

**Birding Period : September 22nd to Oct 14th, 2018**

**Participants : 4 Pax Sulawesi, Kao Linyeu, Yang Chishih, Tsao Meihua, Yu Sufang and 4**

**Pax Halmahera: Kao Linyeu, Yang Chishih, You Benyue and Liang Lichen**

**VIT's Local Bird guide for Sulawesi : Idris Tinulele, For Halmahera : Ilham**

**Office Escort /Guide : Leo Charles Roring**

## **BIRDING AND WILDLIFE WATCHING IN SULAWESI AND HALMAHERA**

**22 Sept. - 14 Oct 2018**

by Charles Roring

### **Introduction**

Wallacea is a transitional biogeographical zone between Asia and Australia. It was named after a great British naturalist - Alfred Russel Wallace who did a long exploration in this region in 1800s to study its flora and fauna. With more than 90 endemic birds in Sulawesi and more than 40 regional endemic birds in Halmahera, these two big tropical islands are considered as the most important birding destination in the region. When Mr. Darwin Sumang from Vacation Indonesia Tour (VIT) contacted me to guide 4 birders from Republic of China, I was very happy to say, "Yes!" I imagined walking through the forest to find birds that I haven't seen before such as Purple-bearded Bee-eater, Scaly-breasted Kingfisher, Red-backed Thrush, and Maleo.



Female Olive-backed Sunbird (*Cinnyris jugularis*)

## The Birding Adventure

22 Sept

My adventure in Sulawesi and Halmahera began on 22 September when I left my house on long-flight for Makassar city - the capital of the province of South Sulawesi. Arriving at Hasanuddin airport, I met Sarwendah - staff of VIT office, and my colleague Idris Tinulele at the airport for a comprehensive discussions on how the birding tours should be conducted. Later in that evening, I met our guests, the Taiwanese birders at the airport and arranged their transfer to Dalton hotel. The followings are my detailed story of the trips.



Sulawesi Hornbill (*Rhabdotorrhinus exarhatus*)

23 Sept

We left Dalton hotel early in the morning at 05.00 for Karaenta forest. It took around one hour to reach our destination. We stopped at a street junction to find Black-ringed White Eye which was an endemic species of the southern part of Sulawesi. Some of them showed up shortly after Idris, our birding guide, started to call them using the sound player of his cell phone and a small loudspeaker. We continued our birding walk along the roadside that morning despite the increasing number of cars passing by. We saw Sulawesi Babbler, Sulawesi Hornbill, Red-Knobbed Hornbill, Piping Crow and White-necked Myna.





Red-backed Thrush (*Geokichla erythronota*)

At approximately 08.00, we entered the forest to find Sulawesi Pitta. Unfortunately, we did not see it. We came out of the forest again and continued our walk along the side of the road. There was a massive vertical limestone hill on the left of us and steep slope on the right of us. It was dry season so, the forest floor was covered by a lot of dry leaves. We were very lucky. Below the slope, we saw a couple of Rusty-backed Thrush clearing the ground to find grains that had fallen from the surrounding trees. We stopped there for around thirty minutes to take pictures of the birds. With my telephoto lens Tamron 150-600 mm G2, I was able to take beautiful photos of these small birds. After that we got into our cars and slowly moving through the forest to return to our hotel. Tens of Moor Macaque monkeys were sitting on the left side of the road. Passers by were not allowed to feed them. So, we only lowered the windows of our cars to take pictures of them and then continued our trip back to Makassar. After having lunch at a seafood restaurant, we returned to our hotel to take a rest until 15.00.

We continued our exploration for birds of South Sulawesi in Patene area. It was located in the sub-urban territory of Makassar city. There were several factories and fish or shrimp ponds in the area. As soon as we got off our cars, we saw

Collared Kingfisher sitting on the branch of a dead shrub some 10 meters away from the left of us. Near us, at the roadside there was a 5-meter tree standing. I saw a Clamorous Reed Warbler in that tree. The weather was hot and dusty that day but we continued our birding tour in that area. A sacred kingfisher was sitting on top of a wooden pole approximately 1 meter above the ground. We were glad to see and shoot him with our cameras. We crossed the road and entered the backyard of a building complex. There were nests of Olive-backed Sunbird. Some yellow-vented Bulbul were seen flying fast and landed on distant trees. I also saw Lemon Bellied White Eye hopping from nearby bush to a tree near a field in the area. When sun had disappeared in the west, we decided to return to our hotel.

24 Sept

Our trip to Ramang-Ramang was an unforgettable one. We left Dalton hotel by cars for the karst village at 06.30 in the morning. It took around one hour to reach it. Arriving at the small harbor, we unloaded our bags and continued our trip by two small motorized boats. The scenery of the river area was beautiful. Some Sacred and Collared Kingfishers perched on the branches of the nearby trees or flew over the river as we passed through it.



Collared Kingfisher (*Todiramphus chloris*)

We stopped at a restaurant and took a rest for fifteen minutes. There, we enjoyed birding from the wooden platform while drinking fruit juice. Black Kite was flying above the karst hills looking for a prey while male black sunbird were chasing female sunbird among the twigs of small trees on the other side of the river.

Thirty minutes later, we walked deeper into the karst region crossing dry rice field. Tens of meat cow were grazing as we approached another karst range.

Sulawesi Serpent Eagle landed on the branch of a tree just above our heads. Actually it was quite difficult to shoot the bird because of backlight. We spent around ten minutes to watch and take pictures of him. After that we walked deeper into the karst area again. White-faced Cuckoo Dove flew above us. When we had passed through two big trees located near an open field, we saw two Yellow-billed Malkoha sitting on a big stone.



Another species of bird that we saw was Sulawesi Pigmy Woodpecker. It was quite difficult to recognize him as her feather looked similar to the color of the tree trunk where she was holding on.

After lunch we took another birding trip to different section of the karst region and saw several Sunda Teal, Rainbow Bee-eater, White-necked Myna, Pink-necked Green Pigeon, Green Imperial Pigeon, and Spotted Kestrel. The village was very beautiful. We saw tens of Moor Macaque monkeys hanging and running on the steep cliff of the karst hill in front of us. It was quite scary actually because the cliff was so high and nearly upright.



Moor Macaque monkeys (*Macaca maura*)

As we left the karst, we heard the sound of Sulawesi Hornbill on top of a karst hill. Unfortunately, we could not see him.

25 Sept

Today we would left Makassar for Palu city. Our flight was at 13.10. We still had enough time in the morning to bird around fish ponds and trees in the Patene area and a small garden filled with mango trees near Hasanuddin airport of Makassar. We saw Chestnut Munia, Cattle Egret, Little Heron, Yellow-sided Flowerpecker, Collared Kingfisher, Golden-bellied Gerrygone.



Snowy-browed Flycatcher (*Ficedula hyperythra*)

In the afternoon, we flew to Palu city by a Boeing 737 of Lion Air. On the way to Lore Lindu, we stopped for a while near a bridge to find Savannah Nightjar. We saw some of them. They were on the ground but very sensitive to human. Everytime we approached one of them, it would fly away in curve formation several times in the air, and then landed on the ground again. It was quite challenging taking pictures of fast flying bird. There was also a Collared kingfisher sitting on the branch of a distant tree. I used my spotting scope to show the bird to our Taiwanese birders. Several Blue-tailed Bee-eater flying in the



air when we left the bridge spot for Lore Lindu. We arrived at National Lodge in Wuasa village at around 19.00. After enjoying a delicious dinner, we took a rest. It was a nice place to stay for visitors who want to explore the rainforest of Central Sulawesi.

26 Sept

Early in the morning at 05.30 we left the guesthouse by cars for Lake Taming. Our cars stopped at the parking area of the lot. We came out of the cars and immediately started to watch birds. Some that we saw were Ornate Lorikeet, Fiery-browed Starling, Maroon-backed Whistler, Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker, Sulawesi Blue-Flycatcher, Turquoise Flycatcher, Pale-headed Munia, Sulawesi Hanging Parrot, Green Imperial Pigeon, Mountain White-Eye. When the sunlight reached the parking area, we stopped birding for a while to enjoy our breakfast. It was hot tea and coffee with bananas, and wafer biscuits. The temperature was getting warmer. We continued birding again for a while inside the parking lot and later along the roadside. Cerulean Cuckoo-shrike, Grey-sided Flowerpecker, Sulawesi Spangled Drongo, Chestnut backed Bush-Warbler. We returned to the National Lodge in Wuasa village at 11.00 to have lunch and breakfast.



Turquoise Flycatcher (*Eumyias panayensis*)

In the afternoon, we saw Knobbed Hornbill flying over the valley above Sedoa slope. There were Sulawesi Leaf-Warbler, Lesser Myza, Superb Fruit Dove in trees on both sides of the road. Slender-billed Cuckoo Doves were busy eating fruits in a distant tall tree. They were quite far from us. So, I used my spotting scope to see them. Shortly after sunset time we left the slope for Wuasa valley. Our drivers brought us into a land that was filled with cacao plantation. We walked around for a while. Soon after the day became fully dark, our driver Punky began immitating the sound of Sulawesi Scops Owl to call him. Later Idris, our birding guide, did the same using sound player of his cell phone. It took less than twenty minutes before the bird came and landed on the tree just a few meters above our head. The owl became our last bird that day.

27 Sept

Waking up at 04.30 when it was still dark, we went to the road area around Lake Tambing. There, we tried to call the Cinnabar Boobok. Unfortunately, we could

not attract the nocturnal bird. After a short stop at the parking area of the lake for breakfast, we continued our trip by trekking along the slope of Anaso trails. We were not far from the entrance of the trails when we saw a White-bellied Imperial Pigeon sitting on a horizontal branch approximately 10 meters above the ground. Taking picture of the bird was quite difficult because of low-light condition. Lesser Myza (*Myza celebensis*) was busy flying from one twig to another in shrubs on both sides of the trails. Satanic Nightjar was sitting and sleeping soundly at an elevation of around 2,000 meters above sea level. Reaching our destination, we did some birding and saw *Hylocitrea* that was hopping from one branch to another in the misty forest. I was able to take picture of the bird that was sitting on the branch of a tree slightly covered by the afternoon mist of that day. At the landslide spot, we saw Purple-bearded Bee-eater, Fiery-browed Starling and Black Kite.



Purple-bearded Bee-eater (*Meropogon forsteni*)





Satanic Nightjar (*Eurostopodus diabolicus*)

28 Sept

We had breakfast at 06.00 and then left for the road above Lake Tambing. As we ascended the Padeha slope, we saw White-bellied Imperial Pigeon. Our cars stopped for the birders to watch it and to take pictures of the bird. Our cars moved up slowly as guides tried to find birds in trees on both sides of the road. A Hair-crested Drongo (*Dicrurus hottentottus*) was sitting on a dried tree enjoying the warm of the morning sun. Our cars stopped at the road side above Lake Tambing. Morning time birding in this forest was very good. Cerulean Cuckooshrike (*Coracina temminckii*), Malia (*Malia grata*), Tailorbird, Pygmy Cuckooshrike, Citrine Canary-flycatcher (*Culicicapa helianthea*), and Sulphur-bellied Whistler (*Pachycephala sulfuriventer*) were among the birds that were active in trees and shrubs around us. At 7.30, we entered the trails of the forest in an effort to find more birds. Unfortunately, we only saw the Rusty-bellied Fantail. A Wagtail was sitting on the electrical line above Lake Tambing when we walked out of the bush. There was also Pygmy Woodpecker climbing the trop

trunk of a tree on the higher slope on the other side of the road. We saw several Mountain White Eye in a distant tree.



Hair-crested Drongo (*Dicrurus hottentottus*)

As our cars moved to Padeha slope, we saw Hawk Eagle soaring in the sky. On a steep slope down to Wuasa valley, we saw Ivory-backed Woodswallow sitting on the dried tree. A bird of prey Hawk Eagle soaring in the sky above the valley. A Brown Cuckoo Dove landed briefly at the branch of a tree on the right of us and flew again without giving us a chance to shoot her with our camera. A hanging parrot flew over the road landed on a tree on the left of us. It left immediately into the bush. The weather was sunny and hot. We took a short brake at the slope near the entrance of Sedoa valley drinking coffee, and eating banana. After that we continued our trip entering the vast valley of North Lore. A Spotted Kestrel was our last bird before lunch time. He was sitting on the high tree on a hill some thirty meters away from us. At 11.30, we arrived at our guesthouse for lunch and rest.





Fiery-browed Starling (*Enodes erythroris*)

At 15.00, we continued our birding trip to the farmland of Sedoa village. We saw Grey-sided Flowerpecker, and Collared Kingfisher. The weather was not good. Thick clouds rapidly covered the sky and rain began to fall. We left the farmland and headed to the road. We still saw a group of Gross beak Starling (also called Finch-billed Myna) sitting on dry branches of a dead tree. Because of heavy rain, we returned to Nasional lodge to take a rest. After having tea or coffee, and some nasi bambu (glutinous rice cooked in bamboo with such ingredients as coconut milk, salt and ginger), we continued our birding trip to Wanga rice field area by car. There, we saw Bush Chat, Eastern Grass Owl, Great Ear Nightjar, and Sunda Teals. Suddenly we felt that the grounds were shaking. First, it was slow but later the quake became stronger and longer. When we returned to the guesthouse, we heard that situation in Palu city was worse. Several buildings collapsed.

29 Sept



After lunch we went to Palu city by car. A few kilometers before entering the city, the road became narrower because of landslides in several cliffs. A lot of damaged houses could be seen in the suburb of the city. People stay in tents in front of their houses. That night we stayed at the airport sleeping on the asphalt pavement of the parking lot. Military planes were the only ones that provided flight services but only for women and children as well as wounded people. When it rained at night, I, Idris, and the guests had to move to the passenger terminal building of the airport. We slept on the metal benches. We woke up and jumped several times that night due to strong aftershocks that still hit the city.



Red-eared Fruit Dove (*Ptilinopus fuscheri*)

30 Sept

Idris led us to the house of his friend. We had to carry heavy bags all the way to that house. I carried my bags and another one that belonged to our clients. When we arrived at the house. It was empty. Perhaps, the owners had returned to their village in Wuasa valley. I had to organize two motorcycles to bring us back to the airport terminal again. There, we met Wenda (one of the team of

VIT). I asked her to supply us with food and water. An army officer tried to help us get access into the tarmac so that we could reach the military plane but airforce personnels did not let us in.

So, we were now stuck at the airport waiting for a flight to Makassar and Manado. Finally, in late evening Wings Air provided the first commercial flight after the earthquake. All passengers under Lion Air group who bought tickets for 29 and 30 Sept could fly. We were so lucky. That night we left Palu city for Makassar. The flight was a relief for us. We stayed in Dalton hotel and had dinner with a government official from Taiwan consulate in the restaurant of the hotel.

1 Oct

We left our hotel early in the morning for Sultan Hasanuddin airport of Makassar and flew by Lion Air to Manado city. Arriving in the city, we were welcomed by Anne, Albert and Theo. After short drive to an eating house, we had lunch. We continued our long trip by car to Kotamobagu town. It took around four and a half hours ride to reach the Sutan Raja hotel. We quickly unloaded our bags into our rooms and back to our cars again for a short ride to a tree in the middle of a farmland to watch Minahasa Masked Owl. A juvenile bird came out of a hole in the middle of the tree trunk.



A juvenile Minahasa Masked Owl (*Tyto inexpectata*)

2 Oct

We went birding in Tambun forest to watch Maleo. It was still dark when we left our hotel. We saw some of them including Gross-beaked Starling, White-necked Myna, Pale-blue Monarch, Green-backed Kingfisher, Purple Wing Roller, White Eye, Sulawesi Drongo, Ashy Woodpecker, Yellow-billed Malkoha. In the middle of the day, we had lunch at Tante Mien homestay and then went to a pond in the middle of a farmland to watch water birds such as Little Egret, Javan Pond Heron, Sunda Teal. Before dark we arrived at a big tree where we waited for Minahasa Masked Owl again. We saw two juvenile birds this time. After unloading our birding equipment in the hotel, we had dinner in the restaurant of Senator hotel. Before taking a rest, we did checklist of birds that we had seen during the day.

3 Oct



We checked out of the hotel Sutan Raja when it was still dark and went to Mount Ambang by cars. There we walked up slopes to watch Matinan Flycatcher. We also saw Chestnut Munia, Collared Kingfisher, Rusty backed Fantail, Sulawesi Drongo, Citrine Canary Flycatcher, and Black-crowned White Eye. After lunch in Sinsingun village, we headed to Tomohon passing through Timbukar waterfalls, terraces of rice field in Tincep and Sonder town. We arrived in Tomohon at approximately 16.00. We still had time to go to Mount Mahawu to find Large ear Nightjar. While waiting for the day to get dark, we visited a traditional palm wine distillery whose raw material was the fermented sap of Aren tree. Unfortunately, after several attempts of calling the nightjar, he did not show up. So, we returned to Tomohon and directly went to a restaurant to have our dinner. On the second floor, from a very safe distance we were able to watch the wonderful view of the eruption of Mount Soputan.



Pale Blue Monarch (*Hypothymis puella*)



Citrine Canary Flycatcher



Black-crowned White Eye



Volcanic Eruption of Mount Soputan in Minahasa regency

4 Oct

We left the hotel and headed to Mount Mahawu. There, we stopped in the middle of the mountain and walked into the forest. After thirty minutes walking, we saw a Scaly-breasted Kingfisher sitting on the branch of the small tree. We were quite happy because we could take a lot of pictures of the bird. After having breakfast, we went to the top of Mount Mahawu and saw the beautiful



scenery of mountains, valleys and towns of Minahasa regency. Isabelline bush-hen could also be watched at the slope around one hundred meters below the top of Mount Mahawu. There were white-eye, crimson sunbird, brown cuckoo dove that we watched along the trails to the top and around the crater. Near mid-day time, while walking down the slope, we saw Crimson Sunbird.

When we had lunch, we saw a barred rail at the backyard of someone's house next to the restaurant. At 15.00 we continued birding on the slope of Mount Mahawu to find Great-eared Nightjar. Unfortunately, we did not see one. So, we returned to Tomohon town, had dinner and then returned to the hotel.



Scaly-breasted Kingfisher (*Actenoides princeps*)

5 Oct

We left Tomohon for Tangkoko at 07.00 through Tondano and Tanggari. Before entering the National Park, we went birding at Temboan hill. We saw Gross-beaked Starling, Streaked Flycatcher, Sulawesi Crow and Hawk Eagle. Unfortunately, the Golden-mantled Raquet Tail did not show up. At 11.30, we arrived at Tangkoko Lodge. After putting our bags in the room, we headed to a



coastal forest outside Tangkoko to see birds. We saw Olive-backed Sunbird, Cattle Egret, Yellow-billed Malkoha, and Crow again. At 13.00 we returned to the guesthouse for lunch.

We went birding again at 15.00. This time our birding site was a mangrove forest. We saw green pigeon, striated heron, great heron. We saw Great-billed Kingfisher too which was our target bird. Returning to Tangkoko lodge, we stopped for a while at an abandoned resort to watch Speckled Boobook. We arrived at our lodge again at 18.30.



Great-billed Kingfisher (*Pelargopsis melanorhyncha*)

6 Oct

We had breakfast at 05.00 and then left for Tangkoko forest at 05.30. Grossbeak Starling, White-bellied Imperial Pigeon and Green-backed Kingfisher welcomed us. As we walked deeper into the forest, we saw Golden-mantled Racket-tail. After that we turned right to reach a ficus tree where we watched some Tarsier primates. Half an hour later, we walked up more slopes where we saw a couple of cuscus with a baby one in his mother's pocket. Near the cuscus was a juvenile Sulawesi Hawk Eagle sitting on the branch of a tree some 8 meters above our

heads. Minutes later, we continued our walking tour down the slopes to a ravine where we saw a couple of Ochre-bellied Boobok sleeping. It was a lucky day for us because we could also see Red-backed Trush again.

Tangkoko was still in dry season in early October. There were a lot of dry leaves on the forest floor. We continued our trip to the nest of hornbill. The mother bird had not arrived so, we did more exploration of the forest to find other birds. We saw a Lilac-cheeked Kingfisher. The mother Red Knobbed Hornbill finally arrived to feed her babies. We had a lot of opportunities to shoot her. It was a wonderful moment to see it. As the weather was getting hotter, we decided to slowly walk back to the entrance gate of the forest. The last target bird that we saw that day before lunch was Red-bellied Pitta.



Red-knobbed Hornbill (*Rhyticeros cassidix*)





Cuscus Possum

At 15.00 we continued our birding activity again inside the Tangkoko forest. After a 10-minute walk, we saw tens of Crested-Macaque monkeys and Isabeline Water-hen. We stopped for a while under the blazing sun to take pictures of them and then continued our birding walk into the forest where we saw Tabon Scrubfowl and Ruddy Kingfisher as well as a snake, lowland squirrel, and gliding lizard. There were White-necked Myna and Slender-billed Crow too. We entered narrow trails that led us to a slope where we would try to find Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher. Unfortunately, we could not see the bird. When we walked back to the main gate of the forest, we saw Silver-tip Imperial Pigeon. Some crested-macaque monkeys were hanging in trees near the parking area of the forest when we arrived. We returned to the guesthouse at 18.00.





White-necked Myna (*Streptocitta albicollis*)

07 Oct

We left Tangkoko Lodge at 06.30 for Temboan hill. Some British visitors were watching birds on the same hill when we arrived. This morning we saw Grossbeak Starling, Sulawesi Hornbill, Red-knobbed Hornbill, Sulawesi Drongo, Ornate Lorikeet, a bird of prey - Sulawesi Hawk Eagle. Our main target was Golden-mantled Racket-tail parrot. There were a few of them flying over the hill. We also saw Sulawesi Hanging Parrot. At 09.30, we returned to our cars and continued our trip to Manado city where we had lunch at a sea food restaurant. At 13.00 we arrived at Novotel. Our Taiwanese birders would stay for one night at this hotel. One couple would leave North Sulawesi the next morning whereas the other couple would continue their trip to Halmahera with another newly arrived Taiwanese couple whom I would meet at the airport tonight.

08 Oct

Checking out from Novotel, we continued our trip by cars to Sam Ratulangi airport of Manado. We would take a flight to Ternate and then to Buli. We had been waiting for several hours when suddenly we received notification from Wings Air in late afternoon that our plane would fly only to Ternate. Our flight to Buli would be continued after 2 days. When we arrived in Ternate, I discussed with our clients whether we should continue our trip to Subaim by boat and then by car. They said, "Yes." So, I called a taxi driver to bring us to the boat station. Fifteen minutes later, we are sitting in a fast speedboat heading to Sofifi. It took around 30 minutes to reach that town. After having simple dinner in the capital of North Maluku province, we continued our trip by car for 3.5 hours to Subaim. A few kilometers before entering Wisma Kita lodge, our driver suddenly stopped his car. A big Halmahera pyton was crossing the road. All of us came out of the car to take pictures to the snake. It was a very rare opportunity to see such a big reptile. Cars, and several motorcycles also had to wait for this slow crossing to be completed. When he had fully crossed the road, we continued our trip again and arrived at Wisma Kita lodge at 01.30 morning time.



Halmahera Python (*Morelia tracyae*)

9 Oct

We were still tired and sleepy after a long trip from Manado to Subaim but we were determined to wake up at 04.30 to do birding in Mount Uni--uni. Our cars took us on a 1-hour ride to Mount Uni-uni. We saw a lot of birds in the morning and in the afternoon at this place including Chattering Lory, Red-flanked Lorikeet, Long billed Crow, Purple naped lorikeet. White cockatoo, and Blyth's hornbill were also flying in the sky when we were there. We tried to find the Ivory-breasted Pitta in the woods near the road. He did respond to our calls, came closer to us and perched on a tree but immediately left after hearing noisy sounds of our movement among the bush.

10 Oct

We left our lodge at 04.00 for Foli village where we would watch Wallace Standard Wing. We watched the bird until 07.00. There were also Cattle Egret, Brahminy Kite, Pacific Baza, Whiskered Tern, Sultan's Cuckoo Dove, Emerald Dove, Grey-headed Fruit Dove, Pied Imperial Pigeon, Lesser Coucal, Blue and White Kingfisher, Blyth's Hornbill, Eclectus Parrot, Red-cheeked Parrot, Red-flanked Parrot, Violet-necked, Moluccan Hanging Parrot, Ivory-breasted Pitta, Rufous-bellied Triller, Willie-Wagtail, Moluccan Monarch, Longbill Crow, Northern Golden Bulbul, Metallic Starling, Halmahera Flowerpecker, Eastern Yellow Wagtail.





Long-billed Crow (*Corvus validus*)



Wallace Standard Wing (*Semioptera wallacii*)

11 Oct

We went birding along the road from Subaim to Sidangoli. Birds that we saw were Grey-headed Fruit Dove, Cinnamon Bittern, Australian Brush Cuckoo, Moluccan Scops Owl, Moustached Treeswift, Uniform Swift, Common Paradise Kingfisher, Blue and White Kingfisher, Eclectus Parrot, White Cockatoo, Red-cheeked Parrot, Moluccan Cuckooshrike, Rufous-bellied Triller, Moluccan Flycatcher, Longbill Crow, Golden Bulbul, Cream-throated White Eye, Pacific Swallow, Metallic Starling, Black Sunbird, Olive-back Sunbird, Black-face Munia, Halmahera Flowerpecker, and Swinhoe's Snipe.



Common Paradise Kingfisher (*Tanysiptera galatea*)





Blue and White Kingfisher (Todiramphus diops)

12 Oct

We went birding in the morning to Kali Batu Putih forest to find Sombre kingfisher. We walked until we reached a broken wooden bridge and then return to the main road again. There was a nest of Moluccan Monarch near the gate of KBP forest. We saw Grey-streaked Flycatcher, Metallic Starling, Black Sunbird, Olive-backed Sunbird, Moluccan Monarch, Brahminy Kite, Buff-banded Rail, Pale-vented Bush-Hen, Blue-capped Fruit Dove, Spectacle Imperial Pigeon, Lesser Coucal, Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar, Sombre Kingfisher. We saw Azure Kingfisher, Yellow-wagtail, at the river across from our guesthouse.

During afternoon birding, we saw Eclectus Parrot, White Cockatoo, White-breasted Woodswallow, Beach Kingfisher, Spangled Drongo.





Northern Golden Bulbul (*Thapsinillas longirostris*)

13 Oct

We woke up early for birding in the forest above Sidangoli town at 04.30 to find Halmahera Boobok. Unfortunately, we did not find it. When the sun rose in the east, a lot of birds came out of their hiding places. White Cockatoo, Eclectus Parrot made noisy sounds in the forest. Several chattering lorries, and Red-cheeked Parrot were flying fast across the mountain ridge and down to the forest in deep ravine in front of us.

At 09.00 our cars brought us back slowly to the Mari-Sayang lodge. We took a rest for half and hour. There was still enough time for taking a shower and packing our things. After saying goodbye to staff of the lodge and our drivers, we departed from the coastal town for Ternate at 10.00. Having lunch at Baghdad seafood restaurant, we ate large portion of grilled fish, kangkung stir fried vegetables and several types of spicy chilli sauce. We checked in at the Grand Dafam hotel and took a rest there for several hours. At 16.00, we left our hotel and headed to Lake Tolire. The scenery of the lake was magnificent. We saw some whiskered tern flying low on the surface of the lake. We enjoyed our

presence at the edge of the lake by drinking coconut juice that was slightly sweetened by palm sugar.

As the sun moved further to the west, we left the lake for the beach facing Hiri island. The beach was called Jikumalamo. There, we saw hundreds of Metallic Starling in trees. There were tens of Lesser Frigatebirds flying high above the sea.



Metallic Starling (*Aplonis metallica*)

We stayed there for around 2 hours to enjoy the view and the sunset moment. It was our last birding tour. That night we had dinner at Royal Restaurant and went to bed early.

14 Oct

At six in the morning, I accompanied all the participants of the birding tour to the airport. They would fly to Jakarta and then back to their own country - the Republic of China. After saying goodbye to them, I waited for another flight that took me back to Manado where I would return to my family.

