



A Tropical Birding set departure tour

INDONESIA: SULAWESI and MOLUCCAS Extension (HALMAHERA)

Birding the Edge of Wallace's Line

15th August – 4th September 2017



Knobbed Hornbill *nesting in Tangkoko, one of the most popular birds of the tour*

Tour Leaders: Sam Woods and Theo Heno

(Assisted by Idris in Lore Lindu, Samuel in Tangkoko, Maxwell in Dumoga-Bone,
Julius in Ambang, and Gode and Denny in Halmahera)

*All the birds/animals photographed in this report (all by Sam Woods on this tour) are indicated in **red***

INTRODUCTION:

The oddly-shaped islands of **Sulawesi** and **Halmahera** boast many endemic birds, so are must visit destinations for big listers, people interested in finding all the families (i.e. **Hylocitrea** on Sulawesi), or those looking to see some of Asia's best-looking birds. This year's tour was unusually wet, with landslides and flooding impacting us on both Sulawesi and Halmahera. Conversely, we ended up with more species than ever before, **292 species**, including **131 regional endemics (89 on Sulawesi and 42 on Halmahera;** depending on taxonomy), and featured **27 Pigeons and Doves, 17 parrots and cockatoos, 17 raptor species (including all 4 of Sulawesi's endemic accipiters and Moluccan Goshawk), 16 kingfishers, 12 cuckooshrikes, 9 starlings and mynas, 8 owls, 6 white-eyes, 5 nightjars, 4 megapodes, 3 pittas, and 2 birds-of-paradise.**



We covered **South, Central and North Sulawesi**, with highlights including **Black-ringed White-eye, Sulawesi Brown (Streaked) Flycatcher, and Piping Crow** in the south; excellent views of **Great Shortwing (Heinrichia), Small Sparrowhawk, Scaly-breasted Kingfisher**, as well as **Hylocitrea**, and **Purple-bearded Bee-eater** in the center; and daytime **Minahassa Masked Owl**, and **Ochre-bellied Boobook, Red-backed Thrush**, a Technicolor male **Knobbed Hornbill** at a nest, **Sulawesi (Sahul) Pitta**, and **Green-backed, Sulawesi Dwarf, and Lilac-cheeked (Sulawesi Lilac) Kingfishers** (left), and another

Scaly-breasted Kingfisher in the north of Sulawesi, in addition to some great mammals, like **Celebes Crested Macaques** around us at **Tangkoko**, **tarsiers** peering out from a large fig tree, and **Sulawesi Bear Cuscus** looking down on us. Not to mention the unique, rose-breasted **Maleo** that was watched on a perch for some time during our time on the **Minahassa Peninsula**.

Once we moved to **Halmahera**, parrots and pigeons took over; **Eclectus Parrots** were omnipresent, **White (Umbrella) Cockatoos** showed well, as did **Violet-necked Lory, Moluccan King-Parrot**, and **Gray-headed, Blue-capped and Scarlet-breasted Fruit-Doves**. The nocturnal visit to the beach for **Moluccan Scrubfowl** was again popular, following views down to 15 feet, and getting to see a pair of copulating **Moluccan Scops-Owls**! We also scored both **Wallace's Standardwing (Standardwing Bird-of-paradise), Ivory-breasted Pitta, North Moluccan Pitta** (phenomenal looks this year), **Purple Dollarbird (Azure Roller), Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar**, and even a confiding **Ornate Cuscus** providing a formidable supporting cast on the extension. **74 new species, including 42 Moluccan endemics were added on the extension.**

Top Five Birds on SULAWESI and the MOLUCCAS EXTENSION (HALMAHERA):

- | | | |
|----------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Moluccan Scrubfowl | Galela, HALMAHERA |
| 2 | Purple-bearded Bee-eater | Watu Dau, (near Wuasa), SULAWESI |
| 3 | Red-backed Thrush | Tangkoko, SULAWESI |
| 4 | Ivory-breasted Pitta | Weda, HALMAHERA |
| 5 | Minahassa Masked-Owl | Tangkoko, SULAWESI |

Other birds that were mentioned during the voting were: **Maleo**, **Scaly-breasted Kingfisher**, **Moluccan Pitta**, **Knobbed Hornbill**, **Scarlet-breasted Fruit-Dove**, **Ashy Woodpecker**, **Halmahera Swiftlet**, **Finch-billed Myna** (**Grosbeak Starling**), **Hylocitrea**, and **Wallace's Standardwing** (**Standardwing Bird-of-paradise**).



*This **Moluccan Scrubfowl** was the most popular bird of the tour*

TOUR SUMMARY: MAIN TOUR (SULAWESI)

15th August: Karaenta Forest and Makassar Fishponds (SULAWESI)

Makassar is the four-pronged island of Sulawesi's largest city, in South Sulawesi, and this is where this endemic-fueled tour kicked off. A few early arrivers (in spite of the 5am start), opted for an extra visit to the limestone hills of **Karaenta Forest** on the first day, and it worked out well. Before we had reached our designated breakfast spot we noticed some **Moor Macaques** (also an endemic species to the island), prowling the road at dawn, and Cathy spotted the only **Red Junglefowl** of the tour from the car. The star species at Karaenta, (only found in southern Sulawesi), is the **Black-ringed White-eye**, which was found during a field breakfast with little trouble (see below). However, the noisy *Piping Crow*, the other site for which this offered the best chance, remained silent and unseen, despite much effort that morning. However, it being our first morning in



Sulawesi, new, and endemic birds came to us gently, during a largely quiet morning in the area. Areas of fruit drew in **Yellow-sided and Gray-sided Flowerpeckers**, which shared the tree with a pair of **Gray-cheeked (Green) Pigeons**. In the distance, some **Silver-tipped Imperial-Pigeons** were spotted too, as were several **Sulawesi Cicadabirds and Black-naped Orioles**, at a lookout we'd designated for the uncooperative *Piping Crow*. A walk onto a short forest trail also produced great looks at several **Black-naped Fruit-Doves**. Another bird, for which this scenic site offered our best shot at,

was the newly described (in 2015), **Sulawesi Brown (Streaked) Flycatcher** (above) an inconspicuous dweller of the forest canopy. We spent a bit of time walking the road, decided that we should try lower down, but while Theo, our attendant local guide throughout, returned for the car, we happened to look up and spot one sitting right above us, to some relief! Lower down, we made a brief stop at **Bantimurung**, where we quickly found some handsome male **White-shouldered Trillers**, a showy **Pale Blue Monarch**, and tracked down a pair of **Barred Buttonquail**, one of which gave us a close walk by. A pair of **Black-faced Munias** and a couple of **Pale-headed Munias** were also found by Cathy and Mark; the latter turned out to be a vital sighting due to later unforeseen circumstances (flight delay and a landslide), not giving us enough time to visit a Palu site for them later as planned. We returned to our comfortable **Makassar** hotel for lunch, and to connect with the other two participants on this four-person tour. Post lunch, it was off to the extensive **Makassar Fishponds** for some waterbirds and shorebirds, the only time these were to feature heavily on the tour. Although a pair of **Blue-tailed Bee-eaters** gliding on the wing opened our time there. During our long circuit of the ponds, we eyed 15 **Javan Plovers**, along with **Little Ringed and Kentish Plovers**, **Lesser and Greater Sandplovers**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Long-toed and Red-necked Stints**, **Curlew**

Sandpipers, plentiful **Wood Sandpipers**, and **Whimbrel**. Some stretches of mangroves held **Sacred Kingfisher**, **Clamorous Reed-Warbler**, **Olive-backed (Sahul) Sunbird**, and our first **Golden-bellied Gerygones**. A pair of **Little Black Cormorants** were also seen, although much more common were the dozens of **Javan Pond-Herons**, which reached into triple figures by the day's end. **Sunda Teal**, **Little Tern**, **White-breasted Waterhen**, and **Buff-banded Rail** were also seen on this walk. As we neared the end of our walk, with dusk approaching, a reedy bed held a **Black-backed (Sunda) Swampphen**, **Cinnamon Bittern** and **White-browed Crake**, and an absurdly confiding **Zitting Cisticola**. A large gathering of weavers – both **Bayas** and **Streaked Weavers** – were evidence of recent cagebirds having established populations in the area. Although the real curtain call came when a pair of the half dozen or **Savanna Nightjars** on the wing at dusk, circled us within meters of us, while there was still plentiful light to admire them.

16th August: **Karaenta to Makassar and Lore Lindu (SULAWESI)**

This morning, (now with entire group), was a scheduled repeat of the previous one, with a visit into the jagged limestone hills of **Karaenta Forest**. However, we found a livelier site this day, and **Black-ringed White-eye** (*below*) was soon added to everyone's list. A perched **Sulawesi Goshawk**, and first **Spotted (Indonesian) Kestrel** were also seen, before our vigilant local guide, Theo, homed in on a pair of **Piping Crows**, which made their odd, uncrow-like vocalizations at length. Also seen were our first **Sulawesi Hornbill**, and **Yellow-billed (Sulawesi) Malkoha**, as well as **White-necked Myna**, and **Hair-crested (White-eyed Spangled) Drongo**. Best of all though, was a **Black-headed Kingfisher**, a much-touted split from the blue-headed **Green-backed Kingfisher** of the north. The same **Sulawesi Brown (Streaked) Flycatcher** was found again, before it was back to **Makassar**, where a late leaving flight prevented us from doing our scheduled stop near **Palu**, instead heading directly to **Wuasa** village, for our four night stay. Our first attempts at nightbirds fell flat, with nothing seen or heard at all.



17th August: Lore Lindu (Lake Taming area) and the Sedoa Valley (SULAWESI)

Lore Lindu National Park is one of Sulawesi's flagship birding sites, offering plentiful endemic species right off the bat, both within mid-elevation and highland sites, lacking at other sites visited. What this meant directly to us, of course, was that heady burst of our first healthy batch of specialties. We started out around **Lake (Ranau) Taming**, well before dawn, and quickly heard the knocking call of the recently described **Cinnabar Boobook**. Our two guides working in tandem, Theo and Idris, quickly located the bird, and before long scope views were had by all, as it sat calling from the forest canopy. With darkness remaining, we set out after another, considerably more abundant, nightbird, and soon found two different **Sulawesi Scops-Owls** (*below*) before dawn rose around us, when a **Great Eared-Nightjar** passed overhead calling. The soft calls of the uber-difficult *Scaly-breasted Kingfisher* and *Sulawesi Hawk-Cuckoo* accompanied the dawn, but their calls were all we had to show for them, and they characteristically ceased calling as proper light came to the forest. Soon after we ran into a mixed feeding flock of montane birds, which included several of the seriously odd **Malia**. A long held taxonomic conundrum, previously thought of as a bulbul, but genetics have shown it be in a very different family indeed, being related to *Grassbirds* of all things. This is indeed hard to fathom when you see this large songbird clambering around gleaning in wet moss, high up in the trees, or as it leads the flock with its rollicking song, quite unlike any other grassbird known to man! I warned the group that *Malias* can share the same flock with the scarce **Sulawesi Thrush** and to keep an eye out for that one trying to slip past us in the slipstream of common endemic flock birds, like some popular **Citrine Canary-Flycatchers**, as well as **Sulawesi Leaf-Warbler**, **Sulphur-bellied Whistler**, **Rusty-bellied Fantail**, **Streak-headed Dark-eye (Sulawesi Heleia)**, and **Mountain White-eye**. Not long after, Mark declared he had the thrush, but this fast-moving flock quickly took the thrush with it, with everyone else still lacking views. The flock was swiftly moving from tree to tree, but they remained in the same area for some



time, and eventually Sam relocated the **Sulawesi Thrush**, which this time foraged long enough for a telescope to be trained on it for all. We were also entertained, at length, by a very confiding male **Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker** (*below*) sitting in a low roadside shrub, which we admired for some time, and noticed a **Blue-fronted Flycatcher** lurking nearby. With the *Scaly-breasted Kingfisher* fresh in our thoughts, our local guide, Idris, armed with a head full of intimate knowledge of “his”

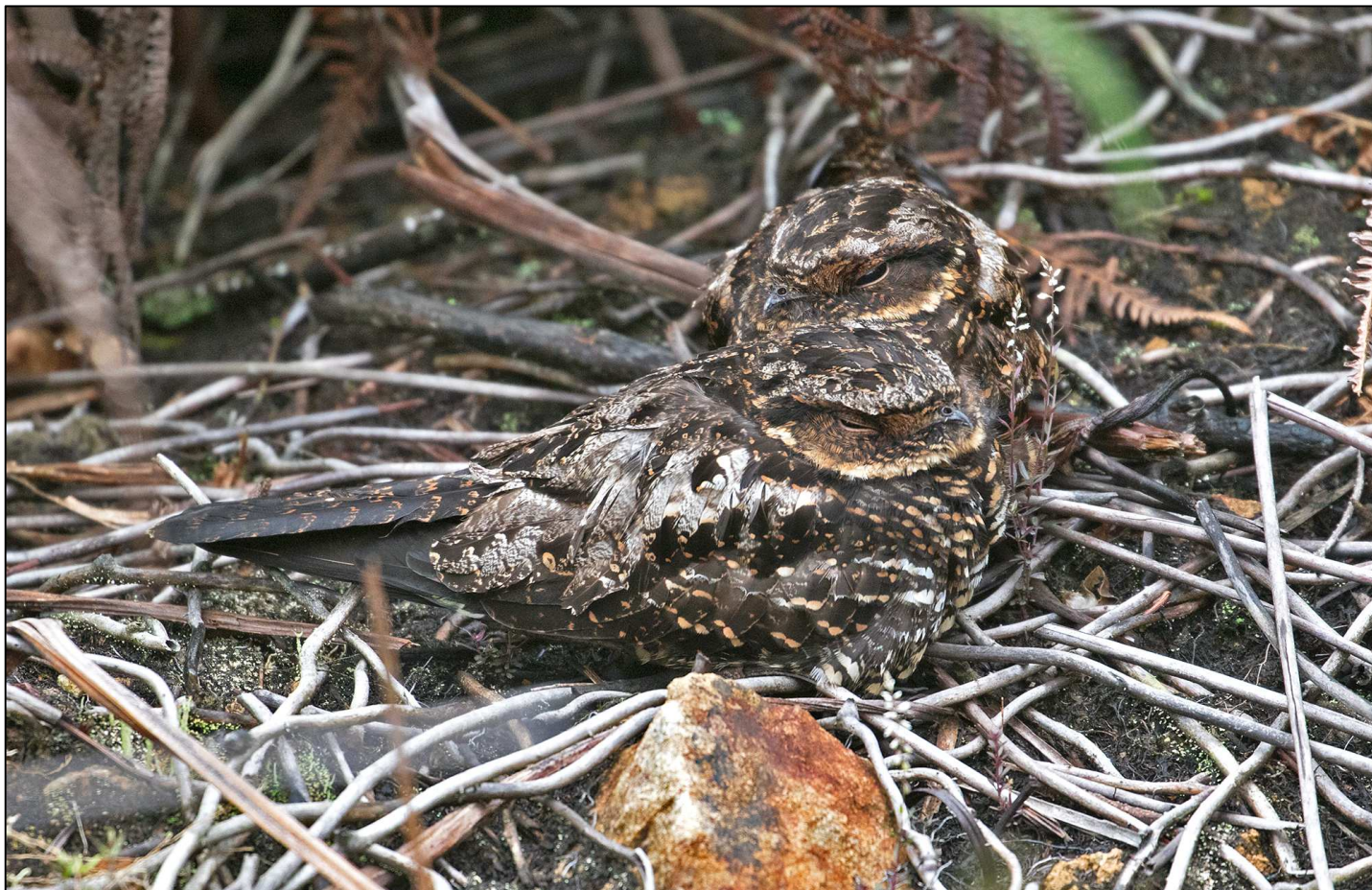


local birds, suggested a trail to try for it. The trail was barely worthy of this name and we bushwhacked in a little, fought off some rattan, and came to the designated spot. Amazingly, following just the shortest series of playback, a bird darted past us at lightning speed, and almost as fast as the bird flew itself, Idris stated he had the bird. For the next 5 minutes or more we were treated to long looks at a stunning **Scaly-breasted Kingfisher** on our first full birding day in the country; we were both surprised and acknowledged our good fortune. However, it did not end there. From virtually the same spot we gave a quick go of the song of **Great Shortwing**, another master skulker,

known for being very hard to get binoculars on, as it circles at high speed, if seen at all. At first, this appeared to be the shortwing expected, as it scurried around us at pace, but then suddenly it stopped on a low branch and remained there for 4 minutes or more, while we all stood closeby commenting on its clearly deep red eye color! This was then followed at this magical spot, with a close approach from a **Maroon-backed Whistler**, another notoriously difficult species, showing well, if briefly, to Mark and Lenny at least. It was turning out to be a Hell of an opener to our time in Lore Lindu!

We returned to the central focus of activity in the area, **Lake Taming** and its surrounding forest, and soon started racking up yet more lifebirds: a calling **Vinous-breasted Sparrowhawk** was seen all too briefly, **Yellow-and-green Lorikeets** went to and fro from their nesting holes in the base of a large bromeliad, **Gray-rumped Treeswifts** glided elegantly on the wing overhead, and we came upon the first of many **Fiery-browed Mynas**, one of Sulawesi's stunning montane endemics. We also got to grips with our first **Sulawesi Myzomelas**, with a male with a bright scarlet head for show. Pretty soon, early morning had turned to late morning, and so we started our journey back to the homestay, stopping deliberately within the **Sedoa Valley**, on the return journey. This worked out well, in spite of the lack of the hoped-for *Purple-bearded Bee-eater* or *Sulawesi Blue-Flycatcher* in the area. A stunning **Crimson Sunbird** appeared in a roadside tree, and then a trio of **Cerulean Cuckooshrikes** revealed a flock in the area, which also held **Island (Turquoise) Flycatcher**, a pair of **Sulawesi (Pygmy) Woodpeckers** and a **Pygmy Cuckooshrike (Mountain Cicadabird)**. Our intended plan to return for lunch at a given time had to be shelved, and our time in the **Sedoa Valley** prolonged, as recent, highly unusual rains had caused a mudslide that needed the attention of a local excavator, before we could eat. However, this did not turn out to be a bad thing at all, once we homed in on our first **Black-billed Koel** and **Sulawesi (Spangled) Drongo**, a group of seven or more **Ivory-backed Woodswallows**, and a **Barred (Sulawesi) Honey-Buzzard** during the delay. Finally, we reached the **Sendy Guesthouse** in **Wuasa** a little later than planned, ate lunch, and saw our only **Short-tailed Starling**, another **Yellow-sided Flowerpecker**, and a small party of **Lemon-bellied White-eyes** in the garden. After lunch, we visited another part of the valley, below the

lodge, and found a nice perched up **Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle**, **Spotted (Indonesian) Kestrel**, a stream of spectacular **White-bellied Imperial-Pigeons**, and finally located half a dozen **Gray-headed Imperial-Pigeons** too, during a rainy afternoon.



18th August: **Lore Lindu (Anaso Track and Lake Taming) SULAWESI**

The fabled **Anaso Track** welcomed the brave on this day, a hardy hike up into the higher reaches of the park in Lore Lindu (from around 5575ft./1700m-7545ft./2300m). The reason for this hardship, was to try and find either the odd *Geomalina*, a rare endemic thrush, and principally to find the sole endemic bird family on the island, *Hylocitrea*, a monotypic family now, that was previously thought to be an odd whistler (hence the old name of Olive-flanked Whistler). The start of the hike was delayed when overnight rain ran into the morning, and whether we should attempt it at all. We did so anyhow, and after a full (and cold) morning of constant rain, with few birds, we were looking very foolhardy indeed. However, the one bird we did have to show for it was a fine pair of **Diabolical (Satanic) Nightjars** (*above*) roosting by the helipad. Near the top of our lengthy walk, we finally added a handful of **White-eared (Greater) Myzas** to the list, but were still looking for that elusive family. During lunch, first Idris, then Sam glimpsed one, and then the group had a view of this bird that you really don't want, feeding high in a tree, and completely backlit, so lacking any color or distinguishing features. We held on in the area, then suddenly a pair of **Hylocitreas** reappeared in a fruiting tree, and this time in some great light, leading to superb looks with the aid of a 'scope. Finally, our lengthy hike had not been in vain. We also saw our first **Brush (Rusty-breasted) Cuckoo** there. The way down was easier, and warmer, now that the rain had cleared off, and also featured a super look at our first **Red-eared Fruit-Dove**

filling the entire 'scope with its rotund body, a nice low down male **Sulawesi Myzomela**, and a huddle of three **Streak-headed Dark-eyes (Sulawesi Heleias)**. However, several calling *Purple-bearded Bee-eaters* through the day, remained unseen, and left a bitter taste in our mouths, considering the considerable physical efforts undertaken. At the end of the day, we re-met up Cathy and Theo who had birded instead lower down, and were rewarded for their efforts with **Piping Crows**, a male **Sulawesi (Jungle) Blue-Flycatcher**, half a dozen **Superb Fruit-Doves**, a few **Pygmy Cuckooshrikes (Mountain Cicadabirds)**, and several **Dark-eared (Lesser) Myzas**. On the way back to **Wuasa** we stopped in on a cabbage patch field, where a *Speckled Boobook* was at least heard, but a *Sulawesi Masked Owl* neither seen or heard, a growing bane of frustration.



19th August: Lore Lindu; Anaso Track, Lake Tambing and Watu Dau (SULAWESI)

At this point the pressure of not having seen a *Purple-bearded Bee-eater* weighed heavy on us, so having heard at least two birds the day before on the lower end of the **Anaso Track**, three of the group decided to cover that section again. Thanks to Cathy and Theo, who'd stayed down from the previous ascent of this steep track, we picked up a fine **Dark-eared (Lesser) Myza** at the base of the track, which was a welcome catch up bird for this who'd been though that long hike the day before.

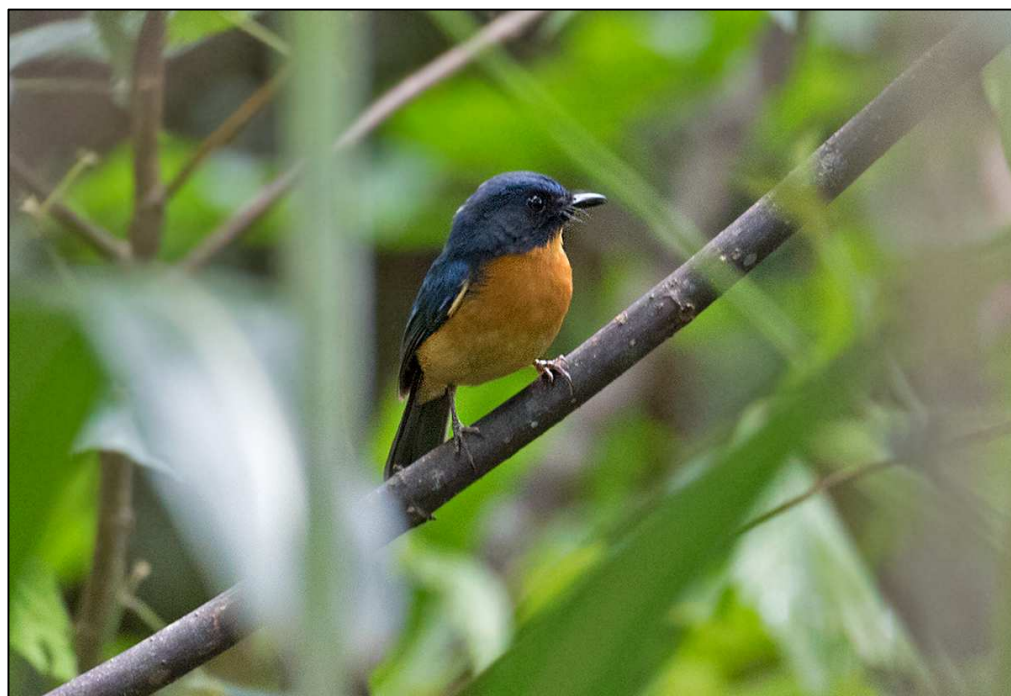


Purple-bearded Bee-eater was unquestionably one of Sulawesi's standout endemics



After some time trying for the bee-eater, we had to retreat with our tails between our legs, with good flight views for some of the rare **Sombre Pigeon** being the sole reward. Another **Red-eared Fruit-Dove** was also seen. With group and guide alike unsettled by the lack of *bee-eater*, we tried several more spots in vain and then came up with a plan to visit another site instead for it after lunch. Plans were made, but frustrated by another landslide, caused by the continuing unseasonably heavy rains in the region. During the prolonged wait to clear the road, we did spot **Finch-billed Myna (Grosbeak Starling)**, **Cerulean Cuckooshrike**, perched **Barred (Sulawesi) Honey-Buzzard**, our first **Rufous-bellied Eagle**, and some **Lemon-bellied White-eyes**. Some distant **Purple Needleetails** and a distant **Azure-rumped (Blue-backed) Parrot** were also seen during this unavoidable break.

However, we made it through with just enough time to try, and set off following a quickly rearranged lunch. Along the way we saw our first **Black Kites**, **Pied Bushchats**, and Mark spotted a **Lesser Coucal**, but little else as we passed through agricultural lands and open grasslands, largely devoid of birdlife. Finally, we reached an area where forest came close to the road, and with windows down, and well before our planned spot, the call of what sounded like a bee-eater was heard from the car. Sam, Mark and Jean-Francois quickly leapt and made their way to the forest edge, where Sam glimpsed the bird, which quickly vanished. The it landed slap bang in front of Mark and Jean, and we rapidly called back the others who were in the vehicle in front and had no idea of what had been happening behind them. Eventually, a pair of these **Purple-bearded**



Bee-eaters ([page before](#)), showed wonderfully, and were clearly nesting in a forest bank closeby, as they dashed backwards and forwards to possibly feed chicks buried inside. The it was time for another “get-back bird” for Mark, Lenny, and Jean-Francois, who’d missed **Sulawesi Blue-(Jungle) Flycatcher** ([left](#)) at **Lore Lindu**, when they’d opted to join Sam on the Anaso Track for high elevation birds. It was typically tricky, remaining inside thick vegetation for a time, but finally broke cover and soon we all had this species

on of our own personal trip lists. A *Spot-tailed Goshawk* then began calling closeby, and in spite of coming in close, when it became evident that two separate birds were calling, a frustrating hour was spent with no views of the birds had by the group at all. Following this, a walk in this scenic area, produced **Golden-headed Cisticolas**, our first **Little Bronze-Cuckoo**, and also **Gray-headed Imperial-Pigeons**, **Sulawesi (Spangled) Drongos**, and our first **Slender-billed (Sulawesi) Crows**. On the way back to **Wuasa**, we observed a large group of Chestnut Munias, and got some decent looks at Sulawesi Swiftlets low overhead. We also stopped for a party of 7 **Great Eared-Nightjars** on the wing at dusk, and also finally scored another owl, in the form of a **Speckled Boobook** ([page 9](#)), but a calling *Sulawesi Masked Owl* remained hidden.



Cerulean Cuckooshrike in mountains of Lore Lindu (above), & **White-rumped Cuckooshrike** in lowlands of Tangkoko



20th August: Lore Lindu (Lake Taming), and the Sedoa Valley to Palu

The reason that islands like Sulawesi and Halmahera draw birders so avidly, is that they are drowning in endemic bird species, giving even experienced, seasoned traveling birders lots of lifebirds. The flipside to this coin is that islands are quite depauperate in species. Therefore, by the time we came to our final morning in Lore Lindu, our target list of birds was reduced to just a handful. As a guide, of course, this is a jittery time, as few targets, means high likelihood of failure! However, the morning could not have turned out better. We started at a by now familiar forest pool, searching for a *Small Sparrowhawk* lurking around the edges. However, before we made that search in earnest, another endemic *accipiter* demanded our

attention, when a **Spot-tailed Sparrowhawk** began calling above us. It responded quickly, and eventually stopped on an open snag, and remained calling in full view for five minutes of pure birder's joy. Next stop was to try a hotspot around the lake for *Superb Fruit-Dove*, where Cathy had observed five of them just a few days but there was no sign. **Gray-streaked Flycatcher** there was new though, and a spiffing male **Sulawesi Myzomela** may not have been, but this did not matter, we were very happy with more looks at this blinding bird. Just over the road, we finally tracked down what had been



becoming something of a nemesis, **Chestnut-backed Bush-Warbler (Sulawesi Grasshopper Warbler)**, which showed atypically superbly, as it hopped around the base of a mossy trunk time and again, as if to ensure we had all seen it well; we did. Further along the road, Theo heard an **Ashy Woodpecker** respond to Sam's playback, and soon after a pair of these dramatic woodpeckers were entertaining us for fifteen minutes or more as they called and flipped from one dead tree to another. Then, one of those moments of extraordinary fortune coupled with great birding skill happened, mountain mist descended suddenly out of nowhere, and just when the visibility was at its very worst, and we were heading to the vehicles for a mid-morning "cuppa", Theo announced he had a **Small Sparrowhawk** (above) perched in the gloom! It was a remarkable bit of field skills, and the bird remained around for some time, allowing the fog to lift, and us to watch it with coffees and teas in hand even! In between the *woodpeckers* and the *sparrowhawk*, everyone also got to see a male **Superb Fruit-Dove** at last. On the way back to **Wuasa** to check out, we made a couple of stops, seeing **Sulawesi Blue-(Jungle) and Blue-fronted Blue (Hoevell's Warbling) Flycatchers** at one of these, and also noted three separate **Rufous-bellied Eagles**, **Barred Honey-Buzzard**, **Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle**, and a couple of **Black Eagles** too during a couple of impromptu raptor stops too.

Our trip back to **Palu** was delayed by two hours by one of the same mudslides that had caused problems a few days earlier, but we made up for it by watching **Lesser Coucal**, a jaw-dropping **Crimson Sunbird** in perfect light, a squadron of 40 **Purple Needletails**, a confiding group of **Ivory-backed Woodswallows** (*below*), and several **Cerulean Cuckooshrikes** (*page 12*), as we waited impatiently for the excavator to finish its duty. **Gray-rumped Treeswift**, **Black-naped Oriole**, and **Spotted (Indonesian) Kestrel** also featured during the delay. We ended up with just 30 minutes or so of remaining light when we reached the final birding site of the day, the **Olibogo River Grasslands**, but it was just enough time to find 7 **Red-backed Buttonquails**, and 1 **Barred Buttonquail** by pacing around the grasslands, and also got half a dozen or so **Savanna Nightjars** on the wing as we pulled out at dusk for the final stretch to **Palu**, where we ate great seafood, and savored our first proper hot shower in days.



21st August: **Palu to Tangkoko (SULAWESI)**

After an early rise, we took the first flight out of **Palu** to first **Makassar** in the south (where two **Woolly-necked Storks** were seen at the airport), to then connect with a flight north to the **Minahassa Peninsula**, and the main city of **Manado** (frustratingly, there are no direct flights from Central to North Sulawesi). We barely saw Manado though, as we quickly connected with our next set of drivers, Wayne and Iwan, and were swiftly en-route to our next major destination: **Tangkoko**. Our flights all left on time, something of a surprise, and so we arrived at our new lodge (complete with 24-hour electricity, air conditioning, and spotty Internet) in time for lunch. This was a considerable upgrade to our earlier lodgings, after this place opened up just a few years ago, making visits here more comfortable than ever. With a high tide in the afternoon dictating our best plan for

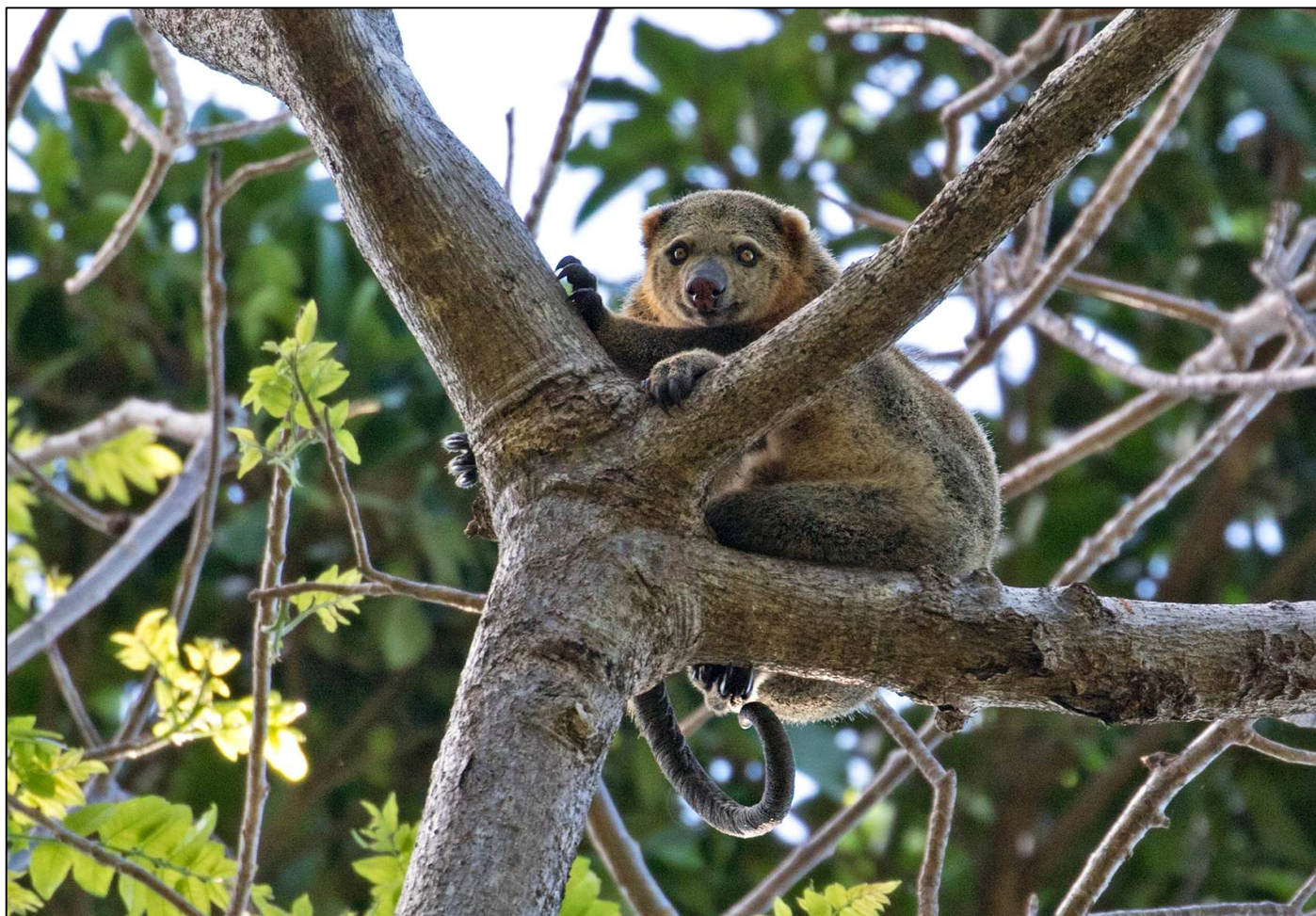
then, we set out on a boat into the *mangroves*, launching first into the **Celebes Sea** off of **Tangkoko**, before turning inland into the mangroves themselves, seeing our only **White-bellied Sea-Eagle** on the way. Our main reason for the boat trip was to find the near endemic **Great-billed (Black-billed) Kingfisher** that dwells there, and following an initial scare, when one darted deep into the mangroves before we'd even realized it was there, our new local guide for the leg, the legendary Samuel, soon spotted another that remained on its perch for a time! Several *Ruddy Kingfishers* were heard that afternoon, and both **Collared and Sacred Kingfishers** also seen again. Our other avian quarry was the endemic **White-rumped Cuckooshrike** (page 12), a bird of secondary habitats and mangroves. The use of a new, roofed, boat on this trip was good for the shade, but proved difficult in locating this treetop bird as it appeared repeatedly, but could only be seen by the few. However, come the end of the trip, at least 8 had been seen by all. **Pink-necked (Green) Pigeon**, and **Common Kingfisher** were also new in this area, and a lonely **Greater Sandplover** was also seen on a nearby beach. Several other shorebirds were seen later including a few **Gray-tailed Tattlers**. At the end of the day we tried for another endemic nightbird, *Sulawesi Nightjar*, but on a blustery night, no birds were heard, and so we vowed to return the following evening...

22nd August: Tangkoko (SULAWESI)

After a pre-dawn breakfast our excitable local guide Samuel was ready to take us somewhere very special indeed; a recent hiding place for the sparkling *Sulawesi (Sahul) Pitta*, a bird that had been very difficult in the area of late, *unlike* in some years. He was pretty confident of the spot, but on arrival, the distinctive trembling whistles of the bird were initially absent. However, we set about seeing other birds as we traveled into the area on foot. We chased a boisterous pair of **Pied Cuckooshrikes** that eventually settled down and showed to all (arguably the toughest of the cuckooshrikes on Sulawesi); a **White-faced Cuckoo-Dove** responded to our overtures, landing nearby, and we also saw our first **Green Imperial-Pigeons** (the distinctive, rufous collared *Paulina* endemic race) of the trip, in addition to **Gray-headed Imperial-Pigeon**, **Black-naped Fruit-Dove** (a catch-up bird for some), and a **Pale-blue Monarch**. One or two people also laid eyes on a briefly perched **Spot-tailed Goshawk**. Meanwhile, our tenacious local guide, circled the



area in pursuit of our main quarry, coming back to put us on to a **Lilac-cheeked (Sulawesi Lilac) Kingfisher** (*page 2*) he'd found. He finally heard the pitta's warble from down a steep hill, and so off we went. This was not the way it was meant to go, but for a bird like a **Sulawesi (Sahul) Pitta**, accommodations needed to be made. Eventually, we were close to the sound and the bird leapt onto a fallen tree, where we were able to 'scope it for all, and enjoy one of the jewels of the forest. Getting back from where we had ended up proved a little difficult finding a way out, as we were well off trail by then. However, this proved good fortune, for as we descended a steep incline within the forest, Samuel, exclaimed "**MINAHASSA!**", as he had just flushed a roosting **Minahassa Masked-Owl** (*page before*) in doing so! The bird changed its position several times causing some anxiety, but then settled on a perch, and was soaked up at some length, and in spite of a long off trail walk back to the vehicles and lunch (with another group of **White-rumped Cuckooshrikes** to show for it), we felt blessed, not cursed, after such a genuinely lucky sighting.



The afternoon was never going to live up to the morning, with lower bird activity as expected at this time, but some stellar sightings, both avian and mammalian. Searches for *Green-backed Kingfisher* came up short, although we did find our first vine-creeping **Bay Coucal**. Later, Samuel got a call from another guide prowling the park, who gave us a tip off on a **Sulawesi Bear Cuscus** (*above*), which we were soon observing hanging upside down, (with the considerable help of its prehensile tail), moments after. Cathy and Sam were beside themselves.

Our next stop was very special too, and continued the mammalian theme. It worked like a charm, as we walked among “apes”, as it were, with a large troop of **Celebes Crested Macaques** walking slowly through the forest, and before long we were part of the troop. It was particularly pleasing and delightful to see a healthy number of young macaques among the group too. A couple of **Tabon Scrubfowls** gave good looks nearby too. After the primarily *mammalian* diversions, it was back to birds, as we walked a hillside searching for signs of movement in the leaf litter. Cathy spotted something, and soon after, it was determined to be just what we wanted, one of Sulawesi’s lesser touted avian stars, the stunning **Red-backed (Rusty-backed) Thrush**, which must vie for the title of the World’s best from this family. We returned to mammals once more, and a specific fig tree, where 3 charming **Spectral Tarsiers** (*below*) were seen in the late afternoon.



Our final stop of the day was to try again for **Sulawesi Nightjar**, which had been mite and unseen, at a different site, the evening before. With enough light left before nightjar activity was due we tried for **Isabelline (Sulawesi) Bush-Hen**, and were rewarded with decent looks at a pair lingering on an open track. Finally, at the end of a day that had been nothing short of thrilling, in a way that only Tangkoko offers, we made an attempt at the *nightjar*, and this time there were no complaints. After several short flybys, highlighted in the spotlight, one was spotted sitting high in a tree, and remained there for the proverbial “walk away” views, allowing ‘scope views for fifteen minutes or more, to close out what would end up being the most popular day of the tour.

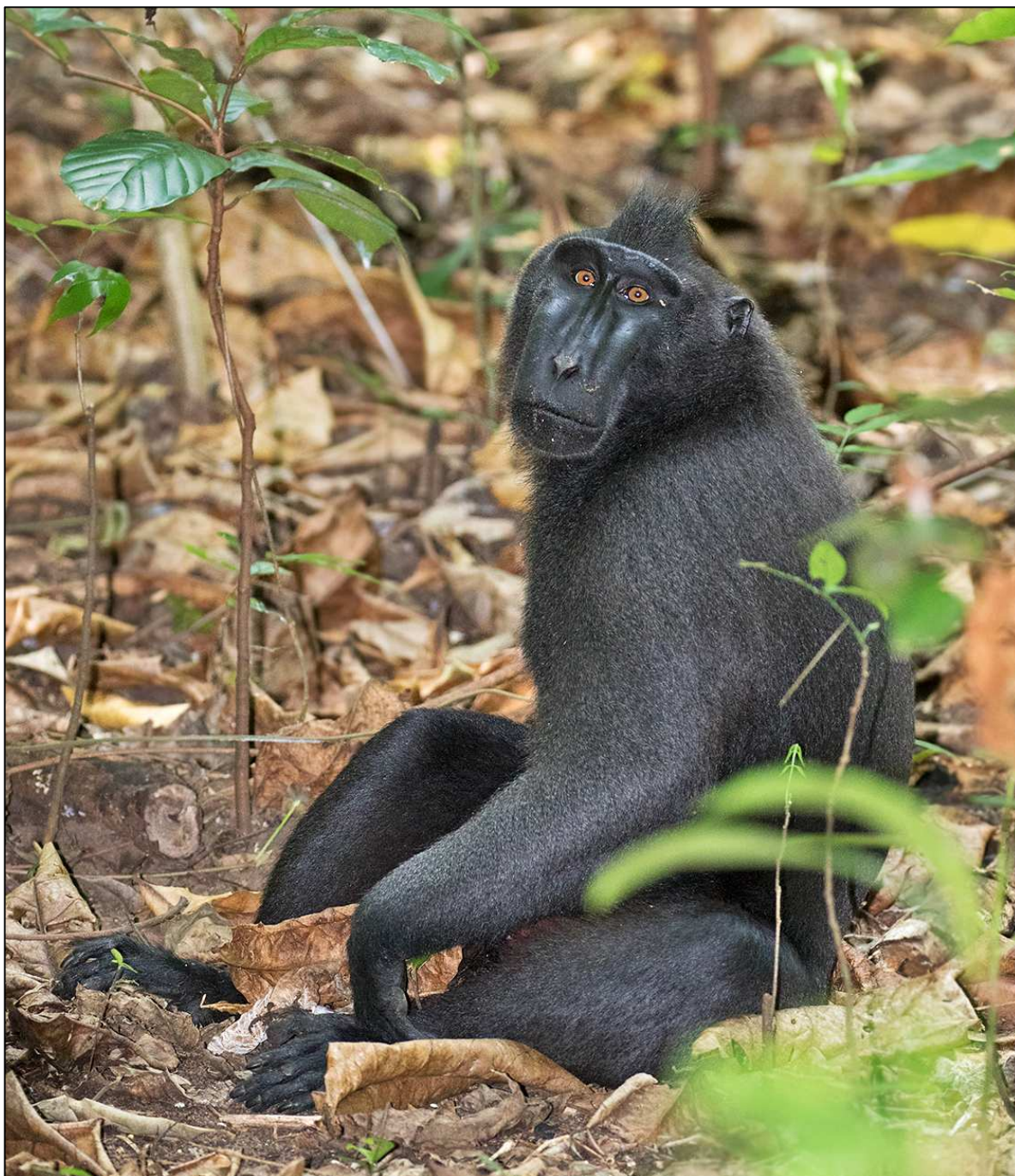
23rd August: Tangkoko (SULAWESI)

Following the work of our diligent, and persistent, local guides on our first day in **Tangkoko**, our target list of birds was quite clear for the next morning; drop in on the sites for the regularly roosting *Ochre-bellied Boobooks*, and try to track down one of the sites harder “marquee” species, *Sulawesi Dwarf-Kingfisher*. Just after alighting from the vehicles at the park entrance, a beautiful bird that we had not yet seen, **Purple-winged (Sulawesi) Roller**, began calling next to the car park. Not long after, 3 birds were tracked down in a naked tree for all to admire their cerulean blue caps, and deep purple plumage. We moved on to where some large trees bearing vivid scarlet blooms sprinkled the skyline, where the hoped-for **Ornate Lorikeets** came in to forage in them right on cue. Walking off the entrance road and into the forest itself, we entered into the shady understory, where Samuel’s *kingfisher* skills were there for all to see, as he spotted several **Green-backed Kingfishers** sitting quietly and motionless, and then later excitedly pointed out the tiny **Sulawesi Dwarf-Kingfisher** (page 49), a kaleidoscope of color wrapped in the body of a kingfisher, and much wanted by Mark in particular. In the middle of this “kingfisher-fest” was sandwiched a sighting of a party of 3 **Red-backed Thrushes**. Then we moved on to where another

local guide had passed on the whereabouts of a roosting party of **Ochre-bellied (Hawk-Owls) Boobooks** (above) which were both well seen and photographed soon after. Finally, the morning closed with a vigil at the nest of a **Knobbed Hornbill** (title page) where the male came in to feed the female twice during our 90-minute stay. Close **Celebes Crested Macaques** (next page) also featured on the way back from there as did a couple more **Tabon Scrubfowls**, as did some **Pacific Reef-Herons** and an unidentified **frigatebird** from the shore.

After lunch, we took a break from walking the humid forest floor, and instead visited a scenic overlook, looking at tree height for birds around us. The place was lively and a stiff breeze (not uncommon in this season), kept it relatively cool. On arrival, a pair of **White-necked Mynas** (page 21) sat close as they fussed around their nest, while a tree behind was alive with **Finch-billed Mynas** (**Grosbeak Starling**, page 20), a noisy colonial nester, with a *minimum* of 62 present! A little bit of playback soon brought in an excitable pair of **White-rumped (Sulawesi) Trillers** (page 22), which came in and sat beside us for a time. *Pigeons* were prominent, as they tend to be from this lofty position, with **Silver-tipped**, **Gray-headed**, **Green**, and **White-**

bellied Imperial Pigeons, and Gray-cheeked (Green) Pigeons all featuring in decreasing order of frequency. Several Sulawesi Cicadabirds were seen from our lofty position too. *Hanging-parrots* called around us for a while, before a juvenile Sulawesi (Large) Hanging-Parrot was found suitably hanging upside down, and later the full family, included the scarlet capped adults gathered together. A couple of Rufous-bellied Eagles passed by, and a flyby Sulawesi (Crested) Myna shot by at such speed that only Sam got on to it. As we left the side with the sun dwindling, a Yellow-breasted (Minahasa) Racquet-tail was seen by Mark and Sam, before it quickly launched off to roost at this late hour.



Tangkoko is wonderful for birds and animals; dozens of **Celebes Crested Macaques** were seen



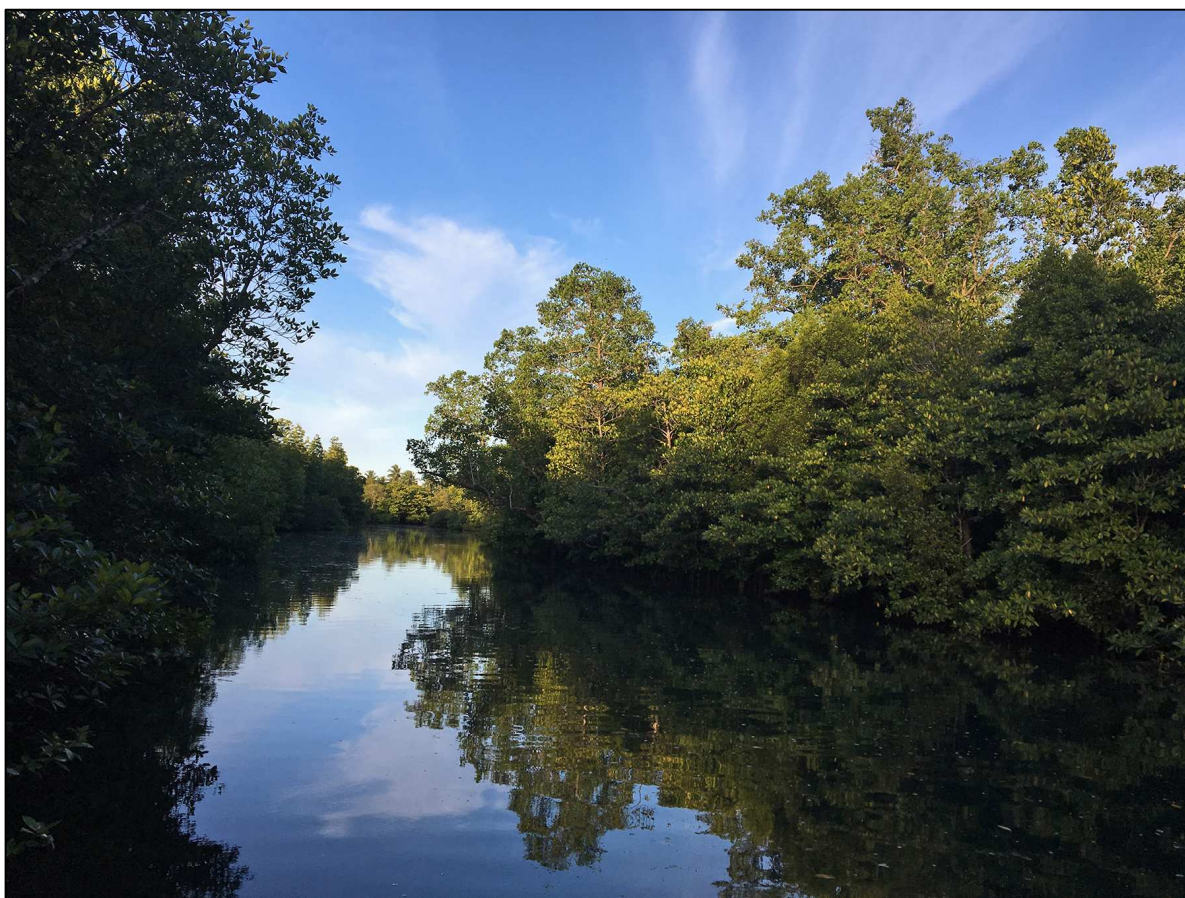
24th August: **Tangkoko to Kotamobagu (SULAWESI)**

With precious few hours left to bird in the magical Tangkoko, we set out after four target birds in mind, and came back with three of them; not bad for just three hours in the field! The day started out ominously, with a heavy thunderstorm delaying our departure for what could be only a few hours birding with our long drive towards Dumoga-Bone. However, the storm moved on and so did we, returning to the wonderful forest overlook, which works much like a canopy tower in the Amazon of South American giving great treetop views. This spot is notable for its profusion of parrots and pigeons at this early hour, and this day was typical; **Green and Silver-tipped Imperial-Pigeons** dominated the canopy perched birds, but we also had a few **Gray-headed Imperial-Pigeons**, **Sultan's (Slender-billed/Sulawesi) Cuckoo-Dove**, and the distinctive hoots of *White-faced Cuckoo-Doves* were heard. A **Sulawesi Cicadabird**, and then a pair of **White-necked Mynas** perched on a dead snag beside us, before we located our first perched **Golden-mantled (Sulawesi) Racket-tails** of the tour, bathed in glorious early morning sunlight. A noisy rabble of **Finch-billed Mynas (Grosbeak Starlings)** were present again too and hard to miss. Soon after, one of our main targets, **Yellow-breasted (Minahasa) Racket-tail**, an endemic to the Minahassa Peninsula of northern Sulawesi. We also watched a **Large (Sulawesi) Hanging-Parrot** literally glowing in the sunlight as it perched alongside a small group of **Gray-cheeked Green Pigeons**. Other notable birds during 90 minutes there, included more perched parrots – **Azure-rumped (Blue-backed) Parrot**, **Yellow-billed (Sulawesi) Malkoha**, **Ashy Woodpecker**, **Brahminy Kite**, and a pair of prominently perched **Knobbed Hornbills**, a bird that always stimulates instant gratification. With time at **Tangkoko** rapidly draining away, and a site for a *Ruddy Kingfisher* still to fit in, we reluctantly left the lookout for the last time. However, on the

way back to our cottages, we stopped at a roadside lookout, where traffic made it less popular than the first, but when a **Pygmy Hanging-Parrot** appeared twice in a tree alongside us, the regular stream of Indonesians on motorbikes was quickly forgiven! A singing **Brush (Rusty-breasted) Cuckoo** was also observed nearby, before we departed for kingfisher site. We tried one spot, with our playback falling on deaf ears, so Samuel soon disappeared on his bike to another spot, leaving us behind, but returning ten minutes later with the news of the whereabouts of a *Ruddy Kingfisher*! A few minutes down the road we were staring down the barrel of the stare of a **Ruddy Kingfisher**, remarkably sitting just where Samuel had left it! The bird remained confident it was hidden in the understory long enough that Samuel could return to the hotel and bring Cathy to see it, who had opted out of the early morning activities! Luckily, it was still there when she arrived some 15 minutes or more since we first started watching it. This was a great way to end our time in **Tangkoko**, and with our standout guide Samuel, something of a Sulawesi legend, for his ready smile, and tenacity to find those birds, especially those trickier dream forest birds. The long drive (somewhere in the region of 7 hours), was broken up with arguably the best meal of the tour, chicken Satay accompanied by a coconut infused seafood soup, served within a coconut itself. On the latter part of the journey we made two stops for birds in rice paddies along the way, finding a party of **Red Collared (Turtle) Doves**, a flock of ten **Pacific Golden-Plovers**, a pair of **Sunda Teal**, a handful of **Black-faced Munias**, and a single male **Java Sparrow**.



One of a nesting pair of **White-necked Mynas** at the Tangkoko “overlook”; home to plentiful parrots, pigeons, and mynas
Next page: **White-rumped (Sulawesi) Triller**, and the mangroves at Tangkoko



25th August: Dumoga-Bone, Tambun (SULAWESI)

Today was something of a red banner day for the tour, as we went after one of Sulawesi's most famous and unique birds, nowhere else in the world is there anything that looks vaguely like the peculiar *Maleo*. At **Tambun**, it resides in forest infused with steam coming off the small streams within the forest, which due to volcanic activity are hot to the touch. However, this mega megapode gave us a battle to see it. Several times during the morning our local guide on site would see it, come get us and it was gone. We vowed to return in the afternoon. A similar pattern persisted for a while before Theo found one sitting high in the branches of a tree late afternoon, presumably preparing to roost, a wonderful tour moment, that brought pleasure and relief in equal measure! Cathy was also thrilled to be permitted to release one of the chicks into the wild and watch it make its virgin flight into the surrounding jungle to start out life on its own, as young **Maleos** (*next page*) always do...



Other birds seen that day include a beautifully ornate male **Superb Fruit-Dove**, multiple noisy **Black-billed Koels**, **Little Bronze-cuckoo**, **Lesser Coucal** (*above*), a handful of **Gray-rumped Treeswifts**, **Hair-crested (White-eyed Spangled) Drongos**, a pair of **Pale Blue Monarchs**, a **Sulawesi (Sahul) Pitta** lighting up the gloomy forest floor on this rainy day, several **Ashy Woodpeckers**, another **Yellow-sided Flowerpecker**, and some daytime **Great Eared Nightjars** flapping lazily through the forest several times.



Cathy holds a **Maleo** in the palm of her hand; this one's just 3 days old and already able to fly and fend for itself



26th August: Dumoga-Bone (Molibagu Road) and Kotomobagu (SULAWESI)

After yesterday's successful "Maleo Quest", we were now liberated to visit another portion of the fragmented national park of **Dumoga-Bone**. With a very discrete set of target birds remaining to us in the **Minahassa Peninsula**, our avian objectives were clear, three Sulawesi endemics: *Maroon-chinned Fruit-Dove*, *Sulawesi (Crested) Myna*, and *Sulawesi Serpent-Eagle*. And so, we opted to try for these in the forest fragments along the **Molibagu Road**. This year's theme on the tour had been unseasonably wet weather, during a tour timed for the island's dry season, and this continued as we arrived in **Dumoga-Bone** to hillsides shrouded in mist, and heavy rain falling. Thus, our first attempts at finding the *fruit-dove* met with only partial success; the bird answered, but could not be found as rain dripped from the leaves. We moved on down the road, and did get early success with the *myna*, as a single **Sulawesi (Crested) Myna** was found sitting in some roadside trees, for all to see. One of the same trees also held a spanking male **Superb Fruit-Dove**, and four different **Black-naped Fruit-Doves**; while nearby some miserable and wet **Gray-rumped Treeswifts** peppered the treetops. Moving further down the road, the rain eased, but our luck with the target *fruit dove* did not, we could not find another one at this stage, but did luck into first, a heavy-browed **Gorontalo Macaque**

(another endemic mammal), another **Gray-headed Imperial-Pigeon**, and then a **Ruddy Kingfisher** perched alongside the river. Finally, we returned to the first place that we'd at least heard a **Maroon-chinned (Oberholser's) Fruit-Dove** (*above*), and after playing the call again, *Jean-Francois* calmly announced he had the bird. This very cooperative individual remained rooted to the branch for an age, at least until twenty minutes later when we walked away having taken photos from every available angle. Moving back to the lookout where the myna had been seen, we found up to 16 of them there now that the rain had cleared, and kept an eye to the skies for raptors, finding **Brahminy Kite** and **Black Eagle**, and a distant patrolling **Ivory-backed Woodswallow**. The trees though were alive with birds, a very popular and standout moment came when a male **Pygmy Hanging-Parrot** was found sitting below a **Large (Sulawesi) Hanging-Parrot**, which then allowed themselves to be admired simultaneously within a single scope view, another male **White-rumped (Sulawesi) Triller** was found roaming the trees in the same area, along with a **Sulawesi (Pygmy) Woodpecker**, **Finch-billed Myna (Grosbeak Starling)**, and several **Black-naped Orioles**. A nearby treetop **Purple Heron** made for a strange sight in the dense forest there. Another **Sulawesi (Dwarf) Hornbill** also made an appearance on this morning, and a couple of **Whitish Dwarf Squirrels** were seen too.

After an excellent, and extensive spread at a local guesthouse for lunch, it was decided we would head back to **Kotomobagu** (via a wetland just outside there) and try for a *Sulawesi Masked Owl* that roosts in the city again. As we headed out of the

area, an **Isabelline Bush-Hen** halted us, as it bathed in a puddle in the middle of the road, and a **Barred Rail** stood in the open on the roadside too. The front car also got to see a **Stephan's (Emerald) Dove** bolt off of the road too. A roadside stop was also forced, when a **Plaintive Cuckoo** was heard calling, and subsequently seen. The wetland stop was necessitated to be brief, as we wanted to arrive at the owl roost tree before dark to give it our very best shot! Brief as the wetland stop was though, we did find 59 **Wandering Whistling-Ducks**, **Sunda Teal**, **Eurasian and Dusky Moorhens** on the same pond, a few **Black-backed (Sunda) Swampheens**, and both **Yellow and Cinnamon Bitterns**. Cathy also found a pair of **Little (Tricolored) Grebes** nesting, a scarce bird on the island, and a potential split as *Tricolored Grebe*, due to its outsized bill compared with the "traditional" western races of *Little Grebe*. The day closed with us returning to the coconut plantation, and the specific trees, where the *masked owl* was said to roost. It was still light when we arrived, and so tried finding the bird within its known roosting trees, but could not find any sign of this massive *tyto* owl within the dense tangles and coconut fruits, so feared it might no longer be using the site where it had been just a few weeks before. However, as darkness approached completeness, a huge owl flew out from the trees above us, and fortunately alighted in a more distant palm, when a scope could be trained on it for closer examination. It later moved to another near palm, where we could view it again from another angle. Being our *seventh* try for the **Sulawesi Masked Owl**, this was a moment of mighty relief, mixed with admiration of this massive owl, our 6th of the trip.



Javan Pond-Herons were abundant in the rice paddies between Kotomobagu and Manado

27th August: Gunung Ambang (SULAWESI)

Our penultimate site on the **Minahassa Peninsula** of North Sulawesi was **Ambang Mountain (=Gunung)**. On arriving at the agricultural fields at the base of the mountain, we were greeted with a close flyby of a **Spotted Harrier**, as it flew low over the onion fields. Ambang is traditionally visited for four specialties in particular, *Cinnabar Boobook*, *Sulawesi Masked Owl*, *Scaly-breasted Kingfisher*, and the extremely localized *Matinan Flycatcher*. Having got the first three of these already, the pressure was off somewhat, and so we left at the rather leisurely time of 4:30am, rather than the usual 3am, when owls need to be seen! We started our hike up the mountain with one major target left, the demure **Matinan (Warbling) Flycatcher** (*below*) for which this is the only accessible site within the single mountain range where it is found. Once we reached the required elevation though it was not hard to track down with its seemingly endless warbling song, and three different birds were seen, including a juvenile. Other notable finds were the distinctive other race (*recondita*) of the **Malia**, *Purple-bearded Bee-eaters* were also heard, and mixed bird parties held **Rusty-bellied Fantail**, **Sulawesi Leaf Warbler**, **Island (Turquoise) Flycatcher**, and **Sulphur-bellied Whistler**. On the way down the mountain, a raptor vigil produced a pair of **Sulawesi Serpent-Eagles**, at least 4 **Black Eagles**, a single **Spotted Kestrel**, a **Brahminy Kite**, and a roaming party of 20 **Purple Needle-tails**. Excellent views of a male **Snowy-browed Flycatcher** were also obtained. Aside from a brief roadside paddyfield stop (**Javan Pond-Heron** – *page before* - **Sunda Teal**), the rest of the day was spent heading back east on the Minahassa Peninsula, to the highland town of **Tomohon** for a single night's stay.

**28th August: Gunung Mahawu and Bukit Doa to Manado (SULAWESI)**

Our final day on the island formerly known as Celebes was scheduled to visit **Gunung Mahawu** in the highland town of **Tomohon**, principally for the chance at *Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker*, *Isabelline Bush-hen*, and especially the often difficult *Scaly-breasted Kingfisher*. Mahawu is the best site on the island for the species. While most of us had already seen *Scaly-breasted Kingfisher* in Lore Lindu, the *princeps* race of the Minahassa Peninsula may well represent a different species, and so we were all keen to see it. A number of hours were spent walking through known spots for the bird, which came up empty, and so we drove up the road to see if any nectarivorous birds were foraging along the road, where Mark spotted a **Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker**, and a scarlet-hooded male **Sulawesi Myzomela** (*page 29*) showed very well. We also thought it rude not to see the volcanic crater at the top, which is why many tourists visit the area. The view of this was spectacular, and several **Sulawesi Swiftlets** swooped low in front of us as we stood on the viewing platform. While we were just thinking about returning to the forest for birding, a breathless Iwan, one of our local drivers appeared, with the immortal words “*kingfisher!*”;

Theo had remained down the road and evidently had found one, but we were then located at the furthest point we could have been from where Theo was; poor timing indeed. We gingerly backtracked down the steep steps to the crater, returned to the vehicles and raced down to where Theo was gesturing from the roadside. We entered a steep forest gully, but found that the kingfisher had moved on. However, after playing the call several times, and being frustrated as the bird passed from one side to the other, but always perched out of view, we finally spotted it sitting quietly, and following a panicked period when we could not all find the bird, we finally all had the **Scaly-breasted Kingfisher** (*below*) in our sights for some time. Cathy had her catch up bird, and the rest of us were quickly supporting the splitting of this form from the one in Lore Lindu, (which has been suggested in the most recent field guide to the region)! A quick stop was made at nearby **Bukit Doa**, where a **Gray-sided Flowerpecker** and several confiding **Barred Rails** (*page 30*) were seen, and Sam found a roosting pair of **Sulawesi Scops-Owls** (*page 49*). Finally, we moved onto **Manado**, checked in to the grand, **Grand Luley Resort**, and did some final Sulawesi birding on their mangrove boardwalk, with 8 more **White-rumped Cuckooshrikes**, **Golden-bellied Gerygone**, **Striated Heron**, **Gray-tailed Tattlers**, **Whimbrel**, and **Great Sandplover** to show for it, plus **Pink-necked (Green) Pigeon**, and a flock of 24 **Pied Imperial Pigeons**, which were new for the trip.







Top Five Birds on SULAWESI (i.e. Main tour only):

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Minahassa Masked-Owl | Tangkoko |
| 2 | Purple-bearded Bee-eater | Watu Dau, near Wuasa |
| 3 | Red-backed Thrush | Tangkoko |
| 4 | Maleo | Tambun, Dumoga-Bone |
| 5 | Knobbed Hornbill | Tangkoko |

Other birds that were mentioned during the voting were: **Small Sparrowhawk, Scaly-breasted and Ruddy Kingfishers, Pygmy Hanging-Parrot, Ashy Woodpecker, Great Shortwing, Finch-billed Myna, and Hylocitrea.**

TOUR SUMMARY: MOLUCCAS EXTENSION (HALMAHERA)

Blue-and-white Kingfisher was our first Moluccan endemic of the extension

29th August: Manado (SULAWESI) to TERNATE, and Galela (HALMAHERA)

We left **Manado** in **North Sulawesi** (seeing our only **Asian Glossy Starling** of the trip at the airport), and flew to the island **Ternate**, where a speedboat then took us on a 40-minute ride to **Sidangoli** in **Halmahera**. Instantly, the feeling of a quieter place, and slower pace of life was conspicuous, relative to the larger island of Sulawesi. After lunch, we hit the road for **Tobelo**, one of the largest cities on Halmahera, our base for our night safari to look for *Moluccan Scrubfowl*. The drive to Tobelo was punctuated by our first Moluccan birds, firstly a rather splendid roadside **Blue-and-white Kingfisher** (*above*) followed by the handsome **Rufous-bellied Triller**, a clumsy group of **Goliath Coucals** that remained in full view of our scope for some time, a tree full of **Metallic Starlings**, the subdued endemic **Drab Whistler**, and a very confiding **Cream-throated (Halmahera) White-eye**. (*next page*). The next stop did *not* yield the hoped-for *Beach Kingfisher*, but a flock of over 50 **Lesser**

Frigatebirds made up for the paucity of them on the *Ternate-Halmahera* crossing earlier that day, a small party of both **Greater and Lesser Sandplovers** also sat side-by-side there, and a few **Great Crested Terns** fished offshore. A last unscheduled stop did produce a **Sacred Kingfisher**, then an angry **Beach Kingfisher** that took to the air and flew right over us, on playing its call on spec. As dusk approached we arrived in **Tobelo**, our home for the night, and ate a super dinner, before heading out on our night excursion to **Galela Beach**...



This always one of the stranger nights of any tour, as we visited a deserted volcanic beach (**Galela**), where the rare *Moluccan Scrubfowl* comes to lay eggs each night in the warm, black sands. Amazingly, the bird does not live around the beach, but on a forest-covered volcano in the distance, from where they fly nightly to lay their eggs. When the chicks hatch, they are already able to fly, and immediately take off for the sanctuary of that same distant volcano, where they start life alone and unaided by their parents, whose parental duties ended the moment the eggs were laid. The birds' appearances are a little erratic and unpredictable; some nights they come in early, some nights much later into the night, and they can be jumpy on getting in, so fly off without pausing for long at all. This left us with the possibility of a very long night indeed roaming the beach under the stars. After arriving at the site, we met our local guide, *Gode*, who controls access to the beach, and protects the megapode eggs from overharvesting by local people. He led us through a grove of coconut palms to our waiting outrigger boats that took

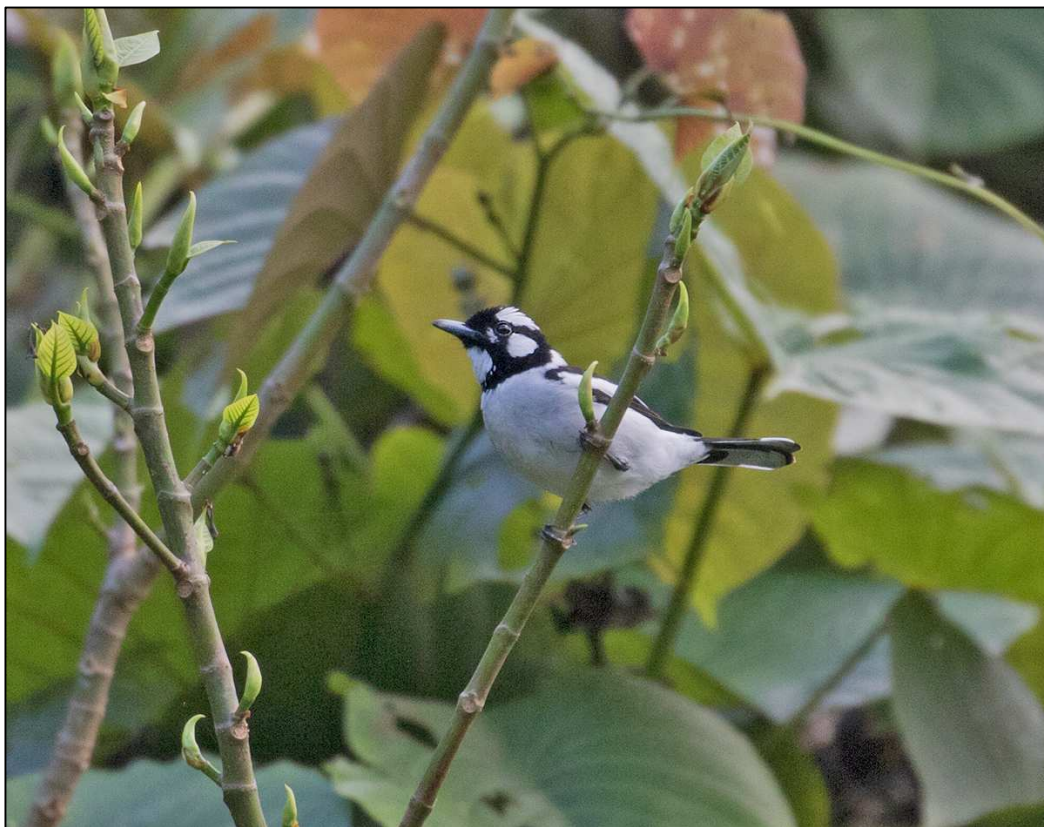
us to the megapode beach itself. While we waited for these simple boats to be prepared, we busied ourselves with locating our first regional endemic nightbird: **Moluccan Scops-Owl**, (*below*), a pair of which quickly swooped in and called above us. As we watched them excitedly calling overhead, from a large frond of a coconut palm, the pair united together and mated in front of us! We were then off on the boats, with the sounds of the owls behind us, and the calls of a *Large-tailed Nightjar* ahead of us. However, on reaching **Galela Beach**, Gode was keen to focus, rightly, on the *scrubfowl*. We agreed that we would wait, he would creep around the beach alone, and then blink the spotlight in our direction once we had a bird in his sights and settled on the beach; (they can be easily disturbed when they first arrive and take off if not carefully approached). Just ten minutes or so went by and we saw “the flag go up” as it were, as from the otherwise complete darkness carpeting the beach, came the blinking of a spotlight in Gode’s hands; *he had the bird*. We hurried over there, where right in front of us sat a **Moluccan Scrubfowl** (*page 3*) as if frozen in time by the light, at extremely close quarters. The **Large-tailed Nightjar**, usually the easiest of the night trio we were seeking that night was the most difficult of the species in the end, passing over in flight several times, but never being seen perched as hoped. With our sighting of the scrubfowl by 10:30pm, we were safely back in bed by just after midnight, relieved that this could have been considerably later.



This pair of **Moluccan Scops-Owls** were seen mating moments earlier, just before we departed by boat for the **Moluccan Scrubfowl** “night safari” at Galela Beach, which was one of the most popular moments of the tour

30th August: Tobelo to Weda (HALMAHERA)

After our post-midnight arrival back at the hotel it was decided we'd have the luxury of a sensibly-timed breakfast at 7:30am! From **Tobelo**, we backtracked south stopping for the same **Beach Kingfisher** (page 48) on the return journey, that was literally waiting for us on arrival, sat in the low branches of a mangrove. The journey to **Weda Resort**, one of the best resorts for birders in the region, was a long one, but we found just enough time to sneak in a couple of hours of frenetic birding, with endemics falling left, right, and center. An attempt at *Common Paradise-Kingfisher* en-route was well



placed, two different birds called back, but remained hidden in thick foliage. Mark did spot a **Gurney's Eagle**, and (**Eastern Osprey** was also seen for the first time. However, stopping in the "Weda highlands", late in the afternoon, was very satisfying indeed. First, a **Moluccan Starling** appeared alongside its red-eyed cousin, **Metallic**, then a male **Moluccan Flycatcher** turned up, wagging its tail much in the way that its cousin, the *Satin Flycatcher* of Australian does. This was followed by the discovery of a fruiting tree that held around 5 **Gray-headed Fruit-Doves**, and later also attracted **Pied Imperial-Pigeons**, and some noisy **Red-cheeked Parrots**. *Cuckooshrikes* featured strongly in our time there; **White-bellied Cuckooshrike**, and **Common (Wallacean) Cicadabird** was found, as was our first **Halmahera Cuckooshrike (Cicadabird)**, and several more **Rufous-bellied Trillers**. Best of all though, Theo called our attention to a calling **White-naped Monarch** (above) which then alighted in various trees around us. **Dusky (Sultan's) Myzomela** fed high with some **Black Sunbirds** for company, and a **Sultan's Cuckoo-dove** was noticed perched nearby. **Moluccan Hanging-Parrot**, the odd **Long-billed Crow**, **Halmahera Golden Bulbul**, and another **Cream-throated White-eye** also featured there. Further down the road, a **Sombre Kingfisher** (kingfisher 13, page 45) was spotted calmly sitting on a roadside wire, irked by one of the local (and feisty) **Willie-wagtails (Fantail)**, which attacked the kingfisher in earnest, before realizing the kingfisher remained nonplussed, so let it be. We attempted to leave at one point only for the driver to point to a white shape in a tree and state "cockatoo", and a **White (Umbrella) Cockatoo** at that, a Moluccan endemic, and several **Blyth's Hornbills** cruised by. In the evening, we finally got to **Weda Resort**, checked in, and then began enjoying their legendary food, with pumpkin soup and some locally caught fresh fish out of *Weda Bay*, over which the resort resides. We also met with our keen-eyed guide, *Denny*, our companion for the coming days. After dinner, the hardy went off in pursuit of *Moluccan Owlet-nightjar*, hearing just one distant reply, but instead stumbled on to a superb **Ornate Cuscus** (next page), staring at us goggle-eyed in the spotlight.



31st August: [Weda \(HALMAHERA\)](#)

This was one of the most widely anticipated days of the tour, and lived up to its billing, turning out to be one of the single best days; we stacked our list with Moluccan specialties, and some real lookers and much-desired birds among them. We birded around the wonderful **Weda Resort**, a great base to see specialty birds while staying in absolute comfort, and with the best food on the trip by far, (and it is good throughout). Not only were we enjoying some of the best food of the tour, with locally caught fish from **Weda Bay**, over which the resort looks, but we were also gleaning some of the most prized birds of the tour, which could vie for position in the top five birds for the entire trip. With *Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar* still vexing us, we made another attempt at another site, but failed again before dawn, and so went off to the **Wallace's Standardwing (Standardwing Bird-of-paradise) lek**, arriving just after daybreak. Several of these odd birds were seen in the trees above us, while we marveled at their bizarre appearance, quite unlike any other bird, even from within their own family, the unforgettable birds-of-paradise. Another from this family was seen several times that day, the more subdued **(Halmahera) Paradise Crow**. **Halmahera Oriole** and **White-streaked (Halmahera) Friarbird** were also seen nearby. Soon after the standardwings had retreated back into the forest, we set off for another much-anticipated bird: **Ivory-breasted Pitta**. Some **Nicobar Pigeons** flushed off of the forest floor en-route, but only Sam got one perched before they took off again. In spite of pitta calls being heard repeatedly, they were typically hard to pin down, before Mark got one perched in the canopy, but it jumped away quickly. However, by going off trail for some time, we eventually tracked down the same individual, calling from a different

perch. For the entire period, we had been stalking the pitta, we were taunted by the calls of a juvenile **Moluccan Goshawk** (*below*), which had recently fledged nearby. Just 5 minute's-walk from the pitta, and with the aid of Denny's sharp eyes, we were all soon enjoying this bird at length in the scope.



We returned to **Weda Resort** for lunch and a short break, noting **Common and Great Crested Terns** offshore, and a **Black Bittern** that flew right over the restaurant. Afterwards, we headed down the road, making birding stops wherever birds appeared, which included an early stop for a male **Blyth's Hornbill** near the resort. Views of a **Variable Goshawk** and **Moluccan Hanging-Parrot** at length came shortly after. The best spot though came when Denny noticed a **Great Cuckoo-Dove** (*page 38*) sitting in the shadows, which allowed us to observe for some time. We also got some looks at a cracking **Moluccan (Spectacled) Imperial-Pigeon** that responded well to playback. We then made **North Moluccan Pitta** (*next page*) our next priority as we had several local sites to try. At first, Sam tried calling from the forest edge, without success, but once he got deeper inside, heard it calling from an isolated forest patch, with high potential for seeing it; (meanwhile the group saw an **Asian (Gray-capped) Emerald Dove** at the forest edge). The group came in, and were baffled by the close calling pitta for a while, before we changed position and ended up with prolonged views of fifteen minutes or so in the 'scope, as it gave its trembling call regularly. Our first **Spectacled (Wallacean/Halmahera) Monarchs** were seen above the pitta too. **Common Paradise-Kingfisher** was our next avian objective, having been thwarted in our searches thus far.

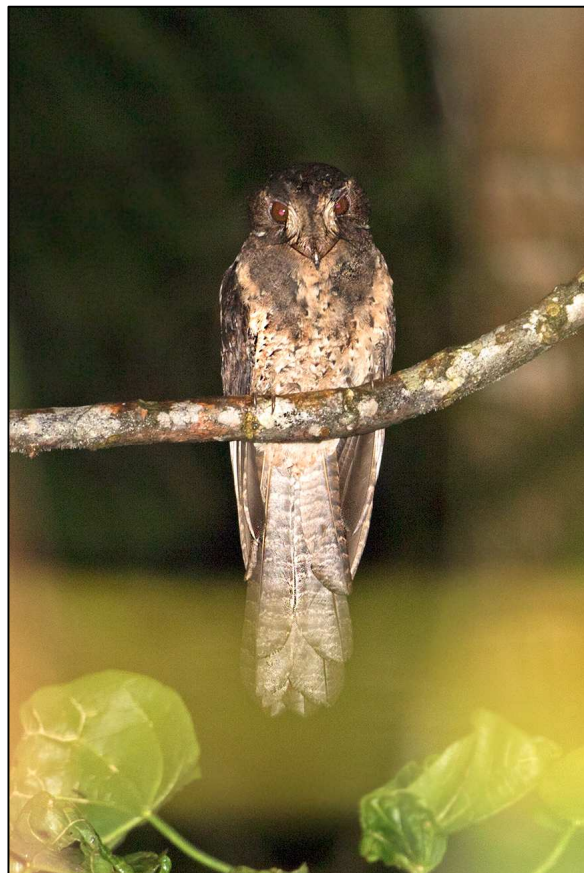


Initially trying from the road, we could hear them calling from both sides, but seemingly deeper in the forest, and so we set off down the track for one of them, minus Cathy, who preferred to stay on the roadside. Once inside the forest, we got amazing views of a pair of these amazing kingfishers after some work. We emerged back on to the road a short time later victorious, only to find that there was another one visible from the road too! Not only that, but Cathy had a **Great-billed Parrot** waiting for us, foraging high in the trees, where with the aid of a scope we could see that signature swollen orange bill, and the yellow flecks on its green wings. Lastly, we moved to another roadside spot, where we waited impatiently for darkness to approach, in order to continue our quest for Moluccan nightbirds. We also spotted the final *cuckooshrike* of the tour, **Moluccan Cuckooshrike** as we waited, and our first **Moustached Treeswifts**. Not long before complete blackout, we got an incessant response from a pair of **Halmahera Boobooks**, which appeared a little distant. Denny had us watching for it on its favored perch, and so the scope was also trained on that, in case it really was that predictable. As it turned out, it was, appearing on that perch twice, before we left in pursuit of other nightbirds, *Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar* and **Large-tailed Nightjar**. The latter was easily located, flying low over Sam's head, and seen perched in several places. However, the *owlet-nightjar* proved less impossible with unseasonably heavy rain the cause, which fell even heavier as we retired to bed, and continued through the night.



1st September: Weda (HALMAHERA)

We awoke very early, with the specific intention of visiting the tallest hill in the area for some specialties only found at that greater height (the hill only reaches some 1000m having said that). However, the heavy rain at night brought both landslides and massive flooding, blocking us from entering the area at all, and so we stayed closer to home. Frustration at not reaching our only site for *Moluccan King-Parrot* and *Gilolo (Rufous) Fantail*, was palpable, and that site usually also yields the scarce *Halmahera Flowerpecker* too. However, while we mulled these thoughts, Denny found a female **Halmahera Flowerpecker** sitting alongside us at eye level! A **Cinnamon-bellied Imperial-Pigeon** perched in the forest canopy was also new for us a short time later. Good views of a **White-streaked Friarbird** (page 46) were also had in a low roadside tree. Above us, we continued to examine the swiftlets for the endemic **Halmahera Swiftlet**, which was found after several searches, doing an odd tumbling behavior, which elevated this to one of the most unexpected entries into the top five birds of the trip, who like the rest of us, got a kick out of seeing this weird behavior repeatedly, as it tumbled gently in the again, among a flock of its congeners (the considerably more abundant **Uniform and Glossy Swiftlets**) over and over again. A walk in the rain did not find *North Moluccan Dwarf-Kingfisher*, but did get a couple of male **Shining (Monarch) Flycatchers**. We also caught up with our first **Common Dollarbirds**, then shortly before lunch hit the jackpot with a **Purple Dollarbird (Azure Roller)**, one of the



toughest birds in the area. This was compensation indeed for missing out on our visit to *Bukit Lemba*. Over lunch, incredibly, the same **Black Bittern**, did the same thing, and passed over the resort, bring Mark much relief, as a longtime nemesis of his. In the afternoon, we targeted some spots for *Scarlet-breasted Fruit-Dove*, which unfortunately failed us. We did get a **Dusky Scrubfowl** that flew across the road in front of the group though, and perched views of a pair of **Pacific Bazar**.

However, we remained there until pitch black, when several **Moluccan Owlet-Nightjars** (left) started calling from the forest, but seemed hidden from view, until one of the trainee guides accompanying us that afternoon, found a hole, and the bird! On returning back to the lodge for an 8pm dinner, Cathy and Sam hatched a plan to look again for that *Ornate Cuscus*, as she had not been there the first time. Amazingly, the **Ornate Cuscus** (page 50) was found feeding in a tree not that far from where we'd seen it during our first owlet-nightjar attempt, and it stayed there until we walked away. We turned the spotlight to red, and the animal soon settled down, and we could watch it moving around and trimming the leaves of the mangroves.

2nd September: Weda highlands (HALMAHERA)

By this stage, with the general ease of finding some of the endemics with the excellent services of the local guide, we had severely streamlined our target list of birds to but a handful. Glaringly missing were a couple of *parrots*. Therefore, it was easy to make the decision to visit the "**Weda Highlands**", with the premium dawn time arrival planned for the best chance at the parrots (we found 8 species of parrot and cockatoo through the morning). (We had planned to go to *Bukit Lemba*, but the flood waters had not yet receded to do so). After a 4:30am breakfast, and 5am departure, we were up on the hill and ready for parrots from a convenient overlook that allows good views of the forest canopy, the realm of the parrots we were after: *Chattering Lory*, *Violet-necked Lory*, and *Red-flanked Lorikeet*, (which until that point had been mere "long-tailed bullets" in the sky, darting overhead). However, parrots were not what we opened with, as on arrival the sounds of a close calling **Black-chinned Whistler** (next page) had us on the chase, and a gorgeously bright black-and-yellow male was lured out from his dense thicket into some open branches, even consuming a wasp in full view of us. A **Gray's Grasshopper Warbler** chacking closeby, only provided frustration, with a tail view for Sam the best we could muster. Next bird up was a close calling **Blue-capped Fruit-Dove** (next page) that was taped into a nearby tree, where it sat for an age, and was admired at great length. While we waited for parrots, we enjoyed the antics of a local **White (Umbrella) Cockatoo** (page 41), gnawing at a stem of a tree. **Red-cheeked Parrots** were, as ever, omnipresent, and hard to miss with their raucous calls regularly drawing attention to themselves. **Eclectus Parrots** were also visible regularly, with some red-and-blue females seen perched along with the "duller" emerald green, orange-billed, males. Several **Moluccan Hanging-Parrots** also put in appearances, and were rightly appreciated. Cathy pointed out an absurdly confiding **Blue-and-white Kingfisher** (page 31) perched at eye level just in front of us, which sent our cameras into a blizzard of fevered activity. *Cuckooshrikes* are always well presented both on the island as a whole, but on the hillside we were on that morning in particular, with further **Rufous-bellied Trillers** and **Halmahera Cuckooshrikes** (*Cicadabirds*) seen.





After a further wait, the distinctive high-pitched whistle of **Chattering Lory** was heard, and we scoured the skies for any sign of them, picking up three of them as they crossed at tree height in front of us, which was close to our eye level from our elevated position at the overlook. A couple of **Violet-necked Lory**, still highly desired by the group, came by very close, but only Sam was really in an appropriate position to see both them, and their lurid colors well; we wanted more from them. Our lofty position led to a handful of sightings of **Blyth's Hornbill** (*next page*), which had been a pleasant daily presence on the extension, and we got great looks at a rusty-headed male in particular.

On the way down, another **Purple Dollarbird (Azure Roller)** was found, this time in better light than before. We also checked a pond, finding a **Black Bittern** perched in the open at the reedy fringe. Several **Sombre Kingfishers** also made another roadside appearance. As we made our way towards the resort for lunch, one of the sightings of the trip was to come though, when a Sago tree was loaded with excitable **Red-flanked Lorikeets**, affording amazing views as they scuttled amongst its crowded branches. Better still, a pair of **Violet-necked Lory** flew in and joined them too for some time. The afternoon was much quieter. A short walk into the mangroves by the resort got Mark a flyby from a **Little Kingfisher**, only heard by the rest of us, and two **Common Kingfishers**. The latter half of the day was largely frustrating as we tried for the continually absent **Scarlet-breasted Fruit-Dove**, getting only vocal responses and a close flyby. A perched adult **Moluccan Goshawk** and

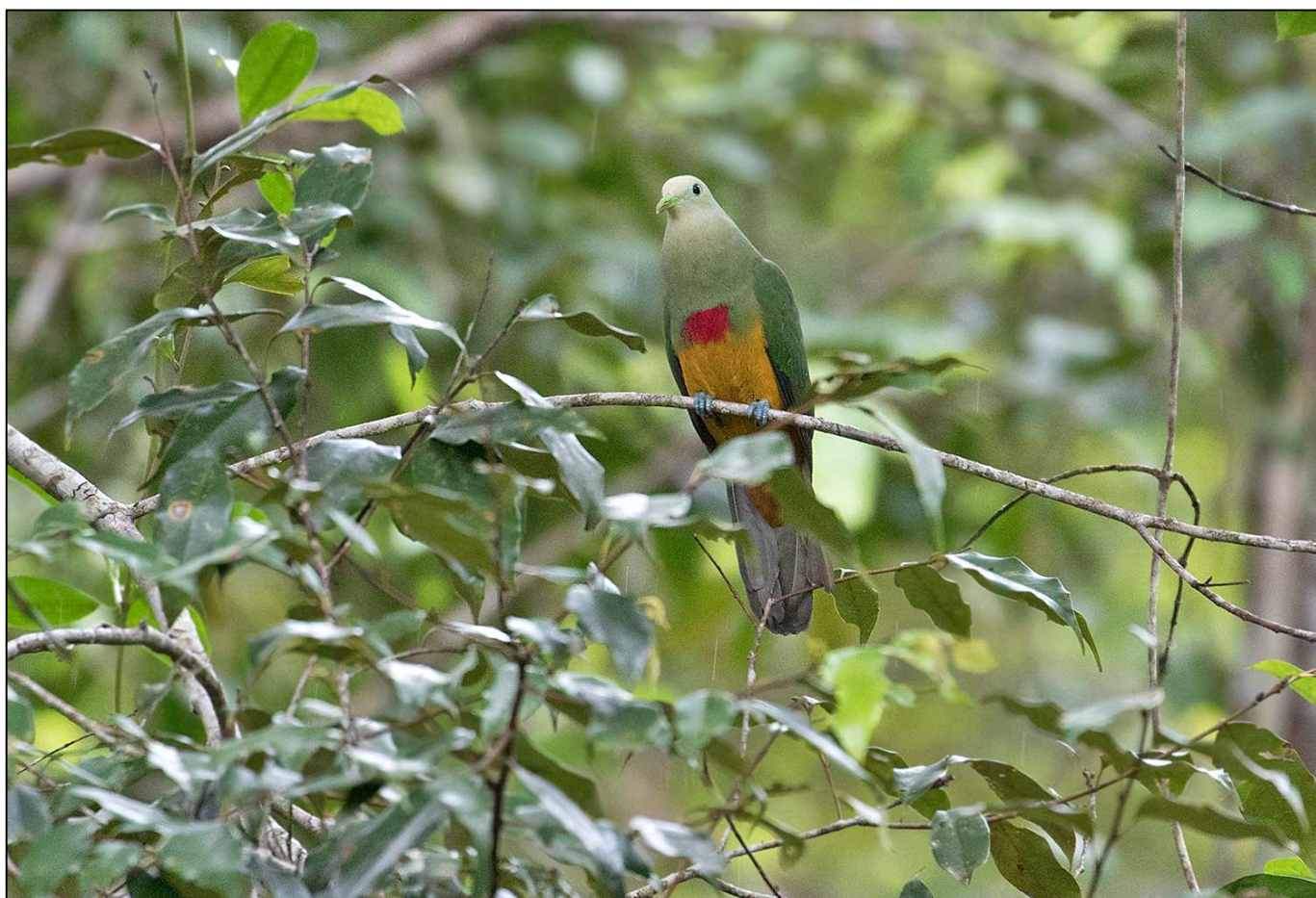
extended views of a sitting **Oriental Hobby** provided some compensation, and we also had more **Moluccan Cuckooshrikes**. Our frustration continued with a try for the rarely seen *Barking Owl*, which did not respond, while *Moluccan Scops-Owl*, *Halmahera Boobook*, and **Moluccan Owlet-Nightjars** provided the background noise. Sam even saw the latter species, by entering inside the forest.



3rd September: **Bukit Lemba (HALMAHERA) to TERNATE**

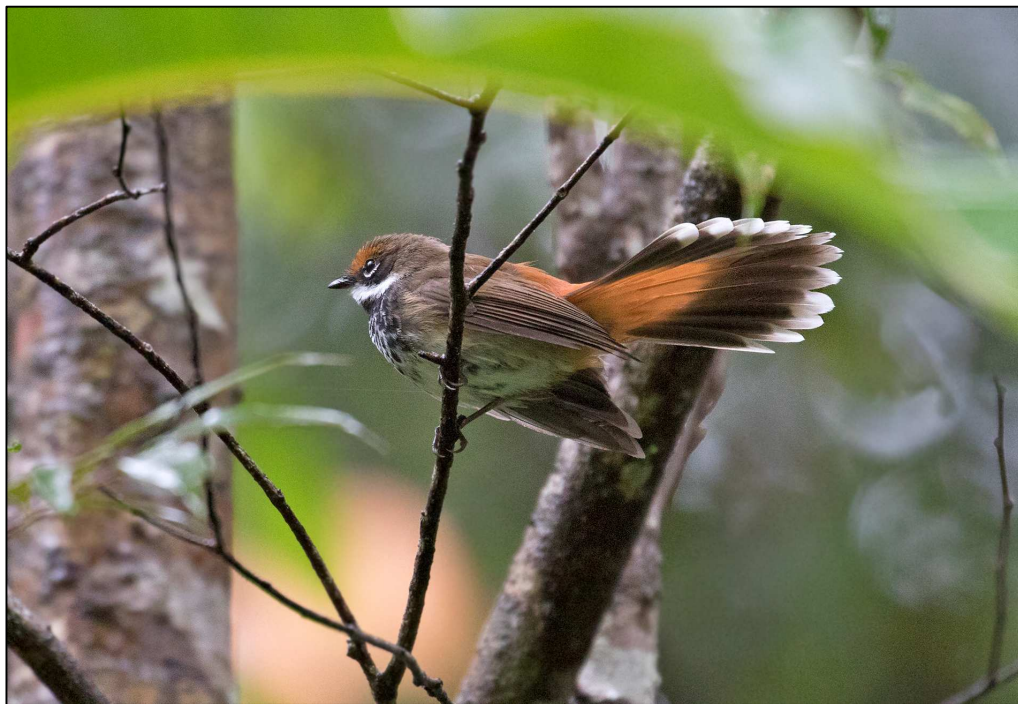
Our last day was always going to be about trying to trim the scrawny list of remaining endemics by visiting where we were most likely to be able to do this. The obvious answer to this was the highest hill in the area – **Bukit Lemba** - (3300ft./1000m), which had been off limits to us for the past two days due to severe flooding from the unusually wet weather we'd been having. The best news we had received the day before was that the waters had receded, and cars much smaller than our 4WD vehicles were now making it through, and so, with a rare night of almost no rain, we set off for the hill, with a discrete list of target birds to look for in Sam's pocket. The gain in altitude there allowed us the chance to try for species not found in the immediate area around Weda, namely *Moluccan King-Parrot*, *Rufous (Gilolo) Fantail*, and the *North Moluccan (Halmahera) Leaf-Warbler*, a surefire future split from *Island Leaf-Warbler*. There was also our ultimate opportunity for the so far elusive

Scarlet-breasted Fruit-Dove, a species on everyone's minds. Normally, the visit to this site is scheduled for all day long, but with us due to leave the resort on this day and travel to the neighboring island of **Ternate** for the night (where regularly flights depart from), we knew our time was limited and we had to focus on our main targets to have any chance of success in our truncated visit caused by the recent rains. After a 4am departure, necessitated by the 100-minute drive to get there, we arrived at the base of the hill, near sea level, and drove up a few kilometers to a point where we knew that parrots, fantails, and warblers were all possible. Brief views were had of a furtive **Rufous (Gilolo) Fantail**, but we were all left wanting more. We took our breakfast in the field, which was happily interrupted by a pair of **Moluccan King-Parrots** *next page*, (one of 7 species of parrot seen that morning) coming past, with their typical lazy flapping flight action, and we were gifted when they landed in the tree for 'scope views all round for the ultimate breakfast opener. A red-spotted male **Halmahera Flowerpecker** was also good breakfast fare there too. Denny had heard a **Scarlet-breasted Fruit-Dove** (*below*) in the area, while we'd fought with the fantail, and so Sam put in some effort for that species, which had by become our nemesis bird. This time, Sam screamed excitedly, as the bird came tearing through the undergrowth and landed in full, superlative view, and we felt instantly that we were watching one of the birds of the extension right there in front of us, in spite of the heavy competition for places in that field. Having ate our breakfast of *Nasi Goreng*, fried rice and egg, accompanied by hot tea and coffee in the field, we continued our journey up the hill, stopping to admire the many **pitcher (Nepenthes) plants** studding the hillsides as we did so.



Scarlet-breasted Fruit-Dove was one of the most popular birds on the extension in Halmahera,

We terminated our journey at the top of the 3300ft./1000m-high hill, and walked further from there, when we were treated to great looks at first the **Island (Halmahera/North Moluccan) Leaf-Warbler** (*next page*), and then a **Rufous (Gilolo) Fantail** (*right*) joined the party, even sharing the same tree with the warbler to complete our final day's mission just in time! Several more **Black-chinned Whistlers**, **Chattering Lory**, **Eclectus Parrots**, a single **Cinnamon-bellied Imperial-Pigeon**, and a few **Halmahera Swiftlets** also featured during our all too brief time at this



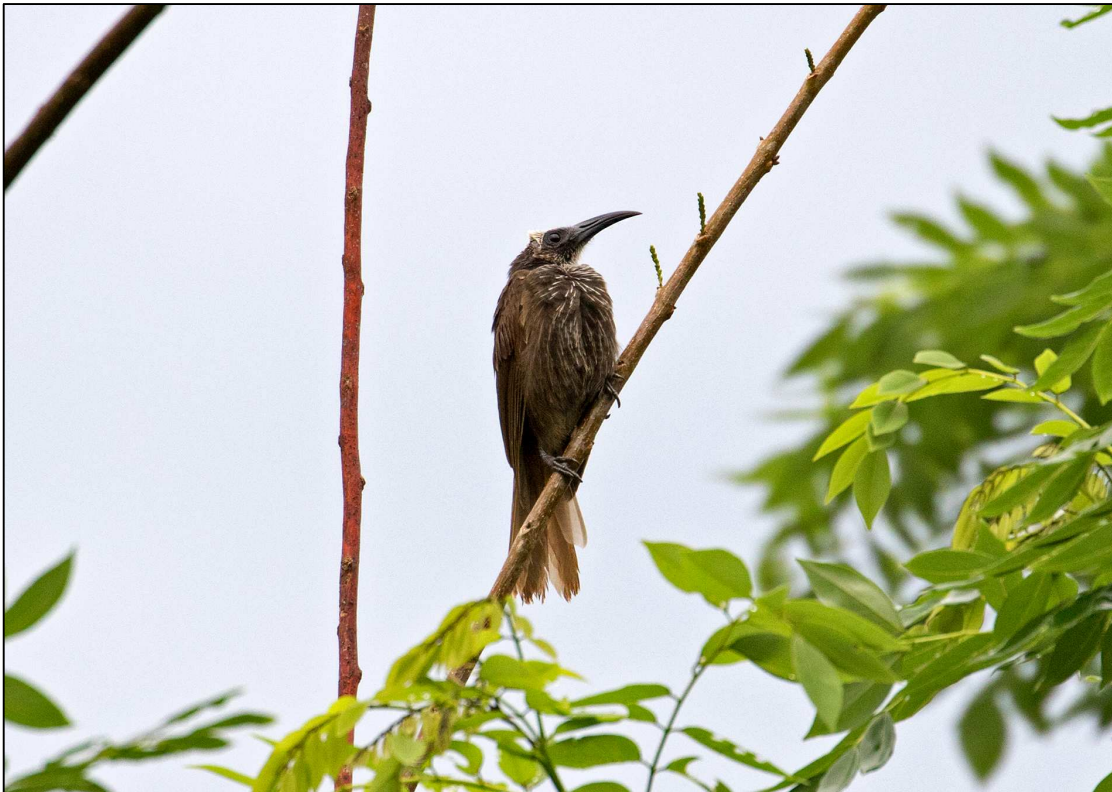
wonderfully quiet, pristine, private forest site. Much appreciated too were prolonged looks at perched **Moustached Treeswifts** in good light. On the return drive to **Weda Resort**, we spotted the resort itself in the distance on the south shore of the bay, and took in superb views of the bay from this northerly position too, while a **Lesser Frigatebird** circled low overhead. Other pick-ups on the return journey were a circling **Variable Goshawk**, (**Eastern**) **Osprey**, and a much-wanted **Gurney's Eagle**



for Jean-Francois and Cathy gently gliding overheard. After late lunch at the resort, we regretfully left the **Weda Resort** behind, with its delicious fresh fish dishes, and ever attentive, and tolerant staff, which were very accommodating with our demanding birding needs. We drove to the town of **Sofifi**, from where we took a speedboat back to **Ternate**, arriving at dusk, and enjoying sunset over that island's volcano, as well as the surrounding ones of **Hiri**, and **Tidore** on the crossing. The final bird of the tour was added, with two **Bulwer's Petrels** seen, one spotted by Lenny in flight, and another resting on the sea by Jean-Francois. That night, we all enjoyed our final amazing Indonesian meal in a fantastic business-style hotel on the volcanic island of

Ternate, picked our best birds of each island and the trip, and said some of our farewells, as we were mostly leaving on different flights out of **Ternate**, which now directly link with **Jakarta**, making exits easier than in the past, when long layovers in **Manado** were needed.





Photos on previous pages: Page 45 **Halmahera Leaf Warler** (top) & **Sombre Kingfisher** Halmahera
Page 46 **White-streaked (Halmehara) Friarbird** (top) & **White (Umbrella) Cockatoo** Halmahera

Top Five Birds on HALMAHERA (i.e. Extension only):

1	Moluccan Scrubfowl	Galela
2=	Wallace's Standardwing (Standardwing Bird-of-paradise)	Weda
2=	Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar	Weda
4	Scarlet-breasted Fruit-Dove	Bukit Lemba
5	North Moluccan Pitta	Weda

Other birds that were included: **Oriental Hobby**, **Halmahera Swiftlet***1, **Golith Coucal**, **Moluccan Scops-Owl***2, **Blue-capped Fruit-Dove**, **Moluccan King-Parrot**, **Violet-necked Lory**.

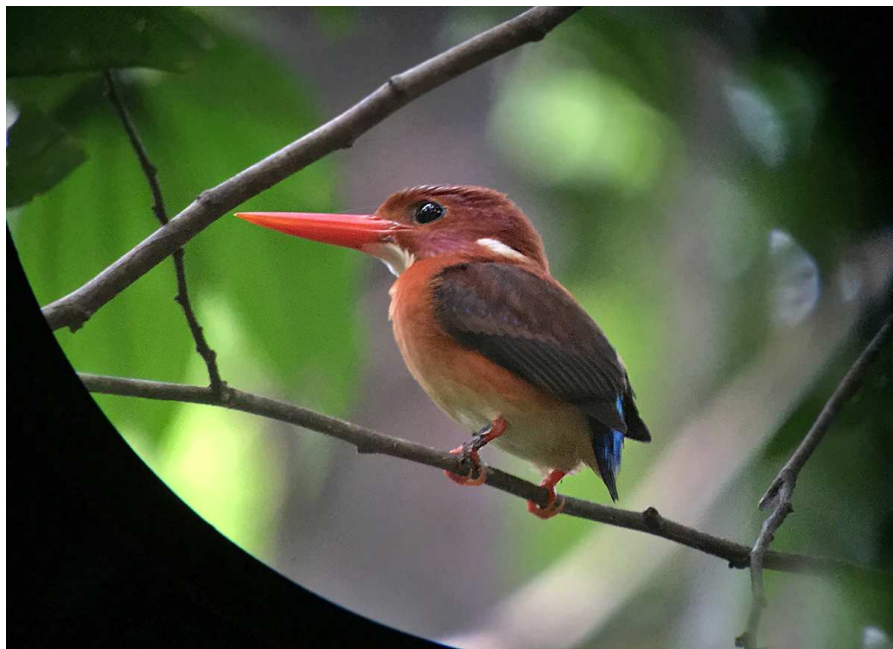
*1 *Halmahera Swiftlet*, the behavior made this one popular. We saw it seemingly displaying (?) by making continual acrobatic downward tumbles through the air, not witnessed by any of us from any other swiftlet on the trip.

*2 Seeing the *Moluccan Scops-Owls* copulating within the spotlight made this sighting a little more peculiar than usual!



Watching a perched **Moustached Treeswift** in the wonderfully pristine, deserted hill forests of **Bukit Lemba, Halmahera**





Photos on previous two pages:

Page 48: **Beach Kingfisher** (top) & **Blue-and-white Kingfisher** Halmahera

Page 49: **Sulawesi Dwarf-Kingfisher** Tangkoko (top) & **Sulawesi Scops-Owl**, Tomohon (both Sulawesi)



Ornate Cuscus was seen superbly on two nights in the grounds of **Weda Resort**, Halmahera

BIRD & MAMMAL LISTS:**BIRDS**

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

*This list is up to date with the major changes published by Cornell up until **August 2017**.*

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

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

IOC refers to the International Ornithological Congress checklist

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

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

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

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

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

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

DUCKS, GEESE and WATERFOWL: ANATIDAE

Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuate*

A flock of 59 were seen near Kotomobagu, and another smaller group were seen near Tambun, Dumoga-Bone.

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

2 were seen near Wuasa.

Sunda Teal *Anas gibberifrons*

Recorded three times only; on Lake Tambing (Lore Lindu), and again near Tambun (Dumoga-Bone).

MEGAPODES: MEGAPODIIDAE

Maleo *Macrocephalon maleo* **SE**

Seen after a day of fretting late in the afternoon, at Tambun, when Theo found one perched in the tree, which allowed long scope looks. Cathy also got to hold and release a chick from the program there, and see it make its maiden flight.

Voted as ONE OF THE TOP FIVE BIRDS ON SULAWESI.

Moluccan Scrubfowl *Megapodius wallacei* **EXT**

Outstanding views on the beach at Galela at about 10:30pm; down to around 2 meters/6 feet!

Voted as THE NUMBER ONE BIRD OF THE TOUR.

Tabon Scrubfowl**Megapodius cumingii**

Seen on at least three occasions in the forest at Tangkoko (Sulawesi). Also known as **Philippine Scrubfowl**.

Dusky Scrubfowl**Megapodius freycinet****EXT**

Sam and Mark had moving through the forest, while everyone else got one flying across the road in full view.

PHEASANTS, GROUSE and ALLIES: PHASIANIDAE**Red Junglefowl****Gallus gallus**

One was seen on the road at Karaenta on the first visit, and another was flushed in Tangkoko, both Sulawesi.

GREBES: PODICIPEDIDAE**Little Grebe****Tachybaptus ruficollis tricolor**

A breeding pair was seen near Kotomobagu. This large-billed form is sometimes split off as **Tricolored Grebe**.

SHEARWATERS and PETRELS: FRIGATIDAE**Bulwer's Petrel****Bulweria bulwerii**

2 were seen briefly on the Sofifi, Halmahera to Ternate crossing, one of them resting on the sea by Jean-Francois.

STORKS: CICONIIDAE**Woolly-necked Stork****Ciconia episcopus**

Two were seen flying over Karaenta, in South Sulawesi, and another pair in flight at Makassar airport by some.

FRIGATEBIRDS: FRIGATIDAE**Great Frigatebird****Fregata minor****EXT**

Just a couple were seen, one at Sidangoli, and another further along the coast towards Tobelo.

Lesser Frigatebird**Fregata ariel****EXT**

A small group were at the dock at Sidangoli (Halmahera), and another 50 or so were seen along the drive to Tobelo.

CORMORANTS & SHAGS: PHALACROCORACIDAE**Little Black Cormorant****Phalacrocorax sulcirostris**

2 birds were seen at Makassar Fishponds in South Sulawesi.

HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNS: ARDEIDAE**Yellow Bittern****Ixobrychus sinensis**

One was flushed at a wetland at Kotamobagu (North Sulawesi).

Cinnamon Bittern**Ixobrychus cinnamomeus**

Mark found one of these at Makassar, and another was seen near Kotomobagu (both Sulawesi).

Black Bittern**Ixobrychus flavicollis****EXT**

1 flew over Weda Resort two consecutive lunchtimes, and another was seen beside a pond in the highlands.

Purple Heron**Ardea purpurea**

Several sightings in Central and North Sulawesi.

Great Egret*Ardea alba**Seen at Tangkoko in Sulawesi only.***Intermediate Egret***Mesophyx intermedia**Seen at Makassar Fishponds in South Sulawesi, and also near Gunung Ambang in North Sulawesi.***Little Egret***Egretta garzetta**Scattered sightings throughout Sulawesi.***Pacific Reef Heron***Egretta sacra**Dark morph birds were seen at Tangkoko, with some 5 birds there (Sulawesi).***Cattle Egret***Bubulcus ibis**Scattered sightings throughout.***Javan Pond-Heron***Ardeola speciosa**Encountered regularly on Sulawesi.***Striated Heron***Butorides striata**Recorded in Makassar and in the Tangkoko mangroves on Sulawesi, and at Galela on Halmahera.***Rufous Night-Heron***Nycticorax caledonicus**Mark had one of these in flight at the Grand Luley Resort, in Manado Sulawesi.***OSPREY: PANDIONIDAE****Osprey***Pandion haliaetus cristatus***EXT***A couple were seen on Halmahera.**Sometimes (e.g. IOC), split off as **Eastern Osprey**, which includes these birds in eastern Indonesia to Australia.***HAWKS, EAGLES & KITES: ACCIPITRIDAE****Barred (Sulawesi) Honey-Buzzard** *Pernis celebensis celebensis***SE***A few were seen in flight and perched in the Sedoa Valley near Lore Lindu. Split under IOC, and named **Barred Honey-Buzzard**; under HBW and BIA split species is named **Sulawesi Honey-Buzzard**.***Pacific Baza***Aviceda subcristata***EXT***2 were seen perched in the Weda forest.***Sulawesi Serpent-Eagle***Spilornis rufipectus***SE***Unusually tough on this tour, probably due to few sunny days; a pair was seen briefly at Gunung Ambang only.***Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle***Nisaetus lanceolatus***SE***Recorded on three occasions around Sedoa (near Lore Lindu), with good perched views of one particular individual.***Rufous-bellied Eagle***Lophotriorchis kienerii**Recorded on three days, twice in the Sedoa Valley, near Lore Lindu (up to 3), and then at Tangkoko (all Sulawesi).***Black Eagle***Ictinaetus malayensis**Seen on 4 times on Sulawesi: Sedoa, Molibagu Road (Dumoga-Bone), and Gunung Ambang, where up to 4 were seen.***Gurney's Eagle***Aquila gurneyi***EXT***Just two birds were seen on Halmahera.***Spotted Harrier***Circus assimilis**Seen quartering the fields at the base of Gunung Ambang.***Sulawesi Goshawk***Accipiter griseiceps***SE***A perched bird was seen at Karaenta Forest, near Makassar (South Sulawesi).*

Spot-tailed Goshawk*Accipiter trinitatus***SE**

An adult posed for all at Lore Lindu, and one was seen briefly in Tangkoko. Also known as **Spot-tailed Sparrowhawk**.

Variable Goshawk*Accipiter hiogaster griseogularis***ME****EXT**

1 was seen perched near Weda Resort, and another was seen circling near the base of Bukit Lemba. Also known as **Varied Goshawk**, and sometimes Moluccan birds are proposed as a split under the name **Gray-throated Goshawk**.

Moluccan Goshawk*Accipiter henicogrammus***ME****EXT**

Seen twice on Halmahera, a juvenile was watching calling near its recent nest site, and another adult was seen near Weda. Also known as **Halmahera Goshawk**.

Small Sparrowhawk*Accipiter nanus***SE**

Theo found a cooperative bird near Lake Tambing in Lore Lindu, which we watched while drinking tea in the field.

Vinous-breasted Sparrowhawk*Accipiter rhodogaster***SE**

A calling bird at Lore Lindu was seen briefly perched by some, and also in flight.

Black Kite*Milvus migrans*

Just seen three times, once in Central Sulawesi, and then again in North Sulawesi.

Brahminy Kite*Haliastur indicus*

Seen regularly on Halmahera.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle*Haliaetus leucogaster*

A single juvenile was seen during our Mangrove boat trip at Tangkoko in Sulawesi.

RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS: RALLIDAE**Buff-banded Rail***Gallirallus philippensis*

Seen twice on Sulawesi, best at Makassar Fishponds; also near Weda on Halmahera.

Barred Rail*Gallirallus torquatus*

Regularly encountered on Sulawesi, especially in the north.

Isabelline Bush-hen*Amaurornis isabellina***SE**

Three sightings in North Sulawesi: A pair was seen well at Tangkoko one evening; another bird was seen bathing in a puddle in the road near Tambun (Dumoga-Bone), and Mark saw one at the base of Gunung Ambang. Also known as **Sulawesi Bush-hen**, as it is confined to there.

White-breasted Waterhen*Amaurornis phoenicurus*

A single bird was observed at Makassar Fishponds in South Sulawesi.

Rufous-tailed Bush-hen*Amaurornis moluccana***EXT H**

Heard on a few occasions whilst on Halmahera, though never close enough to try for.

Also known as **Pale-vented Bush-hen**.

White-browed Crake*Porzana cinerea*

One was seen at Makassar Fish Ponds at the start of the tour.

Black-backed Swampen*Porphyrio indicus*

Seen at 2 sites, Makassar Fishponds in South Sulawesi and near Kotamobagu in North Sulawesi. Also known as **Sunda Swampen**.

Eurasian Moorhen*Gallinula chloropus*

Seen on a wetland near Kotamobagu (North Sulawesi), along with the next species. Also known as **Common Moorhen**.

Dusky Moorhen*Gallinula tenebrosa*

Ten or so birds were seen on a Kotamobagu wetland (North Sulawesi), when traveling back from Dumoga-Bone.

STILTS & AVOCETS: RECURVIROSTRIDAE**Pied Stilt** *Himantopus leucocephalus*

Good numbers were seen at Makassar Fishponds, and also in the paddies around Dumoga-Bone (both Sulawesi). This species is sometimes lumped as **Black-winged Stilt**, *H. himantopus*. Also known as **White-headed Stilt**.

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS: CHARADRIIDAE**Pacific Golden-Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*

Ten were seen in a rice paddy close to Kotamobagu, in North Sulawesi.

Lesser Sand-Plover *Charadrius mongolus mongolus*

A handful were seen at Makassar Fishponds, a few at the Grand Luley Resort (both Sulawesi), and also on Halmahera. These appeared to be the **mongolus** subspecies, sometimes proposed as a split as **Siberian/Mongolian Plover**.

Greater Sand-Plover *Charadrius leschenaultia*

Recorded at Makassar Fishponds and the Grand Luley Resort on Sulawesi, and also on a beach on Halmahera.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

2 were seen at Makassar Fishponds in South Sulawesi.

Javan Plover *Charadrius javanicus*

15 were found at Makassar Fishponds (South Sulawesi).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Two birds were seen on our first afternoon, at Makassar Fishponds (South Sulawesi).

PAINTED-SNIPES: ROSTRATULIDAE**Greater Painted-Snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*

GO

Sam picked up one of these in flight over a rice paddy in North Sulawesi.

SANDPIPERS & ALLIES: SCOLOPACIDAE**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Recorded 8 times on the tour, in both Sulawesi and Halmahera.

Gray-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*

2 were seen in the Tangkoko mangroves, and then 19 were seen at the Grand Luley Resort in Manado (Sulawesi).

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Two singles were seen; one at Makassar (South Sulawesi), and another in rice paddies in the north.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Regularly encountered in Sulawesi.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

A handful were seen at Makassar and at the Grand Luley Resort in Sulawesi.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

A single bird was seen at Makassar Fishponds, South Sulawesi.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

At least ten birds were seen at Makassar Fishponds (South Sulawesi).

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

A handful was seen at Makassar Fishponds (South Sulawesi).

Red-necked Stint*Calidris ruficollis*

A good number of these stints were seen at Makassar (South Sulawesi). Sometimes called **Rufous-necked Stint**.

BUTTONQUAIL: TURNICIDAE**Red-backed Buttonquail***Turnix maculosus*

Seven birds were seen near Palu (Central Sulawesi) in a twenty-minute search late one afternoon.

Barred Buttonquail*Turnix suscitator*

A pair showed very well at Bantimurung; others were seen at Palu and Tangkoko (all Sulawesi).

GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS: LARIDAE**Little Tern***Sternula albifrons*

Regularly seen at Makassar Fishponds (South Sulawesi), the only site that it was recorded.

Gull-billed Tern*Gelochelidon nilotica*

A few were seen at Makassar.

Whiskered Tern*Chlidonias hybrid*

Around half a dozen birds were seen in Makassar, South Sulawesi.

Common Tern*Sterna hirundo*

A handful of these terns were seen in Weda Bay, from our resort there.

Great Crested Tern*Thalasseus bergii*

A few were seen in Weda Bay on Halmahera from our dive resort.

PIGEONS & DOVES: COLUMBIDAE**Rock Pigeon***Columba livia*

Scattered sightings around urban areas.

Red Collared-Dove*Streptopelia tranquebarica*

Seen just the once, on the journey between Manado and Kotomobagu, when 3 were seen.

Also known as **Red Turtle-Dove**.

Spotted Dove*Streptopelia chinensis*

Scattered sightings throughout Sulawesi.

Sultan's Cuckoo-Dove*Macropygia doreya albicapilla***SE**

Regularly recorded on Sulawesi.

BIA split this endemic island form as **Sulawesi Cuckoo-Dove, M. albicapilla**.

Sultan's Cuckoo-Dove*Macropygia doreya albiceps***EXT**

Recorded a handful of times on Halmahera, this form retains this name in the Eaton guide, and is found into New Guinea. Both of these forms/species are lumped under **Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove, M. amboiensis** in HBW.

Great Cuckoo-Dove*Reinwardtoena reinwardtii***EXT**

Excellent, prolonged looks at one were had near the town of Weda on Halmahera; another was seen in flight.

White-faced Cuckoo-Dove*Turacoena manadensis***SE**

Seen a few times, and heard often; best seen on our first morning at Tangkoko. Also called **Sulawesi Black Pigeon**.

Asian Emerald Dove*Chalcophaps indica***EXT**

One was seen near the town of Weda on Halmahera. This has recently been split off from the Australasian forms by all, but named differently by some; also known as **Common Emerald Dove** and **Gray-capped Emerald Dove**.

Stephan's Dove***Chalacophaps stephani***

Seen just a couple of times, in flight only, around Tambun, Dumoga-Bone (Sulawesi). Also known as **Stephan's Emerald Dove**.

Zebra Dove***Geopelia striata***

A couple were seen near Makassar, and a few more in the Kotomobagu area (Sulawesi).

Nicobar Pigeon***Caloenas nicobarica*****EXT**

A pair was flushed in Weda Forest (Halmahera), but only Sam managed a perched view before they took off again.

Pink-necked (Green) Pigeon***Treron vernans***

A few were seen during the mangrove boat trip in Tangkoko, and another in Manado (both Sulawesi).

Gray-cheeked Pigeon***Treron griseicauda***

Seen on Sulawesi, once at Karaenta Forest, and every day in Tangkoko. Also known as **Pink-necked Green Pigeon**.

Red-eared Fruit-Dove***Ptilinopus fischeri*****SE**

Seen at least twice on the Anaso Track, and Theo and Cathy also had one around Lake Taming (both Lore Lindu).

Maroon-chinned Fruit-Dove***Ptilinopus epla*****SE**

After quite some effort, one gave walk away views on the Molibagu Road (Sulawesi), thanks to Jean-Francois.

This has been split by most authors (including under Clements), under the different name **Oberholser's Fruit-Dove**.

Scarlet-breasted Fruit-Dove***Ptilinopus bernsteinii*****ME****EXT**

This handsome dove gave us quite the run around, showing on our final morning at Bukit Lemba, Halmahera.

Voted as ONE OF THE TOP FIVE BIRDS ON HALMAHERA.

Superb Fruit-Dove***Ptilinopus superbus temminckii***

4 sightings in Sulawesi; at Lake Taming (Lore Lindu), Tangkoko, and Dumoga-Bone.

NB. This form, a near endemic, has been split by HBW as **Western Superb Fruit-Dove** *P. temminckii*.

Superb Fruit-Dove***Ptilinopus superbus superbus*****EXT**

One was seen in the Weda area. This is split off as **Eastern Superb Fruit-Dove** in HBW, and extends to Australia.

Blue-capped Fruit-Dove***Ptilinopus monacha*****ME****EXT**

Only seen twice; once in flight, and then for a long look in the Weda Highlands, Halmahera.

Gray-headed Fruit-Dove***Ptilinopus hyogastrus*****ME****EXT**

Seen on a handful of occasions around Weda, with around five in one fruiting tree in the highlands.

Black-naped Fruit-Dove***Ptilinopus melanospilus***

4 sightings in Sulawesi: Karaenta, Tangkoko, and Dumoga-Bone, where they shared a tree with a **Superb Fruit-Dove**.

White-bellied Imperial-Pigeon***Ducula forsteni*****SE**

This jaw dropping pigeon was seen repeatedly in both Lore Lindu (Central) and Tangkoko (North), a real stunner.

Gray-headed Imperial-Pigeon***Ducula radiata*****SE**

Seen several times in the Lore Lindu area of Central Sulawesi, and daily at Tangkoko in the north.

Green Imperial-Pigeon***Ducula aenea paulina***

Seen regularly around Tangkoko and Dumoga-Bone, large numbers at the wonderful Tangkoko overlook.

NB. The distinctive endemic Sulawesi race, with its rich rufous collar, is touted by some (BIA) as a possible future split.

Spectacled Imperial-Pigeon***Ducula perspicillata*****ME****EXT**

Seen twice around Weda. Also known as **Moluccan Imperial-Pigeon** or **White-spectacled Imperial-Pigeon**.

Cinnamon-bellied Imperial-Pigeon***Ducula basilica*****ME****EXT**

One was seen in the Weda area, and another single up on Bukit Lemba too in Halmahera.

Pied Imperial-Pigeon***Ducula bicolor***

24 were seen at the back of the Grand Luley Resort near Manado (North Sulawesi), others were seen on Halmahera.

Silver-tipped Imperial-Pigeon*Ducula luctuosa***SE**

Recorded at Karaenta in the south, and good numbers (30+) at Tangkoko. Also known as **White Imperial-Pigeon**.

Sombre Pigeon*Cryptophaps poecilorrhoa***SE**

We managed only several flight views of a responsive bird the Anaso Track, Lore Lindu (Central Sulawesi).

CUCKOOS: CUCULIDAE**Bay Coucal***Centropus celebensis***SE**

Although heard at a number of sites in North Sulawesi, just seen twice in Tangkoko.

Goliath Coucal*Centropus goliath***ME****EXT**

Some great looks were had on the extension, with prolonged looks particularly near Sidangoli on the drive to Tobelo.

Lesser Coucal*Centropus bengalensis*

Recorded a number of times in the Lore Lindu area and also around Dumoga-Bone (both Sulawesi).

Yellow-billed Malkoha*Phaenicophaeus calyrorhynchus***SE**

Recorded three times on the tour, at Karaenta, near Lore Lindu, and at Tangkoko. Also known as **Sulawesi Malkoha**.

Black-billed Koel*Eudynamys melanorhynchus***SE**

A male was seen during a landslide delay in the Sedoa Valley, and a female was seen in Tangkoko.

Little Bronze-Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx minutillus russatus*

3 singles were seen in the Lore Lindu area of Sulawesi.

This form is sometimes considered a separate species **Gould's Bronze-Cuckoo** *C. russatus*.

Plaintive Cuckoo*Cacomantis merulinus*

One was seen well beside open fields near Tambun, Dumoga-Bone, Sulawesi.

Moluccan Cuckoo*Cacomantis aeruginosus***ME**

This rare bird was seen alongside the road close to Weda town, Halmahera.

Brush Cuckoo*Cacomantis variolosus virescens***SE**

Seen on several occasions around Lake Tambing in Lore Lindu (Central Sulawesi), and also in Tangkoko (North).

NB. This is split off from Brush Cuckoo, as **Rusty-breasted Cuckoo** *C. sepulcralis*, by IOC, and further split off as a Sulawesi endemic in BIA, as **Sulawesi Brush Cuckoo**, *C. virescens*.

Brush Cuckoo*Cacomantis variolosus infaustus***EXT**

Seen once on Halmahera, and heard repeatedly there. This is split off as **Australian Brush Cuckoo**, *C. variolosus* in BIA, with its range extending to Australia.

Moluccan Drongo-Cuckoo*Surniculus musschenbroeki***H**

One of these scarce birds was heard calling near Lore Lindu, Sulawesi.

Sulawesi Cuckoo*Cuculus crassirostris***SE****H**

This incredibly hard to see bird was heard calling before dawn in Lore Lindu, and then never called again!

Also known as **Sulawesi Hawk-Cuckoo**.

BARN-OWLS: TYTONIDAE**Minahassa Masked-Owl***Tyto inexpectata***SE**

Although, of late, earlier this year, regular sightings were being had at a day roost, this had not happened since March or so. We were therefore, very fortunate, to happen on to one while we were walking away from a **Sulawesi Pitta** in Tangkoko, and had very long views in the daytime. Lucky. ONE OF THE TOP FIVE BIRDS OF THE ENTIRE TOUR.

Sulawesi Masked-Owl*Tyto rosenbergii***SE**

We had good scope views at a regular roost site in Kotomobagu. This was our 7th attempt at finding the species!

OWLS: STRIGIDAE**Moluccan Scops-Owl***Otus magicus***EXT**

Excellent looks at a pair at the **Moluccan Scrubfowl** site on Halmahera culminated in them mating in the spotlight!

Sulawesi Scops-Owl*Otus manadensis***SE**

Two birds were seen well on our first morning at Lore Lindu. Sam also found a pair roosting in Tomohon.

Ochre-bellied Boobook*Ninox ochracea***SE**

Three birds were seen at a regular roost site in Tangkoko, which gave splendid views in broad daylight.

Cinnabar Boobook*Ninox ios***SE**

One of the regular pair was seen at Lore Lindu early one morning. The species was only described in 1999.

Halmahera Boobook*Ninox hypogramma***ME****EXT**

One showed twice just after dusk near Weda Resort. Endemic to the island of Halmahera.

Speckled Boobook*Ninox punctulata***SE**

One came in close near to our hotel in Wuasa, near Lore Lindu.

NIGHTJARS & ALLIES: CAPRIMULGIDAE**Diabolical Nightjar***Eurostopodus diabolicus***SE**

A close roosting pair were located on the Anaso Track, Lore Lindu. Also known as **Satanic or Heinrich's Nightjar**.

Great Eared-Nightjar*Lyncornis macrotis*

Up to 7 were seen in the air together one night near Wuasa (Lore Lindu), Sulawesi. Recorded multiple times.

Large-tailed Nightjar*Caprimulgus macrurus***EXT**

One was seen at Galela, and 3 were seen near Weda, one of which circled within feet of Sam's head in the rain!

Sulawesi Nightjar*Caprimulgus celebensis***SE**

Seen on the second attempt at Tangkoko, when both excellent flight and perched views were had.

Savanna Nightjar*Caprimulgus affinis*

3 birds were seen at Makassar especially popular after they circled Sam at close range. Another 6 were seen near Palu.

OWLET-NIGHTJARS: AEGOTHELIDAE**Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar***Aegotheles crinifrons***ME****EXT**

We had some initial difficulty finding this bird, hindered by the regular rains I am sure, but it was found at the fourth attempt, when it allowed us long scope looks. Voted as ONE OF THE TOP FIVE BIRDS ON HALMAHERA.

SWIFTS: APODIDAE**Purple Needletail***Hirundapus celebensis*

Run into 3 times on the tour, twice in the Sedoa Valley near Lore Lindu, and then at Gunung Ambang (both Sulawesi). The largest group was at least 40 at the first site.

Glossy Swiftlet*Collocala esculenta*

A very common species on this tour, recorded every day. Despite splitting of this species extensively in the Clements 2017 updates the forms on Sulawesi and Halmahera remain under the name Glossy Swiftlet.

Sulawesi Swiftlet*Aerodramus sororum***SE**

Quite a few were seen on the island, including in the Lore Lindu area, Gunung Ambang, and Gunung Mahawu.

NB. IN HBW, lumped with the next species as **Moluccan Swiftlet**, *A. infuscatus*.

Halmahera Swiftlet*Aerodramus infuscatus***ME****EXT**

Just a few were noted, one near Weda, and another couple up on Bukit Lemba.

Uniform Swiftlet*Aerodramus vanikorensis*

Regularly recorded on both Sulawesi and Halmahera.

House Swift*Apus nipalensis*

A few were seen around Makassar in South Sulawesi.

Asian Palm-Swift*Cypsiurus balasiensis*

A few were seen in North Sulawesi.

TREESWIFTS: HEMIPROCNIDAE**Gray-rumped Treeswift***Hemiprocne longipennis*

Recorded on 5 days of the tour; best looks came along the Molibagu Road in Dumoga-Bone (all North Sulawesi).

Moustached Treeswift*Hemiprocne mystacea***EXT**

Excellent scope looks were had on our final morning at Bukit Lemba, Halmahera.

HORNBILLS: BUCEROTIDAE**Knobbed Hornbill***Aceros cassidix***SE**

Recorded at Karaenta Forest, near Lore Lindu, Tangkoko, and Dumoga-Bone. The excellent views of a male feeding the female at the nest in Tangkoko, ensured it was considered ONE OF THE TOP FIVE BIRDS ON SULAWESI.

Blyth's Hornbill*Aceros plicatus***EXT**

Pleasantly recorded daily on Halmahera, where some stunning looks were obtained. Also occurs on New Guinea.

Sulawesi Hornbill*Penelopides exarhatus***SE**

Two subspecies were seen, **sanfordi** at Karaenta (south), and **exarhatus** at Tangkoko and Dumoga-Bone (north).

KINGFISHERS: ALDEDINIDAE**Common Kingfisher***Alcedo atthis*

Seen on the mangrove boat trip at Tangkoko (Sulawesi), and also at Weda Resort on Halmahera.

Little Kingfisher*Ceyx pusillus***EXT**

Two attempts were made to see this at Weda Resort; one time we all heard it, and Mark got to see it fly past at least.

Sulawesi Dwarf-Kingfisher*Ceyx fallax***SE**

One of these evergreen birds was seen twice at Tangkoko, a thriller as ever.

North Moluccan Dwarf-Kingfisher*Ceyx uropygialis***ME****EXT****H**

Heard near the Standardwing lek on Halmahera in near darkness, and then never again despite much effort!

Lilac-cheeked Kingfisher*Cittura cyanotis***SE**

Only seen once at Tangkoko, shortly before we saw a **Sulawesi Pitta** there. Also known as **Lilac Kingfisher** (IOC), and **Sulawesi Lilac Kingfisher** (HBW & BIA); the latter two split this from the one on Sangihe.

Great-billed Kingfisher*Pelargopsis melanoryhyncha***SE**

A boat trip into the mangroves offshore from Tangkoko produced 2 sightings. Also known as **Black-billed Kingfisher**.

Ruddy Kingfisher*Halcyon coromanda*

Seen twice on the Minahassa Peninsula, first in the village of Tangkoko, then along the Molibagu Road.

Blue-and-white Kingfisher*Todiramphus diops***ME****EXT**

Regularly recorded on Halmahera, on 5 different days, with up to 4 in one day.

Sacred Kingfisher*Todiramphus sanctus*

Recorded on 9 tour days in both Sulawesi and Halmahera.

Collared Kingfisher*Todiramphus chloris*

Observed on 11 days of the tour, all in Sulawesi.

Sombre Kingfisher*Todiramphus funebris***ME****EXT**

Seen on four days on Halmahera, all around Weda, where up to 3 birds were seen, and many others were heard.

Beach Kingfisher*Todiramphus saurophagus***EXT**

Presumably the same bird was seen on two consecutive days on Halmahera, south of Tobelo.

Green-backed Kingfisher*Actenoides monachus monachus***SE**

3 birds were seen one day in the rainforest at Tangkoko, where one allowed very close approach.

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

Black-backed Kingfisher*Actenoides monachus capucinus***SE**

1 was seen in Karaenta Forest. Although not recognized under Clements taxonomy, this southern form of **Green-backed Kingfisher** is split by others (i.e. HBW and BIA), and is endemic to South Sulawesi.

Scaly-breasted Kingfisher*Actenoides princeps***SE**

Seen at first attempt at Lore Lindu. This was orange-collared **erythrorhamphus** race. In North Sulawesi, after considerable effort, we got looks at the other race, **princeps**, at Gunung Mahawu. BIA suggests these might represent separate species, "**Lore Lindu Kingfisher**" and "**Scaly-breasted Kingfisher**". Also known as **Scaly Kingfisher**.

Common Paradise-Kingfisher*Tanyiptera galatea***EXT**

3-4 individuals were seen at a site near Weda late one afternoon on Halmahera. Also found in New Guinea.

BEE-EATERS: MEROPIDAE**Purple-bearded Bee-eater***Meropogon forsteni***SE**

We struggled to find this at Lore Lindu, where normally easy; 3 nests had been lost in a recent earthquake and rainy weather perhaps made them less active. So, we took a trip out towards the Bada. However, we never made it there, as a pair was heard from the car, then located en route and were seen toing and froing from their nest site in the forest. Voted as ONE OF THE TOP FIVE BIRDS OF THE ENTIRE TOUR.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater*Merops philippinus*

5 sightings on Sulawesi, at Makassar, near Palu, and in Manado.

Rainbow Bee-eater*Merops ornatus***EXT**

Observed on three days on Halmahera.

ROLLERS: CORACIIDAE**Purple-winged Roller***Coracias temminckii***SE**

Seen on just the one day in Tangkoko, where a minimum of 3 were seen. Also known as **Sulawesi Roller** (BIA).

Dollarbird*Eurystomus orientalis*

Small numbers were seen during 4 days around Weda, on Halmahera.

Also known as **Common or Oriental Dollarbird**.

Azure Roller*Eurystomus azureus***ME****EXT**

Seen twice around Weda, where it is becoming increasingly rare. Also known as **Purple Dollarbird**.

WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE**Sulawesi Woodpecker***Dendrocopos temminckii***SE**

Recorded 2 days around Lore Lindu, and also once in Dumoga-Bone. Also known as **Sulawesi Pygmy-Woodpecker**.

Ashy Woodpecker*Mulleripicus fulvus***SE**

Observed on 5 days of the tour, a popular pair in Lore Lindu, Tangkoko, and Dumoga-Bone.

FALCONS & CARACARAS: FALCONIDAE**Spotted Kestrel***Falco moluccensis*

Found on 7 days of the tour, seen in both Sulawesi and Halmahera. Also known as **Indonesian Kestrel**.

Oriental Hobby*Falco severus*

One was found perched at Weda Forest on Halmahera.

COCKATOOS: CACATUIDAE**Sulphur-crested Cockatoo***Cacatua galerita*

One seen from the overlook at Tangkoko had us dreaming of the extinct **Yellow-crested Cockatoo**. Introduced.

White Cockatoo*Cacatua alba***ME****EXT**

Seen on four days around Weda, with some fantastic close ups in the highlands. Named **Umbrella Cockatoo** in BIA.

PARROTS: PSITTACIDAE**Moluccan King-Parrot***Alisterus amboinensis***EXT**

One of the tour highlights was seeing this perched on our final morning on Halmahera, at Bukit Lemba.

Golden-mantled Raquet-tail*Prioniturus platurus***SE**

Flocks were seen in flight at Lore Lindu, although our best looks of perched birds came at Tangkoko.

Also known as **Sulawesi Raquet-tail**.

Yellow-breasted Raquet-tail*Prioniturus flavicans***SE**

Seen on two days at the Tangkoko lookout, where it was seen well perched.

Also known as **Minahasa Raquet-tail**, as it is endemic to this peninsula in the north.

Eclectus Parrot*Eclectus roratus*

This noisy parrot was noted every day around Weda on Halmahera, including some red-and-blue females.

Red-cheeked Parrot*Geoffroyus geoffroyi***EXT**

Another noisy, common and conspicuous parrot, seen regularly on Halmahera.

Great-billed Parrot*Tanygnathus megalorynchos***EXT**

One was seen very well, and perched, in the Weda area on Halmahera.

Azure-rumped Parrot*Tanygnathus sumatranus*

Recorded on 5 days on Sulawesi, at Karaenta and Tangkoko. Also known as **Blue-backed Parrot**.

Red-flanked Lorikeet*Charmosyna placentis***EXT**

We finally got an excited flurry of them feeding in a tree with a pair of **Violet-necked Lory** in Weda on Halmahera.

Chattering Lory*Lorius garrulous***ME****EXT**

This highly-prized bird was found in the Weda highlands, and again at Bukit Lemba. All in flight, but in good light.

Violet-necked Lory*Eos squamata*

EXT

Just seen a few times on Halmahera, with a pair seen feeding in a tree full of **Red-flanked Lorikeets**.

Ornate Lorikeet*Trichoglossus ornatus*

SE

6 were seen perched one morning in Tangkoko, a very colorful parrot indeed!

Yellow-and-green Lorikeet*Trichoglossus flavoviridis*

SE

Several groups were seen at Lake Taming in Lore Lindu, included at their nest holes at the base of a large bromeliad. Also known as **Citrine** and is split from the Sula form in BIA, and named **Meyer's Lorikeet**, *T. meyeri*.

Sulawesi Hanging-Parrot*Loriculus stigmatus*

SE

Recorded 5 times at Tangkoko, and in Dumoga-Bone, where seen perched right alongside a **Pygmy Hanging-Parrot**. Also known as **Large Sulawesi Hanging-Parrot**.

Moluccan Hanging-Parrot*Loriculus amabilis*

ME

EXT

Seen on about five occasions around Weda in Halmahera.

Pygmy Hanging-Parrot*Loriculus exilis*

SE

One of the tour highlights was seeing this tiny parrot perched right next to a **Sulawesi Hanging-Parrot** along the Molibagu Road, Dumoga-Bone. Earlier also seen once in Tangkoko. Also known as **Small Sulawesi Hanging-Parrot**.

PITTAS: PITTIDAE**Sulawesi Pitta***Erythropitta celebensis*

SE

Thanks to Samuel's persistence, one was seen well at Tangkoko, where they had been difficult of late. Also known as **Sulawesi Sahul Pitta** (BIA). A recent split from **Red-bellied Pitta**, initially divided into 16 species.

North Moluccan Pitta*Erythropitta rufiventris*

ME

EXT

We had fabulous long looks at a confiding bird near Weda. Voted as ONE OF THE TOP FIVE BIRDS ON HALMAHERA.

Ivory-breasted Pitta*Pitta maxima*

ME

EXT

One was seen perched high in the trees, at Weda. ONE OF THE TOP FIVE BIRDS OF THE ENTIRE TOUR.

HONEYEATERS: MELIPHAGIDAE**Dark-eared Myza***Myza celebensis*

SE

Seen on 3 occasions near Lake Taming in Lore Lindu. Also known as **Lesser Myza** or **Lesser Sulawesi Honeyeater**.

White-eared Myza*Myza sarasinorum*

SE

5 birds were seen on the higher sections of the Anaso Track, in Lore Lindu. Also known as **Greater Myza** or **Greater Sulawesi Honeyeater**.

Dusky Myzomela*Myzomela obscura simplex*

ME

EXT

A few were seen in Weda on Halmahera.

Also known as **Dusky Honeyeater** and the name **Sultan's Myzomela** has been suggested for this likely future split in BIA, which indicates the North Moluccan birds are distinct from the Australasian birds.

Sulawesi Myzomela*Myzomela chloroptera*

SE

Some good looks were had of scarlet-headed males at Lore Lindu and Gunung Mahawu.

White-streaked Friarbird*Melitograis gilolensis*

ME

EXT

A minimum of three sightings in Halmahera, near Weda. Also known as **Halmahera Friarbird**.

THORNBILLS & ALLIES: ACANTHIZIDAE

Golden-bellied Gerygone

*Gerygone sulphurea flaveola**Seen at Makassar and Manado (Sulawesi). It has been suggested this endemic form may be a distinct species.*

WOODSWALLOWS: ARTAMIDAE

Ivory-backed Woodswallow

Artamus monachus

SE

Observed 4 times on the tour, 3 times near Lore Lindu, and again in Dumoga-Bone. Some good close ups this year.

White-breasted Woodswallow

*Artamus leucorhynchus**Recorded on 8 days of the tour in both Sulawesi and Halmahera.*

CUCKOOSHRIKES: CAMPEPHAGIDAE

Pied Cuckooshrike

Coracina bicolor

SE

3 were seen during our successful Sulawesi Pitta hunt on our first morning in Tangkoko.

Cerulean Cuckooshrike

Coracina temminckii

SE

Seen on four different occasions in the Sedoa Valley, just below Lake Tambing in Lore Lindu.

White-bellied Cuckooshrike

Coracina papuensis

EXT

5 sightings on Halmahera.

Moluccan Cuckooshrike

Coracina atriceps

ME

EXT

Seen twice around Weda on Halmahera.

White-rumped Cuckooshrike

Coracina leucopygia

SE

A good run on this species; 8 were on the mangrove boat ride in Tangkoko, another pair there later, and 8 at the Grand Luley Resort in Manado.

White-shouldered Triller

*Lalage sueurii**Seen twice in the Makassar area of South Sulawesi only. BIA names this bird Leseur's Triller.*

White-rumped Triller

Lalage leucopygialis

SE

A pair was seen at the Tangkoko overlook; another 2 were seen in Dumoga-Bone. Also known as Sulawesi Triller.

Rufous-bellied Triller

Lalage aurea

ME

EXT

This extremely handsome bird was seen on five different days on Halmahera.

Halmahera Cuckooshrike

Celebesia parvula

ME

EXT

Seen twice in the Weda forests. Also known as Halmahera Cicadabird.

Pygmy Cuckooshrike

Celebesia abbotti

SE

This small cuckooshrike was seen in mixed flocks in Lore Lindu at least twice. Renamed Mountain Cicadabird in BIA.

Sulawesi Cicadabird

Edolisoma morio

SE

Observed seven different times on the tour, at Karaenta, Lore Lindu, and Tangkoko.

Common Cicadabird

Edolisoma tenuirostre grayi

ME

EXT

Seen on several occasions in the Weda area. This has already been split off as a Moluccan endemic in HBW, named Moluccan Cicadabird, E. grayi. Also known as Wallacean Cicadabird.

WHISTLERS & ALLIES: PACHYCEPHALIDAE

Maroon-backed Whistler

Coracornis raveni

SE

One came in and showed very close, but briefly in Lore Lindu, when two of the four people present got it.

Black-chinned Whistler*Pachycephala mentalis***ME****EXT**

Some excellent views of a very responsive male were had in the Weda highlands. Also known as **Moluccan Whistler**.

Sulphur-bellied Whistler*Pachycephala sulfuriventer***SE**

Commonly encountered in the mountains of Sulawesi. Also known as **Yellow-vented/Sulphur-vented Whistler**.

Drab Whistler*Pachycephala griseonata***ME****EXT**

One was spotted, and later heard singing, on the journey between Sidangoli and Tobelo. Heard around Weda too.

OLD WORLD ORIOLES: ORIOLIDAE**Halmahera Oriole***Oriolus phaeochromus***ME****EXT**

Seen a couple of times in the Weda area. Also known as **Dusky-brown Oriole**.

Black-naped Oriole*Oriolus chinensis*

Recorded on at least 8 occasions in North Sulawesi.

DRONGOS: DICRURIDAE**Hair-crested Drongo***Dicrurus hottentottus leucops***SE**

Recorded on about 8 days of the tour in Sulawesi. Although widely thought of as a good split, currently only split under BIA, and named **White-eyed Spangled Drongo**.

Sulawesi Drongo*Dicrurus montanus***SE**

Seen in Lore Lindu and Gunung Ambang. Also known as **Sulawesi Spangled Drongo**.

Spangled Drongo*Dicrurus bracteatus***ME****EXT**

Seen on most days on Halmahera. Split in BIA as **Halmahera Spangled Drongo**.

FANTAILS: RHIPIDURIDAE**Willie-wagtail***Rhipidura leucophrys***EXT**

A daily feature on Halmahera. Also known as **Willie Fantail**.

Rusty-bellied Fantail*Rhipidura teysmanni***SE**

A regular flock follower encountered at Gunung Ambang and Lore Lindu. Also known as **Sulawesi or Rusty-flanked Fantail**.

Rufous Fantail*Rhipidura rufifrons torrida***ME****EXT**

3 birds were seen on Bukit Lemba on our final morning. This is split as **Gilolo Fantail**, a Halmahera endemic in BIA.

MONARCH FLYCATCHERS: MONARCHIDAE**Pale-blue Monarch***Hypothymis puella***SE**

Recorded at least 5 times, in Karaenta, Tangkoko, Dumoga-Bone, and Gunung Mahawu.

White-naped Monarch*Carterornis pileatus***ME****EXT**

This handsome monarch was seen twice in the Weda area, with great views in the highlands with Theo.

Spectacled Monarch*Symposiachrus trivirgatus bimaculatus***ME****EXT**

A couple of small groups were seen in the Weda area on Halmahera.

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

Moluccan Flycatcher*Myiagra galeata***ME****EXT**

Two males were seen in the Weda area on Halmahera. Also known as **Moluccan Monarch**, or **Slaty Flycatcher**.

Shining Flycatcher*Myiagra alecto alecto***EXT**

A couple of males showed briefly in the Weda area. Also known as **Shining Monarch**. BIA suggest further splitting of this may end up with an endemic species in the region.

CROWS, JAYS & MAGPIES: CORVIDAE**Slender-billed Crow***Corvus enca celebensis***SE**

Recorded on 9 days of the tour. This is split off as the endemic **Sulawesi Crow** in BIA.

Long-billed Crow*Corvus validus***ME****EXT**

This extremely odd, big-billed, broad-winged corvid was seen regularly on Halmahera.

Piping Crow*Corvus typicus***SE**

A noisy pair was seen at Karaenta (South Sulawesi), and Cathy and Theo saw another 3 in Lore Lindu (Central).

Torresian Crow*Corvus orru***EXT**

One was seen by Jean-Francois at least on the journey between Sidangoli and Tobelo on Halmahera.

BIRDS-OF-PARADISE: PARADISAEIDAE**Paradise-crow***Lycocorax pyrrhopterus***ME****EXT**

Heard and seen on 4 days in the Weda area of Halmahera. Split off as **Halmahera Paradise-Crow** in BIA.

Standardwing Bird-of-paradise*Semioptera wallacii***ME****EXT**

Several males were seen at the lek site near Weda Resort, one of the World's oddities. Also known as **Wallace's Standardwing**. Voted as ONE OF THE TOP FIVE BIRDS ON HALMAHERA.

SWALLOWS: HIRUNDINIDAE**Barn Swallow***Hirundo rustica*

Regularly recorded in North Sulawesi.

Pacific Swallow*Hirundo tahitica*

Recorded regularly throughout the tour, on Sulawesi and Halmahera. A strange one with a white rump and white flecks on the mantle was seen near Lore Lindu, which was presumed to be this species.

FAIRY-FLYCATCHERS: STENOSTIRIDAE**Citrine Canary-Flycatcher***Culicicapa helianthea*

Regularly seen around Lake Taming in Lore Lindu in Central Sulawesi, also encountered at Gunung Ambang.

BULBULS: PYCNONOTIDAE**Sooty-headed Bulbul***Pycnonotus aurigaster*

This introduced species was recorded regularly throughout Sulawesi including in Makassar and Manado.

Yellow-vented Bulbul*Pycnonotus goiavier*

Several were seen at Makassar Fishponds (South Sulawesi).

Halmahera Golden Bulbul*Alophoixus chloris***ME****EXT**

Seen on five different days on Halmahera. Also known as **Northern Golden Bulbul**.

BUSH-WARBLER & ALLIES: CETTIIDAE**Mountain Tailorbird** *Phyllergates cucullatus*

Regularly encountered in Lore Lindu, and also seen on Gunung Ambang.

Also known as **Mountain Leafoiler** (BIA), as no longer recognized as a true tailorbird.

LEAF WARBLERS: PHYLLOSCOPIIDAE**Sulawesi Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus sarasinorum* **SE**

A commonly encountered montane endemic, within feeding flocks in the highlands of Sulawesi.

Island Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus maforensis henrietta* **ME** **EXT**

One of the final new birds of the trip was seen on Bukit Lemba shortly before leaving there. This is split off as **North Moluccan Leaf Warbler** *Seicercus waterstradti* in BIA, but suggested a further split to **Halmahera Leaf Warbler** may occur in the future. Note that they have also moved it into a different genus too.

REED-WARBLERS & ALLIES: ACROCEPHALIDAE**Clamorous Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus stentoreus*

Seen in mangroves at Makassar Fishponds (South Sulawesi).

GRASSBIRDS & ALLIES: LOCUSTELLIDAE**Malia** *Malia grata* **SE**

The two different forms were seen, the rufous winged **stresemani** in Lore Lindu, and the other **recondita** form was seen well at Gunung Ambang. Hard to fathom this bird is a grassbird, with its almost nuthatch-like behavior.

Gray's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella fasciolata* **GO**

Sam saw the tail only of a constantly calling bird in the Weda highlands, and none saw the bird at Bukit Lemba either.

Chestnut-backed Bush-Warbler *Locustella castanea castanea* **SE**

Outstanding views were had of this often frustrating warbler in Lore Lindu, in the open for the entire group at close range. BIA renames this **Sulawesi Grasshopper Warbler**, and predicts further splits across its range.

CISTICOLAS & ALLIES: CISTICOLIDAE**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*

Seen very well in Makassar around the fishponds, and others were seen/heard around Lore Lindu and Dumoga-Bone.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

Seen on three different days in the lower areas below Lore Lindu National Park in Central Sulawesi.

WHITE-EYES, YUHNAS & ALLIES: ZOSTEROPIDAE**Streak-headed White-eye** *Lophozosterops squamiceps* **SE**

Observed just a couple of times in the mountains at Lore Lindu, Central Sulawesi. Also known as **Streak-headed Dark-eye**, and **Sulawesi Heleia**.

Mountain White-eye *Zosterops montanus*

Recorded on at least three days in Lore Lindu (Sulawesi).

Lemon-bellied White-eye *Zosterops chloris*

Cathy saw one at Makassar; others were near Lore Lindu (Sulawesi). Also known as **Yellow-bellied White-eye**.

Black-ringed White-eye***Zosterops anomalus*****SE***Seen on both of our visits to Karaenta Forest. This species is endemic to South Sulawesi.***Black-crowned White-eye*****Zosterops atrifrons****Recorded regularly in the mountains in both Lore Lindu, Ambang and Gunung Mahawu. (all Sulawesi)**Also known as **Black-fronted White-eye**.***Cream-throated White-eye*****Zosterops atriceps fuscifrons*****ME****EXT***Several cracking looks as usual. Split by BIA as **Halmahera White-eye**, *Z. fuscifrons*.***GROUND BABBLERS & ALLIES: PELLORNEIDAE****Sulawesi Babbler*****Pellorneum celebense*****SE***One of the noisiest and most conspicuous endemics, seen at almost all of the sites.***OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS: MUSCICAPIDAE****Gray-streaked Flycatcher*****Muscicapa griseisticta****A bird was seen high in the trees at Lake Tambing in Lore Lindu (Central Sulawesi).***Sulawesi Brown Flycatcher*****Muscicapa sodhi*****SE***This inconspicuous bird was only described in 2015, having been first seen by Ben King many years earlier. A single was seen in the same area of Karaenta Forest during both of our visits. Also known as **Sulawesi Streaked Flycatcher**.***Matinan Flycatcher*****Cyornis sanfordi*****SE***Three separate individuals were found on Gunung Ambang; currently the only accessible location for the species.**Named **Matinan Warbling-flycatcher** in BIA and placed in the genus **Eumyias**.***Blue-fronted Flycatcher*****Cyornis hoevelli*****SE***This handsome blue-and-orange flycatcher was seen at Lore Lindu. Also known as **Hoevell's Warbling-flycatcher**, and **Blue-fronted Blue-flycatcher**.***Sulawesi Blue-Flycatcher*****Cyornis omissus*****SE***Two sightings around Lore Lindu. Also known as **Sulawesi Jungle Flycatcher**.***Island Flycatcher*****Eumylas panayensis****A few were seen at all the mountain sites (Lore Lindu, Gunung Ambang, and Gunung Mahawu), Sulawesi. Also known as **Island Verditer/Turquoise Warbling-flycatcher**.***Great Shortwing*****Heinrichia calligyna*****SE***This species is famously hard to see, but we were incredibly fortunate to see one, and see it very well, during our first attempt at Lore Lindu, when it sat in full view for 4 minutes or so. Also known as **Heinrichia**.***Snowy-browed Flycatcher*****Ficedula hyperythra****Seen a handful of times in Lore Lindu National Park (Central Sulawesi), but seen best at Gunung Ambang.***Little Pied Flycatcher*****Ficedula westermanni*****H***Heard by Sam at both Lore Lindu and Gunung Ambang on Sulawesi.***Pied Bushchat*****Saxicola caprata****Many birds were seen in open grasslands near Lore Lindu (Central Sulawesi).***THRUSHES & ALLIES: TURDIDAE****Rusty-backed Thrush*****Geokichla erythronata*****SE***This species must rank as one of the most beautiful thrushes on Earth; seen twice in Tangkoko (up to 3).**Also known as **Red-backed Thrush**. ONE OF THE TOP FIVE BIRDS OF THE ENTIRE TOUR.***Sulawesi Thrush*****Cataponera turdoides*****SE***Seen twice at Lore Lindu (Central Sulawesi), the first time moving within a flock with **Malias** and other species.*

STARLINGS: STURNIDAE

Fiery-browed Myna*Enodes erythrophris***SE**

A wonderfully regular bird at Lore Lindu; also at Gunung Ambang. Also known as **Flame-browed Myna/Starling**.

Finch-billed Myna*Scissirostrum dubium***SE**

Our first group came during a landslide delay in Lore Lindu, then a large colony was seen at Tangkoko (60+ birds), and a few more were seen in Dumoga-Bone. Also known as **Grosbeak Myna/Starling**.

Metallic Starling*Aplonis metallica***EXT**

Numerous on Halmahera.

Asian Glossy Starling*Aplonis panayensis*

A single individual was found by Manado Airport in North Sulawesi.

Moluccan Starling*Aplonis mysolensis***EXT**

Observed on three occasions around Weda, with just a few seen each time.

Short-tailed Starling*Aplonis minor*

Just the one was seen at our Wuasa guesthouse near Lore Lindu (Central Sulawesi).

Sulawesi Myna*Basilornis celebensis***SE**

3 birds were seen briefly at Karaenta, Sam saw 1 at Tangkoko, and a flock of 16 at Dumoga-Bone.

Also known as **Sulawesi Crested Myna** or **Short-crested Myna**.

White-necked Myna*Streptocitta albigollis***SE**

Seen first at Karaenta, and then excellent views were had at the Tangkoko overlook, where a pair was nesting.

Javan Myna*Acridotheres javanicus*

2 were seen by some on the journey between Manado and Tangkoko, Sulawesi

FLOWERPECKERS: DICAIDAE

Yellow-sided Flowerpecker*Dicaeum aureolimbium***SE**

Recorded on 6 days of the tour (Karaenta, Lore Lindu, and Tambun).

Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker*Dicaeum nehrkorni***SE**

Excellent low looks were had at Lore Lindu, another was seen at Gunung Mahawu.

Halmahera Flowerpecker*Dicaeum schistaceiceps***ME****EXT**

Seen three times, a couple of females (one very low down), near Weda, and a male at Bukit Lemba.

Gray-sided Flowerpecker*Dicaeum celebicum***SE**

Recorded at 4 sites; Karaenta, in the Sedoa Valley near Lore Lindu, and in Tomohon, near Manado.

SUNBIRDS & SPIDERHUNTERS: NECTARINIIDAE

Plain-throated Sunbird*Anthreptes malacensis*

Seen just twice, near Karaenta in South Sulawesi, and at Tangkoko in North Sulawesi.

Also known as **Brown-throated Sunbird**.

Black Sunbird*Leptocoma sericea*

Recorded regularly during the tour; both on Sulawesi and Halmahera.

Olive-backed Sunbird*Cinnyris jugularis*

Recorded on many days of the tour, and seen on Sulawesi and Halmahera. Also known as **Sahul Sunbird (BIA)**.

Crimson Sunbird*Aethopyga siparaja*

Seen a couple of times in the Sedoa Valley, near Lore Lindu (Central Sulawesi). A true stunner.

HYLOCITREA: HYLOCITREIDAE

Hylocitrea

Hylocitrea bonensis

SE

This must-see bird for family listers, was seen well during our rainy day on the Anaso Track. Formerly known as **Olive-flanked Whistler**.

SISKINS, CROSSBILLS & ALLIES: FRINGILLIDAE

Mountain Serin

Serinus estherae

GO

Sam heard and saw one briefly pass overhead along the Anaso Track, which was also heard by Mark. Also known as **Indonesian Serin**.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: PASSERIDAE

Eurasian Tree Sparrow

Passer montanus

Recorded on almost all days of the tour, both in Sulawesi and Halmahera.

WEAVERS: PLOCEIDAE

Baya Weaver

Ploceus philippinus

A large flock (hundreds) of these introduced birds were found at Makassar Fishponds.

Streaked Weaver

Ploceus manyar

A number of birds were found among the large **Baya Weaver** flock at Makassar.

WAXBILLS & ALLIES: ESTRILDIDAE

Black-faced Munia

Lonchura molucca

Seen on 5 occasions, near Karaenta, between Manado and Kotomobagu, and near Tambun. Also seen on Halmahera.

Scaly-breasted Munia

Lonchura punctulata

Recorded on four occasions in Sulawesi. Also known as **Nutmeg Mannikin**.

Chestnut Munia

Lonchura atricapilla

Recorded about eight times on the tour in Sulawesi.

Pale-headed Munia

Lonchura pallida

Seen at Bantimarung below Karaenta. Flight delay/landslides prevented us looking further for them near Palu.

Java Sparrow

Lonchura oryzivora

1 was seen among **Chestnut Munias** during the long drive through the rice paddies to Kotomobagu (North Sulawesi).

MAMMALS

OCEANIC DOLPHINS: DELPHINIDAE

Common Bottlenose Dolphin

Tursiops truncatus

1 was seen on the crossing between Halmahera and Ternate by some of the group.

EXT

MEGABATS: PTEROPODIDAE

Spectacled Flying-Fox

Pteropus conspicillatus

EXT

Many were seen on Halmahera, but most not close enough to ID. One in Sidangoli seemed to be this large species.

Pallas's Tube-nosed Bat

Nyctimene cephalotes

A roosting bat found by Samuel in Tangkoko appeared to be this species.

TARSIERS: TARSIIDAE

Spectral Tarsier

Tarsius spectrum

SE

3 were seen at a roost site (in a strangler fig) in Tangkoko, on Sulawesi. Some authors suggest this is in fact a new, as yet undescribed, species of tarsier, and not Spectral Tarsier after all.

OLD WORLD MONKEYS: CEROPITHECIDAE

Moor Macaque

Macaca Maura

SE

6 of these were seen on the road during our first visit to Karaenta Forest in South Sulawesi.

Tonkean Macaque

Macaca tonkeana

SE

Cathy and Theo saw one in the Sedoa Valley near Lore Lindu, in Central Sulawesi.

Gorontalo Macaque

Macaca nigrescens

SE

One of these heavy-browed beasts was seen well along the Molibagu Road in Dumoga-Bone, North Sulawesi.

Celebes Crested Macaque

Macaca nigra

SE

We walked among at least 30 animals in a troop in Tangkoko on 2 days there.

Also known as **Sulawesi or Black Crested Macaque**.

SQUIRRELS: SCIURIDAE

Whitish Dwarf Squirrel

Prosciurillus leucomus

SE

One was seen in Tangkoko, and another two were seen in Dumoga-Bone (Molibagu), Sulawesi.

Celebes Dwarf Squirrel

Prosciurillus murinus

SE

Recorded at Karaenta, Lore Lindu and at Gunung Ambang, all in Sulawesi.

CUSCUSES, BRUSHTAIL POSSUMS & ALLIES: PHALANGERIDAE

Sulawesi Bear Cuscus

Ailurops ursinus

SE

Two different individuals were seen in Tangkoko (North Sulawesi).

Ornate Cuscus

Phalanger ornatus

ME

EXT

Seen on two separate nights on the Weda Resort property in Halmahera, and both times at very close quarters. One of the trip highlights for Cathy and Sam at least!