



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Sulawesi & Halmahera Wallacean Endemics

Trip Report
9th to 26th August 2015



Standardwing by David Erterius

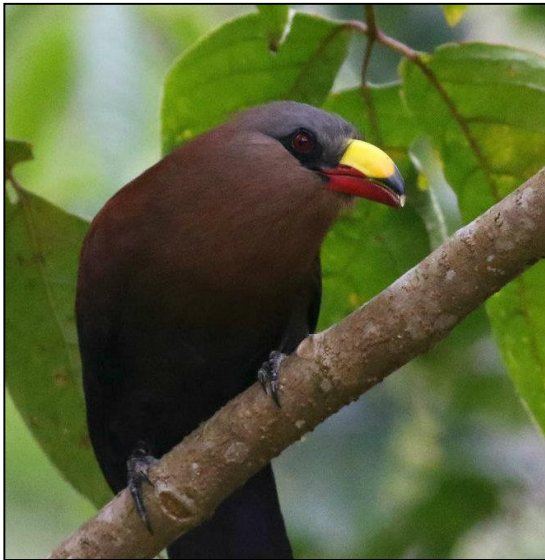
Trip report compiled by Tour Leader: David Erterius

Rockjumper Birding Tours



Tour Summary

Part of Indonesia's nearly 17,000 islands and one of the endemic hotspots of the world, the islands between Borneo and New Guinea form a biogeographical connection between the Oriental and Australian avifauna. The region is often called Wallacea, after the 19th century English explorer Alfred Russel Wallace, and consists of three distinct sub-regions: Sulawesi, the Lesser Sundas and the Moluccas. On this trip, we focused on two of these sub-regions; the island of Sulawesi and the Moluccas (the latter by visiting the island of Halmahera). 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 islands' important natural biomes, which range 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. We racked up a total of 236 species during our 18 days of fabulous birding, 110 of which are endemic to the two sub-regions Sulawesi and the Moluccas and of these, only 2 species were heard only. The many avian highlights included highly sought after species like the amazing Standardwing on Halmahera, the enigmatic and elusive Geomalia as well as the strange Maleo (both on Sulawesi), Sulawesi Thrush, Great Shortwing, Maroon-backed Whistler, a number of stunning endemic kingfishers, Red-backed Thrush, Hylocitrea (which is now a monotypic family) and the fabulous Ivory-breasted Pitta. A fine set of night-birds including the recently described Cinnabar Boobook, the tricky Halmahera Boobook and the bizarre Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar as well as Diabolical Nightjar and Ochre-bellied Boobooks at their day roosts.



Yellow-billed Malkoha by David Erterius

enough to see the south Sulawesi endemic, Pale-bellied Myna from one of the vehicles, although just briefly.

Early the following morning we paid a visit to the limestone crags of Karaenta Forest. Departing Makassar, we set off early to maximise our limited time as we had a flight to catch at midday. Arriving in Karaenta Forest, we were all ears particularly for one localized endemic, the Black-ringed White-



eye, and it didn't take long before we picked up the distinctive song note of this species, and subsequently enjoyed multiple splendid views of several birds feeding just in front of us. Other noteworthy sightings here included our only ones of the bizarre Piping Crow and the rather localized Sulawesi Hornbill (although both of them all too briefly), Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove (several birds flying by), Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon and our first Grey-rumped Treeswifts and Sulawesi Swiftlets patrolling over and along the forest edge. After a short northbound flight to the coastal town of Palu, we drove inland for several days of very exciting birding in the exceptionally bird-rich Lore Lindu National Park. The birding here kicked-off in earnest by dawn on the next day, and we soon realized how productive the (nowadays) relatively small patch of good, untouched montane rainforest at the heart of the National Park was, with a plethora of interesting species. Rusty-bellied Fantail and Citrine Canary-Flycatcher both seemed relatively common, and we found the very



Superb Fruit Dove by David Erterius

attractive Red-eared Fruit Dove feasting on berries just roadside, giving perfect views. We found the absolutely stunning Superb Fruit Dove, Little Bronze Cuckoo, Rusty-breasted Cuckoo, the dainty Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker, Sulawesi Myzomela, Sulphur-vented Whistler, Sulawesi Drongo, the attractive Fiery-browed Starling, we enjoyed good open views of the tricky Sulawesi Thrush feasting on berries(!), roadside Snowy-browed and Little Pied Flycatchers, the elusive Black-billed Koel, the strange *Malia* feeding on hatch-style on moss-covered trunks and a very confiding Chestnut-backed Bush Warbler. One of the more difficult endemics and a rather localized one, is the Great Shortwing, and on our final morning just before we headed back to Palu, fortunately most of the group managed good but brief views of a male. We enjoyed great looks at the only Sunda Teals for the trip in a small



Hylocitrea by David Erterius

forest lake while single Great Hanging Parrots and small groups of noisy Citrine Lorikeets and Golden-mantled Racket-tails flew by high overhead, and a number of White-bellied Imperial Pigeons offered great views in flight and as they perched. Two species of White-eye, namely Mountain and Black-crowned, were feeding together in nearby trees and small groups of Short-tailed as well as Grosbeak Starlings flew in to tall fruiting trees. Exploring the trail system a bit further away from the Centre was also rewarding and we enjoyed perched Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle, our first Dark-eared Myza, a stunning male Blue-fronted Blue Flycatcher, Turquoise Flycatcher, prolonged scope-views of Black-naped Oriole and a real bonus came in the form of good prolonged views of a beautiful Blue-faced Parrotfinch, an uncommon species indeed! Moving to slightly lower elevations and more open areas, with good



secondary forest bordering some mixed farm bush, produced Spot-tailed Sparrowhawk, Dwarf Sparrowhawk (at its nest!), White-breasted Waterhen, Collared Kingfisher, Cerulean Cuckooshrike, Golden-headed Cisticola, Brown-throated Sunbird, Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher. Here we also had our first encounter with the magnificent Knobbed Hornbill as two groups of birds flew majestically by, high overhead; an impressive sight indeed! In this area, two different *Ninox*-species of owl were on our target-list as well, the Cinnabar Boobook (described as new to science only in 1999!) and the Speckled Boobook, and we managed stunning scope-views of both just after dusk. One of the days in Lore Lindu was entirely dedicated to the higher elevations, namely the magnificent montane forest on upper Mount Rorekatimbu. To get there, we had to hike up an old logging road, departing just before dawn, in order to reach the upper forest in good time for birding. Mountain Tailorbird and Sulawesi Leaf Warbler gradually became more common as we ascended the mountain,



Maleo by David Erterius

and we were fortunate to spot a rather distant (although seen well through the scope) Mountain Serin of the beautiful orange-coloured race (a good candidate for a separate species!). A good sighting of this difficult bird, which is typically just seen flying by overhead. On two separate occasions, we heard the characteristic deep note of Sombre Pigeon, but despite our efforts we failed to get any visual contact with this difficult-to-see species. Two of the most sought-after species of the entire tour, confined to these upper elevations were located as well, namely Satanic Nightjar (on its day-time roost) and the



Ivory-backed Woodswallows by David Erterius

stunning Purple-bearded Bee-eater on several occasions, both species offering great views. Not very far from the summit of the mountain, along the upper stretch of the track, another highly sought-after endemic appeared, and for a minute or so, we all watched, in awe, a *Hylocitrea*, as it was sitting right next to the trail, nearly at the close-focus distance of our bins. Truly one of the birding highlights so far! Up here, we also found White-eared Myza to be rather common and as we descended in the afternoon, we managed great views of Maroon-backed Whistler.

Leaving Lore Lindu, we next made our way back to Palu, adding some new species along the way. A Sulawesi Serpent Eagle was soaring high over a forested ridge, migrant Purple Needletails whizzed past, a pair of stunning

White-necked Mynas showed nicely in the scope as did a beautiful male of the scarce Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker, the latter a trip-only sighting. After our check-in and lunch we headed to a dry and flat area, consisting of savanna-like grassy terrain with scattered scrubs, via a stake-out for the



endemic Pale-bellied Myna. However, just as we arrived to the myna-spot, it started to rain quite heavily and we only got brief views of six birds flying by, unfortunately not to be relocated. As we started to bird in the dry, grassy area, we soon located several Savanna Nightjars and enjoyed additional looks at Barred Buttonquail as well. Here, we also found the rather localized Pale-headed Munia, and our first Spotted Harrier of the trip, a female, flew by. Spotted Dove, Blue-tailed Bee-eater and White-shouldered Triller were all common and several Asian Palm Swifts were gliding past low overhead.

We then had a transfer-day as we moved by domestic flight to Manado in the Minahassa region up northeast, via Makassar. During our time at the airport, some of us went out birding in the near surroundings. This yielded good looks at a Sacred Kingfisher, many Olive-backed Sunbirds and three Java Sparrows.

The next two days were dedicated to extensive explorations of the lowland and mid-elevation rainforest in Dumoga-Bone National Park, and on the very top of our list of targeted bird-endemics in this area was the strange Maleo. We therefore started off by visiting an area well-known for this sought-after species. Entering the forest, we soon found ourselves watching a male of the only other woodpecker of



Red-backed Thrush by David Erterius

Wallacea, namely the Ashy Woodpecker. A little further along the trail, we made contact with the splendid Green-backed Kingfisher on three separate occasions and another great find was a very responsive White-faced Dove, which showed well for the entire group. After a concerted effort, we finally managed to track down a Maleo, giving us all excellent scope views and even posing long enough for photos. We were also very fortunate to see a few tiny newly-hatched chicks at the captive breeding programme and also had the opportunity to release a couple! Getting such good views of the adult Maleo and contributing to the survival of the species was a great highlight of the trip and certainly a memory cherished by all! A Stephanø Emerald Dove flew in and landed in some bamboo stands, but unfortunately it didnø show again before it flew off. Other noteworthy sightings in this area included our first Black-naped Fruit Doves, Green Imperial Pigeons and Yellow-billed Malkohas of the tour, and a smart male White-rumped Triller showed well, another first of the trip. Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle and Black Eagle were gliding by over the forest top and on our drive back to the main road, we were fortunate to watch a total of four Barred Rails as they were feeding in the open on the roadside. A quick stop at some rice paddies along the way produced the only Pacific Golden Plover for the trip and several White-headed Stilts among others. Just after dusk, at least five hundred Wood Sandpipers were flushed from some other rice paddies by our vehicles as we passed by, a truly impressive sight!

The following morning, we headed to the mid-elevation forest along the Molibagu Road which proved to be very productive. A very confiding pair of Pacific Baza gave superb views on the roadside as did several Great Hanging Parrots. We found a total of fifteen Ivory-backed Woodswallows, sallying for insects over the open glades in the forest, an unusually high number indeed. A female Sulawesi Cicadabird showed up which turned out to be a trip-only sighting and we enjoyed multiple sightings of



Sulawesi Myna and a couple of roadside Bay Coucals. A little further along the road, we found a couple of the tricky Pied Cuckooshrike and two different stunning male Crimson Sunbirds. We then headed to another forest patch, descending slightly, and after having had lunch upon arrival, a raft crossing allowed us access into the forest proper by mid-afternoon. Having only walked along the trail for a few minutes, something suddenly whizzed by in a split second that, after some careful scanning through the dense foliage, turned out to be a Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher! Reaching the edge of the forest and an area of open farm bush, we flushed an Isabelline Bush-hen and after some concerted efforts, most of us got to see it, if somewhat rather briefly. Here, we also had our only Yellow-breasted Racket-tail of the trip, unfortunately just brief fly-away-views. Back at the open area across the forest, where we started birding, we enjoyed additional views of impressive Purple Needletails, hawking for insects over the forest, like mini jet-fighters, and another White-breasted Waterhen as well as Common Kingfisher.



Matinan Blue Flycatcher by David Erterius

Up next was Gunung Ambang Nature Reserve with its moist montane forest, and one species was of particular interest here, namely the relatively recently described and nowadays endangered Matinan Blue Flycatcher. Hiking on a small logging-trail, we soon reached the upper forest with its moss-covered stunted trees, and this was the area to search for the Flycatcher. As we were moving quietly along the trails, carefully listening and watching for every movement, two very cooperative *Hylocitreas* suddenly showed up in a small berry tree inside the forest, a nice surprise and very unexpected indeed, as the species doesn't seem to be known from this forest! We were also pleased with catching up on even better looks at the strange *Malia*, and eventually we managed to locate the distinctive song of Matinan Blue Flycatcher and soon found ourselves watching the bird as well. Descending the mountain and leaving

the forest, we passed through expansive cultivated land and heard the distinctive call of Ornate Lorikeet from a distance. It turned out it was coming from a solitary tree out in the farmland, and after some repositioning, we managed great scope views of several birds perched inside the tree. After some tasty local food for lunch, in a traditional house nearby, we left for the long drive to Tangkoko Nature Reserve, situated at the very tip of northeast Sulawesi. As we passed some very good rice paddies en route, we decided to stop for a while which proved to be a good decision. Here we found good numbers of Wandering Whistling Duck, a couple of Buff-banded Rail, a White-browed Crake, which unfortunately showed all too briefly, and a nice male Spotted Harrier flew by.

Tangkoko was as fabulous as ever and rewarded us with wonderful sightings of both birds and mammals.

The morning was spent in the dry lowland forest near the coast, while we focused on a small creek with extensive mangroves in the afternoon. Some of the avian highlights during our morning explorations were great looks at a group of feeding Philippine Megapodes, three peculiar Ochre-bellied Boobooks at their day-roost, a fabulous pair of Great Eared Nightjar, the stunning and sought-after Purple-winged



Roller, three separate sightings of Lilac Kingfisher, perched Blue-backed Parrot and two great sightings of the beautiful cryptic Red-backed Thrush, the latter being very confiding and seen down to just a few metres! The Tangkoko Forest is also renowned for its mammals, and we enjoyed having a look at Bear Cuscuses looking down at us from their roost high up in a massive tree, we found the tiny Spectral Tarsier at their day-roost at eye-level in a hollow tree as well as the funny looking Celebes Crested Maqacue. Not that it stopped there, a boat trip on a creek into some nearby mangroves yielded White-rumped Cuckooshrike as well as the bizarre Great-billed Kingfisher. As we were waiting for the tide to go up right at the mouth of the creek, we scanned the tidal flats and crags along the coast and managed to find the scarce Great-billed Heron alongside Pacific Reef Heron. Greater Sand Plover was foraging on the flats and Eastern Osprey hovering overhead and a Pink-necked Green Pigeon showed up briefly as well. On the way back to our accommodation, we tried for Sulawesi Nightjar and Sulawesi Scops Owl, managing fantastic views of the latter, while unfortunately missing out on the nightjar. Leaving Sulawesi, we next boarded a flight to Ternate and then proceeded on a boat trip to Sidangoli on the island of Halmahera, but not before our final early morning visit to a great viewpoint at another part of Tangkoko Forest. Here we obtained good views of Grey-headed Imperial Pigeon and even better views of Ivory-backed Woodswallow, while Pygmy Hanging Parrot and Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon flew by.



Sombre Kingfisher by David Erterius

We then caught a flight from North Sulawesi and flew east, across the so-called Weberø Line and into a new biome, the Moluccas. During the boat crossing from the volcanic island of Ternate to Halmahera we enjoyed a number of Lesser Frigatebirds and some Greater Crested Terns. Just as we approached the coast and its expansive mangroves, we located several of the localised Beach Kingfisher. The afternoon was spent in the remnant forest of Kali Batu Putih and just before our arrival there, we had great roadside looks at Willie Wagtail and Blue-and-white Kingfisher, and quite unexpectedly, a Pale-vented Bush-hen that showed very briefly for a few of us by the roadside, before quickly disappearing into the undergrowth. Once in the forest, we notched up new birds such as the stunning Shining Flycatcher, Cream-throated White-eye, Rainbow Bee-eater and impressive Blythø Hornbills and Goliath Coucals. Towards dusk, we headed to a different section of the forest in search of the strange Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar. At one point it looked like our persistent efforts wouldn't pay off as we could hear one bird calling quite close on a number of occasions, but failed to get any visual contact. But then, all of a sudden, it showed up perched on a branch at eye-level perfectly visible for a minute or so, before flying off, not to be seen again. Truly one of the most bizarre birds of the entire trip!

The next morning started off at yet a different section of the Kali Batu Putih forest where a certain viewpoint allowed for a great overlook of the remnant primary forest. Screeching White Cockatoos and Eclectus Parrots were displaying over the forest and a Variable Goshawk flew by. Some tall solitary trees on a slope just below us attracted Grey-headed Fruit Dove, Spectacled Imperial Pigeon and good numbers of Metallic Starling with a few Moluccan Starling as well, for comparison. The scarce Great Cuckoo-Dove showed well, calling from a distant dead tree and a small group of



curious Long-billed Crows came in and checked us out. We also had great looks at Spangled Drongo.



Common Paradise Kingfisher by David Erterius

that showed up just after dusk was the island endemic Halmahera Boobook. One of the forest trails had us all waiting patiently for one of our main quarries in this area, the magnificent Ivory-breasted Pitta. The bird was calling more or less constantly and circled around us, and after a good deal of persistence, a few people had short glimpses of it. We then decided to reposition ourselves and then, when we least expected it, the pitta came out on the trail right in front of us and we were all watching it in awe for at least a minute, showing itself from all angles. What a bird!!!

The birding at Foli was superb and we recorded a good number of interesting species including Gurney's Eagle, Pied Imperial Pigeon, Blyth's Hornbill, Moluccan Hanging Parrot, Red-cheeked and Great-billed Parrot, Dusky Myzomela, White-bellied Cuckooshrike, Rufous-bellied Triller, Dusky-brown Oriole, White-naped Monarch, Moluccan Flycatcher and Northern Golden Bulbul. The undoubted highlight here, however, was the four males of the fabulous Standardwing displaying to one female for half an hour! We all stood in awe as we watched this wonderful show, the male constantly waving his standards and dancing from branch to branch as soon as the female approached his display area. This truly was an incredible birding experience and one that I suspect we will all cherish for as long as we live!!! We stayed in this area until dusk and found a total of three Moluccan Scops Owl, two of which huddled together in the open on a branch just a few metres away!

A morning stop for some roadside birding on our drive back to the west coast of Halmahera, yielded fantastic views of a male and female Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove, several Oriental Dollarbirds perched on snags and additional views of Paradise-crow. As we were waiting for the boat back to Ternate, we found good numbers of Bridled Tern foraging quite far out over the sea, and among them a single Sooty Tern, while all closer terns turned out to be Common Tern, with a single Black-naped Tern amongst them as well, a nice surprise! Returning to the island of Ternate by boat, we again enjoyed single Greater Crested Terns and had brief views of a group of Red-necked Phalarope passing by. Once on Ternate itself we visited the Tolire Crater Lake, where a viewpoint allowed for a nice overlook of the lake itself and the nearby active volcano ōGamalamaö, with its smoking summit. Here we were rewarded with great scope views of the recently split Tricoloured Grebe and fantastic views of groups of Lesser Frigatebirds that came in to drink and bathe in the lake. We also enjoyed good

Next, we headed north towards the central part of the island, to accommodate ourselves for the coming days. A few roadside stops along the way produced additional views of Blue-and-white Kingfisher, a small group of Red-flanked Lorikeets and a stunning Common Paradise Kingfisher in full display. One afternoon and one full day saw us exploring the forest on a nearby mountain and here we found a good array of specialities such as Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon, Blue-capped Fruit Dove, Moustached Treeswift, Chattering and Violet-necked Lories, White-streaked Friarbird, Halmahera Cuckooshrike, Moluccan Monarch, Paradise-crow and Halmahera Flowerpecker. Just before dusk, we tried for the tricky Sombre Kingfisher and had an instant response from a bird that came in and perched in the open! Another target bird



comparative views at eye-level of Halmahera Swiftlet and Uniform Swiftlet, the former one being very similar to Sulawesi Swiftlet in appearance. A small group of Torresian Crow meant a new species for the trip and yet a nice example on some of the Australian-Papuan avian elements that reaches these islands. Just as we were about to leave this spectacular place, one of the most bizarre birds of the trip showed up; a Channel-billed Cuckoo! A few of us then headed out in order to try for Large-tailed Nightjar and were rewarded with nice looks at a total of three birds just after dusk.

On our last day back in Sulawesi, most of the group went to another forested volcano, primarily in search of the most difficult one of all the kingfishers of Sulawesi, the Scaly Kingfisher (which we unfortunately didn't manage to locate), while a few others went for some fabulous snorkelling at the world famous Bunaken Island just off the coast.

And so ended another wonderful and richly rewarding adventure through the world's number one endemic hotspot. Our final night together on the island saw us enjoying a scrumptious farewell dinner followed by a good night's sleep, before catching our departure flights home or, for those continuing on with our extension, to the island of Bali. Thanks once again to yet another 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!



Moluccan Scops Owl by David Erterius

Annotated List of Birds recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC 5.3 list of: Gill, F. and Wright, M. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.

(ES) ó Endemic to Sulawesi, (EM) ó Endemic to Moluccas

Total species recorded: 236 (including **72** species endemic to Sulawesi **38** endemic to the Moluccas)

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

Wandering Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna arcuata

One flying by at Tambun, Dumoga-Bone NP and we had great looks at around 50 on some roadside rice paddies along the way from Kotamobagu to Tangkoko.

Sunda Teal

Anas gibberifrons

Four birds showing well at Lake Tambing in Lore Lindu NP was our only sighting of this species.

Megapodes Megapodiidae

Maleo (ES)

Macrocephalon maleo



What a great bird! One magnificent adult bird perched up allowing for superb prolonged scope views for all. We also had the opportunity to release a couple of newly hatched chicks at a hatchery nearby. This was certainly one of the highlights of the tour!

Philippine Megapode*Megapodius cumingii*

One was seen very briefly as it crossed the road in front of one of the vehicles as we passed through Karaenta Forest, and later we were treated with great views of a total of eleven birds in Tangkoko Nature Reserve.

Dusky Megapode*Megapodius freycinet*

Heard on several occasions and brief views by some at Gunung Uni-uni and Foli. Then we had great views of two birds at separate occasions in a forest on our drive back from Subaim to the coast.

Grebes Podicipedidae**Tricoloured Grebe***Tachybaptus tricolor*

We enjoyed good scope views of at least 6 birds on the Tolire Crater Lake at Ternate.

NOTE: This species is sometimes split from Little Grebe, *P. ruficollis* and is endemic to Java, Wallacea, New Guinea & Solomon Islands. IOC accepts this split.

Hérons, Bitterns Ardeidae**Cinnamon Bittern***Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

One flying a short distance at some roadside rice paddies on our drive from Kotamobagu to Tangkoko was unfortunately only seen by the tour leader.

Striated Heron*Butorides striata*

Good looks at three different individuals in the mangroves near Tangkoko and one was seen on the shore just before we entered the ferry back to Ternate.

Javan Pond Heron*Ardeola speciosa*

We had many scattered sightings, mostly in paddy fields, throughout Sulawesi. Recorded on eight days of the tour.

Eastern Cattle Egret*Bubulcus coromandus*

This widespread species was commonly encountered throughout Sulawesi and recorded on seven days of the tour.

Great-billed Heron*Ardea sumatrana*

We found one individual of this scarce species on coastal crags as we were waiting for high tide at mangroves near Tangkoko and enjoyed great scope-views in good light.

Purple Heron*Ardea purpurea*

We enjoyed scattered sightings throughout Sulawesi of this widespread species, and it was recorded on six days of the tour.

Great Egret*Ardea alba*

A rather distant individual in the mangroves on our arrival in Sidangoli.

Intermediate Egret*Egretta intermedia*

A group of around thirty individuals was seen in one field on the drive between Subaim and Foli.

Little Egret*Egretta garzetta*

An estimated one hundred in the afternoon on the first day of birding near Makassar, thirty at some rice paddies near Tambun, Dumoga-Bone NP and ten on roadside rice paddies along the way from Kotamogabu to Tangkoko.

Pacific Reef Heron*Egretta sacra*

One rather distant individual on the shore as we were waiting for high tide at mangroves near Tangkoko.

Frigatebirds Fregatidae

Great Frigatebird

Fregata minor

Around ten were picked out among Lesser Frigatebirds on our boat ride from Ternate to Sidangoli.

Lesser Frigatebird

Fregata ariel

Good looks at around twenty birds on our boat ride from Ternate to Sidangoli.

Ospreys Pandionidae

Eastern Osprey

Pandion cristatus

We had great views of two at the mangroves near Tangkoko and another one was flying by just before we entered the boat back to Ternate.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

Pacific Baza

Aviceda subcristata

Fantastic close views of a very confiding pair on the Molibagu Road, Dumoga-Bone NP, two birds over the forest at Foli and one soaring near the summit of Gunung Uni-uni.

Sulawesi Serpent Eagle (ES)

Spilornis rufipectus

One soaring above a ridgeline on our drive back from Lore Lindu to Palu was our only sighting.

Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle (ES)

Nisaetus lanceolatus

Fantastic views of a perched individual in Lore Lindu NP, with another one flying by there and one soaring over the Molibagu Road.

Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle

Lophotriorchis kienerii

One immature above a ridgeline at Tambun, Dumoga-Bone NP and another one soaring high overhead along the Molibagu Road, Dumoga-Bone NP.

Black Eagle

Ictinaetus malayensis

Two separate sightings in Lore Lindu NP and good looks of a perched individual at Tambun, Dumoga-Bone NP.

Gurney's Eagle

Aquila gurneyi

Good flight views of two different immatures at Foli.

Spot-tailed Sparrowhawk (ES)

Accipiter trinotatus

Fair views of one perched and in flight in Lore Lindu NP and also heard at two separate occasions in the same area. Another one was seen briefly at Tambun, Dumoga-Bone NP.

Variable Goshawk

Accipiter hiogaster

The first encounter was one soaring at Kali Batu Putih, with additional sightings at Gunung Uni-uni and good looks at one coming in to its night roost at Foli. A few of us also had good views of a perched adult bird on Ternate.

NOTE: *Accipiter hiogaster* is split from *A. novaehollandiae* (Ferguson-Lees & Christie 2001, Christidis & Boles 2008). IOC accepts this split.

Dwarf Sparrowhawk (ES)

Accipiter nanus

We found a nest in Lore Lindu NP, where we enjoyed good views of a juvenile sitting in the nest and one adult around the nest.

Spotted Harrier

Circus assimilis

A total of six birds at separate occasions with the best views at some roadside rice paddies along our way from Kotamobagu to Tangkoko.



Black Kite*Milvus migrans*

Not as common as in other parts of the tropics, we had a total of four birds in the Dumoga-Bone NP area.

Brahminy Kite*Haliastur indus*

Small numbers commonly encountered throughout the tour, particularly near coastal areas. Recorded on ten days of the tour.

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

We enjoyed great views of this attractive species in the late afternoon as we drove back from Tambun and two birds were seen along the road at Gunung Mahawu.

Buff-banded Rail*Gallirallus philippensis*

Great views of two different individuals at some roadside rice paddies between Kotamobagu and Tangkoko and decent views of three individuals in cultivated land near Gunung Ambang.

Isabelline Bush-hen (ES)*Amaurornis isabellina*

Always a secretive bird, we had fair views of three birds at Toraut Forest and it was heard in the Tangkoko Reserve as well.

Pale-vented Bush-hen*Amaurornis moluccana*

Some people had brief views of a roadside individual on the drive from Kali Batu Putih to Subaim.

White-breasted Waterhen*Amaurornis phoenicurus*

Good views of one along a stream in Lore Lindu NP and another one was seen at a pond next to Toraut Forest.

White-browed Crake*Porzana cinerea*

One bird was seen all too briefly at some roadside rice paddies between Kotamobagu and Subaim.

Common Moorhen*Gallinula chloropus*

Around ten birds on some roadside rice paddies between Kotamobagu and Tangkoko.

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

Three birds were flushed in secondary scrub near Pattene and a total of five in a dry grassy area not far from Palu.

Stilts, Avocets Recurvirostridae**White-headed Stilt***Himantopus leucocephalus*

Ten birds at Pattene, around forty at roadside rice paddies along the way to Tambun, Dumoga-Bone NP and four at rice paddies between Kotamobagu and Tangkoko.

Plovers Charadriidae**Pacific Golden Plover***Pluvialis fulva*

Good looks at one adult in moult on rice paddies along the way to Tambun, Dumoga Bone NP.

Javan Plover*Charadrius javanicus*

We enjoyed great scope views of a total of nine birds at Pattene, Makassar, including both adults and juveniles.

Greater Sand Plover*Charadrius leschenaultia*

One was seen on coastal flats as we were waiting for high tide at mangroves near Tangkoko.



Sandpipers, Snipes Scolopacidae**Common Greenshank***Tringa nebularia*

One was seen at Pattene, Makassar.

Wood Sandpiper*Tringa glareola*

Recorded on five days of the tour with up to 500 at some roadside rice paddies at dusk on the drive back from Tambun, Dumoga-Bone NP.

Common Sandpiper*Actitis hypoleucos*

Scattered sightings of small numbers throughout the tour and recorded on six days.

Red-necked Phalarope*Phalaropus lobatus*

Two birds flying by during the boat crossing from Ternate to Sidangoli were only seen by the tour leader and a group of around fifty birds passed by as we went back by boat to Ternate, unfortunately only seen by a few people.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae**Brown Noddy***Anous stolidus*

A quite distant individual was spotted amongst Bridled Terns as we were waiting for the boat back to Ternate.

Greater Crested Tern*Thalasseus bergii*

During the boat-crossing from Ternate to Sidangoli, three birds were seen flying by and another three gave good views roosting on coastal rocks. Another fifteen were seen over the sea at lunch as we drove back from Subaim to Sofifi and around ten seen during the boat-crossing back to Ternate.

Little Tern*Sternula albifrons*

Fifteen of these smart birds were seen at Pattene, Makassar.

Bridled Tern*Onychoprion anaethetus*

Around 25 foraging over the sea as we were waiting for the boat back to Ternate and one bird seen by the tour leader en route from Subaim to Sofifi.

Black-naped Tern*Sterna sumatrana*

One bird was seen foraging with Common Terns just offshore as we were waiting for the boat back to Ternate.

Common Tern*Sterna hirundo*

Around 75 birds seen foraging just offshore as we were waiting for the boat back to Ternate.

Pigeons, Doves Columbidae**Rock Dove***Columba livia*

Common in small numbers at urban areas and around human settlements.

Red Turtle Dove*Streptopelia tranquebarica*

Common in various types of open secondary habitat in the lowland and particularly common at Pattene near Makassar as well as near Palu. Recorded on five days of the tour.

Spotted Dove*Spilopelia chinensis*

Common in similar type of habitats as the previous species and recorded on five days of the tour.

Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove*Macropygia amboinensis*

This widespread species was seen regularly throughout the tour in forested areas, and seen particularly well in the forest of Lore Lindu NP and at Foli.

NOTE: Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove, *M. amboinensis* is sometimes split from Brown Cuckoo-Dove, *M. phasianella*. IOC accepts this split.

Great Cuckoo-Dove*Reinwardtoena reinwardtii*

Good if somewhat distant scope-views of a calling bird at Kali Batu Putih viewpoint.



White-faced Dove (ES)*Turacoena manadensis*

This endemic was seen very well at Tambun, Dumoga-Bone NP and heard at Toraut Forest and at Tangkoko as well.

Common Emerald Dove*Chalcophaps indica*

One showed briefly as we were trying for Ivory-breasted Pitta at Gunung Uni-uni.

Stephan's Emerald Dove*Chalcophaps stephani*

One showed all too briefly at Tambun, Dumoga-Bone NP.

Pink-necked Green Pigeon*Treron vernans*

Brief views of this widespread species in the mangroves near Tangkoko, where one bird showed well in a nearby tree before flying off.

Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon*Treron griseicauda*

One seen in Karaenta Forest and two separate sightings in the Tangkoko Forest.

Red-eared Fruit Dove (ES)*Ptilinopus fischeri*

A couple of sightings along the road near the Forest Centre at Lore Lindu NP, one of which seen very well, with additional very good looks at two different birds along the Anaso Track. Also heard on Gunung Ambang.

Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove (EM)*Ptilinopus bernsteinii*

We were fortunate to find a pair on our drive back from Subaim to Sofifi of which the male showed very well and even called for us!

Superb Fruit Dove*Ptilinopus superbus*

This lovely species was seen very well at the forest centre in Lore Lindu NP, where we had up to 15 birds on two separate days.

Blue-capped Fruit Dove (EM)*Ptilinopus monacha*

A total of three birds seen at Gunung Uni-uni and one of which giving great scope views and another one was seen at Lake Tolire, Ternate. Also heard at several occasions.

Grey-headed Fruit Dove (EM)*Ptilinopus hyogastrus*

Pleasantly common on Halmahera, we enjoyed scope views of plenty including at least ten at the Kali Batu Putih viewpoint.

Black-naped Fruit Dove*Ptilinopus melanospilus*

A total of three birds at Tambun, Dumoga-Bone NP, one of which seen well and additional sightings on the Molibagu Road and at Tangkoko.

White-bellied Imperial Pigeon (ES)*Ducula forsteni*

An attractive endemic, we had multiple good looks at birds in Lore Lindu NP and additional views in Tangkoko.

Grey-headed Imperial Pigeon (ES)*Ducula radiata*

A total of 15 birds were seen along the Anaso Track in Lore Lindu NP and then we enjoyed prolonged scope-views of a perched individual in Tangkoko.

Green Imperial Pigeon*Ducula aenea*

A total of five at Tambun, Dumoga-Bone NP with additional sightings in Tangkoko. The birds on Sulawesi are of a separate subspecies with a distinctive rufous nape, and we enjoyed a number of good looks.

Spectacled Imperial Pigeon (EM)*Ducula perspicillata*

We enjoyed great scope views of one at Kali Batu Putih viewpoint with a further sighting at Gunung Uni-uni. Also heard at a few occasions.

Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon (EM)*Ducula basilica*

Lovely scope-views of two birds at Gunung Uni-uni, with a further sighting there a few days later and also heard at Foli.



Pied Imperial Pigeon*Ducula bicolor*

Our best views were had of two birds at Foli, with an additional five there and it was also recorded in the mangroves at Tangkoko where we observed a total of eight.

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

Often a scarce species, we saw a total of five flying over Tangkoko Forest.

Sombre Pigeon (ES)*Cryptophaps poecilorrhoa*

Usually tricky too see, it was reluctant to show itself. We heard it a couple of occasions along the Anaso Track in Lore Lindu NP.

Cuckoos Cuculidae**Bay Coucal (ES)***Centropus celebensis*

First encountered at Tambun, Dumoga-Bone NP where one was heard only and then we had great views of two roadside individuals along the Molibagu Road with further looks at one on Gunung Ambang and it was also heard several times in Tangkoko.

Goliath Coucal (EM)*Centropus goliath*

This impressive species was recorded on nearly all days during our visit to Halmahera. Two birds were seen very well at Kali Batu Putih and we enjoyed great views of another two at Gunung Uni-uni. We all listened in awe to birds chorusing in the early morning at Kali Batu Putih viewpoint, truly a most beautiful experience!

Lesser Coucal*Centropus bengalensis*

This widespread species was seen and heard on a number of occasions in open secondary habitat throughout the tour, but unfortunately only showed itself all too briefly.

Yellow-billed Malkoha (ES)*Rhamphococcyx calyrorhynchus*

A striking bird, we found this species on five days of the tour, with the best views at Tambun, Dumoga-Bone NP and during our hike up on Gunung Ambang.

Black-billed Koel (ES)*Eudynamis melanorhynchus*

Much easier to hear than to see, we first heard it at Karaenta Forest and in Lore Lindu NP before we managed great looks at a male and a female at the Forest Centre in Lore Lindu NP.

Channel-billed Cuckoo*Scythrops novaehollandiae*

Good perched and flight views of this bizarre-looking bird at Lake Tolire, Ternate.

Little Bronze Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx minutillus*

Great scope views of one near the Forest Centre in Lore Lindu NP.

Rusty-breasted Cuckoo*Cacomantis sepulcralis*

Fair views of one near the Forest Centre in Lore Lindu NP and also heard in the same area.

Barn Owls Tytonidae**Sulawesi Masked Owl (ES)***Tyto rosenbergii*

One was heard calling just before dawn on the outskirts of Kotamabagu but didn't show itself despite our efforts.

Owls Strigidae**Moluccan Scops Owl***Otus magicus*

Fantastic close views of three birds in total just after dusk at Foli. It was also heard in the Kali Batu Putih area, at Gunung Uni-uni and on Ternate.

Sulawesi Scops Owl (ES)*Otus manadensis*

We had simply outrageous views of a calling individual near Tangkoko and another distant bird was heard calling at Gunung Mahawu.



Ochre-bellied Boobook (ES)*Ninox ochracea*

We enjoyed fabulous views of three huddled together at their day roost in Tangkoko.

Cinnabar Boobook (ES)*Ninox ios*

One bird showed very well through the scope in Lore Lindu NP.

Halmahera Boobook (EM)*Ninox hypogramma*

One bird showed well and another one was heard nearby just after dusk at Gunung Uni-uni.

Speckled Boobook (ES)*Ninox punctulata*

Fantastic views of a calling individual near Lore Lindu NP just after dusk.

Nightjars Caprimulgidae**Satanic Nightjar (ES)***Eurostopodus diabolicus*

One seen very well at its nest along the Anaso Track and even hissing at us in defence!

Great Eared Nightjar*Lyncornis macrotis*

Fabulous looks at a male and female huddled together at their day roost in the Tangkoko Forest.

Large-tailed Nightjar*Caprimulgus macrurus*

One was heard calling at Kali Batu Putih as we were looking for Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar and later we found a total of three birds and enjoyed great views just after dusk on Ternate.

Savanna Nightjar*Caprimulgus affinis*

We had good views of two birds in a scrubby savanna grassland near Palu.

Owlet-nightjars Aegothelidae**Moluccan Owlet-nightjar (EM)***Aegotheles crinifrons*

Two splendid individuals, a rufous-type and a more greyish one, perched for everyone to admire at Kali Batu Putih. What a strange bird!

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

Plenty of these widespread treeswifts were seen well on five days at scattered sites throughout Sulawesi. At least 100 individuals of which many seen very well at the Forest Centre in Lore Lindu NP.

Moustached Treeswift*Hemiproctus mystacea*

A total of six birds on two separate days at Gunung Uni-uni, where we enjoyed great perched and flight views. Also two birds recorded along the way on our drive from Subaim to Sofifi.

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

This species was commonly encountered at all forest sites on all islands, and recorded on twelve days of the tour.

Halmahera Swiftlet (EM)*Aerodramus infuscatus*

Around 30 birds at Gunung Uni-uni and great comparative views of another 30 at Lake Tolire, Ternate as they were flying alongside both Uniform and Glossy Swiftlets.

Sulawesi Swiftlet (ES)*Aerodramus sororum*

Around 30 seen on the drive from Palu to Lore Lindu NP and 20 over open secondary habitat in Lore Lindu NP.

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

Uniform Swiftlet*Aerodramus vanikorensis*

Recorded on nine days of the tour and seen in most lowland areas, especially over disturbed habitat. Good comparative views alongside Halmahera Swiftlets at Lake Tolire, Ternate.

Purple Needletail *Hirundapus celebensis*

Two of these most impressive flyers were seen high over Karaenta Forest and another 20 birds were cruising along a ridge on the outskirts of Lore Lindu NP. However our best views were had of some ten birds low overhead at Toraut Forest, Dumoga-Bone NP.

Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*

Some ten birds were seen well at a scrubby savanna area near Palu and an additional ten at Tambun, Dumoga-Bone NP.

House Swift *Apus nipalensis*

Several were seen on two consecutive days in Makassar.

Rollers Coraciidae

Purple-winged Roller (ES) *Coracias temminckii*

A beautiful endemic, we had great looks at a total of four in the Tangkoko Forest.

Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

A total of seven were seen as we did some roadside birding along the way from Subaim to Sofifi, Halmahera.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Green-backed Kingfisher (ES) *Actenoides monachus*

A total of three showed very well in the forest at Tambun, Dumoga-Bone NP with further great views of a female in the Tangkoko Forest.

Common Paradise Kingfisher *Tanysiptera galatea*

We were pleased to coax into view an elegant adult in full display at a birding stop en route from Kali Batu Putih to Subaim and it was also heard calling at Foli.

Lilac Kingfisher (ES) *Cittura cyanotis*

We enjoyed exceptional multiple views of this beauty in the Tangkoko Forest, where we found a total of three individuals.

Great-billed Kingfisher (ES) *Pelargopsis melanorhyncha*

After scanning through the mangroves near Tangkoko from our boats, we were pleased to find two of these monstrous birds that cooperated for great perched views.

Blue-and-white Kingfisher (EM) *Todiramphus diops*

A fairly common endemic on Halmahera, we found it on all days of full birding on the island, with a total of 15 individuals recorded and several giving very good views.

Sombre Kingfisher (EM) *Todiramphus funebris*

Stunning prolonged scope-views of a very responsive individual at Gunung Uni-uni. A scarce endemic.

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris*

This widespread species was common in various degraded habitats throughout Sulawesi and recorded on seven days of the tour.

Beach Kingfisher *Todiramphus saurophagus*

A striking and rather localized species, we found a total of four individuals that showed well along the mangrove edge on our boat crossing from Ternate to Sidangoli.

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*

One seen well at Makassar Airport on two separate days and another one along the shore at lunch between Subaim and Sofifi.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*



Brief views of one as it flew by at Pattene, Makassar and one along a ditch at Makassar Airport, with a further sighting of two at Toraut Forest where we could enjoy them through the scope.

Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher (ES)*Ceyx fallax*

We all had amazing close views of this little gem in the Toraut Forest.

Bee-eaters Meropidae**Purple-bearded Bee-eater (ES)***Meropogon forsteni*

Multiple views of this wonderful endemic along the Anaso Track in Lore Lindu NP, where we found a total of six birds and enjoyed great looks through the scope.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater*Merops philippinus*

A bird of open habitats, we had fabulous views of around 50 birds at a breeding colony on a sand bank near Palu, with an additional estimated 100 flying overhead.

Rainbow Bee-eater*Merops ornatus*

Seen on Sulawesi as well as Halmahera and recorded on five days of the tour, with up to 75 birds during afternoon birding at Kali Batu Putih.

Hornbills Bucerotidae**Blyth's Hornbill***Rhyticeros plicatus*

Pleasantly common on Halmahera, we found this huge hornbill, which is also found on New Guinea, on a daily basis. We enjoyed a peak count of 20 on one day in Foli.

Knobbed Hornbill (ES)*Aceros cassidix*

A marvel of nature, the swooshing of heavy wings was certainly one of the more memorable sights in the healthy forests of Sulawesi, and we enjoyed a number of good views of perched birds and in flight.

Sulawesi Hornbill (ES)*Penelopides exarhatus*

Often a tough endemic to connect with, unfortunately we had only one sighting of a bird that showed all too briefly at Karaenta Forest.

Woodpeckers Picidae**Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker (ES)***Dendrocopos temminckii*

Never particularly common, we had good if somewhat brief views of one at the Forest Centre in Lore Lindu NP.

Ashy Woodpecker (ES)*Mulleripicus fulvus*

This hefty endemic was first seen at Tambun, Dumoga-Bone NP, where we enjoyed good looks at a male, with further sightings in the Tangkoko Forest.

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

A total of eight seen on four days, with the best views in Lore Lindu NP.

Cockatoos Cacatuidae**White Cockatoo (EM)***Cacatua alba*

Several noisy birds were seen well in Halmahera and Ternate and we enjoyed great perched and flight views of two birds from the Kali Batu Putih viewpoint, with further sightings of two at Foli, one at Gunung Uni-uni and two at Lake Tolire, Ternate.



Parrots Psittacidae**Great Hanging Parrot (ES)***Loriculus stigmatus*

Recorded on five days of the tour with up to 30 birds at Tangkoko Forest. The best views were had along Molibagu Road where we enjoyed great scope studies of perched birds.

Moluccan Hanging Parrot (EM)*Loriculus amabilis*

Great scope views of a total of four at Foli and a further two flying by at Kali Batu Putih were only seen by the tour leader.

Pygmy Hanging Parrot (ES)*Loriculus exilis*

This scarce species was only seen at Tangkoko Forest where two different birds whizzed past high overhead.

Violet-necked Lory*Eos squamata*

Recorded on five days with up to ten a day on two consecutive days and a number of good looks at Gunung Uni-uni and Foli.

Ornate Lorikeet (ES)*Trichoglossus ornatus*

It was first heard at Toraut Forest and then we found a total of six in the open cultivated land at near Gunung Ambang and enjoyed great scope views of several there.

Citrine Lorikeet (ES)*Trichoglossus flavoviridis*

These fast-flying lorikeets were seen well at Lore Lindu NP on three consecutive days with up to 30 individuals in one day.

Chattering Lory (EM)*Lorius garrulus*

Brief flight views of one of this rare species at Gunung Uni-uni and moments later good views of a lovely pair as they flew by there.

Red-flanked Lorikeet*Charmosyna placensis*

Great views of six roadside birds at a birding stop along the way to Subaim and additional good looks of ten birds at Foli.

Red-cheeked Parrot*Geoffroyus geoffroyi*

We enjoyed a number of good sightings of perched and flying birds in the forests of Halmahera and it was recorded on all full days of birding on the island with up to 15 birds on two separate days.

Yellow-breasted Racket-tail (ES)*Prioniturus flavicans*

Often a tough bird to obtain good views of, our only sighting was unfortunately very brief of a bird in flight at Toraut Forest.

Golden-mantled Racket-tail (ES)*Prioniturus platurus*

More common than the preceding species, we had views of 30 passing by high overhead at Lake Tambling, Lore Lindu NP, another ten flying by along Anaso Track and four birds were seen at Gunung Ambang.

Great-billed Parrot*Tanygnathus megalorhynchus*

An impressive species, two birds perched for us at Foli, one of which giving perfect open views for several minutes.

Blue-backed Parrot*Tanygnathus sumatranus*

Our first sightings were at Kaerenta Forest, where we obtained good looks at one and had six more flying by, with further great views of single birds in and near the Tangkoko Forest.

Eclectus Parrot*Eclectus roratus*

Still fairly numerous on Halmahera, we saw several colorful birds each day of which several perched.

Pittas Pittidae**Ivory-breasted Pitta (EM)***Pitta maxima*

After a great deal of effort, one bird came out on the trail right in front of us and showed itself from all angles for a minute or so. What a bird! Certainly one of the highlights of the trip!

Honeyeaters Meliphagidae

Dusky Myzomela

Myzomela obscura

We had good views of five at Foli, Halmahera with a further sighting of one at Gunung Uni-uni.

Sulawesi Myzomela (ES)

Myzomela chloroptera

A total of five birds seen on three days in Lore Lindu NP, two of which were males that showed particularly well for us.

White-streaked Friarbird (EM)

Melitograis gilolensis

A species which can prove elusive on Halmahera, we enjoyed multiple good looks at Gunung Uni-uni on two separate days.

Dark-eared Myza (ES)

Myza celebensis

Great looks at one near the Forest Centre in Lore Lindu NP, with further good looks at three different birds along the lower parts of Anaso Track and another one was seen on our hike at Gunung Ambang.

White-eared Myza (ES)

Myza sarasinorum

Harder to get good views of than the preceding species, a total of around 20 birds were seen in the higher areas of Lore Lindu along the Anaso track, of which we had good looks at several.

Australian Warblers Acanthizidae

Golden-bellied Gerygone

Gerygone sulphurea

One was seen well at Makassar Airport, another one in Lore Lindu NP where we heard several as well and great looks at one during some roadside birding on our way from Lore Lindu to Palu. It was also heard at Tambun, Dumoga-Bone NP.

Woodswallows Artamidae

White-breasted Woodswallow

Artamus leucorhynchus

This widespread species was commonly seen throughout the tour in secondary habitats, and recorded on six days of the tour.

Ivory-backed Woodswallow (ES)

Artamus monachus

A beautiful endemic, we had our first sighting in Karaenta Forest where a distant individual was seen flying over the forest. Much better looks were however had at Molibagu Road and on near the Tangkoko Forest, where we enjoyed 15 and four individuals respectively.

Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

Cerulean Cuckooshrike (ES)

Coracina temminckii

Three and four respectively, were seen well and scoped during our time in Lore Lindu NP.

Pied Cuckooshrike (ES)

Coracina bicolor

We were fortunate to find this tricky species at two separate occasions: Good scope views of two along the Molibagu Road and another two were seen by some people at Toraut Forest.

White-rumped Cuckooshrike (ES)

Coracina leucopygia

Good looks at three individuals in the mangroves near Tangkoko.

White-bellied Cuckooshrike

Coracina papuensis

A widespread species, we found a total of four birds in open country on Halmahera.

Halmahera Cuckooshrike (EM)

Coracina parvula

Always a low density bird, we enjoyed a total of three birds in the forest at Gunung Uni-uni.



Sulawesi Cicadabird (ES)*Coracina morio*

Great views of a female along the Molibagu Road.

White-rumped Triller (ES)*Lalage leucopygialis*

Great views of a male at Tambun, Dumoga-Bone NP and a total of three were seen along the Molibagu Road.

White-shouldered Triller*Lalage sueurii*

Our first sightings were of five birds at Pattene, near Makassar and later we found ten at a dry area near Palu and five in an acacia woodland at Makassar Airport.

Rufous-bellied Triller (EM)*Lalage aurea*

A striking species, we enjoyed a number of good sightings of around ten birds at Foli, with further looks at three at Guning Uni-uni.

Whistlers and Allies Pachycephalidae**Maroon-backed Whistler (ES)***Coracornis raveni*

After a quite persistent effort, we obtained great views of a male and a female up the Anaso track.

Sulphur-vented Whistler (ES)*Pachycephala sulfuriventer*

This species was seen in montane forest habitat in Sulawesi with numerous great views in Lore Lindu and a handful on our hike up on Gunung Ambang.

Australian Golden Whistler*Pachycephala mentalis*

A common sound on Halmahera, we heard it on two separate days there.

Figbirds, Orioles Oriolidae**Dusky-brown Oriole (EM)***Oriolus phaeochromus*

Great views of this scarce species on two occasions in the forest of Foli and additional three birds seen at Gunung Uni-uni.

Black-naped Oriole*Oriolus chinensis*

A widespread and often common species, our first sighting was of a male that was seen well through the scope at the Forest Centre in Lore Lindu NP, with further sightings at Tambun and Molibagu Road, Dumoga-Bone NP as well as at Tangkoko Forest.

Drongos Dicruridae**Hair-crested Drongo***Dicrurus hottentottus*

Numerous sightings throughout Sulawesi, especially in the north.

Sulawesi Drongo (ES)*Dicrurus montanus*

A total of six birds seen on three separate days, with our best views of two birds at the Forest Centre in Lore Lindu NP.

Spangled Drongo*Dicrurus bracteatus*

Encountered on most days in Halmahera, and great scope views were had at Kali Batu Putih viewpoint.

Fantails Rhipiduridae**Willie Wagtail***Rhipidura leucophrys*

This active bird was common in secondary habitat on Halmahera and Ternate, always near the coast.

Rusty-bellied Fantail (ES)*Rhipidura teysmanni*

Plenty of fine sightings were had of this sprightly little bird in Lore Lindu NP and we also enjoyed a couple of birds on our hike at Gunung Ambang.



Monarchs Monarchidae**Pale-blue Monarch (EM)***Hypothymis puella*

Fair views of an elusive individual on our drive from Lore Lindu to Palu, one along Molibagu Road, Dumoga-Bone NP and great views of two in the the Tangkoko Forest. It was also heard in Karaenta Forest and at Tambun, Dumoga Bone NP.

NOTE: Pale-blue Monarch is split from Black-naped Monarch (*H. azurea*) (King 1997, HBW 11, Fabre et al 2012) and this split has been accepted by IOC.

Moluccan Monarch (EM)*Symposiachrus bimaculatus*

A male was seen well at Gunung Uni-uni.

NOTE: This species is sometimes lumped with Spectacled Monarch, *S. trivirgatus*. IOC accepts this split.

White-naped Monarch (EM)*Carterornis pileatus*

Good views of two splendid birds at Foli and another individual at Gunung Uni-uni.

Moluccan Flycatcher (EM)*Myiagra galeata*

A beautiful songster, we enjoyed great views of a male at Foli, with further sightings at Gunung Uni-uni and along the way from Subaim to Sofifi.

Shining Flycatcher*Myiagra alecto*

A male of this widespread species was seen well at Kali Batu Putih and two different birds were heard singing at the viewpoint in the same area. A total of five were heard singing in roadside secondary habitat near Sofifi just before we took the boat back to Ternate.

Crows, Jays Corvidae**Slender-billed Crow***Corvus enca*

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

Piping Crow (ES)*Corvus typicus*

A striking specialty and a great songster, we had brief views of four in Kaerenta Forest.

Long-billed Crow (EM)*Corvus validus*

Fantastic views of a group of six at Kali Batu Putih viewpoint with additional sightings of seven birds in total at Foli and Gunung Uni-uni.

Torresian Crow*Corvus orru*

Good looks at nine birds around Lake Toli, Ternate.

Birds-of-paradise Paradisaeidae**Paradise-crow (EM)***Lycocorax pyrrhopterus*

Sometimes a tricky species to see well, we were fortunate to all have good scope views of exposed birds squawking on open limbs at Gunung Uni-uni and along the road on our drive from Subaim back to the coast. It was also heard and seen briefly by some at Kali Batu Putih.

Standardwing (EM)*Semioptera wallacii*

We were absolutely delighted to observe four males displaying to at least one female at close quarters in the early morning hours. We watched this spectacle in awe for a full half hour and this was certainly a major highlight of the trip!

Hylocitrea Hylocitreidae**Hylocitrea (ES)***Hylocitrea bonensis*

This highly sought after monotypic family was high on some participants want list. We had three separate sightings of a total of five birds along the Anaso Track, one of which showed particularly well right next to us on the side of the trail. Furthermore, we were very surprised to find two individuals



feeding together in the montane forest at Gunung Ambang, where the species is reported only at rare occasions.

Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae

Citrine Canary-Flycatcher

Culicicapa helianthea

A regularly encountered species in small bird parties, we had great views of several birds around the Forest Centre in Lore Lindu NP and one was also seen on our hike at Gunung Ambang.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

Sooty-headed Bulbul

Pycnonotus aurigaster

This introduced species was plentiful in secondary habitat throughout Sulawesi.

Yellow-vented Bulbul

Pycnonotus goiavier

We enjoyed good views of ten at Pattene, near Makassar.

Northern Golden Bulbul (EM)

Thapsinillas longirostris

Great views of a total of seven at Foli with another seven seen at Gunung Uni-uni on two separate days.

Malia (ES)

Malia grata

Another bird that is gradually increasing on people's ōwant list due to its unique characteristics. A noisy species that is usually seen foraging ōnuthatch-style on mosses and epiphytes along big trunks, we had fair views of one bird at the Forest Centre in Lore Lindu NP and much better looks at two individuals at Gunung Ambang.

Swallows, Martins Hirundinidae

Barn Swallow

Hirundo rustica

Small numbers were seen at scattered sites on Sulawesi & Halmahera and Ternate. An estimated 100 individuals at Tambun, Dumoga-Bone NP.

Pacific Swallow

Hirundo tahitica

This species was common throughout and recorded on all but two days of the tour.

Cettia Warblers and allies Cettiidae

Mountain Tailorbird

Phyllergates cuculatus

Especially plentiful along the Anaso Track in Lore Lindu NP, where several birds were seen well right next to the trail. Also heard at the Forest Centre in Lore Lindu NP and along the trail on our hike at Gunung Ambang.

Leaf Warblers and allies Phylloscopidae

Sulawesi Leaf Warbler (ES)

Phylloscopus sarasinorum

More often heard than seen, we had good views of several birds around the Forest Centre in Lore Lindu NP and some ten birds were also seen along the Anaso Track, Lore Lindu NP. An additional five birds seen on our hike up Gunung Ambang.

Reed Warblers and allies Acrocephalidae

Clamorous Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus stentoreus

Good if somewhat brief views of one in a ditch at Makassar Airport.

Grassbirds and allies Locustellidae

Chestnut-backed Bush Warbler (ES)

Locustella castanea



This vocal species was heard at a number of occasions around the Forest Centre in Lore Lindu NP and along the Anaso Track, Lore Lindu as well as on our hike up Gunung Ambang. We also enjoyed superb looks at a foraging individual near the Forest Centre in Lore Lindu NP.

Cisticolas and allies Cisticolidae

Zitting Cisticola

Cisticola juncidis

Great views of four at Pattene, near Makassar and the insect-like song of the species was noted by the tour leader on two consecutive days in Dumoga-Bone NP area.

Golden-headed Cisticola

Cisticola exilis

One was seen well in farmbush habitat next to Lore Lindu NP.

Fulvettas, Ground Babblers Pellorneidae

Sulawesi Babbler (ES)

Trichastoma celebense

Heard on five days of the tour, but singles were also seen well in Karaenta Forest and Lore Lindu NP and a total of four seen on our hike at Gunung Ambang.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

Streak-headed White-eye (ES)

Lophozosterops squamiceps

An aberrant white-eye, we had rather brief looks at three separate occasions: Two birds in the forest of Lore Lindu NP and one on our hike at Gunung Ambang.

Mountain White-eye

Zosterops montanus

Numerous sightings of all three days in the forest of Lore Lindu NP, with several good looks.

Lemon-bellied White-eye

Zosterops chloris

We found this species in secondary habitat on several occasions: Three were seen well at Pattene, Makassar, up to ten at Makassar Airport on two separate days and five at farm bush next to Lore Lindu NP and along the way from Lore Lindu to Palu respectively.

Black-ringed White-eye (ES)

Zosterops anomalus

An endemic to the southern forests of Sulawesi, we picked up the distinctive song and subsequently enjoyed outstanding views of five birds at Karaenta Forest.

Cream-throated White-eye (EM)

Zosterops atriceps

This species was heard on four days in the forests of Halmahera and we enjoyed great views at Kali Batu Putih.

Black-crowned White-eye

Zosterops atrifrons

Small numbers were seen well in the forest of Lore Lindu NP and we found one individual at Gunung Ambang.

Starlings, Rhabdornis Sturnidae

Metallic Starling

Aplonis metallica

This species was seen on nearly all days in Halmahera and on Ternate, with 40 birds at Kali Batu Putih viewpoint being the highest record.

Asian Glossy Starling

Aplonis panayensis

One bird was seen in the mangroves near Tangkoko and a further ten near Manado.

Moluccan Starling

Aplonis mysolensis

We picked out nice comparative scope studies of two birds with Metallic Starlings at Kali Batu Putih viewpoint and another one was seen at Foli, with further looks at 25 along the way from Subaim back to the coast.



Short-tailed Starling*Aplonis minor*

We enjoyed good sightings of around 50 birds at the Forest Centre, Lore Lindu NP.

Sulawesi Myna (ES)*Basilornis celebensis*

A scarce bird and easy to miss during a tour, we were fortunate to encounter as many as 30 birds along the Molibagu Road, several of which giving great scope views.

White-necked Myna (ES)*Streptocitta albigollis*

We found this attractive species at several occasions: Two distant birds at Karaenta Forest, perfect scope views of another two at some roadside birding along the way from Lore Lindu to Palu, three birds along Molibagu Road and two birds at Tangkoko Forest.

Fiery-browed Starling (ES)*Enodes erythrophris*

Another striking starling of which we had several good looks. Up to 20 birds were at the Forest Centre in Lore Lindu NP on two separate days, three birds seen by the tour leader at Tambun, Dumoga-Bone NP and one at Tangkoko Forest.

Grosbeak Starling (ES)*Scissirostrum dubium*

Up to 50 birds on two separate days at the Forest Centre in Lore Lindu NP and later we found at least 75 along the Molibagu Road and 30 per day on two consecutive days at Tangkoko Forest.

Pale-bellied Myna (ES)*Acridotheres cinereus*

Two separate sightings of one bird each, unfortunately only seen by some people, on our drive back from Pattene to Makassar and later we found six birds near Palu.

Thrushes Turdidae**Red-backed Thrush (ES)***Geokichla erythronota*

Sometimes a tricky species to make contact with, we were fortunate to enjoy a cracking adult right in the open on the road in front of us, as we were driving slowly through the Tangkoko Forest. A little further ahead, another extremely confiding first year bird was seen down to just a few metres. What a bird!

Sulawesi Thrush (ES)*Cataponera turdoides*

A bird that can be difficult to see well, we were fortunate to obtain fantastic open views of two birds feeding high up in a berry-tree.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae**Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher (ES)***Cyornis omissus*

A stunning male was seen well in secondary habitat next to the forest in Lore Lindu NP, with additional sightings of four individuals at Gunung Mahawu.

Blue-fronted Blue Flycatcher (ES)*Cyornis hoevelli*

Great looks at a male near the Forest Centre in Lore Lindu NP, with another one heard there a few days later.

Matinan Blue Flycatcher (ES)*Cyornis sanfordi*

Only discovered relatively recently. After a hike ascending the slope of Gunung Ambang we were all rewarded with great views of one.

Turquoise Flycatcher*Eumyias panayensis*

Good looks at one at the Forest Centre in Lore Lindu NP and another one was seen during our hike on Gunung Ambang.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher*Ficedula hyperythra*

A total of three birds near the Forest Centre in Lore Lindu NP.

Little Pied Flycatcher*Ficedula westermanni*

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



Flowerpeckers Dicaeidae

Yellow-sided Flowerpecker (ES) *Dicaeum aureolimbatus*

This is a pleasantly common endemic and we encountered around ten in Karaenta Forest, a total of three in Lore Lindu NP and one at Tangkoko Forest.

Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker (ES) *Dicaeum nehrkorni*

A tricky bird, we were fortunate to obtain very good looks at a male along the way from Lore Lindu to Palu.

Halmahera Flowerpecker (EM) *Dicaeum schistaceiceps*

Another scarce species, we enjoyed good looks at a total of three at Gunung Uni-uni on two separate days.

Grey-sided Flowerpecker (ES) *Dicaeum celebicum*

Plenty of these brightly-coloured flowerpeckers were seen throughout our time in Sulawesi and its was recorded on seven days of the tour.

Sunbirds Nectariniidae

Brown-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis*

We had several scattered sightings during the tour in secondary growth and forest edge in Karaenta Forest, at Makassar Airport, in Lore Lindu NP, Tambun and Tangkoko. A calling male in Lore Lindu NP gave good prolonged scope views.

Black Sunbird *Leptocoma sericea*

We had frequent encounters in secondary growth throughout the tour and it was particularly common on Halmahera. Recorded on eleven days of the tour.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis*

Another common species in secondary growth throughout the tour, recorded on eleven days in total.

Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*

Two separate brief sightings at secondary growth in Lore Lindu NP, a female along the way from Lore Lindu to Palu and two separate sightings of stunning males on the Molibagu Road, one of which giving superb prolonged scope views.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Commonly seen in urban areas and at human settlements throughout the tour.

Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae

Blue-faced Parrotfinch *Erythrura trichroa*

Fabulous prolonged views of a stunning male in Lore Lindu NP.

Black-faced Munia *Lonchura molucca*

Brief views of five birds near Palu, another five at Kali Batu Putih, three at Gunung Uni-uni and one was seen on Ternate.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*

Two roadside birds with Chestnut Munias near Lore Lindu NP and six birds at Makassar Airport.

Chestnut Munia *Lonchura atricapilla*

This species was commonly found in secondary habitat throughout the tour and we had several good looks. Of particular note were at least some 500 individuals in rank grass right next to the road near Lore Lindu NP, an impressive sight indeed.



Pale-headed Munia*Lonchura pallida*

One was seen briefly by the tour leader only at Pattene, Makassar and then we enjoyed great looks at three individuals near Palu.

Java Sparrow*Lonchura oryzivora*

Three birds were seen well at Makassar Airport.

Finches Fringillidae**Mountain Serin***Serinus estherae*

A species that is known to be elusive and typically it's seen only in flight. Whilst birding on the Anaso track we were very fortunate to spot a rather distant bird perched atop a dead tree, giving good scope views for around a minute before flying off.

Annotated List of Mammals recorded**Common Bottlenose Dolphin***Tursiops truncatus*

A distant pod of ten seen during roadside birding along the way from Subaim to Sofifi.

Moluccan Masked Flying Fox*Pteropus personatus*

We enjoyed wonderful prolonged views of a roosting individual as we looked for Large-tailed Nightjar on Ternate.

Bear Cuscus*Ailurops ursinus*

A group of three was seen very well in the Tangkoko Forest.

Moor Macaque*Macaca maura*

Good looks at one in Karaenta Forest.

Celebes Crested Macaque*Macaca nigra*

We enjoyed a very confiding individual quietly feeding at eye-level in the Tangkoko Forest with further looks at two in the same area.

Dian's Tarsier*Tarsius dentatus*

We were fortunate to encounter one as we were watching Speckled Boobook near Lore Lindu NP.

Spectral Tarsier*Tarsius tarsier*

We enjoyed simply amazing views of three of these adorable tiny primates at their day-roost in Tangkoko NR. This species was used by Stephen Spielberg as the inspiration for the movie E.T.

Lowland Long-nosed Squirrel*Hyosciurus ileile*

One seen at Tambun, Dumoga-Bone NP.

Sulawesi Giant Squirrel*Rubrisciurus rubriventer*

Brief views of one skipping along the road near Lore Lindu NP and another one was seen for a split second in Toraut Forest.

Annotated List of Reptiles recorded**Indian Monitor***Varanus bengalensis*

One seen well at Makassar Airport.



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