



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Sulawesi & Halmahera Wallacean Endemics

26th July to 12th August 2012



Scaly-breasted Kingfisher by David Hoddinott

Tour Leader: David Hoddinott

Rockjumper Birding Tours



Top 10 birds as voted by participants:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Maleo | 6. Azure Dollarbird |
| 2. Hylocitrea | 7. Moluccan Owlet-nightjar |
| 3. Purple-bearded Bee-eater | 8. Scaly-breasted Kingfisher |
| 4. Ivory-breasted Pitta | 9. Red-backed Thrush |
| 5. Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher | 10. Standardwing / Sulawesi Masked Owl |

Tour Summary

Surrounded to the north by the Philippines, to the east by New Guinea, the south by Australia and the west by Borneo, the two larger islands of Sulawesi and Halmahera form a significant part of central Indonesia's nearly 15000 islands. We recorded over 100 endemics of a total trip list of 241 species, thus emphasising that this is certainly one of the endemic hotspots of the world!



Black-ringed White-eye by David Hoddinott

Our tour started off with a morning visit to the limestone crags of Karenta Forest, Sulawesi. Departing Makassar, we set off early to avoid the traffic and our convoy of comfortable vehicles, filled with excited participants, set off in search of our first endemics. Arriving just after dawn we were soon enjoying wonderful sightings of stunning Yellow-sided and Grey-sided Flowerpeckers. Whilst eating our bananas at breakfast we enjoyed a splendid adult Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle cruising low overhead. Scanning the surrounding area we observed several Blue-backed Parrots, beautiful Black-naped (Pale Blue) Monarch, brief Piping Crow, Sulawesi Babbler, lovely White-necked Myna, active Brown-throated and Black Sunbirds and a Rusty-breasted Cuckoo that showed very well and was heard calling throughout the morning. Our prize sightings, however, were still to come and we scoped the seldom seen Sulawesi Goshawk, followed with a wonderful flock of five Sulawesi Hornbills (our only sighting of the trip). Our main target, Black-ringed White-eye, a rather localised species occurring only in southern Sulawesi, showed particularly well and we were treated to superb views of a pair. Thereafter we took a short flight to Palu and drove to the fabulous Lore Lindu National Park.

We spent a very enjoyable time exploring the network of trails in Lore Lindu for a fabulous two full days. Some of the highlights during this time included Sulawesi Serpent Eagle on several occasions (along with close perched views), a brief Dwarf Sparrowhawk, flocks of Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon, smart Red-eared Fruit Dove, Superb and the beautiful Black-naped Fruit

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Satanic Nightjars by David Hoddinott



Dove, splendid White-bellied Imperial Pigeon, huge and rarely seen Sombre Pigeon, numerous Golden-mantled Racket-tails, elusive Black-billed Koel, Sulawesi Scops Owl, co-operative pair of Cinnabar



Hylocitrea by David Hoddinott

Boobook, and stunning views of Satanic Nightjar at its daytime roost. On several occasions we encountered good mixed species flocks including the smart Ashy Woodpecker, Cerulean & Pygmy Cuckooshrikes, shy Maroon-backed Whistler, Sulawesi Drongo, Rusty-bellied Fantail, Citrine Canary-Flycatcher, unusual Malia, secretive Chestnut-backed Bush Warbler, Streak-headed Ibon, Fiery-browed Starling, Sulawesi Thrush, Great Shortwing and Blue-fronted Blue Flycatcher. We also had a brief sighting of a pair of Mountain Serins flying overhead, whilst the lovely Ivory-backed Woodswallow was seen sallying for insects over the open glades in the forest. The whistler-like Hylocitrea, recently placed in its own family, was of course a major target and fortunately after a long walk we were treated to superb views of a pair, including great scope views of the female for everyone. Our expectations were then exceeded when, after repeated tries, we were finally rewarded with crippling scope views of the rare Scaly-breasted Kingfisher! (see photo above). What a way to end our time in this fabulous reserve!

Leaving Lore Lindu, we next made our way back to Palu where we located several flocks of Pale-headed and Black-faced Munias, and later took a flight to the north eastern city of Manado. From here we made our way to Dumoga-Bone National Park, where we explored several sections of lowland and mid-altitude rainforest. Highlights included fabulous sightings of Maleo (but only after a good deal of perseverance!), Barred Honey Buzzard, a dashing Peregrine Falcon, immaculate White-faced Dove, Grey-headed and Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon, Great & Pygmy Hanging Parrot (the latter seen hanging upside down for twenty minutes), Ornate Lorikeet (the name says it all!), Bay Coucal, exquisite Purple-winged Roller, Lilac Kingfisher, smart Hooded Pitta, impressive Knobbed Hornbill, White-rumped Triller, handsome Sulawesi Myna, colonies of Grosbeak Starlings and the striking Crimson Sunbird. As if this wasn't enough, our night vigil saw us enjoying superb views of Sulawesi Masked Owl and, at yet another day roost, a superb Speckled Boobook. The surrounding wetlands, now almost entirely converted into rice paddies, produced Sunda



Grey-headed Imperial Pigeons by David Hoddinott



Lilac Kingfisher by David Hoddinott



Teal, Javan Pond Heron, Spotted Harrier, White-browed Crake, Common Redshank and Long-toed Stint.

Our next destination was the mountain forest of Gunung Ambang. Having already seen the Scaly-breasted Kingfisher meant we didn't need to make a very early start and so we arrived at the forest at dawn. Here we enjoyed a packed breakfast before heading up the trail. It took some time to find our main target, Matinan Blue Flycatcher, but when we did finally see it we were treated to superb scope views. Other highlights here included lovely perched views of Citrine Lorikeet and our best views of the magnificent Purple-bearded Bee-eater, which couldn't have been any closer and was seen nonchalantly eating a butterfly. To end off the morning a pair of Black Eagles were seen displaying overhead, an amazing spectacle of stooping and flaring of wings – what a feeling it must be to fly like that!



Purple-bearded Bee-eater by David Hoddinott

Our final stop on the island of Sulawesi was the lowland forests of Tangkoko. Here we enjoyed numerous special sightings, with highlights including Philippine Megapode, Buff-banded Rail, Isabelline Bush-hen, Sulawesi Nightjar, Green-backed and stunning Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher, and a very confiding Red-bellied Pitta.

This was then followed by a relaxing boat ride in the area, which provided us with good views of the elusive Great-billed Heron, Pacific Reef Heron, Eastern Osprey, striking White-bellied Sea Eagle, Grey-tailed Tattler, huge Great-billed Kingfisher and White-rumped Cuckooshrike.

From Manado we flew to Ternate and then took a boat trip across to Sidangoli, Halmahera. From here we made our way to the town of Subaim and the forests of Foli. Highlights during our time here included flocks of Lesser Frigatebird, several Pacific Baza, stunning Scarlet-breasted, Blue-capped and Grey-headed Fruit Doves, Spectacled and lovely Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon, Moluccan Hanging Parrot, gorgeous Violet-necked and Red-flanked Lory, huge Goliath Coucal, Moluccan Owlet-nightjar, Moustached Treeswift, increasingly rare Azure Dollarbird, Blue-and-White Kingfisher, Blyth's Hornbill, magnificent Ivory-breasted Pitta, Moluccan and Halmahera Cuckooshrikes, smart Rufous-bellied Triller,



Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher by David Hoddinott

Drab Whistler, Long-billed Crow, Paradise-crow, Standardwing (after a lengthy wait we finally managed reasonably good views of this unusual bird of paradise), Northern Golden Bulbul, Cream-throated White-eye, and Moluccan Starling. Thereafter we enjoyed time around Kali Batu Putih. This area produced a number of memorable sightings including the elusive Dusky Megapode, White Cockatoo, Halmahera Boobook (seen well after a great deal of searching), the lovely Sombre Kingfisher, Australian Golden Whistler, Willie Wagtail nesting directly on the powerlines, intricately patterned White-naped Monarch, Moluccan Flycatcher and Halmahera Flowerpecker.



From Sidangoli we then travelled back to the island of Ternate, where we visited the crater Lake Tolire. Two Gurney's Eagles were seen flying along the slopes behind the crater lake and several Great-billed Parrots flew by.

Heading back to Manado we visited the mountain, Gunung Mahawu. This gave us the opportunity to enjoy many of the endemics we were now familiar with and also to enjoy fabulous sightings of Barred Rail, Isabelline Bush-hen and Yellow-billed Malkoha. After a delicious lunch we did some final birding at some nearby wetlands, which produced a good variety of waterbirds including egrets, herons, Yellow and Cinnamon Bitterns, Dusky Moorhen and Little Ringed Plover.



Boat trip near Tangkoko by David Hoddinott

And so ended a fantastic trip to these seldom-visited endemic hotspots! On our final night we enjoyed a scrumptious farewell dinner and a good night's sleep before catching our departure flights home. Thanks must go to a wonderful group of enthusiastic and fun participants as well as a superb ground operations team. I am very much looking forward to travelling with you all again!

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.

Total species recorded: 241

Megapodes Megapodiidae

Maleo

Macrocephalon maleo

What a great bird! After a concerted effort we finally managed to find 3 magnificent birds perched up allowing for superb scope views for all. We enjoyed subsequent views of one walking through the leaf litter on our forest walk.

Philippine Megapode (Tabon Scrubfowl) *Megapodius cumingii*

We were treated with superb views of six birds in Tangkoko Nature Reserve, including pairs quietly sifting among the leaf litter.

Dusky Megapode

Megapodius freycinet

Our first sighting was flushed views of one flying over the track right in front of us. Later we enjoyed superb views of two birds seen slowly walking across a logging trail in KBP on Halmahera.

Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae

King (Blue-breasted) Quail

Excalfactoria chinensis

Frank was fortunate to see one near Gunung Ambang.



Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae**Wandering Whistling Duck***Dendrocygna arcuata*

About fifty birds were first encountered at the Makassar airport with further sightings of forty at a wetland near Dumoga Bone National Park.

Sunda Teal*Anas gibberifrons*

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

Grebes Podicipedidae**Little Grebe***Tachybaptus ruficollis*

We enjoyed wonderful scope views of at least 50 birds on the Tolire Crater Lake at Ternate.

Storks Ciconiidae**Woolly-necked Stork***Ciconia episcopus*

We had superb views of four at the Makassar airport.

Hérons, Bitterns Ardeidae**Yellow Bittern***Ixobrychus sinensis*

We enjoyed superb views of three at a wetland near Manado.

Cinnamon Bittern*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

Our first sighting was awesome views of one at a rice paddy near Lore Lindu NP. Several more were seen at wetlands near Dumoga Bone and Manado.

Nankeen (Rufous) Night Heron*Nycticorax caledonicus*

Just a couple birds were seen in flight in Tangkoko Nature Reserve.

Striated (Little) Heron*Butorides striata*

Three birds were seen in the mangroves near Tangkoko and several more in the mangroves near Sidangoli.

Javan Pond Heron*Ardeola speciosa*

We had many 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 these giant birds was seen very well during our boat trip into the mangroves near Tangkoko.

Purple Heron*Ardea purpurea*

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

Great Egret*Ardea alba*

We had a superb sighting of one near Dumoga Bone NP and another near Manado.

Intermediate Egret*Egretta intermedia*

We found one bird in a paddy field en route from Lore Lindu to Palu and later enjoyed superb scope views of one near Manado.

Little Egret*Egretta garzetta*

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

Pacific Reef Heron*Egretta sacra*

At least four birds were seen during our trip to the mangroves near Tangkoko with further views of one during the boat ride from Halmahera to Ternate.



Frigatebirds Fregatidae**Lesser Frigatebird***Fregata ariel*

We had a number of good sightings of this species during our boat trip to the mangroves near Tangkoko and along the coast in Halmahera.

Cormorants, shags Phalacrocoracidae**Little Pied Cormorant***Microcarbo melanoleucos*

We had superb views of one at a wetland near Dumoga Bone NP.

Ospreys Pandionidae**Eastern Osprey***Pandion cristatus*

We had superb views of one flying along the coastline near the mangroves of Tangkoko NR.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae**Pacific Baza***Aviceda subcristata*

We had cracking views of four during our drive from Sidangoli to Foli on Halmahera.

Barred Honey Buzzard*Pernis celebensis*

Just one bird was seen during the tour, a bird soaring over the forest along the Molibagu Road.

Black Kite*Milvus migrans*

Two representatives of this widespread species were seen near Dumoga Bone and a further two near Manado.

Brahminy Kite*Haliastur indus*

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

White-bellied Sea Eagle*Haliaeetus leucogaster*

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

Sulawesi Serpent Eagle*Spilornis rufipectus*

Three birds were seen well in Lore Lindu NP.

Spotted Harrier*Circus assimilis*

We had magnificent views of an adult male near Toraut Forest and a female near Dumoga Bone NP.

Sulawesi Goshawk*Accipiter griseiceps*

Often a tough endemic to find, we were fortunate to have good scope views of an adult at Karenta Forest.

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

We found this sleek species almost daily in Halmahera including several fine perched views.

Note: a species which is sometimes split from Variable Goshawk and endemic to the northern Moluccas. IOC does not accept this split.

Dwarf (Small) Sparrowhawk*Accipiter nanus*

One bird was seen briefly in Lore Lindu NP, an uncommon endemic.

Black Eagle*Ictinaetus malayensis*

This widespread species was seen in Lore Lindu and Dumoga Bone NP's.

Gurney's Eagle*Aquila gurneyi*

Our first sighting was very brief views of one over a ridge top near Sidangoli. Later a superb pair was seen above the Tolire Crater lake on Ternate.

Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle*Lophotriorchis kienerii*

A splendid adult was seen flying low overhead at Karenta Forest and a juvenile was seen soaring along a ridge at Dumoga Bone NP.



Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle*Nisaetus lanceolatus*

We enjoyed outstanding views of this endemic in flight at Lore Lindu NP.

Caracaras, Falcons Falconidae**Spotted Kestrel***Falco moluccensis*

About a dozen birds were seen in total during the tour with our first views near Lore Lindu NP.

Peregrine Falcon*Falco peregrinus*

Just a single dark bird was seen flying over Toraut Forest.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae**Barred Rail***Gallirallus torquatus*

Pleasantly common and often conspicuous, we enjoyed good views of this attractive species on several occasions, including awesome sightings on our final day at Gunung Mahawu.

Buff-banded Rail*Gallirallus philippensis*

A pair of this widespread species was seen very well on our last morning in Tangkoko NR and a further one was seen at a wetland near Manado.

Isabelline Bush-hen*Amaurornis isabellina*

Always a secretive bird, after two brief sightings we were finally rewarded with great views of one on our final morning in Tangkoko NR, however our best sighting was of one on our final afternoon at Gunung Mahawu.

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

Several birds were heard on Halmahera as they scolded us loudly.

White-browed Crake*Porzana cinerea*

We enjoyed multiple excellent sightings including scope views of a pair at a wetland en route to Dumoga Bone and then several more confiding birds at a wetland near Manado.

Purple [Black-backed] Swamp-hen*Porphyrio porphyrio [indicus]*

A couple birds were seen well at a wetland in Dumoga Bone and a further five in a wetland near Subaim.

Common Moorhen*Gallinula chloropus*

We had good scope views of one en route from Kotamabagu to Tangkoko.

Dusky Moorhen*Gallinula tenebrosa*

We enjoyed superb views of at least three in a wetland near Manado.

Buttonquail Turnicidae**Barred Buttonquail***Turnix suscitator*

One bird showed in flight as we walked through the secondary scrub near Palu. A further one was seen exceptionally well walking in short grass at the Makassar airport.

Plovers Charadriidae**Little Ringed Plover***Charadrius dubius*

We had superb views of one at a wetland near Manado.

Kentish Plover*Charadrius alexandrinus*

Three birds were seen at some salt pans near Palu.

Sandpipers, Snipes Scolopacidae

Common Redshank*Tringa totanus*

We enjoyed splendid scope views of one at a wetland en route from Kotamabagu to Tangkoko.

Wood Sandpiper*Tringa glareola*

Scattered sightings at wetlands near Dumoga Bone, en route to Tangkoko and near Manado.

Grey-tailed Tattler*Tringa brevipes*

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

Common Sandpiper*Actitis hypoleucos*

Two birds were seen at some salt pans near Palu with a further sighting near Dumoga Bone.

Long-toed Stint*Calidris subminuta*

We had wonderful sightings of two at a rice paddy en route from Kotamabagu to Tangkoko.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae**Bridled Tern***Onychoprion anaethetus*

Two birds were seen on the boat crossing from Ternate to Halmahera.

Pigeons, Doves Columbidae**Common Pigeon (Rock Dove)***Columba livia*

Seen in small numbers in the larger towns and cities, including several sightings in Palu.

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.

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

Just a couple sightings this year, we first saw a magnificent pair on the Molibagu road and later enjoyed superb scope views of one at Toraut Forest.

Pacific Emerald Dove*Chalcophaps longirostris*

One was seen briefly flying over the road en route from Sidangoli to Subaim and another seen briefly at Lame Forest.

Stephan's Emerald Dove*Chalcophaps stephani*

Our first sighting was very brief views of one at Toraut Forest and another was seen exceptionally well by some, as it walked along the road in Tangkoko NR.

Pink-necked Green Pigeon*Treron vernans*

This widespread species was scarce in the mangrove forest near Tangkoko where two flew over briefly.

Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon*Treron griseicauda*

We had scattered sightings of this species including stunning scope views of twenty along the Salibu Road and a further dozen at Toraut Forest.

Red-eared Fruit Dove*Ptilinopus fischeri*

This fine-looking endemic was seen especially well in Lore Lindu where we saw two birds including prolonged scope views and another bird perched only ten meters away!

Oberholser's (Maroon-chinned) Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus epius*

Always a tough endemic, one was heard calling on the Molibagu Road.

Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove*Ptilinopus bernsteinii*

What a super bird! Another tricky species, we were fortunate to find three gaudy birds on consecutive days near Foli.

Superb Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*

A couple birds were seen well in Lore Lindu and another at Kali Batu Putih (KBP).

Blue-capped Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus monacha*

Plenty of fine sightings were had of this specialty at Foli.

Grey-headed Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus hyogastrus*

Pleasantly common on Halmahera, we enjoyed scope views of plenty including at least fifteen seen on one day near Foli.

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 had great scope views of this huge pigeon in Lore Lindu NP.

Grey-headed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula radiata*

We had superb scope views of three at Toraut Forest, another tricky endemic!

Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea*

The subspecies here has a distinct rufous nape and we found plenty throughout the tour with our first views at Karenta Forest and several more including scope studies at Toraut Forest.

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

A smashing bird, we enjoyed great scope views of one near Foli.

Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula basilica*

Simply gorgeous views of this elegant species were had at Foli.

Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor*

We first encountered this widespread species near Foli with further views of perched birds en route from Subaim to Sidangoli.

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

Often a scarce species, we first scoped five at Toraut Forest with further good views in the forest of Tangkoko.

Sombre Pigeon *Cryptophaps poecilorrhhoa*

We enjoyed magnificent scope views of this rare pigeon in Lore Lindu NP.

Cockatoos Cacatuidae

White Cockatoo *Cacatua alba*

Plenty of noisy birds were seen well in Halmahera and Ternate including nice scope views of a pair eating fruit on our first afternoon at KBP, where they were also observed flailing their crests.

Parrots 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 good views in the forest of KBP.

Pygmy (Small) Hanging Parrot *Loriculus exilis*

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



Violet-necked Lory*Eos squamata*

The colours 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*

Our first sightings were very brief flight views on the Salibu Road. We later enjoyed superb scope views of two at Toraut Forest.

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

These fast-flying lorikeets were heard in Lore Lindu and later seen exceptionally well through the scope at Gunung Ambang.

Red-flanked Lorikeet*Chamosyna placentis*

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 heard several at Toraut and Tangkoko.

Golden-mantled Racket-tail*Prioniturus platurus*

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

Great-billed Parrot*Tanygnathus megalorhynchus*

An impressive species, we had reasonable flight views of three at Tolire Lake, Ternate.

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

Our first sightings were of two flying over Karenta Forest. We later enjoyed nice perched views of this attractive species at Toraut Forest.

Eclectus Parrot*Eclectus roratus*

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

Cuckoos Cuculidae**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.

Goliath Coucal*Centropus goliath*

Several 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.

Yellow-billed Malkoha*Rhamphococcyx calyorhynchus*

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

Black-billed Koel*Eudynamis melanorhynchus*

Easier to hear than see, we first found an adult that perched for good but brief views near Lore Lindu NP with a further brief sighting in the lowland areas of northern Sulawesi.

Channel-billed Cuckoo*Scythrops novaehollandiae*

A monstrous member of the cuckoo family. One was seen being chased by a Slender-billed Crow, whilst we drove from Tangkoko to Manado. Unfortunately, a leader only sighting.

Little (Gould's) Bronze Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx minutillus*

We had great views of one shortly after leaving Lore Lindu NP and another at Toraut Forest.

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*

Heard regularly in Halmahera and one was seen well during the drive from Sidangoli to Subaim.

Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis sepulcralis*

First seen in Karenta Forest with further great sightings in Lore Lindu NP.

Moluccan (Square-tailed) Drongo-Cuckoo *Surniculus musschenbroeki*

This cuckoo was heard singing from a distance at Foli on Halmahera.

Barn Owls Tytonidae

Sulawesi Masked Owl *Tyto rosenbergii*

After having brief flyover views near Lore Lindu NP we were treated to superb views of an adult in Kotamabagu.

Owls Strigidae

Moluccan Scops Owl *Otus magicus*

It took us a few tries, but eventually we coaxed a bird out giving good but brief views in KBP, Halmahera.

Sulawesi Scops Owl *Otus manadensis*

We heard several birds and one showed very well in Lore Lindu NP.

Cinnabar Boobook *Ninox ios*

A fabulous pair showed exceptionally well in Lore Lindu NP.

Halmahera (Moluccan) Boobook *Ninox hypogramma*

We had to spend a good deal of night birding to find this species. Our patience and persistence was rewarded with superb views of one in KBP.

Speckled Boobook *Ninox punctulata*

We enjoyed good scope views of this striking bird near Lore Lindu NP and later located another on its day-roost near Dumoga Bone NP.

Nightjars 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. What a stunner!

Great Eared Nightjar *Lyncornis macrotis*

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

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*

One bird was seen briefly at Foli in Halmahera.

Sulawesi Nightjar *Caprimulgus celebensis*

One bird showed well over the forest in Tangkoko.

Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis*

We had simply amazing views of a dozen birds in farmbush near Palu.

Owlet-nightjars Aegothelidae

Moluccan Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles crinifrons*

A splendid calling individual perched for several minutes for everyone to admire in the KBP forest.



Treeswifts Hemiprocnidae**Grey-rumped Treeswift** *Hemiproctne longipennis*

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

Moustached Treeswift *Hemiproctne mystacea*

Several of these huge treeswifts were seen en route to Foli, Halmahera.

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

This species was commonly encountered at all forest sites.

Sulawesi (Moluccan) Swiftlet *Aerodramus sororum*

Small numbers of this species were seen flying over Lore Lindu NP and later we enjoyed our best views of thirty flying low over some fields on Gunung Mahawu.

*Note: a species which is sometimes split from Halmahera (Moluccan) Swiftlet, A. infuscatus. IOC accepts this split.***Uniform Swiftlet** *Aerodramus vanikorensis*

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

Purple Needletail *Hirundapus celebensis*

At least eight birds were seen cruising overhead at Toraut Forest.

Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*

A flock of six was seen overhead while workers were harvesting rice alongside the road during our drive from Lore Lindu to Palu.

House Swift *Apus nipalensis*

We only had a couple of odd sightings of this species, our first being ten in Palu.

Rollers 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 bird showing off in the sunshine. A further three were seen in Dumoga Bone NP.

Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

One was seen by some in the mangroves near Tangkoko and later we enjoyed numerous sightings in Halmahera.

Azure Dollarbird *Eurystomus azureus*

We had prolonged and magnificent scope views of one near Subaim. This species has become exceedingly difficult to find and we were very fortunate to see it!

Kingfishers 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, after a concerted effort we enjoyed exceptional views of this extremely elusive species in Lore Lindu NP.

Common Paradise Kingfisher *Tanysiptera galatea*

We were pleased to coax into view an elegant adult while birding at Lame Forest.

Lilac (-cheeked) Kingfisher *Cittura cyanotis*

We enjoyed exceptional views of this beauty at Dumoga Bone NP, we marveled at a single bird perched through the scope for twenty minutes!

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

After scanning through the mangroves near Tangkoko during our boat trip, we were pleased to find three monster birds that cooperated for excellent perched views.

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 five meters away 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 five birds that showed well along the mangrove edge on our boat trip to Sidangoli.

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*

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

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.

Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx fallax*

We all had amazing views through the scope of this colourful gem in the forest of Tangkoko.

Bee-eaters Meropidae

Purple-bearded Bee-eater *Meropogon forsteni*

This wonderful endemic was seen very well in Lore Lindu NP with unbelievable perched views through the scope in the sunshine followed by another exceptional sighting at Gunung Ambang. One of the world's great bee-eaters!

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*

A bird of open habitats, we found at least a dozen in farmbrush near Palu.

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

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

Hornbills Bucerotidae

Sulawesi (Dwarf) Hornbill *Penelopides exarhatus*

Often a tough endemic to connect with. We enjoyed outrageous views of a flock of five at Karenta Forest.

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. We enjoyed a peak count of 40 on one day in KBP.



Woodpeckers Picidae**Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker***Dendrocopos temminckii*

Never especially common, we had good views of four of this tiny woodpecker in Lore Lindu NP with a further sighting at Gunung Mahawu.

Ashy Woodpecker*Mulleripicus fulvus*

This hefty endemic was first seen in Lore Lindu NP with great sightings in Tangkoko NR.

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

One of these widespread but extremely attractive pittas was seen incredibly well by everyone in the Tangkoko forest.

Ivory-breasted Pitta*Pitta maxima*

What a magnificent species!!! We had great views of one during our drive from Sidangoli to Subaim. The bird flew across the road on several occasions show its huge size and exquisite colours and also perched for scope views. This was certainly one of the highlights of the trip!

Hooded Pitta*Pitta sordida*

We all enjoyed exceptional views of one in Dumoga Bone NP. Yet another beautiful species!

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

A species which can prove elusive on Halmahera, we found a couple birds on a daily basis in KBP forest.

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 Acanthizidae**Golden-bellied Gerygone***Gerygone sulphurea*

Two birds were seen in the forest of Lore Lindu and thereafter heard in other forest areas in the north of Sulawesi.

Woodswallows Artamidae**White-breasted Woodswallow***Artamus leucorhynchus*

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

Ivory-backed (White-backed) Woodswallow *Artamus monachus*

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



Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

- Moluccan Cuckooshrike** *Coracina atriceps*
We enjoyed a cracking sighting of a pair of this large species in the forest of Foli on Halmahera.
- Cerulean Cuckooshrike** *Coracina temminckii*
Two were seen and scoped during our time in Lore Lindu NP.
- Pied Cuckooshrike** *Coracina bicolor*
Although vocally responsive, we only heard this elusive canopy dweller in the Toraut forest of Dumoga Bone.
- White-rumped Cuckooshrike** *Coracina leucopygia*
A couple of vocal birds were seen very well in the mangroves near Tangkoko.
- White-bellied Cuckooshrike** *Coracina papuensis*
A widespread species, we found a few birds in open country on Halmahera.
- Halmahera Cuckooshrike** *Coracina parvula*
Always a low density bird, we enjoyed three separate sightings in the forest at Foli.
- Pygmy Cuckooshrike** *Coracina abbotti*
Often a scarce bird, we had two separate sightings of this attractive cuckooshrike in Lore Lindu NP.
- Common Cicadabird** *Coracina tenuirostris*
One bird was seen in the forest of Foli.
- White-rumped (Sulawesi) Triller** *Lalage leucopygialis*
First scoped in Dumoga Bone NP with a further sighting at Toraut Forest.
- White-shouldered Triller** *Lalage sueurii*
Our first sighting was of one in farmbrush near Palu with a further sighting of one at the Makassar airport.
- Rufous-bellied Triller** *Lalage aurea*
A striking species, we enjoyed many great views in the forests of Halmahera, especially in Foli.

Whistlers and Allies Pachycephalidae

- Maroon-backed Whistler** *Coracornis raveni*
After a very persistent effort we all obtained great views of a pair 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, one male showed very well in KBP.
- Drab Whistler** *Pachycephala griseonota*
Small numbers were seen at Foli and KBP, Halmahera.

Figbirds, Orioles Oriolidae

- Dusky-brown (Halmahera) Oriole** *Oriolus phaeochromus*
We heard this scarce species a couple times in the forest of Foli.
- Black-naped Oriole** *Oriolus chinensis*
A widespread and often common species, we found several birds in the lowlands of Lore Lindu NP.

Drongos 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 Rhipiduridae

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

This active bird was abundant in secondary habitat on Halmahera where we noted a number of birds nesting directly on telephone lines.

Rusty-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura teysmanni*

Plenty of fine sightings were had of the sprightly little bird in Lore Lindu NP.

Monarchs Monarchidae

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

A superb male was seen in Karenta Forest. A further two were seen by some shortly after leaving Lore Lindu NP.

Spectacled Monarch *Symposiachrus trivirgatus*

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

Note: We observed a stunning black and white male of the distinctive bimaculatus race, which may be split in future.

White-naped Monarch *Carterornis pileatus*

A splendid pair and another male were seen this year in the forest of KBP on Halmahera.

Moluccan (Slaty) Flycatcher *Myiagra galeata*

A beautiful songster, we found a stunning pair at their nest right alongside the road whilst en route from Subaim to Sidangoli.

Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto*

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

Crows, Jays 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 briefly in the Karenta forest followed by further splendid scope views of three in Lore Lindu NP.

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 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 we were finally rewarded with good views of a stunning male. Females were not present for long and so we did not see the males displaying for an extended period.

Hylocitrea Hylocitreidae



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

This highly sought after monotypic family was high on most participants want list and we were not to be disappointed with splendid views of a pair. The female showed particularly well along the Anaso track.

Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae**Citrine Canary-flycatcher***Culicicapa helianthea*

A regularly encountered species in small bird parties, we had great views in Lore Lindu NP.

Bulbuls 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 great sightings of this noisy species usually in threes foraging through the thick arboreal mosses and epiphytes in Lore Lindu NP.

Swallows, martins Hirundinidae**Barn Swallow***Hirundo rustica*

Very small numbers were seen at scattered sites on Sulawesi.

Pacific Swallow*Hirundo tahitica*

This species was common throughout the tour.

Cettia warblers and allies Cettiidae**Mountain Tailorbird***Phyllergates cuculatus*

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

Leaf warblers and allies 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.

Reed warblers and allies Acrocephalidae**Oriental Reed Warbler***Acrocephalus orientalis*

We had great views of one in a wetland near Manado.

Grassbirds and allies Locustellidae**Chestnut-backed Bush Warbler***Locustella castanea*

Moving on the ground like a mouse, we coaxed in several birds between during our time in Lore Lindu NP ensuring everyone had outstanding views.

Cisticolas and allies Cisticolidae**Golden-headed Cisticola***Cisticola exilis*

Another widespread species, one bird was scoped near Gunung Ambang and another seen at a wetland near Manado.

Fulvettas, Ground Babblers Pellorneidae

Sulawesi Babbler *Trichastoma celebense*

We found this species in virtually every forest in Sulawesi.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

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

An aberrant white-eye, we enjoyed great views but always in small numbers in the forests of Lore Lindu NP.

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 well in good lighting.

Cream-throated White-eye *Zosterops atriceps*

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

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

Small numbers were seen in the forest of Lore Lindu NP.

Starlings, Rhabdornis Sturnidae

Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica*

This species was very common throughout Halmahera with daily counts often reaching 300.

Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis*

Only three birds were seen in a small town en route from Kotamabagu to Manado.

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*

We enjoyed daily sightings in Lore Lindu NP.

Sulawesi (Crested) Myna *Basilornis celebensis*

A scarce bird and easy to miss during a tour, we had a number of sightings including our best views in Dumoga Bone.

White-necked Myna *Streptocitta albigollis*

We found this attractive species to be fairly common near Lore Lindu NP and 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 at their nesting colony in Dumoga Bone NP.

Thrushes Turdidae



Red-backed Thrush*Geokichla erythronota*

What a bird! After a diligent effort by everyone to move slowly through a forested valley in Dumoga Bone NP we all enjoyed excellent scope studies of this gorgeous bird.

Sulawesi Thrush*Cataponera turdoides*

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

Great Shortwing*Heinrichia calligyna*

A couple birds were seen briefly in Lore Lindu including one shy bird on the Anaso track.

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

Six birds were seen in the vicinity of Makassar airport in secondary habitat.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher*Ficedula hyperythra*

A few superb males were seen well by everyone in Lore Lindu NP.

Little Pied Flycatcher*Ficedula westermanni*

A stunning male of this widespread flycatcher was seen well in Lore Lindu NP.

Turquoise (Island Verditer) Flycatcher*Eumyias panayensis*

We enjoyed great sightings of this conspicuous songster in Lore Lindu NP.

Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher*Cyornis omissus*

Only encountered in Lore Lindu NP, 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 NP.

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 scope views of one.

Flowerpeckers 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. Tony enjoyed outstanding views of one in Lore Lindu NP.

Halmahera (Flame-breasted) Flowerpecker*D. schistaceiceps erythrothorax*

Another scarce species, we enjoyed great views of one male in the forest of KBP.

Grey-sided Flowerpecker*Dicaeum celebicum*

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

Sunbirds 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-backed Sunbird*Cinnyris jugularis*

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 Passeridae

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*
Commonly seen in larger towns and cities throughout the tour.

Waxbills, Munias & Allies 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 flocks totaling fifty 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 at the Makassar airport.

Finches Fringillidae

Mountain Serin *Serinus estherae*
Two of these elusive birds were heard calling and seen flying over whilst birding on the Anaso track.

Annotated List of Mammals recorded

Ashy-headed (North Moluccan) Flying-fox *Pteropus caniceps*
One was seen flying over the mangroves near Sidangoli, Halmahera.

Montane Long-nosed Squirrel *Hyosciurus heinrichi*
We found this species in Lore Lindu NP and on Gunung Ambang.

Lowland Long-nosed Squirrel *Hyosciurus ileile*
Just one animal was seen in the lowlands of Tangkoko NR, Sulawesi.

Spectral Tarsier *Tarsius spectrum*
We enjoyed simply amazing views of 2 of these adorable animals in Tangkoko NR, from only a few feet away.

Tonkean Macaque *Macaca tonkeana*
One large male was seen very briefly in Dumoga Bone NP.

Sulawesi Crested Macaque *Macaca nigra*
During our magical morning in Tangkoko we were mixed in amongst a confiding troop of 30 individuals including several young animals.

Annotated List of Reptiles recorded

Tree Viper sp.



Lizard sp.

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