglossus ornatus Best seen at Tangkoko. Monotypic endemic

Citrine Lorikeet (Meyer's L, Yellow-and-green L) T. flavoviridis Common Lake Tambing, Lore Lindu (meyeri).

Great Hanging Parrot (Sulawesi H P, Large S H P) Loriculus stigmatus Common on Sulawesi (nominate).

Moluccan Hanging Parrot Loriculus amabilis Occasional in Halmahera forests.

**Pygmy Hanging Parrot (Small Sulawesi H P)** *L. exilis* Four seen at the viewpoint at Tangkoko. Monotypic endemic. **Sulawesi Pitta (Sahul P, Sulawesi Sahul P)** *Erythropitta celebensis* Just one; seen well at Tangkoko. See notes.



Sneaking-up on Sulawesi Pitta (Craig Robson)

North Moluccan Pitta (Sultan's Sahul P, Sahul P, Papuan S P) E. rufiventris (H) Heard along the Buli Rd. Ivory-breasted Pitta Pitta maxima Four seen on Halmahera, with some good views. North Moluccan endemic. Dusky Myzomela (Sultan's M, D Honeyeater) Myzomela [obscura] simplex Frequent on Halmahera (simplex). Sulawesi Myzomela Myzomela chloropeta Seen well at Lore Lindu (nominate): at least seven seen. White-streaked Friarbird Melitograis gilolensis 15 on Halmahera (Foli & Buli Rd). Monotypic N Moluccan endemic. Dark-eared Myza (Lesser M, L Sulawesi Honeyeater) Myza celebensis 13 at Lore Lindu (nominate). White-eared Myza (Greater M, G Sulawesi Honeyeater) Myza sarasinorum Four along Anaso Track (chionogenys). Golden-bellied Gerygone (Sulawesi G, Flyeater) Gerygone [sulphurea] flaveola Widespread on Sulawesi.

White-breasted Woodswallow Artamus leucorhynchus Widespread: albiventer Sulawesi, leucopygialis Halmahera. Ivory-backed Woodswallow Artamus monachus Many sightings in the Lore Lindu area. Monotypic endemic.

Moluccan Cuckooshrike Coracina atriceps Just one on Halmahera (magnirostris).

Cerulean Cuckooshrike Coracina temminckii Several good looks at these at in the Lore Lindu region.

**Pied Cuckooshrike** *Coracina bicolor* A group of four vocalising in the tree-tops at Tangkoko. A monotypic endemic. **White-rumped Cuckooshrike** *Coracina leucopygia* Easily seen at Tangkoko. Another monotypic endemic.



White-bellied Cuckooshrike (John Drummond)

White-bellied Cuckooshrike (Papuan C) Coracina papuensis Four on Halmahera (nominate).

Halmahera Cuckooshrike Coracina parvula Just one on Halmahera. Monotypic north Moluccan endemic.

Pygmy Cuckooshrike (Mountain Cicadabird) Coracina abbotti Two singles seen well at Lore Lindu.

Common Cicadabird (Wallacean C, Slender-billed C) *C. [tenuirostris] amboinensis* Pair seen well Buli Rd (*grayi*). Sulawesi Cicadabird *Coracina morio* Three seen well in the Sedoa Valley.

White-rumped Triller (Sulawesi T) Lalage leucopygialis One at Karaenta & four at Tangkoko. Monotypic endemic. White-shouldered Triller (Lesueur's T) Lalage sueurii

Rufous-bellied Triller Lalage aurea A common forest bird on Halmahera, and a monotypic north Moluccan endemic.

Maroon-backed Whistler Coracornis raveni One showed at the Anaso Track; good views of this monotypic endemic.

Sulphur-vented Whistler (S-bellied W, Yellow-v W) Pachycephala sulfuriventer Common at Lore Lindu NP.

Black-chinned Whistler (Halmahera W, Moluccan W) Pachycephala mentalis A few on Halmahera (nominate).

Drab Whistler Pachycephala griseonota (NL) Seen by all but the leader along the Buli Road. (cinerascens).

Dusky-brown Oriole (Halmahera O) Oriolus phaeochromus A pair seen and a number heard on Halmahera.

Black-naped Oriole (Sulawesi Golden O) Oriolus [chinensis] frontalis Common on Sulawesi (celebensis).

Hair-crested Drongo ◊ (White-eyed Spangled D) Dicrurus [hottentottus] leucops Fairly common on Sulawesi.

Sulawesi Drongo (S Spangled D) Dicrurus montanus Several encountered in the higher forests at Lore Lindu.

Spangled Drongo (Halmahera S D) Dicrurus [bracteatus] atrocaeruleus Frequent on Halmahera (atrocaeruleus).

Willie Wagtail (W Fantail) Rhipidura leucophrys Common away from forest Halmahera (melaleuca).

Rusty-bellied Fantail (Sulawesi F) Rhipidura teysmanni Quite common at Lore Lindu (toradja).



Rusty-bellied Fantail (Craig Robson)

Pale Blue Monarch Hypothymis puella Scattered sightings of this attractive monarch on Sulawesi (nominate). Moluccan Monarch (Halmahera Spectacled M, Wallacean M) Symposiachrus bimaculatus Halmahera (nominate). White-naped Monarch (Halmahera Pied M) Carterornis [pileatus] pileatus Just two along Buli Road (nominate). Moluccan Flycatcher (M Monarch, Slaty F) Myiagra galeata Several on Halmahera (nominate). Shining Flycatcher (Moluccan S Monarch, Shining M) M. [alecto] alecto 4 seen well near Sidangoli (nominate). Slender-billed Crow (Sulawesi C) Corvus [enca ] celebensis Karaenta and Tangkoko (celebensis). Long-billed Crow Corvus validus This well-endowed corvid was quite common on Halmahera. Torresian Crow (Australian C) Corvus orru An excellent flock of seven en route to Foli. Scarce on Halmahera. Paradise-crow (Halmahera P-c) Lycocorax pyrrhopterus Several on Halmahera (nominate). Moluccan endemic. Standardwing (Wallace's S) Semioptera wallacii Amazing display action at Foli lek; heard Buli Rd (halmaherae). Hylocitrea (Yellow-flanked Whistler) Hylocitrea bonensis A couple along the Anaso Track; ever furtive (nominate). Citrine Canary-Flycatcher Culicicapa helianthea Regular sightings in central and north Sulawesi (nominate). Sooty-headed Bulbul (introduced) Pycnonotus aurigaster Common in parts of Sulawesi (aurigaster). Northern Golden Bulbul (Halmahera G B) Thapsinillas [longirostris] chloris Common Halmahera (chloris). Malia Malia grata This highly distinctive endemic was frequently encountered at Lore Lindu NP (stresemanni). Barn Swallow Hirundo rustica Pacific Swallow Hirundo tahitica

Mountain Tailorbird (M Leaftoiler) Phyllergates cuculatus Common at Lore Lindu (stentor).

Sulawesi Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus [sarasinorum] nesophilus* As for the last species (*nesophilus*).

Island Leaf Warbler (Halmahera L W, North Moluccan L W) *P. [maforensis] henrietta* 1 seen well Buli Road.

Chestnut-backed Bush Warbler (Sulawesi Grasshopper W) *Locustella castanea* Some good views Lore Lindu.

Gray's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella fasciolata* 1 perched up nicely along the Buli Road; 1 heard.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis* Scattered on Sulawesi and Halmahera (*rusticus*).

Sulawesi Babbler *Trichastoma celebense* Widespread. Race *finschi* in SW, *rufofuscum* in NC, and nominate in NE.



Black-crowned White-eye (Craig Robson)

Streak-headed White-eye (Sulawesi Heleia, S-h Dark-e) Lophozosterops squamiceps Lore Lindu (striaticeps).

Mountain White-eye Zosterops montanus Fairly common in Sulawesi montane forests (nominate).

Lemon-bellied White-eye Zosterops chloris Frequently seen in the Lore Lindu area (mentoris).

Black-ringed White-eye Zosterops anomalus Seen well at Karaenta Forest. Monotypic endemic.

Cream-throated White-eye (Halmahera W-e) Zosterops [atriceps] fuscifrons Not uncommon on Halmahera.

Black-crowned White-eye (B- fronted W-e) Zosterops atrifrons Sulawesi; surdus in NC, and nominate in N.

Metallic Starling Aplonis metallica The commoner Starling on Halmahera, with its red eye (nominate).

Moluccan Starling Aplonis mysolensis Quite a few at Foli and Buli Road etc. (nominate).

Short-tailed Starling Aplonis minor (NL) Three were noted at Wuasa.

Sulawesi Myna (Short-crested M, S Crested M) Basilornis celebensis Six at Karaenta and five at Sedoa Valley. White-necked Myna (Northern W-n M) Streptocitta [albicollis] torquata Three seen very well at Tangkoko. Fiery-browed Starling (Flame-b Myna) Enodes erythrophris Common at Lore Lindu. Monotypic endemic. Grosbeak Starling (G Myna) Scissirostrum dubium A couple at Lake Tambing, then common at Tangkoko NP. Red-backed Thrush Geokichla erythronota Good views of a single bird at Tangkoko NP (nominate).

Sulawesi Thrush Cataponera turdoides Two seen very nicely at Lore Lindu NP (abditiva).

Grey-streaked Flycatcher Muscicapa griseisticta One Lore Lindu; two Tangkoko, and one Tanah Putih, Halmahera.

Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher (S Jungle-flycatcher) Cyornis omissus Good views of a pair at Sedoa River Valley.

Blue-fronted Blue Flycatcher (Hoevell's Warbling-flycatcher) C. hoevelli Lore Lindu NP. Belongs in Eumyias.

Turquoise Flycatcher (Wallacean Warbling-f, Turquoise W-f) Eumyias [panayensis] septentrionalis Lore Lindu.

Great Shortwing (Latimojong Heinrichia, Heinrichia) Heinrichia [calligyna] calligyna Seen well at Lore Lindu NP.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher Ficedula hyperythra Several seen at Lore Lindu (jugosae).

Little Pied Flycatcher Ficedula westermanni A couple in the Lore Lindu area (nominate).

Yellow-sided Flowerpecker Dicaeum aureolimbatum Regularly encountered on Sulawesi (nominate).

Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker Dicaeum nehrkorni Two seen well in the Lore Lindu area. Monotypic endemic.

Halmahera Flowerpecker Dicaeum schistaceiceps Common on Halmahera.

Grey-sided Flowerpecker Dicaeum celebicum Common on Sulawesi (nominate).

Brown-throated Sunbird Anthreptes malacensis Frequent on Sulawesi (celebensis).

Black Sunbird Leptocoma aspasia Races porphyrolaema C & S Sulawesi, grayi N Sulawesi, auriceps Halmahera.

Olive-backed Sunbird (Sahul S) Cinnyris [jugularis] frenatus Common: plateni Sulawesi, frenatus on Halmahera.

Crimson Sunbird (Sulawesi Crimson S) Aethopyga [siparaja] flavostriata A male at Tangkoko.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (introduced) Passer montanus

Blue-faced Parrotfinch Erythrura trichroa (NL) Jonathan saw one at Lore Lindu NP.

Black-faced Munia Lonchura molucca Just a couple of sightings on Sulawesi.

Chestnut Munia Lonchura atricapilla Throughout (jagori), but probably introduced to Halmahera.

Pale-headed Munia Lonchura pallida 10 near Palu.

Grey Wagtail Motacilla cinerea

Mountain Serin (Indonesian S) Chrysocorythus estherae About four along the Anaso track, but only in flight.



Sofifi Sunset, Halmahera (Craig Robson)

# **MAMMALS**

Bear Cuscus Ailurops ursinus Two at Gunung Ambang, and another at Tangkoko NP.



Bear Cuscus (Craig Robson)

Whitish Dwarf Squirrel (Pale D S) *Prosciurillus leucomus* One at Tangkoko. White neck-patch. Sulawesi Dwarf Squirrel *Prosciurillus murinus* The little dark squirrel we saw most often. Montane Long-nosed Squirrel (Sulawesi L-n S) *Hyosciurus heinrichi* (NL) Spectral Tarsier *Tarsius spectrum* At least five seen at Tangkoko.



Spectral Tarsier (Craig Robson)

Moor Macaque *Macaca maura*Sulawesi Crested Macaque *Macaca nigra* A large troupe of at least 50 animals at Tangkoko.

Tonkean Macaque *Macaca tonkeana*Indo-Pacific Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Tursiops eduncus* 

### NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

### Great Egret (Eastern G E) Ardea [alba] modesta

Most authors, including the IOC, still include this form (found in much of Asia and Australasia) in Western Great Egret A. alba, using the name Great Egret for the enlarged species. It is likely to be split in the future.

### Little Egret (Black-footed E) Egretta [garzetta] nigripes

Most authors, including the IOC, still include this Australasian form in Intermediate Egret.

### Variable Goshawk (Grey-throated G, Varied G) Accipiter [hiogaster] griseogularis

According to Eaton *et. al.*, Grey-throated Goshawk *A. griseogularis* (also including *mortyi* and *obiensis*) is a potential split from Variable (or Varied).

### Whimbrel (Eurasian W) Numenius [phaeopus] phaeopus

Some authors have suggested that New World form *hudsonicus* (Hudsonian Whimbrel) should be treated as specifically distinct, in which case the Eurasian form would be renamed Eurasian Whimbrel. The form seen on this tour, *variegatus*, would be included with the latter.

#### Common Tern Sterna hirundo

The form concerned, *longipennis*, is morphologically distinct. In breeding plumage, it shows an all dark bill, grey underparts and a longer tail and may in the future be treated as a full species.

### Sultan's Cuckoo-Dove Macropygia doreya

### Sultan's Cuckoo-Dove (Sulawesi C-D) Macropygia [doreya] albicapilla

A recent reclassification of cuckoo-doves has resulted in several new species. These forms were formerly included in Amboyna (or Amboina) Cuckoo-Dove *M. amboinensis* with the name Slender-billed or Brown Cuckoo-Dove being used for the enlarged species. In addition, the two forms seen on this tour, *albicapilla* the pale-headed form on Sulawesi and *albiceps* on Halmahera, are significantly different in plumage and voice form one another and are treated as separate species by Eaton *et al.* 

### Superb Fruit Dove (Western S F D) Ptilinopus [superbus] temminckii

### Superb Fruit Dove (Eastern S F D) Ptilinopus [superbus] superbus

Some authorities split Superb Fruit Dove *P. superbus* into two species, with Western being restricted to the Sulawesi sub-region.

# Green Imperial Pigeon (Paulina's IP) Ducula [aenea] paulina

This form concerned is restricted to the Sulawesi sub-region and is morphologically distinct, showing a bright rufous patch on the nape. It may in the future be treated as a full species.

### Black-billed Koel Eudynamys melanorhynchus

This species is often lumped in Asian (or Common) Koel E. scolopacea.

# Little Bronze Cuckoo (Gould's B C) Chrysococcyx [minutillus] russatus

Several authors have treated Gould's Bronze Cuckoo as a separate species in the past.

# Rusty-breasted Cuckoo (Sulawesi Brush C) Cacomantis [variolosus] virescens

Eaton et al. treat Sulawesi Brush Cuckoo *C. virescens* as a distinct species. This form is also sometimes lumped in Brush Cuckoo *C. variolosus* of Australasia.

### Moluccan Cuckoo Cacomantis aeruginosus

This species was formerly known as *C. heinrichi*. However, it appears that birds from Halmahera (*heinrichi*) are identical (in plumage and vocalizations) to the form *aeruginosus* (known from Seram, Buru and the Moluccas) and should be placed together as a separate species, or indeed, the two forms may even be synonymous, as is the case with the IOC.

### Moluccan Drongo-Cuckoo Surniculus musschenbroeki

Some authors lump this species in Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo *S. lugubris*, using the name Drongo Cuckoo for the enlarged species.

### Oriental Cuckoo Cuculus optatus

Many authors lump this species (which breeds across northern Eurasia) in Himalayan Cuckoo *C. saturatus* using the name Oriental Cuckoo for the enlarged species. Note that this form was formerly known as *horsfieldi* (with the English name Horsfield's Cuckoo being used for the form) but this name was shown to be antedated by *optatus*. Oriental and Himalayan Cuckoos are indistinguishable, except by voice. We believe that this is most likely the form that we see as a migrant.

### Halmahera Boobook Ninox hypogramma

The former Moluccan Boobook *N. squamipila* was split into four highly distinctive species: the current form, Buru Boobook *Ninox hantu* (Buru), Seram Boobook *Ninox squamipila* (Seram), and Tanimbar Boobook *Ninox forbesi* (Tanimbar Is).

### Sulawesi Nightjar Caprimulgus celebensis

This species was formerly lumped in Philippine Nightjar *C. manillensis* which in turn was sometimes lumped in Large-tailed Nightjar *C. macrurus*.

### Halmahera Swiftlet Aerodramus infuscatus

### Sulawesi Swiftlet Aerodramus sororum

Some authors lump Sulawesi Swiftlet in Halmahera Swiftlet, using the name Moluccan Swiftlet for the enlarged species.

### House Swift Apus nipalensis

Some authors lump this species in Little Swift A. affinis.

### Scaly-breasted Kingfisher (Lore Lindu K) Actenoides [princeps] erythrorhamphus

The distinctive local form of Scaly-breasted Kingfisher that we saw at Lore Lindu NP, has been proposed as a distinct species by some authorities.

# Common Kingfisher (Hispid K) Alcedo [atthis] hispidoides

This resident form is morphologically distinct, being somewhat intermediate in characters between nominate-type Common Kingfisher and Blue-eared Kingfisher *A. meninting*. It may in the future be treated as a full species.

# Peregrine Falcon (Australian Peregrine) Falco [peregrinus] ernesti

This distinctive regional form may well be treated as a distinct species in the future; Australian Peregrine F. ernesti.

# Sulawesi Pitta Erythropitta celebensis

# North Moluccan Pitta Erythropitta rufiventris

Some authors lump these species (and the seven other recent splits in the Red-bellied Pitta complex recognized by the IOC) in Philippine Pitta *E. erythrogaster* using the name Red-bellied Pitta for the enlarged species. Other authors have split the Red-bellied Pitta complex into as many as 17 species. Eaton *et al.* lump all Wallacean forms in their Sahul Pitta *E. erythrogaster*.

# Sulawesi Myzomela Myzomela chloroptera

This species was formerly lumped in Scarlet Myzomela (or Honeyeater) M. sanguinolenta.

### Golden-bellied Gerygone (Sulawesi G, Flyeater) Gerygone [sulphurea] flaveola

The resident form on Sulawesi, *flaveola*, is both morphologically and vocally distinct, and, somewhat unusually for this species, is common in montane forest. It may in the future be treated as a full species.

### White-rumped (or Sulawesi) Triller Lalage leucopygialis

This species is sometimes lumped in Pied Triller L. nigra

### Black-chinned Whistler Pachycephala mentalis

Some authors lump this north Moluccan endemic and several related species in Australian Golden Whistler *P. pectoralis*, using the name Common Golden Whistler for the enlarged species. Eaton *et. al.* include this form in their Moluccan Whistler *P. macrorhyncha*, but also suggest that the forms *mentalis* and *tidorensis* might form a unique species, Halmahera Whistler *P. mentalis*.

### Black-naped Oriole (Sulawesi Golden O) Oriolus [chinensis] frontalis

A potential regionally endemic split according to Eaton et. al.

### Hair-crested Drongo (White-eyed Spangled D) Dicrurus [hottentottus] leucops

The resident form found at lower altitudes on Sulawesi, is morphologically distinct, showing a piercing white iris. It is treated as a distinct species, White-eyed Spangled Drongo *D. leucops* by Eaton *et. al.* 

### Sulawesi Drongo (S Spangled D) Dicrurus montanus

This species was formerly lumped in Spangled Drongo D. bracteatus.

### Spangled Drongo (Halmahera S D) Dicrurus [bracteatus] atrocaeruleus

Eaton et. al. treat this form as a distinct endemic species, Halmahera Spangled Drongo D. atrocaeruleus.

### Pale Blue Monarch Hypothymis puella

This species was formerly lumped in Black-naped Monarch H. azurea.

### Moluccan Monarch (Halmahera Spectacled M, Wallacean M) Symposiachrus bimaculatus

This is a recent split from Spectacled Monarch S. trivirgatus.

# White-naped Monarch (Halmahera Pied M) Carterornis [pileatus] pileatus

According to Eaton *et al.*, the nominate form might best be treated as a distinct single-island endemic species, Halmahera Pied Monarch *C. pileatus*.

### Hylocitrea (Yellow-flanked Whistler) Hylocitrea bonensis

Found to be unrelated to whistlers, and more closely related to waxwings, this distinctive bird has now been placed in its own family Hylocitridae. The common name Hylocitrea is thus more appropriate.

### Northern Golden Bulbul (Halmahera G B) Thapsinillas [longirostris] chloris

Some authors lump this species, along with Buru Golden Bulbul *T. mystacalis*, in Seram Golden Bulbul *T. affinis*, using the name Golden Bulbul for the enlarged species. Eaton *et al.* split the local form as an endemic species, Halmahera Golden Bulbul *Thapsinillas chloris*.

### Sulawesi Leaf Warbler Phylloscopus [sarasinorum] nesophilus

Eaton *et al.* split-off the SW Sulawesi subspecies as Lompobattang Leaf Warbler *P. sarasinorum*, and re-name the residual form Sulawesi Leaf Warbler *P. nesophilus*.

### Island Leaf Warbler (Halmahera L W) Phylloscopus [maforensis] henrietta

It is likely that the form concerned will be split off as a separate species in the future. Note that this species was formerly known as P. poliocephalus, but it has been shown that maforensis has priority over poliocephalus.

### Chestnut-backed Bush Warbler (Sulawesi Grasshopper W) Locustella castanea

Eaton et al. unite the two Sulawesi forms as a single-island endemic, Sulawesi Grasshopper Warbler L. castanea.

### Cream-throated White-eye (Halmahera W-e) Zosterops [atriceps] fuscifrons

Eaton et al. treat the local form as a single-island endemic species, Halmahera White-eye Z. fuscifrons.

### Turquoise Flycatcher (Wallacean Warbling-f, Turquoise W-f) Eumyias [panayensis] septentrionalis

Eaton *et al.* note that the four regional taxa might best be separated from Philippine taxa as Wallacean Warbling-flycatcher *E. septentrionalis*.

# Great Shortwing (Latimojong Heinrichia, Heinrichia) Heinrichia [calligyna] calligyna

Eaton *et al.* note that the current species might best be split-up into a number of monotypic endemics; in which case the form seen at Lore Lindu would become Latimojong Heinrichia *Heinrichia calligyna*.

### Halmahera Flowerpecker Dicaeum schistaceiceps

Some authors lump this species in Buru Flowerpecker *D. erythrothorax*, using the name Flame-breasted Flowerpecker for the enlarged species.

# Olive-backed Sunbird (Sahul S) Cinnyris [jugularis] frenatus

Eaton *et al.* include the forms seen on this tour in their Sahul Sunbird *Cinnyris clementiae* (Sulawesi sub-region and North Moluccas east to New Guinea region). They also suggest that further splitting might occur, with a more restricted regional species (uniting local subspecies *frenatus*, *robustirostris* and *plateni*, as well as 1-2 extralimital taxa), known as Sahul Sunbird *C. frenatus*.

# Crimson Sunbird (Sulawesi Crimson S) Aethopyga [siparaja] flavostriata

Eaton *et al.* note that this form (along with *beccarii*) might be split-off to form a regionally endemic separate species in the future, Sulawesi Crimson Sunbird *A. flavostriata*.



Dark-eared Myza (Craig Robson)

# APPENDIX 1 - Top five birds of the tour

- 1st Scaly-breasted Kingfisher
- 2nd **Standardwing**
- 3rd Sulawesi Pitta
- 4th Ivory-breasted Pitta
- 5th Purple-bearded Bee-eater

# APPENDIX 2 - Other fauna & flora recorded

# **REPTILES**

Green Tree Dragon Bronchocela cristatella Our guide showed us one at Foli.

# **BUTTERFLIES**

Common Birdwing Troides helena Lore Lindu NP at least.

Cream-banded Swallowtail Papilio gigon Two on puddles at Tangkoko.

Large Green-banded Blue Danis danis Halmahera.

Tree Nymph Idea blanchardii Tangkoko NP at least.



Fringed Pitcher Plant Nepenthes tentaculata (Craig Robson)