



A Tropical Birding set departure tour

INDONESIA: SULAWESI
and Moluccas Extension, HALMAHERA
“Birding the Edge of Wallace’s Line”

14th August – 3rd September 2018



This tour is always epic for nightbirds; **8 owls** were seen as well as 1 owlet-nightjar and 5 nightjars, including this handsome pair of cruelly-named **Diabolical (Satanic) Nightjars** at Lore Lindu, Sulawesi

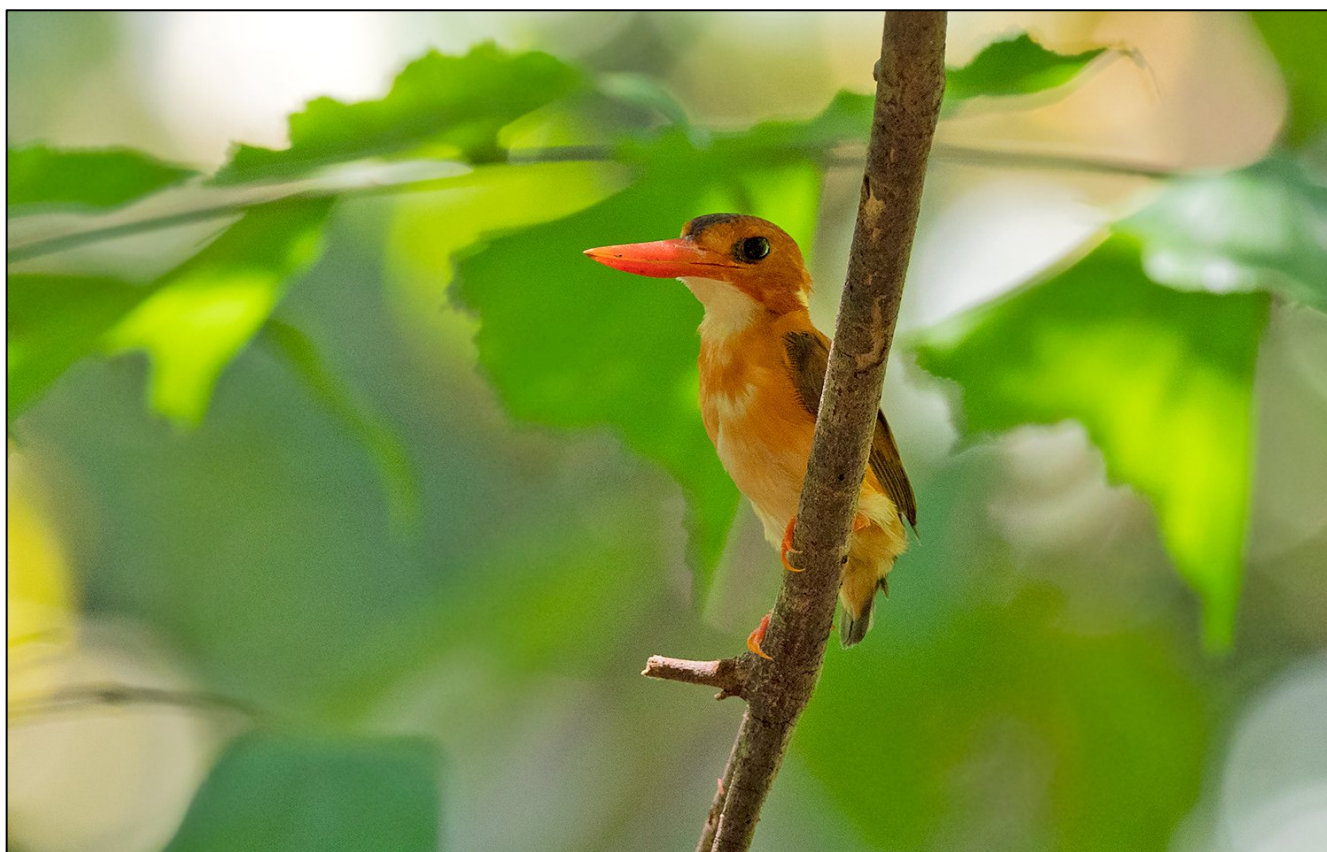
Tour Leaders: Sam Woods and Theo Heno

*All the birds/animals photographed in this report are indicated in **red**.*

*Sincere thanks to participants **Susan and Frank Gilliland** who contributed many photos for this report.*

INTRODUCTION:

By combining the two oddly-shaped islands of Sulawesi and Halmahera we racked up a substantial list of specialties, some **128 endemic species** were recorded within a **grand total of 274 species**. The two islands are close, sitting within Wallacea, the transition zone between Oriental and Australasian avifaunas. However, they differ markedly, permitting a large number of additions when combining the both of them – **nearly 80 species were added during our visit to Halmahera, among them more than 40 more endemics**. The species list acquired included 8 owls (7 of them endemic), 5 nightjars, 1 owlet-nightjar, 4 megapodes (including the strange Moluccan Scrubfowl that uniquely lays its eggs at night), 19 raptors (including 7 endemic ones), 26 species of pigeon/dove (with some stunning fruit-doves among them on Halmahera in particular), 16 kingfishers, 3 hornbills (2 endemic), 3 pittas, 3 bee-eaters, all 15 possible parrot species, 13 different cuckooshrikes, 2 birds-of-paradise, 6 species of white-eye, and 9 different starlings/mynas, and the monotypic family, Hylocitrea, endemic to the mountains of Sulawesi. This illustrated once again that these islands are very much one of the great endemic “hubs” of Indonesia.



Sulawesi Dwarf-Kingfisher, one of 16 different kingfishers seen during the tour

We visited the three main sections of Sulawesi: Makassar and Karaenta in South Sulawesi (where **Black-headed (Green-backed) Kingfisher** was a significant early success), Lore Lindu in Central Sulawesi, and then Tangkoko, Dumoga-Bone and Gunungs Ambang and Mahawu all in the north. 83 endemic species (to Sulawesi and satellites) were counted on this part, with some standout birds among them, like **Lilac-cheeked, Green-backed and Sulawesi Dwarf-Kingfishers** all seen at Sulawesi’s “Kingfisher Capital” Tangkoko; 7 species of owls, including the recently described **Cinnabar Boobook**, along with other endemic ones like **Ochre-bellied and Speckled Boobooks, Sulawesi Scops-Owl, and Sulawesi Masked-Owl**. To add to this night fare were a dusk performance by **Sulawesi Nightjar** in Tangkoko, and a daytime viewing of a pair of roosting **Diabolical (Satanic) Nightjars** in Lore Lindu.

Sulawesi is also a great destination for raptor aficionados, holding a discrete set of species only found there. As usual, we did not find them all, but we did get exceptional looks at both **Sulawesi Serpent-Eagle** and **Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle** perched at Lore Lindu (a well as **Spot-tailed Goshawk** and the rare **Vinous-breasted Sparrowhawk** for some at the same site); **Sulawesi Goshawk** came later at Dumoga-Bone, the site which would also bring one of the regular favorites on this island, the otherworldly **Maleo**. Tangkoko provided some of the most memorable moments with both birds and mammals, with very confiding **Rusty-backed (Red-backed) Thrush** and **Sulawesi (Sahul) Pitta**, a dramatic appearance by a male **Knobbed Hornbill** perched beside a forest lookout, as well as cooperative **Gursky's Spectral Tarsiers**, and the famous habituated troop of **Celebes Crested Macaques** that allowed us to walk among them. In spite of virtually no rain at Lore Lindu (or indeed on Sulawesi at all), we struggled to find the island's endemic monotypic family the **Hylocitrea**, which made us wait until after lunch to show itself! A **Sulawesi (Hawk) Cuckoo** actually SEEN near Lake Taming there was the clear winner of the surprise find of the trip, even if perhaps the more expected, and gorgeous, **Purple-bearded Bee-eater** (quite understandably) created a bigger buzz among the group in general. Exceptionally decent views of both **Maroon-backed Whistler** and **Great Shortwing (Heinrichia)** in Lore Lindu too, were also not anticipated from these "master skulkers". The Sulawesi leg ended with a 10th and final Kingfisher on this island, with a serene **Scaly-breasted Kingfisher** at Gunung Mahawu which sat there for an age, allowing us all to climb into the best position in a forest gully to see it.

Moving on to the island of Halmahera, in the North Moluccas, the birding ramped up again, with a swathe of new endemic species once we'd crossed "Weber's Line" into this very different region. We started out with rain and several obliging **Moluccan Scrubfowls** at night on a traditional beach in northern Halmahera. From there, we spent most of our time in and around Weda Resort further south, where the lodge's showpiece, the display site of **Wallace's Standardwing (Standardwing Bird-of-the-Paradise)** was the undoubted climax, being voted as the overall bird-of-the-tour by virtue of the exemplary performance witnessed. Our visit to this treasured place within the forest coincided with the visit of two female birds-of-paradise, which sent the six male standarwings present into a frenzy of display and dance in order to impress them. We were awestruck. The often awkward **Moluccan Goshawk** was also heard and seen closeby. Side trips to the highlands on the island yielded some great looks at **Moluccan King-Parrot** (another very popular species with the group), a beautiful **Purple Dollarbird (Azure Roller)** late one afternoon, along with impish **Gilolo (Rufous) Fantails**, and eagles from different ends of the spectrum: a diminutive **Pygmy Eagle** gliding slowly overhead, and a hulking **Gurney's Eagle** sat just above the road, both at the wonderful Bukit Limber. Our visit to Halmahera also allowed us to raise our kingfisher list by a further SIX species, with the endemic **North Moluccan Dwarf-Kingfisher**, **Sombre and Beach Kingfishers**, and **Common Paradise-Kingfishers** being the pick of them. We also broadened our list of nightbirds yet more, with a croaking **Moluccan Scops-Owl** at Galela, **Halmahera (Moluccan) Boobook** near Weda, and an absurdly accommodating **Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar** sat in the open above us for 30 minutes at least. Other highpoints in the Moluccas included **three different species of fruit-dove** (including an out-of-place **Blue-capped Fruit-Dove** on a roadside wire!), **White (Umbrella) Cockatoo**, a confiding **North Moluccan Pitta**, and an unusually obliging **Dusky Scrubfowl** foraging indifferently just meters away from us. Daily sightings of impressive **Blyth's (Papuan) Hornbills** were not to be scoffed at either. While the trip clearly went very well in terms of birds, the pace of deforestation was particularly noticeable on this trip that has increased substantially from just a few years ago, suggesting potential visitors should go sooner rather than later to this amazingly endemic-rich brace of islands.

TOP FIVE BIRDS OF THE TOUR (SULAWESI and HALMAHERA):

- 1 **Standardwing Bird-of-Paradise (Wallace's Standarwing)** Weda, HALMAHERA
- 2 **Knobbed Hornbill** Tangkoko, SULAWESI
- 3 **Moluccan Scrubfowl** Galela, HALMAHERA
- 4 **Maleo** Tambun, Dumoga-Bone SULAWESI
- 5= **Sulawesi (Sahul) Pitta** Tangkoko, SULAWESI
- 5= **Sulawesi Dwarf-Kingfisher** Tangkoko and Toraut, Dumoga Bone, SULAWESI

TOUR SUMMARY: SULAWESI

Top Five Birds of SULAWESI:

- 1 **Sulawesi (Sahul) Pitta** *Tangkoko*
- 2= **Maleo** *Tambun, Dumoga-Bone*
- 2= **Knobbed Hornbill** *Tangkoko*
- 4= **Sulawesi Dwarf-Kingfisher** *Tangkoko and Toraut, Dumoga Bone*
- 4= **Red-backed (Rusty-backed) Thrush** *Tangkoko*

Karaenta Forest and Makassar Fishponds, SULAWESI

The tour opened in South Sulawesi, in the island's largest city, *Makassar*. A morning was spent in the limestone hills of *Karaenta Forest* an hour out of the city, followed by an afternoon at the local fishponds. In the forest, we quickly found one of the scarcer residents, a very cooperative **Black-headed (Green-backed) Kingfisher** (right *Frank Gilliland*), along with our only **Piping Crows** of the tour. An endemic mammal, **Moore Macaque** was also seen there. **Black-ringed White-eye**, which is confined to the south of the island, was also found at the site, as were raucous **Sulawesi (Dwarf) Hornbills**, a very popular **Ashy Woodpecker** (below, *Frank Gilliland*), and a nearby park gave us our first **White-shouldered (Lesseur's) Trillers**.

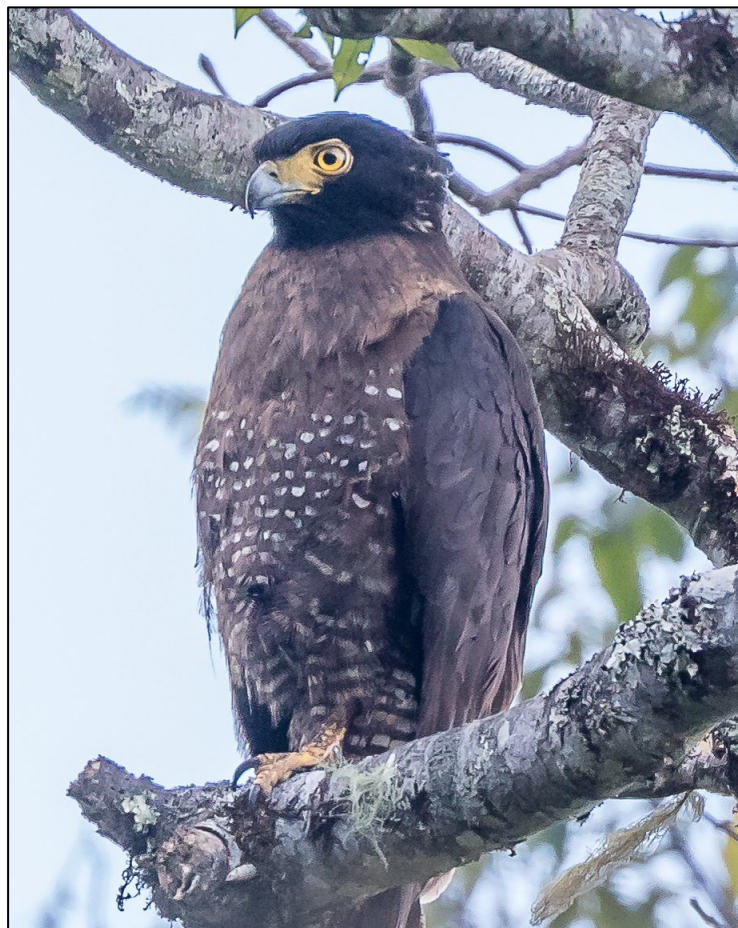


In the afternoon, many of the fishponds were largely devoid of wading birds, but we still located half a dozen **Javan Plovers** all the same. **Lesser Frigatebird** was also seen passing over, and **Australian Reed-Warblers** sung from every patch of mangrove and reeds. Finally, we found a pond in decent condition, and quickly racked up **Curlew and Marsh Sandpipers** and **Long-toed and Red-necked Stints**, while nearby ponds yielded **Little Tern, Yellow Bittern**, and a brief **White-browed Crake**.

Settling in behind some abandoned warehouses, we waited for dusk, and saw a steady stream of *munias* heading to roost while doing so, which included a few **Pale-headed Munias**. Once dusk arrived, so too did the calls of **Savanna Nightjars**, which were then picked up in flight.

Lore Lindu (and the Sedoa Valley), SULAWESI

After taking a flight out of South Sulawesi into *Palu* in the center of this spider-shaped island, we traveled to *Lore Lindu*, where four nights were spent at a simple guesthouse in the town of *Wuasa*. The first day in *Lore Lindu*, was a classic, with a surge of endemics coming at this site that covers different elevations and therefore brought us the most diverse list of birds of any site on the island. The day opened poorly, with an uncooperative *Cinnabar Boobook*, but once dawn broke birds came in thick-and-fast, mixed flocks held vociferous **Malias**, along with **Yellow-billed (Sulawesi) Malkoha**, **Indigo (Warbling) Flycatchers**, **Sulphur-bellied (vented) Whistler**, **Pygmy (Mountain Cicadabird)** and **Cerulean Cuckooshrikes** (next page, **Frank Gilliland**), **Rusty-bellied (Sulawesi) Fantails**, **Sulawesi Leaf Warblers**, **Citrine-Canary-Flycatchers**, and **Sulawesi Myzomela**. Many of these were seen repeatedly in the following days too. A **Sulawesi Thrush** was also noticed in the flock by our local guide, *Lito*, but was only later seen well once it started singing within the understorey. It was not long before the first of many **Fiery-browed Mynas** was seen there, one of the most attractive (and abundant) highland endemics.



Having taken in the rush of birds moving within flocks our first morning then focused on some forest interior species that are notoriously difficult to observe well. This was quickly proven, with a no show from a calling *Scaly-breasted (Scaly) Kingfisher*, but then we were very fortunate to get cracking looks at both a **Great Shortwing (Heinrichia)** and **Maroon-backed Whistler** in quick succession, something you can never expect. Checking around *Lake Taming* itself, we soon found some of noisy **Yellow-and-green (Meyer's) Lorikeets** making their presence known, and while searching for them our first **Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle** cruised over the canopy. Moving towards our lodging for lunch, we made a late morning stop at the head of the *Sedoa Valley*, which ended up being a marvelous raptor spot for us over the days we were there, producing superb long perched views of **Sulawesi Serpent-Eagle** (above, **Susan Gilliland**) and **Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle**, but also good flight views of **Barred Honey-Buzzard**, **Rufous-bellied Eagle**, and **Black Eagles** that skimmed the treetops. The valley also brought us **Red-eared Fruit-Dove** (an "ugly" juvenile was also seen at a nest inside the park), **Sulawesi Cicadabird**, **Sulawesi Blue (Jungle) Flycatcher**, and (after quite a pursuit on our final visit there), a trio of **Sulawesi (Crested) Mynas** at a time when a group of seven **Ivory-backed Woodswallows** were also around. An endemic mammal, **Tonkean Macaque** (page 6, **Frank Gilliland**) was also seen in that area, and our first **Streak-headed Dark-eye** also featured too.

Our first evening night birding session turned out better than we could have hoped for, with a pair of **Eastern Grass Owls** cruising some paddies, and then both **Sulawesi Scops-Owl** and **Speckled Boobook** seen a few trees apart from each other in a plantation, all within a 90-minute spell.



A single day was spent hiking the infamous *Anaso Track*, where highlights were roosting **Diabolical (Satanic) Nightjars** (page 1) huddled shoulder-to-shoulder as if it was anything but a warm sunny day, some low flying **Golden-mantled Racquetails**, and a couple of **Gray-headed Imperial-Pigeons** perched in stunted trees at the top. A handful of **White-eared Myzas (Greater Sulawesi Honeyeater)** were sprinkled along the upper section, and a single **Hylocitrea** was finally located after lunch that was the main goal on this hike. On the walk back down, we memorably watched a **Purple-bearded Bee-eater** sat in fantastic light, which provided a significant upgrade to our earlier views. Around *Lake Taming* over the final days we managed to find a calling **Spot-tailed Goshawk**, Wade and Theo enjoyed perched views of a **Vinous-breasted Sparrowhawk**, the vastly underrated **White-bellied Imperial-Pigeon** sat out in full glorious view, showing what a handsome pigeon it actually is; **Dark-eared Myzas** were seen plundering the roadside flowers alongside the road, a couple of **Crimson-crowned Flowerpeckers** were also noted, and several **Chestnut-backed Bush-Warblers (Grasshopper-Warblers)** were seen after much effort with this notoriously inconspicuous species. The striking **Ashy Woodpecker**, a gaudy golden-yellow **Black-naped Oriole**, and several blood-eyed **Sulawesi Drongos** were also seen in this area of the park. However, Theo can lay claim to the best find on Sulawesi, when he spotted the extremely rarely seen **Sulawesi Hawk-Cuckoo** (above, Susan Gilliland) sitting out in in the early morning sun, a species that is usually only heard calling in the distance in the darkness of pre-dawn.



Palu, SULAWESI

During our journey back to *Palu* from *Lore Lindu*, we stopped off during an unexpected rainy spell beside the *Olobogu River* to search for some open country species. Our main hope, **Red-backed Buttonquail** was seen several times by moving through the scrub, and was seen by all. While searching for buttonquails we also inadvertently came upon some roosting **Savanna Nightjars**, some of which took to the air before we knew they were there, while others remained on the ground in full view. With rain plaguing us a little, after seeing these and some **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters**, we headed to *Palu* for the night.

Tangkoko, SULAWESI

This lowland reserve on the *Minahassa Peninsula of North Sulawesi* was as brilliant as ever; our first afternoon yielded **Purple-winged (Sulawesi) Roller** (page 11, Susan Gilliland), a frozen still **Green-backed Kingfisher**, a pair of **White-necked Mynas**, a trio of roosting **Ochre-bellied Boobooks**, an **Isabelline Bush-hen** prowling the trail, and closed with a **Sulawesi Nightjar** gliding overhead several times. Two full days were spent in the reserve and its surroundings, and with the aid of two excellent local guides, *Mensur* and *Samuel*, we hit almost all of our targets. The opening morning of our first full day was unforgettable and arguably one of the most popular of the entire tour; it opened with a statuesque **Lilac-cheeked Kingfisher** (next page), and continued with us watching a **Rusty-backed (Red-backed) Thrush** (page 11) foraging unconcernedly nearby, before the headline act of the morning, a superlative performance by a **Sulawesi (Sahul) Pitta** that hopped on and off a perfectly-positioned fallen tree in front of us all.



The last part of the same morning was initially frustrating, with our searches for **Sulawesi Dwarf-Kingfisher** (page 2) initially coming up empty-handed, until finally, *Mensur's* tireless efforts paid off with some beautiful looks at one of the island's most-wanted kingfishers. Seven species of kingfisher were seen in the *Tangkoko* area alone. Other avian results from walking within the forest also comprised **White-faced Cuckoo-Dove** (**Black Sulawesi Pigeon**), our only sighting of **Yellow-breasted** (**Minahasa**)



Racquet-tail, **Bay Coucal** slinking through a vine tangle, a few **Pale-blue Monarchs**, and several spiffing **Black-naped Fruit-Doves**. *Tangkoko* was also where we got our first looks at a **Barred Rail** stalking in the open. The traditional highlights in *Tangkoko* are usually *mammalian* too, and this year was no different; seeing a **Sulawesi Bear-Cuscus** hanging by its prehensile tail in the treetops, watching a **Gursky's (Spectral) Tarsier** (next page) clamped to the side of its daytime resting hollow, and walking within a large troop of **Celebes Crested Macaques** (page before, *Susan Gilliland*) were all memorable experiences too that complimented our time with the birds there.



A private boat ride was taken into a mangrove-lined channel one afternoon, which, did (eventually) yield the **Great-billed (Black-billed) Kingfisher** for all, after a marathon chase for one of the boats was required to do so. The **White-rumped Cuckooshrikes** in the same area were easier going, thankfully.

Finally, we also visited a lookout to view the forest canopy, where *parrots* and *pigeons* typically abound. They were not as numerous as hoped, but two visits to the site still produced plenty, like dozens of noisy, excitable **Finch-billed (Grosbeak) Mynas**, a dashing party of perched **Ornate Lorikeets**, **Green and Silver-tipped Imperial-Pigeons**, **Gray-cheeked (Green) Pigeons**, **Sulawesi Triller**, and close perched views of both **Large (Sulawesi) and Pygmy (Small Sulawesi) Hanging-Parrot**. However, the close **Knobbed Hornbill** (above, *Frank Gilliland*) will be best remembered from there.



While this tour is not especially rich in mammals, the few it has are very special indeed. **Tangkoko** can rightly claim to be both the *mammal* and *kingfisher* capital of Sulawesi!

Several daytime **Gursky's (Spectral) Tarsiers** were seen in the reserve. The species is largely nocturnal.

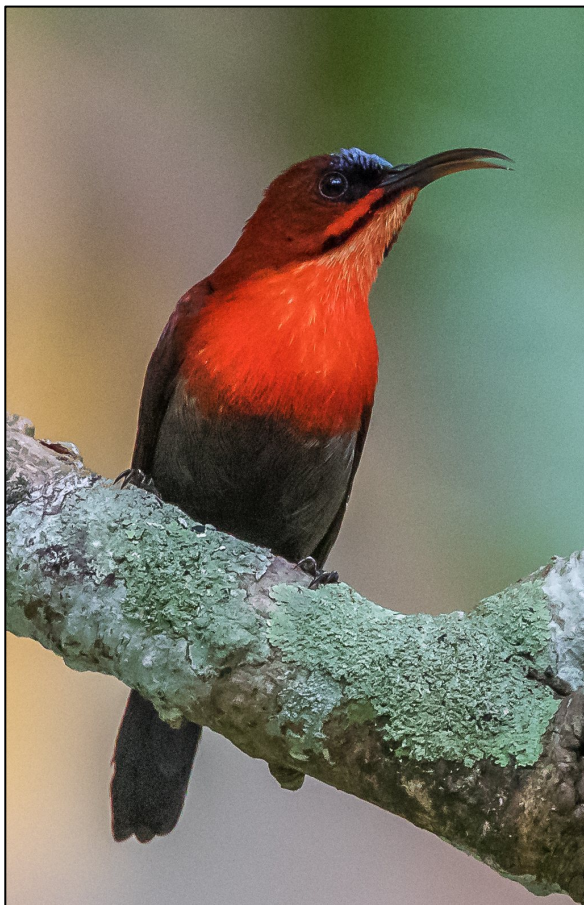


Dumoga-Bone, SULAWESI

After several days in *Tangkoko*, we remained on the same northern arm of Sulawesi, but traveled southwest to the town of *Kotomobagu* for a three-night stay. Over the following two days we visited three well-separated areas of the fragmented park of *Dumoga-Bone* (also known under the rather unwieldy name of *Bogani Nani Wartabone*). Naturally, we started out at the most revered part of the park, *Tambun*, where Sulawesi's most-celebrated species, the odd *Maleo* can be found. Our morning there was successful in that we quickly found, (and enjoyed long lasting looks), of a **Maroon-chinned (Oberholser's) Fruit-Dove**, as well as another **Ivory-backed Woodswallow** and **White-necked Myna**. **Spotted Harrier** was



also seen quartering some rice paddies nearby. However, crucially, the *Maleo* remained unseen. We returned in the afternoon, (arguably the best time to find them), as they often come into roost in the trees around their laying grounds.



Walking this area for some time yielded nothing until Theo noticed a **Barred Buttonquail** creeping out into the open, and then Sam's phone rang, when Max, (the local ranger) informed us to backtrack; he had a nervy **Maleo** (above **Susan Gilliland**) sitting in a tree! We tried desperately not to make too much noise as we crunched our way through the dry leaves in a panic to make our way the short distance to where it was. On arrival, this rose-breasted megapode looked extremely nervous, bobbing its head this way and that, but fortunately it soon settled down, and remained on the branch in full view of us for as long as we wanted, and we left the site in high spirits soon after having witnessed one of the best birds of the tour.

Two other areas of the park were also visited, starting with *Toraut*, where a short raft ride took us to a forest patch where we found a vocal pair of **Pied Cuckooshrikes** and another gorgeous **Sulawesi Dwarf-Kingfisher** during just a brief visit. Lastly, we birded the undulating *Molibagu Road*. **Knobbed and Sulawesi Hornbills** both featured along there, as did a number of **Gray-rumped Treeswifts** that cut through the skies overhead, before habitually returning to their routine perches. We had hoped to track down *Ruddy Kingfisher*, but the only notable kingfisher seen was another **Lilac-cheeked (Sulawesi Lilac) Kingfisher!** Our main hope for our time there however, was to find one of the endemic *accipiters*, most notably **Sulawesi Goshawk**, for which this road is arguably one of the best spots on the tour for. Later in the

morning, a shape perched high in the forest proved to be just that, and we happily spent some time observing it through the 'scope before it finally took off, and was quickly consumed by the forest. We also found a distant **Jerdon's Baza**, which we would have liked better views of, before it took off too. Other highpoints along this road included another **White-faced Cuckoo-Dove (Sulawesi Black Pigeon)**, a scorching red **Crimson Sunbird** (page before Frank Gilliland), and only our second (and final) sighting of **Gray-headed Imperial-Pigeon**. We also checked a small pond near *Kotomobagu* on one of the return journeys to that city, and found **Dusky and Common Moorhens** side by side, in addition to **Wandering Whistling-Ducks** and **Sunda Teal**. On several evenings we tried a local spot in the city for the *Sulawesi Masked Owl*, but left without the owl on each occasion, which left us to decide to leave very early for our time at *Gunung Ambang* to try and correct for this...

Gunung Ambang, SULAWESI

After leaving *Kotomobagu* in the very early hours of the morning, we traveled to the mountain of *Gunung Ambang*. Not only is the mountain on the itinerary for a very local flycatcher, which we would be our target after the coming of daylight; we were also interested in getting there while darkness was still dominant, to search for two endemic owls that had so far eluded us on multiple occasions: *Cinnabar Boobook* and *Sulawesi Masked Owl*. *Ambang* offered us our final attempt at seeing these, so tensions were high, and it did not take much to persuade people to leave their beds super early to look for them! On reaching the site, we initially walked passed onion fields in order to reach the forest edge. Once near the edge the calls of **Sulawesi Masked Owl** were heard, and after some false dawns, we finally had one teed up on an open branch, bringing massive relief to us all. We then moved *inside* the forest for our other owl, which has some very specific spots at which it resides. The **Cinnabar Boobook**, was first described from this forest, but our initial attempts fell on deaf ears with birds remaining silent. Then, finally, we got a reaction, and a bird was close, giving some looks but others not, so several of us were encouraged to go off trail and up a steep slope to try and get a better position from which to see it. This considerable effort finally paid dividends when a close bird was seen close and well just a short time before dawn. Two owls more than justified our early start, but once daylight came, we changed focus. First, we took some egg fried rice for breakfast in the field, which had been conveniently brought to us, and then we set off up the trail in pursuit of the area's most infamous bird, the **Matinan Flycatcher** (juvenile above, Frank Gilliland). After brief views on the way up, we were only fully satisfied once we located an adult and juvenile on the way down. Other morning highlights at this site (before we departed for *Tomohon*), were **Malia, Sulawesi (Spangled) Drongo**, and **Sulawesi Leaf Warbler** and lots of **Collared Kingfishers** around the agricultural areas at the trailhead. Unfortunately, a close-calling *Vinous-breasted Sparrowhawk* just could not be found.



Gunung Mahawu (Tomohon), Lake Tondano and Manado SULAWESI

A single morning was planned on this mountain close to *Manado*, in order to have a final chance at **Scaly-breasted (Scaly) Kingfisher**, for which this is arguably the best site. In some years, we have arrived at this point with the kingfisher already in the bag, and little to look for. However, this was not the case this year; we had heard the species at both *Lore Lindu* and *Gunung Ambang*, and even glimpsed dark shapes at the former site at dawn. Thus, by this point our perspective of the kingfisher was somewhat adversarial! Shortly after dawn we arrived on the forested slopes, and Sam walked into some gullies where we had seen it the previous tour. The second gully reaped rewards, with a bird shooting in silently and landing beside him. There was just the small matter of getting everyone else into the gully to see it. Thankfully, the kingfisher was calm and allowed us all to hike into the gully to see it at length. As well as birds like **Citrine Canary-Flycatcher**, **Mountain Tailorbird (Leaf-toiler)**, **Sulawesi Myzomela**, and **Yellow-sided Flowerpecker**, we also walked up to look down on the volcanic crater for which the site attracts “normal” tourists to.

With time to spare after finding the *Scaly-breasted (Scaly) Kingfisher* so early, we visited nearby *Lake Tondano* seeing lots of **White-browed Crakes** and **Javan Pond-Herons**, **Lesser Coucal**, **Black-backed (Sunda/Purple) Swamphen**, **Dusky Moorhen**, and **Black-faced, Chestnut and Scaly-bellied Munias**. In the afternoon, we arrived in the city of *Manado*, and checked into a hotel overlooking the *Bunaken Island* in the *Celebes Sea*. A short period of relaxed birding in the afternoon on their mangrove boardwalk produced **Rufous (Nankeen) Night-Heron**, **Pied Imperial-Pigeon**, **Pink-necked Green Pigeon**, **Greater and Lesser Sandplovers**, and a final pair of **White-rumped Cuckooshrikes**.

Photo right: **White-bellied Imperial-Pigeon** from earlier on the tour (**Frank Gilliland**)



TOUR SUMMARY: HALMAHERA

Top Five Birds of HALMAHERA:

- 1 **Standardwing Bird-of-Paradise (Wallace's Standardwing)** *Weda*
- 2= **North Moluccan (Variable) Dwarf-Kingfisher** *Weda*
- 2= **Common Paradise-Kingfisher** *Bukit Limber*
- 4 **Moluccan Scrubfowl** *Galela*
- 5 **Moluccan King-Parrot** *Bukit Limber*



The **Moluccan Scrubfowl** is an odd member of the megapode family, which unlike most in that family comes to beaches at *night* to lay its eggs, which was where this photo was taken very late one night in Halmahera!

Galela, HALMAHERA

We arrived on *Halmahera* via a *Manado-Ternate* flight (*Ternate* was made famous as the island from where Alfred Russel Wallace wrote to Charles Darwin on his own theories on evolution), and then a speedboat ride from the latter island. The drive north to *Tobelo*, where we would spend a single, abbreviated, night, was largely uneventful; although a short stop near *Sidangoli* in the heat of the early afternoon did manage to squeeze **Rainbow Bee-eater**, **Cream-throated (Halmahera) White-eye**, **Black-chinned (Moluccan) Whistler** (below Frank Gilliland), and **Moluccan (Slaty) Flycatcher** out of this difficult time of day. The remainder of the long journey north was largely uneventful, save for another Moluccan specialty, a roadside **Blue-and-white Kingfisher**. After dinner, we made our way to *Galela*, with bouts of rain making all of us very edgy about our chances at our main quarry – **Moluccan Scrubfowl** (page 15). This *megapode* is unique among the family in laying its eggs *at night*. Our uneasiness came from the fact that local guides often state that the bird is most reliable during *moonlit* nights; thus, rainy spells and a moon regularly concealed by cloud is not what we had hoped for! However, the rain eased as we arrived, and our scrubfowl guide seemed relaxed about our chances, and so we quickly made our way to the beach. Our first searches were incredibly frustrating, with our guide getting only glimpses of restless birds that took off well before we could see them. However, perseverance eventually paid off with a single bird stood froze on the beach in in the spotlight, which we scoped at length. Furthermore, while the first boat returned part of the group back to the dock, the rest of us managed to locate a second bird that allowed us to approach closely. Once we were all reunited back at the original dock (following a short wade in shallow waters due to a very low tide), we called in one of the local **Moluccan Scops-Owls** to finish off this very late night in style. We got back to hotel at around 1am!



Tobelo to Weda Resort, HALMAHERA

After a lie in, *post-Scrubfowl*, we set off for the long journey south to *Weda Resort*, spending some time birding along the way. The first part of the journey through palms and parallel to coastlines produced little aside from a **Long-billed Crow** perched high in the trees. Our main success came when we moved into the patchy forests of the highlands close to *Weda*. Sadly, deforestation continues here apace, but in spite of this and some rather noisy roadworks, we did put a decent dent in our endemic target list. Finding a fruiting tree in the highlands led us to our first **Blue-capped and Gray-headed Fruit-Doves**, although our views were to be considerably upgraded of these species in the following days. One or two **Moluccan Hanging-Parrots** were also scoped in the same area. One of few **Spectacled (Moluccan) Imperial-Pigeons** seen was also found in the same area, as was our first **Halmahera Golden Bulbul**, a **Common (Wallacean) Cicadabird**, the striking **Rufous-bellied Triller**, and a **White-streaked (Halmahera) Friarbird** foraging low down. The journey also produced the first of many **Blyth's Hornbills**, which were to regularly accompany our birding pursuits in the coming days. We also notched up our first **Sombre Kingfisher** (*below*) our second new kingfisher (*also on a roadside wire*) in as many days on the island. However, all was not well with our kingfisher pursuits, with our overtures for *Beach Kingfishers* failing.



After our first delicious dinner in the wonderful surrounds of *Weda Resort*, perched on the edge of *Weda Bay*, we set out for another of Halmahera's special nightbirds. Entering an area of mangroves, we played the "maniacal cry" of the **Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar** (*next page*) and soon got a response. Not long after the bird sounded really close, and we soon found this odd nocturnal creature perched above us, where it remained for at least 30 minutes, once we'd left with plenty of photos and memories to show for it!



Weda, HALMAHERA

The first day out of *Weda Resort* is always a spine-tingling affair, with a veritable treasure trove of birds in the offing. Some people in the group had opted out of our first **owlet-nightjar** search the evening before, and so were relieved when we managed to find one on our way into what would be the highlight of the entire tour – the display site of the **Standardwing Bird-of-paradise (Wallace's Standardwing)**, photo next page (Susan Gilliland). Even before we had reached the display site, a mere twenty-minute walk from the road, the loud, strident calls of the birds-of-paradise could be heard from some distance, and certainly for the adrenalin pumping. The adrenalin remained after we arrived though, as the males were in an almost fevered state, as there were also some females present (who did not visit every day), and so they were excited and displaying often, with their glistening green “cravats” raised. Although views are good every year, and they are always seen displaying, this was an especially long and excited period of activity compared with some visits and, it came as no surprise when this marquee species was named as the **Top Bird of the Tour**. A nesting **Common Paradise-Kingfisher** in the same area slipped in and out before most people even realized it was there, and did not return. Other than that, our time in the forest interior was a little disappointing, so we moved out to the road, where we soon found our first **Cinnamon-bellied Imperial-Pigeon**, and then quickly lured in a **Great Cuckoo-Dove** for extended views, before the cries of a nearby **Moluccan (Halmahera) Goshawk** reached our ears. It called for while we called back at it, and then suddenly it landed on a roadside branch in view of all. We continued along the road once the hawk had moved on, and soon heard another quality Moluccan bird, **Scarlet-breasted Fruit-Dove**. We went inside to see it, disturbing an **Azure Kingfisher** as we did so. Further walks along the road led us to see an adult Halmahera Flowerpecker feeding a recently fledged youngster. Other highpoints of our days in the *Weda* area included seeing an absurdly passive **Dusky Scrubfowl** that foraged in front of us all for some time.

On our second night out of *Weda* we went straight after our third key night bird on Halmahera. As dusk descended a **Large-tailed Nightjar** was seen in the air and was an addition to our list, but this was not our target species. That took a little longer to show any interest, and after pushing our way through the forest edge we were able to get clear looks at a calling **Halmahera (Moluccan) Boobook**. However, all of our attempts for *Barking Owl* around *Weda* ended without any barks being heard. Other worthy avian mentions around *Weda* included perched **Variable (Varied) Goshawk**, one of six new raptors added on the island of Halmahera; perched **Chattering Lory** and flying **Violet-necked Lories**, **Moluccan** and **Halmahera Cuckooshrikes**, **White-naped Monarch**, **(Halmahera) Spangled Drongo**, **Moluccan Starling**,



and regular sightings of giant **Blyth's Hornbills**. A special mention should be made of **Ivory-breasted Pitta**; we tried very hard to get satisfactory looks for all, but in reality only some got those in spite of multiple brief sightings. The individuals just never gave us the performance we craved. Some had this pitta on their top five birds on *Halmahera*, but for most they were disappointed with the results with this species. This was the only real frustration of the entire tour. One of the most treasured

sightings in *Weda* was our observations of a neat **North Moluccan (Variable) Dwarf-Kingfisher**, (left Susan Gilliland) which gave blistering views as it sat whistling to us in the understorey.



Our time also included several forays into the highlands, where undoubtedly the most important bird we found was a deep purple **Azure Roller (Purple Dollarbird)** sat out in the open in the late afternoon. The same area also brought us satisfying looks at some perched **White (Umbrella) Cockatoos**, one of which even raised its namesake umbrella (next page, Frank).

While we'd seen some beautiful bright emerald male **Eclectus Parrots** (below, Susan Gilliland) lower in *Weda*, the scarlet-and-blue female that lingered low in a tall tree was the one that will best be remembered by the group. Large flocks of **Halmahera Swiftlets** were also seen circling a large fruit-bearing tree up there and afforded good views, and a **Halmahera (Dusky-brown) Oriole** was the only one seen.

Bukit Limber, HALMAHERA

Bukit Limber is a fantastic site, a 90-minute drive from *Weda Resort*, which allows access to some higher elevation forest and a handful of key species associated with that. Currently, the nearside of the hill, (where the birding has thus far focused) still comprises intact, verdant forest. While the hill is not especially high, (even at the ridgetop it only tops out around 1000m/3280ft), this little extra elevation is all



that is needed to offer up species like *Moluccan King-Parrot*, *Island (North Moluccan) Leaf Warbler* and *Rufous (Gilolo) Fantail*, all of which are simply not possible any closer to the resort. We enjoyed a superb day there, even if our early attempts at most of our target species yielded little. We slowly drive up the hill, with eyes to the skies for *king-parrots*. However, by the time we reached the highest point none had been seen by anyone except some jet-propelled ones for our eagle-eyed local guide only. (A pair of **Scarlet-breasted Fruit-Doves** had been found plundering a fruiting tree alone, and the first of a handful of **Dusky (Sultan's) Myzomelas** were seen too). We took to walking around instead, and this brought better results; we soon located the first of several energetic **Rufous (Gilolo) Fantails** that broke the deadlock. Also, near the highest point of the hill we also heard and saw the first of several **Island (North Moluccan) Leaf Warblers**, a surefire future endemic species. In general, the birding was slow, with only bouts of activity, but the bouts were very memorable indeed. Walking the ridgetop, we finally locked on to the first of around eight different **Moluccan King-Parrots**. These bright scarlet parrots were seen so well, quietly foraging in the trees, bringing such pleasing views that they quickly entered onto the *Top Five Birds of Halmahera* list soon after. As mid-morning approached late morning, we admired one king-parrot after another (and some local pitcher plants), and then came upon a rich area for *cuckooshrikes*. **Common (Wallacean) Cicadabird** was in evidence, as were a few **Halmahera (Cicadabirds) Cuckooshrikes**.



However, it was the brutish *cuckooshrike* that appeared last that we treasured the most; a pair of **Stout-billed Cuckooshrikes** (left) appeared suddenly, then lingered in the area and allowed us to reel off a series of photos. The species was not even known to occur on the island of Halmahera until a few years ago, when it was discovered at this very site. Other notable birds seen late in the morning included our very first **Spectacled (Wallacean/Moluccan) Monarch** and black-sheened **Shining Flycatchers (Monarchs)**. Lunch at a lookout was disappointing on two fronts – no raptors were noted as hoped, and we could see a hillside recently cleared of forest due to a mine having recently begun operations. The food from the resort was genuinely delicious though!

After lunch, we spent quite some time walking gradually downhill, struggling to see any birds at all during the worst, and hottest period of the day. However, we waited out this time, and a bumper spell came to us later in the day, rewarding our patience. As we drove down one section of the road the vehicles were brought to standstill when a dark shape was noticed in the trees overhead, **Gurney's Eagle** (next page)! Just as we getting this bird in focus up came another raptor with an **Oriental Hobby** that darted overhead, then suddenly reappeared on a branch by the roadside. We had been mourning the lack of raptors, but this quickly came to a halt with this moment of magic. As if that was not enough, Frank later pointed out a **Pygmy Eagle** cruising slowly overhead to top off a great day for raptors after all. **Common Paradise-Kingfishers** had been heard and even glimpsed by some beforehand, but it was not until this afternoon that we properly laid that bird to rest, when a long scope view was achieved following quite the run around. This species, like the *king-parrot*, then also entered on to the Top Five Birds of Halmahera. The same area that held the kingfisher also produced the well-named **Drab Whistler**, which may not be particularly striking, but the behavior of this one was. Normally, a dull dweller of the canopy, on playing back to the bird, we were shocked to see a small songbird appear suddenly in the grass, about one foot off the ground beside us, which turned out to be a very out-of-place whistler! Also, on the way down we found another fruiting tree attracting many **Gray-headed Fruit-Doves**. One of the final highlights of the day was another species acting strangely, when a **Blue-capped Fruit-Dove** (next page) was seen perched on a roadside wire. The very last stop was for a large bird that had been glimpsed from the moving vehicle. After quite some searching, we finally located a massive **Goliath Coucal** perched out in full view, a bird that is as impressive as its name suggests.



Weda to Sofifi, HALMAHERA; to Ternate

After almost three weeks on the road, constantly adding endemic species, the tour end loomed. On our final birding day, we spent last final time around *Weda*, before taking a final tasty lunch in *Weda Resort*, and then departing for the dock on *Sofifi*, where we would take a speedboat back to the island of *Ternate* for the night. Of course, this final session was a combination of upgrading views that had so far frustrated us, and adding some final new species in the closing throes of the tour. The best example of an advancement was our early results with a calling **North Moluccan Pitta**; finally, this individual behaved how we'd hoped they would before, hopping onto a branch in view of all, and remaining in view of the whole group for some time. Another standout of the morning was another view of **North Moluccan Kingfisher**, to the relief of Wade who been forced to be absent through illness for the earlier sighting. Other repeats that were seen included Moluccan Flycatchers (Monarch), Spectacled (Wallacean/Moluccan) Monarch, White-bellied Cuckooshrike, Eclectus Parrot, Halmahera Swiftlet, Rufous-bellied Triller and Drab Whistler. (Australian) Brush Cuckoo was a late addition to the list during the morning too.

After lunch we loaded up, bid farewell to our resort overlooking *Weda Bay*, and drove towards *Sofifi* to get a boat off the island. On this journey we managed a few final birds to, like a Gurney's Eagle in flight, and a flyby from an Oriental Hobby. However, the clear winner of the most significant species on this journey was the addition of one final (and 16th) kingfisher species, with a pair of **Beach Kingfishers** (below, **Frank Gilliland**) in the mangroves on the journey. A final look at some **Red-flanked Lorikeets** frantically feeding in a Sago tree was the final notable sighting of the tour, just before we boarded the boat to Ternate, a ride that brought some **Bulwer's Petrel** on the crossing too.

Our last night in the Spice Islands, in a modern business hotel, gave us time to reflect on what had been an amazing tour, with over 270 bird species recorded, and nearly 130 endemic ones among them. Most notably were some stunning species littered across the list from birds-of-paradise to pittas, parrots to kingfishers, and owls and hornbills, this really is a remarkable land that in the words of Wallace (Alfred Russel Wallace) "possesses a number of animals peculiar to itself".





Blyth's Hornbill and Cream-throated (Halmahera) White-eye (Frank Gilliland)





Celebes (Sulawesi) Crested Macaques allowed us to walk amongst them in **Tangkoko**

BIRD & MAMMAL LISTS:**BIRDS**

The taxonomy of the bird list follows: **Clements, James F., White, Anthony W., and Fitzpatrick, John W.** *The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World*. Cornell, 2007.

This list is up to date with the major changes published by Cornell up until August 2018.

As there are many alternative names among authors for some species-subspecies now I have included these here too for clarity.

IOC refers to the International Ornithological Congress checklist

BIA refers to the new *Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago field guide (2016)* by Eaton et al., which uses some markedly different names and taxonomy, and needs to be referred to here as this is the current standard field guide for the region.

HBW refers to the *Handbook of the Birds of the World*

H denotes a species that was HEARD, but not seen.

GO denotes a species that was seen by the GUIDE ONLY.

EXT denotes a bird that was ONLY recorded on the Moluccas Extension (i.e. in Halmahera/Ternate).

ME refers to all possible endemics to Moluccas (authors currently differ greatly on taxonomy).

SE refers to all possible endemics to Sulawesi subregion (authors currently differ on taxonomy).

DUCKS, GEESE and WATERFOWL: ANATIDAE

Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*: Seen at Tambun and near Kotomobaguon Sulawesi.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*: Around ten birds were seen in flight near Wuasa.

Sunda Teal *Anas gibberifrons*: Recorded at three sites on Sulawesi; Makassar, Tambun

MEGAPODES: MEGAPODIIDAE

Maleo *Macrocephalon maleo* **SE**: A wonderfully cooperative bird was seen sitting in a tree late one afternoon in Tambun, Dumoga-Bone NP. Voted as ONE OF THE TOP FIVE BIRDS OF THE TOUR.

Moluccan Scrubfowl *Megapodius wallacei* **EXT**: Three different birds were seen on the beach at Galela.

One was seen down to about 25 feet. Voted as ONE OF THE TOP FIVE BIRDS OF THE TOUR.

Tabon Scrubfowl *Megapodius cumingii*: Twice seen in Tangkoko, where one foraging bird allowed us to scope it.

Dusky Scrubfowl *Megapodius freycinet* **EXT**: Extreme close ups were had of a foraging bird near Weda.

PIGEONS & DOVES: COLUMBIDAE

Rock Pigeon (Domestic Pigeon) *Columba livia*: Scattered sightings around urban areas.

Red Collared- (Turtle) Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*: A few were seen in both South and North Sulawesi.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*: Scattered sightings throughout Sulawesi.

Sultan's (Sulawesi) Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia doreya albicapilla* **SE**: Recorded regularly on Sulawesi, especially at Lore Lindu where up to 30 were in a day. BIA split this endemic island form as **Sulawesi Cuckoo-Dove, *M. albicapilla***.

Sultan's Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia doreya albiceps* **EXT**: Several were seen around Weda, Halmahera.

This form retains this name in the Eaton guide, and is found into New Guinea.

Great Cuckoo-Dove *Reinwardtoena reinwardtii* **EXT**: Excellent views of a responsive bird near Weda.

White-faced Cuckoo-Dove (Sulawesi Black Pigeon) *Turacoena manadensis* **SE**: Seen twice in North Sulawesi.

Asian Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* **EXT GO**: One was seen by Sam on Halmahera.

*This has recently been split from Australasian forms, but named differently as **Common/Gray-capped Emerald Dove**.*

Stephan's (Emerald) Dove *Chalacophaps stephani*: One was seen in flight by a few in Tambun, Dumoga-Bone.
Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata*: Just a couple were seen in Sulawesi, including near Palu.
Nicobar Pigeon *Caloenas nicobarica* EXT GO: A brief flushed bird was seen by Sam only, near Weda.
Pink-necked (Green) Pigeon *Treron vernans*: A few were seen by one of the boats in the mangroves at Tangkoko.
Gray-cheeked (Green) Pigeon *Treron griseicauda*: Noted at Karenta, Tangkoko, and the Molibagu Road.
Red-eared Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus fischeri* SE: Recorded a handful of times around Lore Lindu and the Sedoa Valley.
Maroon-chinned (Oberholser's) Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus epla* SE: One gave prolonged views at Tambun, Dumoga-Bone. Split by all authors, but sometimes named as **Oberholser's Fruit-Dove**.
Scarlet-breasted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus bernsteinii* ME EXT: One near Weda, and another pair at Bukit Limber.
Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus temminckii*: Recorded regularly around Lore Lindu (Lake Taming), and in the nearby Sedoa Valley. This near endemic has been split in HBW as **Western Superb Fruit-Dove *P. temminckii***.
Blue-capped Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus monacha* ME EXT: Seen twice on Halmahera, including one on a roadside wire!
Gray-headed Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus hyogastrus* ME EXT: Up to ten were seen in a day on Halmahera.
Black-naped Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus melanospilus*: A few were found in Tangkoko, North Sulawesi.
White-bellied Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula forsteni* SE: This stunning pigeon was seen several times in Lore Lindu.
Gray-headed Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula radiata* SE: Seen only twice, on the Anaso Track and the Molibagu Road.
Green Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula aenea paulina*: Seen regularly around Tangkoko and Dumoga-Bone. The distinctive endemic Sulawesi race, with its rich rufous collar, is touted by some (BIA) as a possible future split.
Spectacled (Moluccan) Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula perspicillata* ME EXT: Seen several times around Weda.
Cinnamon-bellied Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula basilica* ME EXT: Just one seen perched, in the Weda area.
Pied Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula bicolor*: 30 or so were seen in Manado, and scattered sightings on Halmahera too.
Silver-tipped (White) Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula luctuosa* SE: Good numbers were seen from a lookout at Tangkoko.
Sombre Pigeon *Cryptophaps poecilorrhoea* SE H: Heard several times on the Anaso Track, Lore Lindu.

CUCKOOS: CUCULIDAE

Bay Coucal *Centropus celebensis* SE: Observed only twice, once in Tangkoko and again in Dumoga-Bone.
Goliath Coucal *Centropus goliath* ME EXT: Two good views were had of this impressively big coucal on Halmahera.
Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*: A few were seen in Dumoga-Bone, and a better one at Lake Tondano.
Yellow-billed (Sulawesi) Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus calyorrhynchus* SE: Recorded in Lore Lindu and Tangkoko.
Black-billed Koel *Eudynamis melanorhynchus* SE: Seen in the Sedoa Valley, Tangkoko, and Tambun.
Little (Gould's) Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus russatus*: A few were seen in the Sedoa Valley.
Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus*: A calling bird was found near Tambun, Dumoga-Bone, Sulawesi.
Brush (Rusty-breasted) Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus virescens* SE: Seen near Lake Taming in Lore Lindu. This is split off from Brush Cuckoo, as **Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *C. sepulcralis***, by IOC, and further split off as a Sulawesi endemic in BIA, as **Sulawesi Brush Cuckoo, *C. virescens***.
(Australian) Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus infaustus* EXT: Seen once on Halmahera. This is split off as **Australian Brush Cuckoo, *C. variolosus*** in BIA, with its range extending to Australia.
Moluccan Drongo-Cuckoo *Surniculus musschenbroeki* H: One was heard along the Molibagu Road, Sulawesi. The field guide lumps this with other Asian forms (e.g. Fork-tailed and Philippine) as **Drongo Cuckoo *S. lugubris***.
Sulawesi (Hawk) Cuckoo *Cuculus crassirostris* SE: Shock of the trip; one seen well by all at Lake Taming!

NIGHTJARS & ALLIES: CAPRIMULGIDAE

Diabolical (Satanic) Nightjar *Eurostopodus diabolicus* SE: A close roosting pair was located on the Anaso Track.
Great Eared-Nightjar *Lyncornis macrotis*: A few were seen briefly, near Wuasa (Lore Lindu), Sulawesi.
Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus* EXT: One was seen at the Halmahera Boobook site on Halmahera.
Sulawesi Nightjar *Caprimulgus celebensis* SE: One was seen close in flight on our first night at Tangkoko.
Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis*: 2 were seen in Makassar, and another 10 were seen in daylight near Palu

OWLET-NIGHTJARS: AEGOTHELIDAE

Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar *Aegotheles crinifrons* ME EXT: Extremely good, long views were had at Weda Resort. Another was seen on the way to the Standardwing lek site early one morning.

SWIFTS: APODIDAE

Purple Needletail *Hirundapus celebensis*: 2 were seen just before dusk at the grass-owl site near Wuasa.
Glossy Swiftlet *Collocala esculenta*: Regularly recorded throughout on Sulawesi and Halmahera.

Sulawesi Swiftlet *Aerodramus sororum* SE: A single flock was seen hawking above Wuasa as we were leaving. Sometimes lumped with the next species as **Moluccan Swiftlet, *A. infuscatus*.**

Halmahera Swiftlet *Aerodramus infuscatus* ME EXT: Recorded on 4 days near Weda on Halmahera.

Uniform Swiftlet *Aerodramus vanikorensis*: Commonly recorded in the lowlands of Sulawesi especially..

House Swift *Apus nipalensis*: Just three were seen near Makassar in South Sulawesi.

Asian Palm-Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*: A couple were seen in Manado on Sulawesi.

TREESWIFTS: HEMIPROCNIIDAE

Gray-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocne longipennis*: Recorded on 4 days of the tour in Sulawesi.

Moustached Treeswift *Hemiprocne mystacea* EXT: Recorded near Weda, and also at Bukit Limber.

RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS: RALLIDAE

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*: Two were flushed at the grass owl site near Wuasa in Central Sulawesi.

Barred Rail *Gallirallus torquatus*: A few were observed close in Tangkoko.

Isabelline (Sulawesi) Bush-hen *Amaurornis isabellina* SE: Seen well on two different days at Tangkoko.

Rufous-tailed (Pale-vented) Bush-hen *Amaurornis moluccana* EXT: A few people saw one in the Weda highlands.

White-browed Crake *Porzana cinerea*: Seen in Makassar, Kotomobagu, and at least 10 at Lake Tondano.

Black-backed (Sunda/Purple) Swampphen *Porphyrio indicus*: A few were seen at Lake Tondano in North Sulawesi.

Eurasian (Common) Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*: Ten or so were seen near Kotomobagu in North Sulawesi.

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa*: A few were recorded at Kotomobagu and also at Lake Tondano.

STILTS & AVOCETS: RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Pied (White-headed) Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus*: Recorded at Makassar, Dumoga-Bone, and Lake Tondano.

This species is sometimes lumped as **Black-winged Stilt, *H. himantopus*.**

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS: CHARADRIIDAE

Lesser Sand-Plover *Charadrius mongolus*: A handful were seen at Makassar Fishponds, and also in Manado.

In the field guide this is split into two, as split as **Siberian and Tibetan Plovers**. Also known as **Mongolian Plover**.

Greater Sand-Plover *Charadrius leschenaultia*: Four were seen at our resort in Manado.

Javan Plover *Charadrius javanicus*: 7 or so were found at Makassar Fishponds (South Sulawesi).

SANDPIPERS & ALLIES: SCOLOPACIDAE

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*: Recorded at least 5 times on Sulawesi.

Gray-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes* At least 25 were seen at the Grand Luley Resort in Manado.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*: Just two were seen in Makassar (South Sulawesi).

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*: 3 were seen in Makassar.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*: Encountered regularly in rice paddies in Sulawesi, with 150 or so near Wuasa.

Common Redshank *Tringa tetanus*: Three birds were seen at Makassar fishponds, South Sulawesi

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*: Just one sighting at the Grand Luley Resort, Manado in Sulawesi.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*: At least ten birds were seen at Makassar Fishponds (South Sulawesi).

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*: A handful was seen at Makassar Fishponds (South Sulawesi).

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*: A dozen or so were seen at Makassar (South Sulawesi).

BUTTONQUAIL: TURNICIDAE

Red-backed Buttonquail *Turnix maculosus*: Four birds were flushed near Palu, Central Sulawesi.

Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator*: Theo found a wonderful bird at Tambun, Dumoga-Bone.

GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS: LARIDAE

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*: Regularly seen at Makassar Fishponds (South Sulawesi).

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrid*: Many were seen in Makassar, South Sulawesi.

Great Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii* EXT: A few were seen on the Ternate-Halmahera crossing.

SHEARWATERS and PETRELS: FRIGATIDAE

Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*: One was seen by Frank and Susan on the Halmahera-Ternate boat trip.

FRIGATEBIRDS: FRIGATIDAE

Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor* EXT: A few were seen on Halmahera..

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*: Recorded on both Sulawesi (Makassar, Tangkoko) and Halmahera.

HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNES: ARDEIDAE

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*: Seen first in Makassar, and then around 8 at Lake Tondano in the north.

Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis* EXT: Joe saw one of these herons pass over the resort at Weda.

Gray Heron *Ardea cinerea*: One was seen at Makassar fishponds.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*: Recorded at Makassar and Lake Tondano on Sulawesi.

(Eastern) Great Egret *Ardea alba modesta*: Scattered sightings on Sulawesi.

Intermediate Egret *Mesophyx intermedia*: First seen around Makassar, and then around Dumoga-Bone.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*: A few were noted at Lake Tondano in North Sulawesi.

Pacific Reef Heron *Egretta sacra*: 4 dark morph birds were seen on our mangrove boat trip in Tangkoko.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*: Scattered sightings throughout.

Javan Pond-Heron *Ardeola speciosa*: Encountered regularly on Sulawesi.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*: Recorded in Makassar and in the Tangkoko mangroves on Sulawesi.

Rufous (Nankeen) Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*: One was seen at the Grand Luley Resort, in Manado Sulawesi.

OSPREY: PANDIONIDAE

(Eastern) Osprey *Pandion haliaetus cristatus*: Seen at Tangkoko on Sulawesi and at Weda on Halmahera.

Sometimes (e.g. IOC), split off as Eastern Osprey, which includes these birds in eastern Indonesia to Australia.

HAWKS, EAGLES & KITES: ACCIPITRIDAE

Barred (Sulawesi) Honey-Buzzard *Pernis celebensis celebensis* **SE**: Seen on three occasions in Sedoa.

Taxonomy: HBW and BIA split this form as the species Sulawesi Honey-Buzzard.

Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni celebensis*: One was seen perched distantly along the Molibagu Road.

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata* **EXT**: Marvelous views in flight and perched in the Weda highlands.

Sulawesi Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis rufipectus* **SE**: An incredibly confiding perched individual was seen in Sedoa.

Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus lanceolatus* **SE**: Several views near Lore Lindu, including an amazing, close perched bird in the Sedoa Valley.

Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii*: One was seen flying over the Sedoa Valley, near Lore Lindu.

Pygmy Eagle *Hieraetus weiskei*: Frank found an individual that glided overhead at Bukit Limber, Halmahera.

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*: A pair was seen flying very low over the Sedoa Valley, near Lore Lindu.

Gurney's Eagle *Aquila gurneyi* **EXT**: A close perched bird was seen at Bukit Limber and another in flight near Sofifi.

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*: One was seen near Wuasa (grass owl site), and others were seen in Dumoga-Bone.

Sulawesi Goshawk *Accipiter griseiceps* **SE**: Wade and Theo had a flight view in Sedoa, and a perched one was seen along the Molibagu Road, Dumoga-Bone NP.

Spot-tailed Goshawk (Sparrowhawk) *Accipiter trinotatus* **SE**: One was seen perched at Lore Lindu..

Variable (Varied/Gray-throated) Goshawk *Accipiter hiogaster griseogularis* **ME EXT**: One was seen near Weda.

Moluccan (Halmahera) Goshawk *Accipiter henicogrammus* **ME EXT**: A perched bird was scoped near Weda.

Vinous-breasted Sparrowhawk *Accipiter rhodogaster* **SE**: Wade and Theo saw a perched bird at Lore Lindu.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*: A few were seen in the area around Dumoga-Bone NP.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indicus*: Recorded regularly on Halmahera; also in Central and North Sulawesi.

BARN-OWLS: TYTONIDAE

Sulawesi Masked-Owl *Tyto rosenbergii* **SE**: Seen well early in the morning at the forest edge on Gunung Ambang

Australasian (Eastern) Grass-Owl *Tyto longimembris*: A pair was seen quartering paddies near Wuasa.

OWLS: STRIGIDAE

Moluccan Scops-Owl *Otus magicus* **EXT**: One was seen at Galela on Halmahera.

Sulawesi Scops-Owl *Otus manadensis* **SE**: One was called in near Lore Lindu. Others were heard at Tangkoko.

Ochre-bellied Boobook *Ninox ochracea* **SE**: A parliament of three roosting birds was seen in Tangkoko.

Cinnabar Boobook *Ninox ios* **SE**: Only seen in flight in Lore Lindu; one was eventually seen well on Gunung Ambang.

Halmahera (Moluccan) Boobook *Ninox hypogramma* **ME EXT**: One showed near Weda.

Speckled Boobook *Ninox punctulata* **SE**: 1 was seen along with Sulawesi Scops in a plantation near Wuasa.

HORNBILLS: BUCEROTIDAE

Knobbed Hornbill *Aceros cassidix* **SE**: Excellent views were had at Tangkoko, others were seen at Dumoga-Bone.

Voted as one of the TOP FIVE BIRDS OF THE TOUR.

Blyth's Hornbill *Aceros plicatus* **EXT**: Recorded daily on Halmahera.

Sulawesi (Dwarf) Hornbill *Penelopides exarhatus* **SE**: First seen at Karaenta, and then again at Dumoga-Bone.

KINGFISHERS: ALDEDINIDAE

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis hispidoides*: Seen in Tangkoko and Manado.

Taxonomy: BIA suggests a possible future split as Hispid Kingfisher.

Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azureus* **EXT**: One was seen on Halmahera.

Sulawesi Dwarf-Kingfisher *Ceyx fallax* **SE**: Close views were had at Tangkoko and also at Toraut.

Voted as one of the TOP FIVE BIRDS OF THE TOUR.

North Moluccan (Variable) Dwarf-Kingfisher *Ceyx uropygialis* **ME EXT**: Excellent views twice near Weda.

In BIA guide this is lumped within the wider **Variable Dwarf-Kingfisher**, which was recently split into multiple species.

Voted as one of the TOP FIVE BIRDS ON HALMAHERA.

Lilac-cheeked (Sulawesi Lilac) Kingfisher *Cittura cyanotis* **SE**: Long views were had at Tangkoko and Dumoga-Bone.

Great-billed (Black-billed) Kingfisher *Pelargopsis melanoryncha* **SE**: Seen on our boat trip in Tangkoko.

Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda*: Just one was seen briefly by a few people at Tangkoko.

Blue-and-white Kingfisher *Todiramphus diops* **ME EXT**: Seen on roadside wires on Halmahera on 3-4 occasions.

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*: Recorded on 6 tour days (in both Sulawesi and Halmahera).

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris*: Observed on 11 days of the tour, on Sulawesi and Halmahera.

Sombre Kingfisher *Todiramphus funebris* **ME EXT**: Seen on three days on Halmahera, all around Weda.

Beach Kingfisher *Todiramphus saurophagus* **EXT**: The 16th and final kingfisher of the tour, picked up near Sofifi.

Green-backed (Blue-headed) Kingfisher *Actenoides monachus monachus* **SE**: Seen every day in Tangkoko.

This is known as **Blue-headed Kingfisher** in HBW, which splits this from **Black-headed Kingfisher**.

Black-headed (Green-backed) Kingfisher *Actenoides monachus capucinus* **SE**: 1 was seen in Karaenta Forest.

This southern form of **Green-backed Kingfisher** is split by others (i.e. HBW and BIA).

Scaly-breasted (Scaly) Kingfisher *Actenoides princeps* **SE**: After missing it earlier, we got one at Gunung Mahawu.

Common Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera galatea* **EXT**: One was scoped up for all at Bukit Limber.

Voted as one of the TOP FIVE BIRDS ON HALMAHERA.

BEE-EATERS: MEROPIDAE

Purple-bearded Bee-eater *Meropogon forsteni* **SE**: Recorded three times in Lore Lindu, the best on the Anaso Track.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*: Several were seen at a site near Palu.

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*: A flight of them was seen at Tangkoko; also seen a few times in Halmahera.

ROLLERS: CORACIIDAE

Purple-winged (Sulawesi) Roller *Coracias temminckii* **SE**: Seen twice at Tangkoko, and once at Tambun.

(Common/Oriental) Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis* **EXT**: Small numbers seen during 4 days around Weda.

Azure Roller (Purple Dollarbird) *Eurystomus azureus* **ME EXT**: Excellent views of one in the Weda highlands.

WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE

Sulawesi (Pygmy) Woodpecker *Dendrocopos temminckii* **SE**: A few seen in Lore Lindu; also heard at Ambang.

Ashy Woodpecker *Mulleripicus fulvus* **SE**: Recorded at Karaenta, Tangkoko, Tambun, and Gunung Ambang.

FALCONS & CARACARAS: FALCONIDAE

Spotted (Indonesian) Kestrel *Falco moluccensis*: Two were seen in Sedoa, and then one was seen on Halmahera.

Oriental Hobby *Falco severus* **EXT**: Smashing perched views were had at Bukit Limber on Halmahera.

COCKATOOS: CACATUIDAE

White (Umbrella) Cockatoo *Cacatua alba* **ME EXT**: After initial difficulty, we finally got perched views near Weda.

OLD WORLD PARROTS: PSITTACULIDAE Psittaculidae

Moluccan King-Parrot *Alisterus amboinensis* **EXT**: Up to eight different birds were seen perched at Bukit Limber.

Voted as ONE OF THE TOP FIVE BIRDS ON HALMAHERA.

Golden-mantled (Sulawesi) Raquet-tail *Prioniturus platurus* **SE**: Seen best in flight on the Anaso Track.

Yellow-breasted (Minahasa) Raquet-tail *Prioniturus flavicans* **SE**: A single in Tangkoko was the only sighting.

Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus* **EXT**: Seen regularly near Weda, where a red female perched was very popular.

Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi* **EXT**: Another noisy, conspicuous parrot, seen regularly on Halmahera.

Great-billed Parrot *Tanygnathus megalorynchos* **EXT**: A few were seen in flight in the highlands of Halmahera.

Azure-rumped (Blue-backed) Parrot *Tanygnathus sumatranus*: A single perched bird was observed at Tangkoko.

Red-flanked Lorikeet *Charmosyna placentis* **EXT**: These "dynamo" parakeets were seen foraging on several occasions.

Chattering Lory *Lorius garrulous* **ME EXT**: A handful of sightings on Halmahera included one perched bird.

Violet-necked Lory *Eos squamata* **EXT**: A few groups were seen in flight at Weda/Bukit Limber; none perched this year!

Ornate Lorikeet *Trichoglossus ornatus* **SE**: 4 of these vividly-colored birds were seen perched by a lookout at Tangkoko.

Yellow-and-green (Meyer's/Citrine) Lorikeet *Trichoglossus flavoviridis* **SE**: Several were seen in Lore Lindu.

Sulawesi (Large) Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus stigmatus* SE: Recorded at Dumoga-Bone and Tangkoko, where seen perched near a **Pygmy (Small Sulawesi) Hanging-Parrot**.

Moluccan Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus amabilis* ME EXT: A handful were scoped perched in the Weda highlands.

Pygmy (Sulawesi Small) Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus exilis* SE: Two birds were found perched at Tangkoko.

PITTAS: PITTIDAE

Sulawesi (Sahul) Pitta *Erythropitta celebensis* SE: Exceptional views were had of an individual that hopped on and off of a log in full view of us all at Tankoko. Unsurprisingly, after that, voted as ONE OF THE BIRDS OF THE TOUR.

North Moluccan (Sultan's Sahul) Pitta *Erythropitta rufiventris* ME EXT: Seen very well at Weda on our final morning.

Ivory-breasted Pitta *Pitta maxima* ME EXT: Even though seen on a number of occasions, the sightings were only brief and largely frustrating; a major disappointment this year was not getting everyone decent views.

HONEYEATERS: MELIPHAGIDAE

Dark-eared (Lesser) Myza (Lesser Sulawesi Honeyeater) *Myza celebensis* SE: Seen three times at Lake Taming.

White-eared (Greater) Myza (Greater Sulawesi Honeyeater) *Myza sarasinorum* SE: Eight seen on the Anaso Track.

Dusky (Sultan's) Myzomela *Myzomela obscura simplex* ME EXT: A few were seen the highlands of Halmahera.

Suggested as a future split in BIA that indicates the North Moluccan birds are distinct from the Australasian ones.

Sulawesi Myzomela *Myzomela chloroptera* SE: Recorded on 3 days in Lore Lindu; also seen near Tomohon.

White-streaked (Halmahera) Friarbird *Melitograis gilolensis* ME EXT: 3-4 sightings on Halmahera.

THORNBILLS & ALLIES: ACANTHIZIDAE

Golden-bellied Gerygone *Gerygone sulphurea flaveola*: Seen in South and Central Sulawesi several times.

WOODSWALLOWS: ARTAMIDAE

Ivory-backed Woodswallow *Artamus monachus* SE: Following a single early brief sighting, we all got decent looks at a group of seven birds foraging in the Sedoa Valley, (near Lore Lindu). Also seen at Tambun, Dumoga-Bone.

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorynchus*: Recorded on 7 days of the tour, on both islands.

CUCKOOSHRIKES: CAMPEPHAGIDAE

Stout-billed Cuckooshrike *Coracina caeruleogrisea* EXT: A magnificent pair was seen at Bukit Limber.

This species was only discovered on the island of Halmahera in recent years (at this site).

Pied Cuckooshrike *Coracina bicolor* SE: A restless pair was seen at Toraut (Dumoga-Bone).

Cerulean Cuckooshrike *Coracina temminckii* SE: Seen on four different days in Lore Lindu.

White-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina papuensis* EXT: A few were seen near the town of Weda, Halmahera.

Moluccan Cuckooshrike *Coracina atriceps* ME EXT: A single pair of this butch cuckooshrike was seen in the Weda area.

White-rumped Cuckooshrike *Coracina leucopygia* SE: A pair was seen in the mangroves in Tangkoko. Also seen at our Manado hotel.

White-shouldered (Lesseur's) Triller *Lalage sueurii*: Seen in South Sulawesi, and also near Palu in Central Sulawesi.

White-rumped (Sulawesi) Triller *Lalage leucopygialis* SE: A pair was seen at the Tangkoko

Rufous-bellied Triller *Lalage aurea* ME EXT: Recorded on five different days on Halmahera.

Halmahera (Ciacadbird) Cuckooshrike *Celebesia parvula* ME EXT: Observed near Weda and also at Bukit Limber.

Pygmy Cuckooshrike (Mountain Cicadabird) *Celebesia abbotti* SE: A couple were seen in mixed flocks in Lore Lindu.

Sulawesi Cicadabird *Edolisoma morio* SE: Noted in the Sedoa Valley, near Lore Lindu.

Common Cicadabird *Edolisoma tenuirostre grayi* ME EXT: Seen twice in the Halmahera highlands.

This has been split off by different authors as either **Moluccan Cicadabird** or **Wallacean Cicadabird**.

WHISTLERS & ALLIES: PACHYCEPHALIDAE

Maroon-backed Whistler *Coracornis raveni* SE: A male showed extraordinarily well at Lore Lindu; seen by all!

Black-chinned (Moluccan) Whistler *Pachycephala mentalis* ME EXT: Recorded twice in the highlands on Halmahera.

Sulphur-bellied (vented) Whistler *Pachycephala sulfuriventer* SE: Common in the mountains of Sulawesi.

Drab Whistler *Pachycephala griseonata* ME EXT: One bird at Bukit Limber reacted by dropping down next to us, a few feet off the ground! Another was seen in the Weda highlands.

OLD WORLD ORIOLES: ORIOLIDAE

Halmahera (Dusky-brown) Oriole *Oriolus phaeochromus* ME EXT: Just the one was seen in the highlands near Weda.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*: Our best views came of one foraging low by Lake Taming.

DRONGOS: DICRURIDAE

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus leucops* SE: Recorded on about 7 days of the tour in Sulawesi.

Split under BIA, and named **White-eyed Spangled Drongo**.

Sulawesi (Spangled) Drongo *Dicrurus montanus* SE: Seen in the Sedoa Valley, Lore Lindu and Gunung Ambang. Renamed in the recent field guide as **Sulawesi Spangled Drongo.**

(Halmahera) Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus* ME EXT Seen on most days on Halmahera.

Split in BIA as **Halmahera Spangled Drongo.**

FANTAILS: RHIPIDURIDAE

Willie-wagtail (Fantail) *Rhipidura leucophrys* EXT: A regular sight on Halmahera.

Rusty-bellied (Sulawesi) Fantail *Rhipidura teysmanni* SE: A regular flock member in Lore Lindu and Gunung Ambang

Rufous (Gilolo) Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons torrida* ME EXT: 2 of these impish birds were seen at Bukit Limber.

This is split as **Gilolo Fantail**, a Halmahera endemic in BIA.

MONARCH FLYCATCHERS: MONARCHIDAE

Pale-blue Monarch *Hypothymis puella* SE: Recorded at least eight times on Sulawesi.

White-naped Monarch *Carterornis pileatus* ME EXT: One was seen well near the Standardwing lek in Weda.

Spectacled (Wallacean/Moluccan) Monarch *Symposiachrus trivirgatus bimaculatus* ME EXT: A pair was found near Weda, and another was seen at Bukit Limber.

This is split under IOC as **Moluccan Monarch**, and under BIA as **Wallacean Monarch.**

Moluccan (Slaty) Flycatcher (Monarch) *Myiagra galeata* ME EXT: Encountered daily on Halmahera.

Shining Flycatcher (Monarch) *Myiagra alecto alecto* EXT: A couple of males were seen on Bukit Limber.

BIA suggest further splitting of this may end up with an endemic species in the region.

CROWS, JAYS & MAGPIES: CORVIDAE

Slender-billed (Sulawesi) Crow *Corvus enca celebensis* SE: Regularly recorded in Sulawesi.

This is split off as the endemic **Sulawesi Crow** in the recent field guide.

Piping Crow *Corvus typicus* SE: Only seen in Karaenta, where one was seen perched.

Long-billed Crow *Corvus validus* ME EXT: One was seen south of Tobelo and another few in the Weda highlands.

BIRDS-OF-PARADISE: PARADISAEIDAE

(Halmahera) Paradise-crow *Lycorax pyrrhopterus pyrrhopterus* ME EXT: 3 were seen perched near Weda.

Split off from the one on Obi as **Halmahera Paradise-Crow** in BIA.

Standardwing Bird-of-paradise (Wallace's Standardwing) *Semioptera wallacii* ME EXT: A particularly vigorous performance was witnessed, as two females were present, which sent the six male present into a feverish display, which we watched at length. Voted as THE BEST BIRD OF THE TOUR.

SWALLOWS: HIRUNDINIDAE

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*: Recorded on 4 days of the tour.

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*: Encountered almost every day on both of the islands.

FAIRY-FLYCATCHERS: STENOSTIRIDAE

Citrine Canary-Flycatcher *Culicicapa helianthea*: Regularly found in the mountains of Sulawesi.

BULBULS: PYCNONOTIDAE

Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster*: Regular records of this introduced species.

Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier*: Only observed around Makassar.

Halmahera Golden Bulbul *Alophoixus chloris* ME EXT: Seen on five different days on Halmahera.

BUSH-WARBLER & ALLIES: CETTIIDAE

Mountain Tailorbird (Leaftoiler) *Phyllergates cucullatus*: A few were seen in the mountains of Sulawesi.

No longer considered a true tailorbird. The name of Leaftoiler has been adopted in the recent field guide.

LEAF WARBLERS: PHYLLOSCOPIIDAE

Sulawesi Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus sarasinorum* SE: A commonly encountered montane endemic.

Island (North Moluccan) Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus maforensis henrietta* ME EXT: At least four at Bukit Limber.

This is split off as **North Moluccan Leaf Warbler *Seicercus waterstradti*** in BIA, but suggested a further split to **Halmahera Leaf Warbler** may occur in the future. Note that they have also moved it into a different genus too.

REED-WARBLERS & ALLIES: ACROCEPHALIDAE

Clamorous (Australasian) Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus celebensis*: Seen a few times in Makassar.

GRASSBIRDS & ALLIES: LOCUSTELLIDAE

Malia *Malia grata* SE: Regularly encountered at Lore Lindu (*stresemani*); also seen at Gunung Ambang (*recondita*).

Gray's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella fasciolata* EXT: Typically, a devil to see, with just 1 person managing to do so!

Chestnut-backed (Sulawesi Grasshopper) Bush-Warbler *Locustella castanea castanea* SE: After the usual failed attempts, we finally managed to lure one into the open, at Lore Lindu.

CISTICOLAS & ALLIES: CISTICOLIDAE

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*: Several were noted at the Makassar fishponds, and others heard near Wuasa.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*: A calling bird was seen by some in the Sedoa Valley.

WHITE-EYES, YUHNAS & ALLIES: ZOSTEROPIDAE

Streak-headed White-eye (Sulawesi Heleia) *Lophozosterops squamiceps* SE: A few were seen around Lore Lindu.

Mountain White-eye *Zosterops montanus*: Regularly encountered in the mountains of Sulawesi.

Lemon-bellied (Yellow-bellied) White-eye *Zosterops chloris*: Seen in Makassar and in the Sedoa Valley.

Black-ringed White-eye *Zosterops anomalus* SE: A pair was seen at Karaenta, near Makassar.

Black-crowned (fronted) White-eye *Zosterops atrifrons*: Recorded at Lore Lindu, Ambang and Gunung Mahawu.

Cream-throated (Halmahera) White-eye *Zosterops atriceps fuscifrons* ME EXT: A few were seen around Weda.

Split by BIA as Halmahera White-eye, *Z. fuscifrons*.

GROUND BABBLERS & ALLIES: PELLORNEIDAE

Sulawesi Babbler *Pellorneum celebense* SE: Recorded in Karaenta, Lore Lindu, Tangkoko, Ambang and Tomohon.

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS: MUSCICAPIDAE

Matinan (Warbling) Flycatcher *Cyornis sanfordi* SE: An adult and juvenile were seen very well on Gunung Ambang.

In the BIA guide it is placed in the genus *Eumyias*.

Blue-fronted (Hoevell's Warbling) Flycatcher *Cyornis hoevelli* SE: Encountered 4-5 times in Lore Lindu.

Sulawesi (Jungle) Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis omissus* SE: A few were seen in the Sedoa Valley, near Lore Lindu.

Island Flycatcher (Verditer/Turquoise Warbling-Flycatcher) *Eumylas panayensis*: Regularly seen in Lore Lindu.

Great Shortwing (Heinrichia) *Heinrichia calligyna* SE: Exceptional views were obtained of a male at Lore Lindu.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra*: Seen a handful of times in Lore Lindu (Central Sulawesi).

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*: A few were noted around Lake Taming.

Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*: A few were seen around the grass-owl site near Wuasa (Central Sulawesi).

THRUSHES & ALLIES: TURDIDAE

Rusty-backed (Red-backed) Thrush *Geokichla erythronata* SE: This spectacular thrush was seen at Tangkoko, with some crippling looks as one foraged serenely in front of us at length. Voted as ONE OF THE TOP FIVE BIRDS ON SULAWESI.

Sulawesi Thrush *Cataponera turdoides* SE: Good views were had of a bird singing in the understorey at Lore Lindu.

STARLINGS: STURNIDAE

Fiery-browed (Flame-browed) Myna (Starling) *Enodes erythrophris* SE: A wonderfully abundant, and exquisite, highland species encountered regularly at Lore Lindu.

Finch-billed Myna (Grosbeak Myna) *Scissirostrum dubium* SE: Up to 30 were seen in a day at Tangkoko.

Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica* EXT: Recorded daily on Halmahera.

Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis* GO: A small group were seen by Sam on the journey to Kotomobagu.

Moluccan Starling *Aplonis mysolensis* EXT: A couple were seen near Weda, and another group were seen near Sofifi.

Short-tailed Starling *Aplonis minor*: A group of around 30 was seen near Wuasa town (Lore Lindu area).

Sulawesi (Crested/Short-crested) Myna *Basilornis celebensis* SE: Three birds were seen at length in the Sedoa Valley.

White-necked Myna *Streptocitta albicollis* SE: Two pairs were seen in North Sulawesi.

Javan Myna *Acridotheres javanicus*: A small group were seen near Makassar.

FLOWERPECKERS: DICAIDAE

Yellow-sided Flowerpecker *Dicaeum aureolimbatum* SE: Recorded on 7 days of the tour in Sulawesi.

Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker *Dicaeum nehrkorni* SE: Seen on at least two occasions in Lore Lindu.

Halmahera Flowerpecker *Dicaeum schistaceiceps* ME EXT: An adult and a juvenile were seen near Weda Resort.

Gray-sided Flowerpecker *Dicaeum celebicum* SE: Recorded on seven different days in Sulawesi.

SUNBIRDS & SPIDERHUNTERS: NECTARINIIDAE

Plain-throated (Brown-throated) Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis*: A handful were seen North Sulawesi.

Black Sunbird *Leptocoma sericea*: Scattered sightings on both Sulawesi and Halmahera.

Olive-backed (Sahul) Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis*: Recorded on 5 days of the tour, on both Sulawesi and Halmahera.

Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja flavostriata*: A super male was seen along the Molibagu Road, Dumoga-Bone.

HYLOCITREA: HYLOCITREIDAE

Hylocitrea *Hylocitrea bonensis* SE: We were made to sweat until we found one in the afternoon, on the Anaso Track. Formerly known as **Olive-flanked Whistler**, but now considered a monotypic endemic bird family.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: PASSERIDAE

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*: Recorded on almost all days of the tour, both in Sulawesi and Halmahera.

WEAVERS & ALLIES: PLOCEIDAE

Streaked Weaver *Ploceus manyar*: A couple were found in the flock of Baya Weavers in Makassar.

Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus*: A large flock of these introduced birds were found at Makassar Fishponds.

WAXBILLS & ALLIES: ESTRILDIDAE

Black-faced Munia *Lonchura Molucca*: Seen on at least three occasions in North Sulawesi, including at Lake Tondano.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulate*: A small group was seen at Lake Tondano, North Sulawesi.

Chestnut (Black-headed) Munia *Lonchura atricapilla*: Recorded on seven different days in Sulawesi.

Pale-headed Munia *Lonchura pallida*: Five birds were seen at Makassar fishponds.

MAMMALS**TARSIERS: TARSIIDAE**

Gursky's (Spectral) Tarsier *Tarsius spectrumgurskyae* SE: Four were seen during the daytime on one day in Tangkoko. In 2017 a taxonomic revision led to this being split from its former position under **Spectral Tarsier**.

OLD WORLD MONKEYS: CEROPITHECIDAE

Moor Macaque *Macaca Maura* SE: Three were seen at Karaenta Forest near Makassar.

Tonkean Macaque *Macaca tonkeana* SE: 6 were seen raiding a farm field of its contents in the Sedoa Valley.

Celebes (Sulawesi/Black) Crested Macaque *Macaca nigra* SE: We walked among a troop on 2 days in Tangkoko.

SQUIRRELS: SCIURIDAE

Whitish Dwarf Squirrel *Prosciurillus leucomus* SE: A couple of sightings in Sulawesi.

Celebes Dwarf Squirrel *Prosciurillus murinus* SE: Recorded on about five days of the tour in Sulawesi.

CUSCUSES, BRUSHTAIL POSSUMS & ALLIES: PHALANGERIDAE

Sulawesi Bear Cuscus *Ailurops ursinus* SE: Singles were seen on two consecutive days in Tangkoko.

Ornate Cuscus *Phalanger ornatus* ME EXT: A largely white individual was seen near Weda Resort.

OTHERS

Mangrove Cat Snake *Boiga dendrophila*: One of these boldly-striped snakes was seen in mangroves at Tangkoko.

Asian Water Monitor *Varanus salvator*: One was seen at the Makassar fishponds.

Asian House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus*: Recorded regularly throughout the tour.

Halmahera Giant Gecko *Gehyra marginata*: Bill and Maris had regular sightings around their cabin at Weda Resort.