



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Sulawesi & Halmahera Wallacean Endemics

24th July to 10th August 2011



Purple-bearded Bee-eater, Group photo after Maleo success, & Red-backed Thrush
Photos by David Shackelford

Tour Leaders: David Shackelford with local guide Nurlin Djuni

Top 10 birds as voted by participants:

1. (Wallace's) Standardwing
2. Ivory-breasted Pitta
3. Moluccan Scrubfowl
4. Maleo
5. Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar
6. Red-backed Thrush
7. Purple-bearded Bee-eater
8. Olive-flanked Whistler
9. Sombre Kingfisher
10. Knobbed Hornbill

Rockjumper Birding Tours





Moluccan Scrubfowl & Sombre Kingfisher
Photos by participant Jean Neuray & David Shackelford

Tour Summary

One of the endemic hotspots of the world, Sulawesi and Halmahera are part of Indonesia's nearly 17,000 islands, and are situated within its archipelago scattered along the equator stretching between Malaysia and Australia. Nestled in a unique biogeographical region called Wallacea, these two relatively large islands still support some of the most spectacular birds on earth despite the increasingly devastating effects of rapid population growth and associated habitat destruction for agriculture and urban sprawl. Our tour ventured into several remote regions, including travelling through the best of these island's important natural biomes, which ranged from the scenic mountainous interior to volcanic coastal forests. During our adventurous journey we amassed an outstanding collection of quality avian specialties and other exciting wildlife, as well as gaining a fine overview of the local Indonesian culture.

Departing early on our first morning for the jagged limestone forest outcrops of Karaenta, it wasn't long before we were watching our first suite of endemics. In fact our first bird of the tour was the scarce Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbill, which eventually showed at eye-level, along with a responsive group of Black-ringed White-eyes, a species restricted to the southern portion of Sulawesi. A Moor Macaque made a quick appearance and we could hear Diana's Tarsier calling in the trees nearby as we walked along the curvy road. Here the tough Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon and noisy Piping Crows showed at length through the scope, endemic Yellow-sided and Grey-sided Flowerpeckers put on quite a show, we found our first of many Sulawesi Babblers, and with a little persistence we coaxed into view a pair of Spot-tailed Sparrowhawks.

After a short flight from the southern city of Makassar to Palu in central Sulawesi, we departed directly for Lore Lindu. This is the largest national park on the island and provided us with rare access into extensive mountain forest. Along the drive towards the reserve we ticked off our first gregarious Grosbeak Starlings (Finch-billed Mynahs) and attractive Fiery-browed Starlings, endemic White-rumped Cuckooshrike, and had an outstanding encounter with the scarce Purple-winged Roller that posed for us through the scope. Most of the region surrounding Lore Lindu is completely degraded by agriculture and logging, but by setting out early each day from our simple guesthouse we were able to thoroughly explore the various altitudes and habitats along the road and trails within the reserve. The exciting cacophony of sounds from the active dawn chorus was exhilarating as we ate breakfast in the field, and that first day we encountered nearly 40 species of endemics including specialties such as the gorgeous Red-eared Fruit Dove, Blue-



fronted Flycatcher, Cerulean and Pygmy Cuckooshrikes, loose groups of Streak-headed Ibon, the unique Malia exploding into song while they foraged along a moss-covered branch, Black-billed Koel, noisy Golden-mantled Racquet-tails shooting by overhead, and outrageous views of a pair of unusually confiding Sulawesi Thrush.

We also endured a lengthy trek ascending into the upper montane forest along the rugged Anaso track, which climbs the slopes of Gunung Rorekatimbu to nearly 2,200 meters above sea level. Here the trees became increasingly more stunted and covered with heavy mosses as we began finding highland specialties including a quick Great Shortwing in the dense undergrowth, the mouse-like Chestnut-backed Bush Warbler serenading us with its high-pitched buzzy song, Small Sparrowhawk, a furtive Maroon-backed Whistler that only showed briefly, White-eared Myza (Greater Streaked Honeyeater) feeding on white ginger flowers, the nomadic Grey-headed Imperial Pigeon, and a fine pair of intricately patterned Satanic (Diabolical) Nightjars roosting side-by-side. At the highest point of our hike a flash of movement caught our eyes and we were relieved to all obtain unobstructed views of the highly-desired Olive-flanked Whistler, an odd lethargic species that has recently been elevated to full family status under the new name of *Hylocitrea*. Although the secretive *Geomalia* eluded us, we later found our first of several pairs of sought-after Purple-bearded Bee-eaters and marveled with scope views until we were all satiated by their attractive coloring and charismatic behavior, with their constant tail-twitching and sallying out for insects.

The trail here was lined with orchids and carnivorous pitcher plants as we continued finding wildlife that included a huge male Tonkean Macaque, Sulawesi Giant and Sulawesi Dwarf Squirrels, while also hearing the diminutive Sulawesi Tarsier calling at dusk through the forest along with Cinnabar Boobook. Overhead we found raptors including Barred Honey Buzzard, Black Eagle and Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle soaring on thermals, as well as energetic Sulawesi Swiftlets flying above the forest. Lower down in more degraded woodland our opportunistic birding stops yielded specialties such as the elegant Ivory-backed Woodswallow, prolonged scope views of a pair of tough Sulawesi Crested Mynahs attending a nesting cavity, Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker, scope studies of colorful Ornate Lorikeets, Superb Fruit Dove, Sulawesi Triller, a yet-to-be-described species of *Muscicapa* flycatcher, Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher, and a fruiting tree full of Black-naped Fruit Doves and decorative White-bellied Imperial Pigeons.

Before our next flight from Palu we spent a short time in lowland secondary habitat near the coast, finding White-shouldered Triller, Pale-headed and Black-faced Munias, and a couple of Barred Buttonquails that we kicked up before continuing onwards to the city of Manado in the extreme north of Sulawesi. Here we accessed the disjunct lowland forest of Dumoga-Bone National Park, beginning with Tambun where, after a flurry of Great-eared Nightjars overhead at dawn, we quietly hiked into the forest with high hopes of finding the rare Maleo. A startlingly attractive megapode, this critically endangered bird digs a hole in the ground for laying its eggs rather than building the more traditional vegetation-covered mounds, and there the eggs are incubated instead by the volcanic heat of the earth. Scanning into the dense canopy on the ridge, it fortunately didn't take us long to pick out an exposed pair of Maleos collecting the first rays of sunshine and we were thrilled to enjoy more than 30 minutes soaking up views of this incredible creature! Additional sightings nearby included the secretive Bay Coucal, a single Sulawesi Black Pigeon and striking Yellow-billed Malkohas. Walking along the forest trail and dodging Maleo nesting holes, we marveled through the scope at our first Green-backed Kingfisher and a confiding pair of Red-bellied Pittas showing off their incredibly bright coloration. Before departing we were also able to learn from the local rangers how the human collection of Maleo eggs continues to wreak havoc on the bird's population, and were even privileged to release a one day-old chick from the breeding program (endearingly named 'Mallory'), which flew off into the forest to hopefully grow to adulthood and prosper.

Carefully balancing on a raft constructed of bamboo, we next crossed the river at Toraut where we found the robust Ashy Woodpecker, Lesser Fish Eagle, unbelievable views of a Yellow-breasted Racquet-tail perched at eye-level, plenty of White-necked Mynahs, a brief Pied Cuckooshrike, another Purple-bearded Bee-eater, and were pleased to locate the boldly-patterned Speckled Boobook roosting in the daytime. By twilight we spot-lit a pleasantly responsive Sulawesi Masked Owl before setting out again to the roadside remnant forest of Molibagu. Despite dodging intermittent rain, here we located the jewel-like Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher that posed at length along a stream, obtained further views of Ivory-backed Woodswallows and Sulawesi Triller, Maroon-chinned Fruit Dove scoped momentarily, perched views of Large Sulawesi and Pygmy Hanging Parrots, and outrageous looks at the imposing Knobbed Hornbill. We were also able to appreciate perched studies of endemic raptors such as Sulawesi Serpent Eagle, Vinous-breasted Sparrowhawk and the often difficult Sulawesi Goshawk. One special evening we were serenaded over dinner by a local group of phenomenally talented young ladies performing traditional island songs in exquisite harmony. Before departing we stopped at a couple of roadside wetlands where we found a variety of more widespread birds, including Sacred and Common Kingfishers, waterfowl such as Wandering Whistling Duck and Sunda Teal, Yellow and Cinnamon Bitterns, the introduced Java Sparrow, a surprise pair of Red-backed Buttonquails, and plenty of cooperative *rallids* that included Barred Rail, White-browed Crake, Buff-banded Rail, Ruddy-breasted Crake and our only encounter with Isabelline Bush-hen.

Setting out well before daylight, we next ascended a muddy logging trail to access the higher elevations of Gunung Ambang, where we could hear the taunting song of the elusive Scaly-breasted Kingfisher before daybreak. In a flurry of flock activity on the mountain, including Rusty-bellied Fantail, Island Verditer, Black-fronted White-eye, Yellow-vented Whistler and Sulawesi Leaf Warbler, we found an obliging pair of Matinan Flycatcher, a rare endemic known only from its relatively recent discovery on this mountain. After a scenic drive hugging the coast lined with palm trees, we arrived at the reserve of Tangkoko in time to track down a vocal Sulawesi Scops Owl near our guesthouse, which posed for us while we celebrated two of our birthdays with thoughtful home-made cakes – what a great way to end the day!

With only a handful of primary targets remaining in the Sulawesi lowlands, the next morning was one of those magical times when everything seems to come together perfectly. Hiking into the forest before daybreak, where we could see Sulawesi Nightjar hawking insects overhead, we arrived in time to watch a family of decidedly cute Spectral Tarsiers going to roost in a ficus tree only a few feet away, including a mother carrying a tiny baby on her back. Almost immediately afterwards we heard the distinctive call of the exquisite Lilac-cheeked Kingfisher nearby, and before long we were gawking at a perched individual as well as another pair of ridiculously confiding Green-backed Kingfishers. Our local guides then called us over to see an Ochre-bellied Boobook perched at its day roost, before the crashing noises of falling branches from the trees alerted us to a troop of bizarre-looking Sulawesi Crested Macaques, eventually feeding and interacting within only a few meters of us! As if this weren't enough, we next enjoyed the rare sighting of two Bear Cuscuses actively moving through the vine tangles showing off their marsupial affinities and furless prehensile tail. Finally, after a scramble through a wooded ravine, we polished off the morning with multiple eye-popping scope views of the handsome Red-backed Thrush, later voted one of our favorite birds of the trip.



Green-backed Kingfisher & Maleo Photos by David Shackelford

Concluding our time in northern Sulawesi before heading to Halmahera, we loaded up into traditional boats and paddled into the coastal mangroves where we found the monster Great-billed Kingfisher plunging into the water feeding near our boats, along with a host of widespread species such as the goliath Great-billed Heron, Pacific Reef Egret, further views of White-rumped Cuckooshrike, Grey-tailed Tattler, Pink-necked Green Pigeon, Pied Imperial Pigeon, Great and Lesser Frigatebirds, White-bellied Sea Eagle and elegant Black-naped Terns. Crossing over the invisible Weber's Line while flying towards Halmahera, we landed on the picturesque cone-shaped volcano island of Ternate where we could already see the higher quantity of Australasian elements such as Rainbow Bee-eater and Common Golden Whistler. By boat we transferred to the coastal town of Sidangoli on western Halmahera, along the way obtaining nice views of a couple of snazzy Beach Kingfishers along the mangrove edge.

The largest island of the Moluccan Archipelago, Halmahera supports a surprising number of endemic and localized bird specialties. Sadly, expanding human populations and agricultural pressure for coconut and sago palm plantations have destroyed much of the rainforest that once cloaked the hillsides. Setting out on our first afternoon into the forest edge of Kali Bata Putin, we managed to find some outstanding birds including the monstrous Goliath Coucal, Northern Golden Bulbuls, the aberrant Creamy-throated White-eye, a rare sighting of Dusky Friarbird, Great Cuckoo-Dove that flew by only a few meters from us, pairs of Blyth's Hornbills clamoring noisily through the forest, Moluccan Starlings mixed in with more numerous Metallic Starlings, the impressive Long-billed Crow, White Cockatoo screeching by overhead, Halmahera Cuckooshrike, and a Dusky Scrubfowl slowly walking across the track before dusk.

Overlooking the remnant primary forest along the roadside at dawn, where Halmahera and Masked Flying Foxes were visible in the spotlight feeding upside down, we heard the songs of Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar while the sensational Ivory-breasted Pitta serenaded us – though we had to wait a little longer to actually see these two sought-after avian gems. A pair of Paradise Crows then put on a show for us as did the endemic Slaty Flycatcher and several Red-cheeked Parrots, but it was the *columbids* that stole the show with our first views of intricately patterned Grey-headed and Blue-capped Fruit Doves, wonderful scope studies of Cinnamon-bellied and Spectacled Imperial Pigeons, and a close trio of the scarce Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove showing off their gaudy coloration as they fed on berries at eye-level. The exquisite Blue-and-white Kingfisher was a regular sighting along our route northward, while opportunistic roadside stops yielded scope views of the endemic Rufous-bellied Triller, a vocal pair of Common Paradise Kingfisher in the forest understory along with a juvenile, and outstanding views of the rare Moluccan Goshawk near the forested cliffs of Lame!

A boat journey at daybreak across the channel towards the remote village of Foli found us watching Bridled and Swift Terns, Brown Booby, a single Bulwer's Petrel gracefully gliding over the waves, and cetaceans including Short-finned Pilot Whale and Spinner Dolphins before landing on the beach. After a short hike we arrived at our simple guesthouse where we were welcomed by friendly locals. From here we departed on foot birding along the old logging road, allowing us access into remnant forest patches. White-streaked Friarbird and Drab Whistler were among the first new birds we found in an active flock, as well as scope views of a brilliant adult Flame-breasted (Halmahera) Flowerpecker, Moluccan Cuckooshrike, and walk-away views of a responsive Sombre Kingfisher that flew in and perched at eye-level only ten meters away while we admired its bold patterning! We also found Grey-throated Goshawk, Moustached Treeswift, Spectacled Monarch and lured a pair of Rufous-tailed Bush-hens across a trail, but this time it was the parrots that made top headlines with noisy Euclestus and handsome Great-billed Parrots being regularly sighted, close perched views of the tiny Moluccan Hanging Parrot along with numerous Red-flanked Lorikeets, and we were fortunate to spend time scoping the increasingly rare Violet-necked Lory and a fine pair of Chattering Lorys, both of which sport an eye-searing combination of utterly intense colors. A night outing also allowed us to track down a vocal Moluccan Boobook, which after several fly-overs eventually provided perched spot-lit views.

Setting out under a clear star-filled early-morning sky, we hiked with high hopes of encountering one of the most remarkable birds-of-paradise called (Wallace's) Standardwing. Dawn was just starting to break as we settled down under the display area and within moments our adrenaline was rushing as we heard the raspy calls of a male calling through the dark forest. Gradually the sun approached the horizon and the butterfly-like movements of several displaying Standardwings became visible through the trees. Slowly moving into the best position where the light was shining on the bird's display branches, we watched spellbound as a female bird flew into the area and several flamboyant males parachuted into view while gyrating their white standards and flailing the metallic green epaulettes across their chest while calling noisily in excitement. We spent nearly an hour watching these phenomenal birds under ideal conditions just above eye-level only twenty-five meters away. The event finally concluded with a male winning over the female with copulation, after which the birds then disappeared into the dense forest.

During our last evening in the northern part of Halmahera we drove to the village of Galela, where we found a cooperative rufous phase Moluccan Scops Owl that posed for us as we walked through the palm plantation towards the shoreline. Loading up into small traditional boats we were paddled through the river estuary by moonlight with a volcano rising up from the sea in the background and the distant sounds of chanting from the mosque minarets adding to the ambiance. Arriving on the black sand beach, we carefully started scanning the surroundings for the rare Moluccan Megapode that comes by twilight to lay its eggs in the volcanic sand. Initially flushing a distant bird, we decided to stay put for a few minutes to let things quieten down, only to hear the heavy flutter of wings coming down beside us. I shined the torch and there beside us was a decorative Moluccan Megapode that posed for several spell-binding minutes, seemingly immune to the group of staring birders only three meters away!

With just a handful of Halmahera target endemics remaining, we returned to Kali Batu Putih adding our only sightings of the scarce Dusky-brown Oriole and a vocal White-naped Monarch, along with further views of a close Spectacled Imperial Pigeon, Paradise Crows perched in the open, a pair of White Cockatoos excavating a nesting cavity, Spectacled Monarch, and another Flame-breasted Flowerpecker showing closely among other species. We were ecstatic after nightfall on our last evening on Halmahera to finally track down prolonged, perched spot-lit views of a singing Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar, a new family of birds for many participants! One major target bird still remained, and though we had sweated buckets

during numerous attempts clambering along logging trails and occasionally climbing through the forest to try and see the secretive Ivory-breasted Pitta, so far only some of us had managed to obtain glimpses. On our final morning we therefore cautiously crept into the forest so as not to make any unnecessary leaf-litter noise, and managed to coax an Ivory-breasted Pitta nearby, though it remained frustratingly hidden behind thick vegetation. Trying to remain motionless with the tension palpably mounting, with persistence the bird finally flew in above us showing off its large size and bold wing pattern, before landing on an open branch only ten meters away in perfect lighting! Our hard work had at last paid off, and we all admired the gorgeous coloration of its contrasting velvet-black hood, white breast encircling a crimson red belly, and bright iridescent turquoise shoulder panel. When the bird eventually disappeared back into the impenetrable undergrowth, we all started clapping and exchanging collective hugs with exhilarated high-fives, knowing that every ounce of effort we put in was well worth those crippling views! A fine ending to our time on Halmahera!

After a return boat journey, a scenic afternoon found us overlooking the crater lake of Ternate where we found the monster Channel-billed Cuckoo, while plumes of smoke and ash billowed from the active volcano that towered above us. Following our return flight to Manado in northern Sulawesi, we still had some extra birding time left so we made our way to the forested slopes of Gunung Mahawu. Here we refreshed ourselves with more than fifteen endemics including our only sighting of the scarce Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker during the tour. Celebrating our success with an extravagant dinner, we bid fond farewell to each other, our terrific local guides and drivers, and this unique region of the world. In total we amassed a collection of over 250 species, including an outstanding selection of Sulawesi and Halmahera endemics and specialties as well as a fine overview of the local culture and other wildlife. Thank you all again for a wonderful tour, a fun cohesive group, and many memorable adventures!



Knobbed Hornbill in flight & Spectral Tarsier
Photos by participant Ian Mowat & David Shackelford

Annotated List of Birds recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC 2.7 list of: Gill, F. and Wright, M. *Birds of the World: Recommended English Names*. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.

Megapodes Family Megapodiidae

Maleo

Macrocephalon maleo

What a great bird! After an early start at Tambun we scoped the hillsides finding two cooperative birds that posed in the morning sunshine followed by subsequent views during our forest walk perched in the tree above us.

Moluccan Megapode *Eulipoa wallacei*

Another outstanding encounter, after a memorable boat trip to the black sand beach of Galela we initially found a flighty bird in the distance only to be amazed by a bird that literally landed beside us for views only three meters away!

Philippine Megapode (Tabon Scrubfowl) *Megapodius cumingii*

Several birds were seen very well in Tangkoko including pairs quietly sifting among the leaf litter and calling.

Dusky Megapode *Megapodius freycinet*

A bird was seen slowly walking across a logging trail in KBP on Halmahera with a couple others being flushed from the trails. Otherwise heard at dawn and dusk from the forest at KBP and Foli.

Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Family Phasianidae

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*

We heard this species calling from the forest near Makassar during our search for the Black-ringed White-eye.

Ducks, Geese & Swans Family Anatidae

Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

About a dozen birds were encountered at a wetland in Dumoga Bone.

Sunda Teal *Anas gibberifrons*

We had good views of two birds that showed well in a wetland in Dumoga Bone.

Petrels, Shearwaters Family Procellariidae

Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*

Just a single bird was seen cruising over the waves during the journey from Daru to Foli.

Grebes Family Podicipedidae

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

There were scattered sightings during the trip with our first sighting at Lore Lindu and numerous birds on the crater lake at Ternate.

Hérons, Bitterns Family Ardeidae

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*

A single bird was flushed from a wetland near Dumoga Bone.

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

At least one bird was flushed from a wetland near Dumoga Bone.

Nankeen (Rufous) Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

Just a couple birds were seen in flight en route from Manado.

Striated (Little) Heron *Butorides striata*

A few birds were seen during the tour with our best views in the mangroves near Tangkoko.

Javan Pond Heron *Ardeola speciosa*

We had scattered sightings of breeding-plumage birds in paddyfields throughout the tour.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

This widespread species was commonly encountered throughout the tour in open fields.

Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*

One of the giant birds was seen very well during our boat trip into the mangroves near Tangkoko.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

We found scattered sightings throughout the tour of this widespread species.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

A single bird was seen near a wetland at Dumoga Bone.

Great Egret *Ardea modesta*

There were just a handful of birds seen at scattered sights during the tour.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*

We found one bird in a paddyfield en route from Manado.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

A few scattered sightings were had of this widespread species throughout the tour.

Pacific Reef Heron *Egretta sacra*

Quite a few birds were seen during our trip in to the mangroves near Tangkoko with further views along the coast on Halmahera.

Frigatebirds Family *Fregatidae*

Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor*

A couple birds were seen cruising over the waves during our boat trip into the mangroves near Tangkoko.

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*

We had regular sightings of this species during our boat trip into the mangroves near Tangkoko and along the coast in Halmahera.

Gannets, Boobies Family *Sulidae*

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

A single bird was seen on each crossing from Daru to Foli and return.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Family *Accipitridae*

Barred Honey Buzzard *Pernis celebensis*

Just one bird was seen during the tour, a bird soaring over the forest at Lore Lindu.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

A few representatives of this widespread species were seen throughout the tour.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

This bird was commonly encountered throughout the tour near coastal areas.

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Several impressive birds were seen very well during our boat trip near Tangkoko.

Lesser Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga humilis*

We found just a single bird that was perched in the forest at Toraut in Dumoga Bone.

Sulawesi Serpent Eagle *Spilornis rufipectus*

Three birds were seen well and scoped at length in Dumoga Bone.

Sulawesi Goshawk *Accipiter griseiceps*

Often a tough endemic to find, we were fortunate to have outstanding scope views of an adult along the roadside at Dumoga Bone.

Spot-tailed Sparrowhawk *Accipiter trinotatus*

Our first morning we coaxed a pair into view that posed in the scope and several others were heard during the tour.

Grey-throated (Variable) Goshawk *Accipiter (hiogaster) griseogularis*

We found this sleek species almost daily in Halmahera including several fine perched views; a species split from Variable Goshawk and endemic to the northern Moluccas.

Moluccan Goshawk *Accipiter henicogrammus*

A rare species, we were fortunate to have such great views of a single bird at Lame forest.

Dwarf (Small) Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nanus*

A couple birds were seen well in Lore Lindu and again in Dumoga Bone; an uncommon endemic.

Vinous-breasted Sparrowhawk *Accipiter rhodogaster*

Often a difficult endemic to connect with, we had excellent scope studies of a single bird in Dumoga Bone.

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*

This widespread species was only seen in Lore Lindu.

Gurney's Eagle *Aquila gurneyi*

Only one bird was seen soaring over the ridge at Lame in Halmahera but it disappeared behind the high forest before most people were able to see it.

Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus lanceolatus*

We enjoyed several outstanding views of this endemic in flight at Lore Lindu and later perched in Dumoga Bone.

Caracaras, Falcons Family Falconidae

Spotted Kestrel *Falco moluccensis*

About ten birds were seen in total during the tour with our first views near Makassar.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Just a single dark bird was seen by some of us soaring over the guesthouse in Foli.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Family Rallidae

Barred Rail *Gallirallus torquatus*

Pleasantly common and often conspicuous, we enjoyed many views of this attractive species with our best views of some confiding birds in Dumoga Bone.

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*

This widespread species was first seen in the paddyfields en route from Manado with further views in Dumoga Bone on the roadside.

Isabelline Bush-hen *Amaurornis isabellina*

Always a secretive bird, this species was only seen by some people in Dumoga Bone at a wetland where we could hear three birds loudly responding to playback in the thick grasses.

Pale-vented (Rufous-tailed) Bush-hen *Amaurornis moluccana*

Two birds were eventually coaxed across a pathway from the tall grasses in Halmahera as they scolded us loudly.

Ruddy-breasted Crake *Porzana fusca*

Two birds were seen in the paddyfields en route from Manado.

White-browed Crake *Porzana cinerea*

We enjoyed multiple excellent sightings including scope views of a pair at a wetland in Dumoga Bone and then another confiding bird at a paddyfield en route from Manado.

[Invisible (Drummer) Rail] *Habroptila wallacii*

Still unconfirmed, we heard a song that I was unfamiliar with in the forest of Foli at dawn, which I think came from this species. It was a rhythmic call with a deep reverberating quality that was repeated three times before it went silent.

Purple [Black-backed] Swampphen *Porphyrio porphyrio [indicus]*

A couple birds were seen well at a wetland in Dumoga Bone.

Buttonquail Family Turnicidae

Red-backed Buttonquail *Turnix maculosa*

We were pleased to find two birds that showed more than once at a grassy area alongside a wetland en route towards Manado from Dumoga Bone.

Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator*

Several birds showed in flight and on the ground as we walked through the secondary scrub near Palu.

Plovers Family Charadriidae

Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus*

A passage migrant probably on its way to northwest Australia, one bird was scoped in Halmahera.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Just one bird was seen on a sandy spit in Halmahera.

Sandpipers, Snipes Family Scolopacidae

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

A few birds were seen along the coast in Halmahera.

Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*

One fearless bird showed for everyone at the entrance to the mangroves during our boat trip near Tangkoko.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Family Laridae

Swift (Great Crested) Tern *Thalasseus bergii*

We found this species in small flocks flying over the sea while we crossed from Daru to Foli and return.

Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus*

Just one bird was seen on the boat crossing from Foli to Daru.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

A few migrant birds were seen on the crossing from Daru to Foli.

Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana*

About twenty birds were seen well during our boat trip near Tangkoko.

Pigeons, Doves Family Columbidae

Common Pigeon (Rock Dove) *Columba livia*

Available.

Red Turtle (Collared) Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*

We found several birds in the secondary habitat near Palu.

Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis*

This common species was regularly seen in secondary habitat throughout the tour.

Slender-billed (Brown) Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis*

With a taxonomy still poorly understood, this widespread species was seen regularly throughout the tour in forested areas.

Great Cuckoo-Dove *Reinwardtoena reinwardtii*

We were lucky to see a single oversized bird that literally flew through the middle of our group in the KBP forest of Halmahera.

White-faced (Sulawesi Black Pigeon) C-Dove *Turacoena manadensis*

Just a couple sightings this year, we first saw one bird while watching the Maleo at Tambun followed by a fly-over in Tangkoko.

Pacific Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps longirostris*

We had nice views of a couple birds feeding on the ground in Tangkoko.

Stephan's Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps stephani*

Only one bird was seen and another heard in the forest near Makassar.

Pink-necked Green Pigeon *Treron vernans*

This widespread species was quite common in the mangrove forest near Tangkoko including perched views.

Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon *Treron griseicauda*

We had scattered sightings of this species including the first morning near Makassar and plenty of perched birds in Dumoga Bone.

Red-eared Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus fischeri*

This find-looking endemic was seen especially well in Lore Lindu where we found six total birds including prolonged scope views and another bird perched only five meters away!

Maroon-chinned Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus subularis*

Always a tough endemic, just a single pair was seen and briefly scoped in the roadside forest of Dumoga Bone.

Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus bernsteinii*

What a super bird! Another tricky species, we were fortunate to find three gaudy birds feeding on a fruiting tree at eye-level allowing for prolonged scope views.

Superb Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*

A couple birds were seen well in Lore Lindu with especially nice eye-level scope views of a male one afternoon.

Blue-capped Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus monacha*

Plenty of fine sightings were had of this specialty throughout the forest areas of Halmahera and Ternate.

Grey-headed Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus hyogastrus*

Pleasantly common on Halmahera and Ternate, we enjoyed scope views of plenty including one large flock of one-hundred birds!

Black-naped Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus melanospilus*

Several pairs were watched at length through the scope with our finest sunlit views in Lore Lindu and Dumoga Bone.

White-bellied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula forsteni*

An attractive endemic, we found a fruiting tree with at least ten of this huge pigeons that allowed for prolonged scope views; several more were heard in the forest of Lore Lindu.

Grey-headed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula radiata*

Just a single bird showed on the forested track of Anaso.

Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea*

The subspecies here has a distinct rufous nape and we found plenty throughout the tour with our first scope studies in the forest near Makassar.

Spectacled (White-eyed) Imperial Pigeon *Ducula perspicillata*

Only a couple views on Halmahera but one particularly nice view of a bird perched by the side of the road one morning in KBP.

Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula basilica*

Simply gorgeous views of this elegant species were had on several occasions in Halmahera including eye-level scope views in KBP.

Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor*

We first encountered this widespread species in the mangroves near Tangkoko with further views of perched birds in Halmahera.

Silver-tipped (White) Imperial Pigeon *Ducula luctuosa*

Often a scarce species, we first scoped a pair in the forest near Makassar with further good views in the forest of Tangkoko.

Cockatoos Family *Cacatuidae*

Yellow-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua sulphurea*

We found this localized species, most easily found on the Indonesian island of Sumba, calling raucously and flying over in Tangkoko.

White Cockatoo *Cacatua alba*

Plenty of noisy birds were seen well in Halmahera and Ternate including nice scope views of a pair excavating a nesting cavity and flailing their crests.

Parrots Family *Psittacidae*

Great (Sulawesi) Hanging Parrot *Loriculus stigmatus*

Quite a few sightings were had of this small parrot in Lore Lindu and Dumoga Bone with multiple scope studies of perched birds.

Moluccan Hanging Parrot *Loriculus amabilis*

We enjoyed great scope studies in the forest of Foli with further flight views in KBP.

Pygmy (Small) Hanging Parrot *Loriculus exilis*

This scarce species was only seen in Dumoga Bone where we scoped a cooperative individual.

Violet-necked Lory *Eos squamata*

The colors on this bird have to be seen to be believed, and we enjoyed three separate sightings of bright red and purple birds perched through the scope.

Ornate Lorikeet *Trichoglossus ornatus*

We first had scope studies of several birds in Lore Lindu followed by further sightings in Dumoga Bone.

Citrine (Yellow-and-green) Lorikeet *Trichoglossus flavoviridis*

These fast-flying lorikeets were seen in Lore Lindu and several birds were seen perched in the high trees but never for too long.

Chattering Lory *Lorius garrulous*

An increasingly rare bird due to habitat loss and the pet trade, we were pleased to find two noisy birds that flew onto an exposed perch and interacted for nearly ten minutes while we gawked through the scope!

Red-flanked Lorikeet *Charmosyna placensis*

Plenty of these fast-flying lorikeets were seen well in the forests of Halmahera including scope studies.

Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi*

We enjoyed plenty of fine sightings of perched and flying birds in the forests of Halmahera; a great songster.

Yellow-breasted Racket-tail *Prioniturus flavicans*

Often a tough bird to obtain good views, we enjoyed simply outrageous views of an adult perched only twenty meters away for nearly thirty minutes in the forest of Toraut!

Golden-mantled Racket-tail *Prioniturus platurus*

More common than the preceding species, we had numerous views including fine flocks in flight and perched in Lore Lindu and Dumoga Bone.

Great-billed Parrot *Tanygnathus megalorynchos*

An impressive species, we saw several birds each day on Halmahera with a couple scope views of perched birds showing off their massive bill.

Blue-backed (Azure-rumped) Parrot *Tanygnathus sumatranus*

We enjoyed several nice perched views of this attractive species during the tour with our first views in the forest near Makassar and our best views in Tangkoko.

Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus*

Still fairly numerous on Halmahera, we saw several colorful birds each day including several perched views.

Cuckoos Family Cuculidae

Goliath Coucal *Centropus goliath*

Five great encounters were had of this impressive coucal with large black and white adults and juveniles clamoring about the thick growth on Halmahera.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*

This widespread species was fairly common in open secondary habitat throughout the tour.

Bay Coucal *Centropus celebensis*

Several small parties of this noisy species were seen moving through the vine tangles with our best views in Dumoga Bone.

Yellow-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus calyorrhynchus*

A striking bird, we found this species in most forests in Sulawesi in small numbers.

Black-billed Koel *Eudynamis melanorhyncha*

Easier to hear than see, we first found an adult that perched for scope studies in the canopy of Lore Lindu with a couple other sightings in the lowland areas of northern Sulawesi.

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*

A monstrous member of the cuckoo family, several birds were watched in flight and scoped perched at the volcanic crater on Ternate.

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*

Heard regularly in Halmahera, this widespread species was also reported as seen by some participants near our guesthouse in Foli.

Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus*

Another widespread cuckoo that we heard on several occasions, we only had flight views of one bird cruising over the forest at Lore Lindu in response to playback.

Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis sepulcralis*

One of the most common sounds in Lore Lindu and then we all had great views of a close perched bird in Tambun near the Maleo site.

Square-tailed (Asian) Drongo-Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris*

This cuckoo was heard singing from a distance in the KBP forest on Halmahera.

Barn Owls Family Tytonidae

Sulawesi Masked Owl *Tyto rosenbergii*

We ventured to a forest area near Dumoga Bone on two consecutive nights, each evening getting perched spot-lit views of this attractive and vocal owl.

Owls Family *Strigidae*

Moluccan Scops Owl

Otus magicus

It took us a view tries, but eventually we coaxed a rufous-phase bird into prolonged view while in Galela in northern Halmahera.

Sulawesi Scops Owl

Otus manadensis

After hearing several birds, we were celebrating a couple birthdays in the evening in Tangkoko when one bird started calling above us to we went outside and spot-lit the bird at length above our heads – happy birthday you two!

Ochre-bellied Boobook

Ninox ochracea

Another beautiful endemic owl, we had magnificent day-time views in Tangkoko only a few meters away of a single bird found by our local guides.

Moluccan Boobook

Ninox squamipila

We had to spend a little while to finally lure this one into view, but eventually we enjoyed several flight views before it finally perched in the spot-light in the forest of Foli.

Cinnabar Boobook

Ninox ios

Despite three separate efforts in Lore Lindu and Gunam Ambang we were only able to hear this species calling unresponsively from the thicker vegetation.

Speckled Boobook

Ninox punctulata

We enjoyed outstanding day-time views of a striking bird located on its day-roost in Dumoga Bone.

Nightjars Family *Caprimulgidae*

Satanic (Diabolical/Heinrich's) Nightjar *Eurostopodus diabolicus*

A gorgeous bird when seen well, we observed a couple birds perched side-by-side in the daytime that allowed for close study of the detailed pattern across their breast and faces.

Great Eared Nightjar

Eurostopodus macrotis

Plenty of the huge vocal birds were seen well in the Dumoga Bone area at dawn and dusk.

Large-tailed Nightjar

Caprimulgus macrurus

Several birds were heard and seen in Halmahera with some great spot-lit views.

Sulawesi Nightjar

Caprimulgus celebensis

A few birds could be seen singing while they hawked for insects over the forest in Tangkoko.

Owlet-nightjars Family *Agothelidae*

Moluccan Owlet-nightjar

Agothelles crinifrons

After several unsuccessful attempts with closely-encountered vocal birds we finally managed to find a responsive individual that perched for several minutes for everyone to admire in the KBP forest.

Treeswifts Family *Hemiprocnidae*

Grey-rumped Treeswift

Hemiprocne longipennis

Plenty of these widespread treeswifts were seen well at scattered sites throughout Sulawesi.

Moustached Treeswift

Hemiprocne mystacea

Surprisingly, only two of these huge treeswifts were seen on two separate occasions during our time on Halmahera.

Swifts Family Apodidae**Glossy Swiftlet***Collocalia esculenta*

This species was commonly encountered at all forest sites.

Halmahera (Moluccan) Swiftlet*Aerodramus infuscatus*

Plenty of fine views were had of this species over the forests in Halmahera.

Sulawesi Swiftlet*Aerodramus sororum*

Our best views were of several birds in good lighting flying over the forest of Lore Lindu.

Uniform Swiftlet*Aerodramus vanikorensis*

This is another common species that we saw in most lowland areas especially over disturbed habitat.

Purple Needletail*Hirundapus celebensis*

A few birds were seen cruising overhead in Dumoga Bone.

Asian Palm Swift*Cypsiurus balasiensis*

Just a single bird was seen overhead while we explored secondary habitat near Palu.

House Swift*Apus nipalensis*

We only had a couple of odd sightings of this species twice in urban areas and once in Tangkoko passing over our guesthouse.

Rollers Family Coraciidae**Purple-winged Roller***Coracias temminckii*

A beautiful endemic, we found three separate birds during our time near Lore Lindu including walk-away scope views of a close bird showing off in the sunshine.

Oriental Dollarbird*Eurystomus orientalis*

Just a single bird was seen perched near Sidangoli in Halmahera.

Kingfishers Family Alcedinidae**Green-backed Kingfisher***Actenoides monachus*

After tracking down a bird in Tambun for scope views we later found several more cooperative birds in Tangkoko.

Scaly-breasted Kingfisher*Actenoides princeps*

A tough customer, despite our efforts we were only able to hear this crepuscular species calling just before dawn at Gunam Ambang.

Common Paradise Kingfisher*Tanysiptera galatea*

We were pleased to coax into view to elegant adults and a juvenile while birding in the forest of central Halmahera en route to Tobelo.

Lilac-cheeked Kingfisher*Cittura cyanotis*

Although we heard this species at Dumoga Bone, we did not see it until Tangkoko where we marveled at a single bird perched through the scope for nearly half-an-hour!

Great-billed (Black-billed) Kingfisher*Pelargopsis melanorhyncha*

After scanning through the mangroves near Tangkoko during our boat trip, we were pleased to find one monster bird that cooperated for excellent perched views and plunged into the water near our boats.

Ruddy Kingfisher*Halcyon coromanda*

Unfortunately not seen by most, a single of these widespread kingfishers was found by our local guides in Tangkoko that vocalized a couple times from the large stream below us.

Blue-and-white Kingfisher*Todiramphus diops*

A pleasantly common endemic on Halmahera, we had several nice sightings at the edge of forest during our time on the island.

Sombre Kingfisher*Todiramphus funebris*

After some searching for this scarce endemic, our efforts were rewarded with a responsive bird that shot into view like a rocket and perched only ten meters away at eye-level until we finally left the bird where it landed thirty minutes later!

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris*

This widespread species was common throughout the tour in degraded habitats.

Beach Kingfisher *Todiramphus saurophagus*

A striking bird with a white head, we found three birds that showed well along the mangrove edge on our boat trip from Daru to Foli.

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*

Just a few of these more widespread birds were seen in Dumoga Bone at a wetland and again in the mangroves of Tangkoko.

Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx fallax*

Although one bird was initially seen by a few people, we all had amazing views through the scope of this colorful gem along a forest stream in Dumoga Bone.

Variable Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx Lepidus*

Only one of these widespread birds performed poorly along a forested stream in KBP.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

A few birds of the endemic subspecies *hispidoides* were seen well in Dumoga Bone and Tangkoko with the distinctive blue ear-patch.

Bee-eaters Family Meropidae

Purple-bearded Bee-eater *Meropogon forsteni*

This wonderful endemic was seen on four occasions in Lore Lindu with unbelievable perched views through the scope in the sunshine followed by another sighting in Dumoga Bone.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*

A bird of open habitats, we found plenty in the secondary growth near Palu.

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

Plenty of these Australian species were seen very well during our time on Halmahera.

Hornbills Family Bucerotidae

Sulawesi (Dwarf) Hornbill *Penelopides exarhatus*

Sometimes a tough endemic to connect with, our first morning in the forest near Makassar we had great views followed several nice scope views in the north at Dumoga Bone.

Knobbed Hornbill *Aceros cassidix*

A marvel of nature, the swooshing of heavy wings was a regular sight in healthy forests in Sulawesi with numerous outstanding views of this attractive endemic.

Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus*

Pleasantly common on Halmahera, we found this huge hornbill also found on New Guinea on a daily basis.

Woodpeckers Family Picidae

Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos temminckii*

Never especially common, we had four separate sightings of this tiny woodpecker in Lore Lindu.

Ashy Woodpecker *Mulleripicus fulvus*

This hefty endemic was first seen in Dumoga Bone with another vocal few birds flocking together at Gunam Ambang.

Pittas Family Pittidae**Red-bellied (Blue-breasted) Pitta** *Pitta erythrogaster*

A pair of these widespread but extremely attractive pittas were seen incredibly well by everyone in the Tambun forest of Dumoga Bone.

Ivory-breasted Pitta *Pitta maxima*

Our persistence and gallons of sweat finally paid off at the last minute! Having heard a number of birds in the forests of Halmahera and only managing glimpses for most, we all huddled together motionlessly in the KBP forest our finally morning and were rewarded with outstanding unobstructed views of a perched bird only fifteen meters away! Whew!

Honeyeaters Family Meliphagidae**White-streaked Friarbird** *Melitograis gilolensis*

Not uncommon on Halmahera, we found a couple birds on a daily basis in forested areas across the island.

Dusky Friarbird *Philemon fuscicapillus*

An infrequently sighted bird on this tour, one bird showed well on our first afternoon in the KBP forest at the forest edge.

Dark-eared Myza (Lesser Streaked Honeyeater) *Myza celebensis*

This species was common in Lore Lindu with several nice views including scope studies of an unusually motionless bird.

White-eared Myza (Greater Streaked Honeyeater) *Myza sarasinorum*

Harder to get good views of than the preceding species, several birds were seen in the higher areas of Lore Lindu along the Anaso track.

Sulawesi Myzomela *Myzomela chloroptera*

We enjoyed scattered sightings of this pretty endemic during our time on Sulawesi with our first views in the forest of Lore Lindu.

Australian Warblers Family Acanthizidae**Golden-bellied Gerygone** *Gerygone sulphurea*

Plenty of birds were seen in the forest of Lore Lindu and other forest areas in the north of Sulawesi.

Woodswallows Family Artamidae**Ivory-backed (White-backed) Woodswallow** *Artamus monachus*

A beautiful endemic, we had our first sightings in Lore Lindu with our best views of several close perched birds in Dumoga Bone.

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorynchus*

This widespread species was commonly seen throughout the tour in secondary habitats.

Cuckooshrikes Family Campephagidae**Moluccan Cuckooshrike** *Coracina atriceps*

We enjoyed several nice sighting of this species showing off its white belly patch in the forest of Foli on Halmahera.

Cerulean Cuckooshrike *Coracina temminckii*

Several loose groups were seen and scoped at length during our time in Lore Lindu.

Pied Cuckooshrike *Coracina bicolor*

Although vocally responsive, we only managed brief views of this canopy dweller in the Toraut forest of Dumoga Bone.

White-rumped Cuckooshrike *Coracina leucopygia*

We first recorded a small flock in secondary habitat en route to Palu from Lore Lindu followed by a couple more vocal birds in the mangroves near Tangkoko.

White-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina papuensis*

A widespread species, we found plenty of birds in open country on Halmahera.

Halmahera Cuckooshrike *Coracina parvula*

Always a low density bird, we enjoyed two separate sightings in the forest of KBP and again in Foli.

Pygmy Cuckooshrike *Coracina abbotti*

Often a scarce bird, we had two separate sightings of this attractive cuckooshrike in Lore Lindu.

Common Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*

A couple birds were seen in the forest of Foli.

White-rumped (Sulawesi) Triller *Lalage leucopygialis*

First scoped in Lore Lindu, we later had another good sighting in Dumoga Bone.

White-shouldered Triller *Lalage sueurii*

Many birds were seen well in the secondary habitat near Palu.

Rufous-bellied Triller *Lalage aurea*

A striking species, we enjoyed many great views in the forests of Halmahera, especially in Foli.

Whistlers and Allies Family Pachycephalidae

Maroon-backed Whistler *Coracornis raveni*

Just a single male was seen but all too briefly as it fed on the ground along the Anaso track.

Sulphur-vented (Yellow-) Whistler *Pachycephala sulfuriventer*

This species was seen in montane forest habitat in Sulawesi with numerous great views in Lore Lindu.

Australian Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*

A common sound on Halmahera with several birds seen well.

Drab Whistler *Pachycephala griseonota*

Just one bird was seen and another heard in the forest of Foli this year although some people had scope views.

Figbirds, Orioles Family Oriolidae

Dusky-brown (Halmahera) Oriole *Oriolus phaeochromus*

We heard this scarce species a couple times from a distance and saw one bird in the forest of KBP.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*

A widespread and often common species, we found several birds in the lowlands of northern Sulawesi.

Drongos Family Dicruridae

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*

Plenty of these noisy creatures were seen well throughout Sulawesi, especially in the north.

Sulawesi Drongo *Dicrurus montanus*

Just a few birds were seen well in Lore Lindu often with small mixed flocks.

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*

This was a regularly encountered species on Halmahera in forest habitat.

Fantails Family Rhipiduridae

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

This active bird was abundant in secondary habitat on Halmahera.

Rusty-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura teysmanni*

Plenty of fine sightings were had of the sprightly little bird in Lore Lindu with further sightings on Gunam Ambang.

Monarchs Family *Monarchidae*

Spectacled Monarch *Symposiachrus trivirgatus*

Several attractive birds were seen well in the forests of Foli and KBP.

Pale Blue [Black-naped] Monarch *Hypothymis puella*

A few birds were first heard and then later seen well in Tangkoko.

White-naped Monarch *Carterornis pileatus*

Just a single bird was seen this year after it responded quickly to playback in the forest of KBP on Halmahera.

Moluccan (Slaty) Flycatcher *Myiagra galeata*

A beautiful songster, we found plenty of this arboreal endemic in the forests of Halmahera.

Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*

This is a widespread species that we heard and saw on many occasions during our time in Halmahera.

Crows, Jays Family *Corvidae*

Slender-billed Crow *Corvus enca*

We had scattered sightings across Sulawesi with more birds noted especially in the north.

Piping Crow *Corvus typicus*

A striking specialty and a great songster, we first saw this attractive bird in the forest near Makassar followed by further views of a pair attending to a nest in Lore Lindu.

Long-billed Crow *Corvus validus*

With a honking big bill, this species left a lasting impression from our several sightings in the forests of Halmahera.

Birds-of-paradise Family *Paradisaeidae*

Paradise-crow *Lycocorax pyrrhopterus*

Sometimes a tricky species to see well, we were fortunate to all have multiple scope views of exposed birds calling (squawking?) on open limbs on two occasions in KBP forest.

Standardwing (Wallace's Bird of Paradise) *Semioptera wallacii*

After hearing a couple birds that remained just out of site the afternoon prior, hopes we high as we set off into the dark to the display site of this spectacular species. We were not disappointed with everyone obtaining unobstructed sun-lit views of several displaying males only 25 meters away!

Hylocitrea Family *Hylocitreidae*

Yellow-flanked (Olive-flanked) Whistler *Hylocitrea bonensis*

Now often referred to simply as 'Hylocitrea', we found this now sought-after monotypic family on two occasions with especially nice views of three birds together casually feeding in front of us showing off their subtle plumage and sluggish movements along the moss-covered branches along the Anaso track.

Fairy Flycatchers Family *Stenostiridae*

Citrine Canary-Flycatcher *Culicicapa helianthea*

A regularly encountered species in small bird parties, we had great views throughout Sulawesi.

Bulbuls Family Pycnonotidae**Sooty-headed Bulbul***Pycnonotus aurigaster*

This introduced species was plentiful in secondary habitat throughout Sulawesi.

Northern Golden Bulbul*Thapsinillas longirostris*

Pleasantly common, we found numerous birds daily during our birding adventures on Halmahera.

Malia*Malia grata*

Another bird that is gradually increasing on people's 'want list' due to its unique characteristics, we enjoyed four separate sightings of this noisy species usually in pairs foraging through the thick arboreal mosses and epiphytes.

Swallows, martins Family Hirundinidae**Pacific Swallow***Hirundo tahitica*

This species was common throughout the tour.

Cettia warblers and allies Family Cettiidae**Mountain Tailorbird***Phyllergates cucullatus*

Especially plentiful in Lore Lindu, many birds were seen in the thick vine tangles.

Leaf warblers and allies Family Phylloscopidae**Sulawesi Leaf Warbler***Phylloscopus sarasinorum*

Abundant by voice, we had many quality sightings of this subtle endemic throughout Sulawesi with our largest numbers in Lore Lindu.

Grassbirds and allies Family Megaluridae**Chestnut-backed Bush Warbler***Bradypterus castaneus*

Moving on the ground like a mouse, we coaxed in several birds between our time in Lore Lindu and Gunam Ambang to ensure everyone had outstanding views.

Zitting Cisticola*Cisticola juncidis*

A few birds were seen or heard at scattered locations throughout the tour in secondary growth.

Golden-headed Cisticola*Cisticola exilis*

Another widespread species, one bird was seen at a wetland area near Dumoga Bone with other birds later heard during the trip.

Babblers, Parrotbills Family Timaliidae**Sulawesi Babbler***Trichastoma celebense*

We found this species in virtually every forest in Sulawesi with four distinct subspecies being noted.

White-eyes Family Zosteropidae**Mountain White-eye***Zosterops montanus*

Several small flocks were seen in the upper areas of Lore Lindu.

Lemon-bellied White-eye*Zosterops chloris*

We found this species in secondary habitats near Palu and the surrounding areas of Lore Lindu.

Black-ringed White-eye*Zosterops anomalus*

An endemic to the southern forests of Sulawesi, we enjoyed outstanding views of this unique-looking white-eye with several responsive birds showing in closely in good lighting.

Cream-throated White-eye *Zosterops atriceps*

This species was commonly heard in the forests of Halmahera with some outstanding views in the forest of KBP.

Black-crowned (-fronted) White-eye *Zosterops atrifrons*

An abundant white-eye, especially in the forest of Lore Lindu where we perhaps found hundreds.

Streak-headed Ibon (Dark-eye) *Lophozosterops squamiceps*

An aberrant white-eye, we enjoyed many great views but always in small numbers in the forests of Lore Lindu, Gunam Ambang, and again near Manado.

Starlings, Rhabdornis Family Sturnidae**Metallic Starling** *Aplonis metallica*

This species was very common throughout Halmahera.

Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis*

Several flocks were seen in the lowlands of northern Sulawesi.

Moluccan (Island) Starling *Aplonis mysolensis*

We picked out several nice scope studies of this starling on Halmahera compared with its much more common cousin, the Metallic Starling.

Short-tailed Starling *Aplonis minor*

Just a few birds were seen in Dumoga Bone.

Sulawesi (Crested) Myna *Basilornis celebensis*

A scarce bird and easy to miss during a tour, we had three separate sightings including two in Dumoga Bone and a pair exploring a nesting cavity through the scope in Lore Lindu.

White-necked Myna *Streptocitta albicollis*

We found this attractive species to be fairly common in Dumoga Bone.

Fiery-browed Starling *Enodes erythrophris*

Another striking starling, many birds were seen well in Lore Lindu.

Grosbeak Starling (Finch-billed Myna) *Scissirostrum dubium*

We first found this species in the lower areas of Lore Lindu, and later a large dead tree full of these colorful birds could be seen in their colony.

Thrushes Family Turdidae**Red-backed Thrush** *Zoothera erythronota*

What a bird! After a diligent effort by everyone to move slowly through a forested valley in Tangkoko we all enjoyed excellent scope studies of this gorgeous bird with another individual later seen that same morning.

Sulawesi Thrush *Cataponera turdoides*

Another tricky species, we were fortunate to all see a pair in Lore Lindu that fed confidently on fruits near the roadside for several minutes.

Great Shortwing *Heinrichia calligyna*

A couple birds were seen in Lore Lindu including on shy bird on the Anaso track and another more cooperative individual along a forested section of road.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Family Muscicapidae**Pied Bush Chat** *Saxicola caprata*

A few birds were seen in the vicinity of Palu in secondary habitat.

Sulawesi Flycatcher *Muscicapa sp*

Still undescribed, we found a single bird along the roadside in Lore Lindu perching on a dead snag where we could see the streaked breast pattern.

Turquoise (Island Verditer) Flycatcher *Eumyias panayensis*

We enjoyed scattered sightings of this conspicuous songster throughout Sulawesi.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra*

A few odd birds were seen rather well by everyone in Lore Lindu.

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*

Several of these widespread flycatchers were seen well in Lore Lindu.

Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis omissus*

Only encountered in Lore Lindu, we coaxed a colorful male into view near a densely forested area of riparian habitat.

Blue-fronted Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis hoevelli*

Nicely patterned with a pleasant song, we found several birds daily during our time in Lore Lindu.

Matinan Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis sanfordi*

Only discovered relatively recently, after an early morning hike ascending the muddy slope of Gunam Ambang we were all rewarded with outstanding views of a vocal pair associating loosely with a small mixed flock.

Flowerpeckers Family Dicaeidae

Yellow-sided Flowerpecker *Dicaeum aureolimbatum*

This is a pleasantly common endemic that we encountered frequently throughout the tour in Sulawesi.

Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker *Dicaeum nehrkorni*

A tricky bird, we enjoyed outstanding views at the forested mountain slope near Manado.

Flame-breasted [Halmahera] Flowerpecker *D. erythrothorax [schistaceiceps]*

Another scarce species, we found three individuals including two gorgeous cooperative adults in the forest of KBP and Foli.

Grey-sided Flowerpecker *Dicaeum celebicum*

Plenty of this brightly-colored flowerpecker were seen throughout our time in Sulawesi.

Sunbirds Family Nectariniidae

Brown-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis*

We had several scattered sightings during the tour in secondary growth and forest edge with our best views in Dumoga Bone.

Black Sunbird *Leptocoma sericea*

This was a common species in secondary growth throughout the tour.

Olive-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris chloropygius*

This was also a common species in secondary growth throughout the tour.

Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*

Several beautiful male birds were seen in Sulawesi with our best views in Dumoga Bone.

Old World Sparrows Family Passeridae

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Available.

Waxbills, Munias & Allies Family Estrildidae

Black-faced Munia *Lonchura molucca*

We enjoyed nice scope studies of this localized species in the secondary habitat near Palu and again in Dumoga Bone.

Scaly-breasted Munia (Nutmeg Mannikin) *Lonchura punctulata*

This widespread species was found in the paddyfields en route from Manado.

Chestnut Munia *Lonchura atricapilla*

We found this species almost everywhere in secondary habitat throughout the tour.

Pale-headed Munia *Lonchura pallida*

Several large flocks of more than one hundred birds were enjoyed in the secondary habitat near Palu.

Java Sparrow *Lonchura oryzivora*

An introduced species on Sulawesi but still a pleasure to see, we found a few birds near a roadside wetland while returning to Manado.

Finches Family *Fringillidae*

Mountain Serin *Serinus estherae*

We only heard this species calling this year while birding on the Anaso track.

MAMMALS

Ashy-headed (North Moluccan) Flying-fox *Pteropus caniceps*

Several animals were seen very well in flight and perched feeding during our nocturnal excursions into the forest on Halmahera.

Masked Flying-fox *Pteropus personatus*

Several animals were seen very well in flight and perched feeding during our nocturnal excursions into

Small Sulawesi Cuscus *Stigocuscus celebensis*

One animal was seen briefly along the Anaso track.

Bear Cuscus *Ailurops ursinus*

What a treat! We found two animals together in Tangkoko that were surprisingly active showing off their marsupial affinities and prehensile tail.

Whitish Dwarf Squirrel *Prosciurillus leucomus*

This species was encountered a couple times in the northern lowlands of Sulawesi.

Sulawesi (Northern) Dwarf Squirrel *Prosciurillus murinus*

This was the most regularly encountered squirrel in Sulawesi with especially nice views in Lore Lindu.

Montane Long-nosed Squirrel *Hyosciurus heinrichi*

We found this species only on Gunam Ambang.

Lowland Long-nosed Squirrel *Hyosciurus ileile*

There was just one animal seen in the lowlands of northern Sulawesi.

Sulawesi Giant (Red-bellied) Squirrel *Rubrisciurus rubriventer*

One animal was seen in Lore Lindu.

Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus*

Presumably this species, we saw a couple of typical introduced-looking rats in settlement areas during the trip.

Spectral Tarsier *Tarsius spectrum*

We enjoyed simply amazing views of 6 of these adorable animals in Tangkoko from only a few feet away including a mother with a tiny baby on her back.

Diana's Tarsier *Tarsius diana*

This species was heard calling at dawn in the forest near Makassar.

Sulawesi Tarsier *Tarsius pumilus*

We could hear this species calling at dawn during the hike ascending the Anaso track.

Moor Macaque *Macaca maura*

Only a single animal was seen briefly in the limestone forest near Makassar.

Tonkean Macaque *Macaca tonkeana*

One large male was seen fantastically well in Lore Lindu including some interesting behavior and scope views.

Sulawesi Crested Macaque *Macaca nigra*

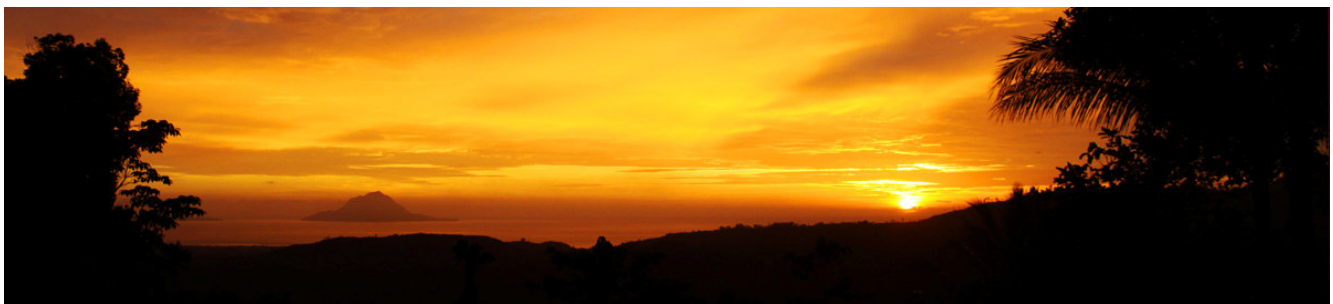
During our magical morning in Tangkoko we were mixed in amongst a troop of 21 individuals including several young animals.

Spinner Dolphin *Stenella longirostris*

Only two animals were seen surfacing during the boat crossing from Foli to Daru.

Short-finned Pilot Whale *Globicephala macrorhynchus*

Just one of these widespread creatures was seen surfacing during the boat crossing from Daru to Foli.



Sunset over Halmahera Photo by David Shackelford

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