Tour Highlights

Because of rarity, excellent views or simply a group favourite.

• Sulawesi Honey-buzzard
• Sulawesi Serpent Eagle
• Spotted Harrier
• Sulawesi Hawk Eagle
• Maleo
• White-faced Cuckoo-Dove
• Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon
• Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon
• Chattering Lory
• Eclectus Parrot
• Moluccan King Parrot
• Yellow-billed Malkoha
• Goliath Coucal
• Sulawesi Scops Owl
• Cinnabar Boobook
• Ochre-bellied Boobook
• Speckled Boobook
• Satanic Nightjar
• Moustached Treeswift
• Green-backed Kingfisher
• Scaly-breasted Kingfisher
• Common Paradise Kingfisher
• Lilac Kingfisher
• Great-billed Kingfisher
• Ruddy Kingfisher
• Sombre Kingfisher
• Beach Kingfisher
• Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher
• Purple-bearded Bee-eater
• Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbill
• Knobbed Hornbill
• Blyth’s Hornbill
• Ashy Woodpecker
• Ivory-breasted Pitta
• Piping Crow
• Wallace’s Standardwing
• Great Shortwing
• Red-backed Thrush
• Sulawesi Thrush
• Lompobattang Flycatcher
• Ivory-backed Woodswallow
• Sulawesi Crested Myna
• Flame-browed Starling
• Hyllocitrea

LEADERS: Nick Upton & Royke Mantana

SUMMARY:

The list of highlight species above, seen on this birding tour to Sulawesi and Halmahera, gives a quick insight to why it remains a highly-desirable destination for birding trips with not only a wealth of endemic species but a large number of really striking birds. We found a very high proportion of our target species which included birds from a wide range of families and almost all of our top priority targets. Beginning at Palu, Central Sulawesi we visited Lore Lindu National Park where we got to grips with many of Sulawesi’s endemic birds including Malia and Hyllocitrea. A flight to Makassar and a quick side trip for the highly regionalized Lompobattang Flycatcher with afternoon of shorebirds preceded
another flight to Manado in the North of Sulawesi. From here we visited the wonderful forests of Tangkoko, full of Kingfishers, and several other sites including a Maleo sanctuary. We then took a short flight to Ternate, our stopping off post before the island of Halmahera with its own host of endemic species to enjoy and witnessing Wallace’s Standarwing at a lek is something that lives on a long time in the memory. For a large number of birds that are endemics and of high conservation concern, Sulawesi and Halmahera are two must-visit islands of Indonesia for birders.

**Note:** With the publication of Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago (*Eaton, van Balen, Brickle & Rheindt*) in 2016 there is currently much confusion over the common names (and in many cases the scientific names) of many species occurring in the area. Along with many splits as yet unrecognized on the lists of the most commonly used authorities by world listers there are many species which have been renamed for various reasons. As it seems likely that, if not all, of these splits will be accepted in future and that most birders to the region will be using this field guide I will use the species names as given in *Eaton, van Balen, Brickle & Rheindt* with the older, more established, names in brackets.

**Days 1-2; 4-5th September**

With flights from London, Newcastle, Calgary and Bangkok we assembled the whole group at the Ibis Styles Airport Hotel, Jakarta, where we got to know each other over a few beers and a nice buffet dinner in the hotel before getting our heads down for a very early start the next day.

**Day 3; 6th September**

Having been warned that domestic flights are frequently delayed in Indonesia it was a sigh of relief that our 5am flight to Palu was on time and a comfortable flight for a couple of hours, coupled with an hour’s time difference put us in Palu airport at 8.30am where we met our local guide, Royke Mantana, and our drivers who helped us pack our 3 vehicles, provided us with our second breakfast and then took us off towards our first birding of the trip in some farmland along the Olobogo river. Well, it is always nice, when on trips like this, to get the first birding under the belt and see some of those highly anticipated birds that we have been looking at longingly in the field guide over the previous months at home and it was great to get good views of Pale-capped Munia, Grey-sided Flowerpecker, Lesueur’s (White-shouldered) Triller, Little Bronze Cuckoo, Sulawesi Brush Cuckoo and spectacular, prolonged flight views of Savanna Nightjar all within minutes of getting out of the car. Although it was already hot we had a short walk around in a fruitless search for Buttonquail but we did add several soaring Blue-tailed Bee-eaters, White-breasted Woodswallow, a whole load of Lemon-bellied White-eyes, Red-collared Dove, Zitting Cisticola, flypast Javan Pond Herons, Sulawesi Swiftlet as well as the only Asian Palm Swift and Pied Bushchat of the trip. Although we tried a couple more roadside stops it was getting too hot so we moved on to have a pleasant lunch at a local church!

With everyone keen for more, sharp eyes revealed a pair of distant Knobbed Hornbills in flight at a roadside stop to buy bananas, but thankfully better views of this magnificent bird would be forthcoming in the next few days. Heading towards Lore Lindu National Park we
made a series of stops as soon as we reached the forest, the first of which gave us incredible close-up views of a subadult Sulawesi Hawk Eagle hunting in front of us at eye-level and then directly overhead – fantastic. Some Short-tailed Starlings were added to the tally along with a Crimson Sunbird and a Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker. Our second stop was pretty quiet to begin with but we waited patiently watching some Grey-rumped Treesswifts and Glossy Swiftlets before we were rewarded by a pair of superb Purple-bearded Bee-eaters which came swooping into a tree above us. We had to move back a little to get the best views of this stunner and it felt great to get one of our major targets so quickly and to see it so well. That wasn’t it for this stop though with a distant Peregrine and a much closer Black Eagle to add as well as more views of Sulawesi Hawk Eagle.

Another stop in the forest, in the late afternoon, gave us some of the slower forest birding that one can expect in tropical forests but we were very happy to see some of the commoner birds of Lore Lindu with Turquoise Warbling-flycatcher, Pale-blue Monarch, a brief Sulawesi Leaf Warbler, Little Pied Flycatcher, Black-crowned White-eye, Citrine Canary-flycatcher and a couple of nice Sulawesi (Rusty-bellied) Fantails dancing around in the trees doing what their name describes. With the day coming to a close we drove to Sendy Homestay where we would spend the next 5 nights seeing a Sulawesi (Slender-billed) Crow along the way and Olive-backed Sunbird alongside Yellow-sided Flowerpecker in a flowering tree in the car park. Although the accommodation was fairly simple it was clean and dinner was excellent particularly accompanied by a Bintang beer.

**Day 4; 7th September**

Breakfast was taken in the car park at Danau Tambing, the small lake that we did much of our birding in the vicinity of while at Lore Lindu. There was a considerable morning chorus as we tucked into our coffee, bananas, cakes, bread and jam which promised much for the birding to come and as soon as it was light the birds began to come thick and fast with small flocks of Flame-browed Starlings and Meyer’s (Yellow-and-green) Lorikeets in the treetops although the latter were tricky to see properly and it took until the early afternoon before everyone got a good view of these small parrots. Our first Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker was found soon after and a Turquoise Warbling-flycatcher seemed like it wanted some of our breakfast perched on a wire right next to us.

Although there was a lot of action in the trees it was a good time to try for a couple of difficult targets and a very short walk into the forest put us in a good position to watch a pair of noisy Malias as they behaved rather nuthatch-like and squawked like a jay; strange birds! A little call playing from Royke and a large dose of patience gave most of the group point-blank views of Heinrichia (Great Shortwing) while a couple of us got a sighting of Sulawesi Thrush (not that the illustration in the field guide was much use in identifying it) and shortly after a Scaly (Scaly-breasted) Kingfisher was called in although it frustratingly flew away before everyone saw it properly. So, some good birds straight off the bat but as not all members of the group saw them well there would be some catching up to do later with those.

The next hour or so was spent birding along the road through the forest and we really did not have to go far at all with flocks of small birds actively feeding around us. Sulawesi (Rusty-bellied) Fantail, Mountain White-eye, Sulphur-vented Whistler, Golden-bellied Gerygone, joined by a nice Blue-faced Parrotfinch, were all seen quickly and the call of Hoevell’s Warbling-flycatcher (Blue-fronted Blue Flycatcher) was easily tracked down to give us close-up ‘scope views of an attractive male. While all of this was happening a trio of very striking Cerulean Cuckoo-shrikes came swooping in and a Little Bronze Cuckoo kept doing its best to draw our attention. As the activity slowed we moved down a short trail to the lake edge where things suddenly became very raptorial with top quality views of Sulawesi Honey-buzzard, Sulawesi...
Serpent Eagle, Lesser Fish Eagle and Oriental Hobby over the course of the next hour to the joy of the raptor-enthusiast department of our group while back in the car park a very colourful Sulawesi (Yellow-billed) Malkoha very nearly stole the show.

However, over the next few hours things became very quiet indeed with a picnic lunch to keep us amused and just a Lesser (Dark-eared) Myza and a Black-naped Oriole for company. Why this Oriole is still considered the same species as the Black-naped Orioles in mainland Southeast Asia is a mystery to me as it is considerably smaller, has a different bill structure, small plumage differences and a completely different contact call – someone needs to do some splitting!

Unfortunately activity levels never really increased and towards the end of a long day we stopped at a lookout where we got nice ‘scope views of Sulawesi Goshawk sitting on an exposed perch and then a White-bellied Imperial Pigeon performed some acrobatics to close the show. Then back to the accommodation, dinner and off to bed in preparation for a very early start.

**Day 5; 8th September**

“Good morning”, or should that be “Good middle of the night”? A 3.30am start and a transfer to the start of the Anaso track put us in place to get to the higher reaches of the mountain for sunrise, or at least it would have done had there been a sunrise. Instead thick fog and drizzle made things extraordinarily difficult for almost the entire morning. No nightjars on their roost, no birds perched out and no activity whatsoever made things look really awful but with a patient and persistent group things were to change later in the day. Snowy-browed Flycatchers were our first (and only?) birds of the first few hours, followed by a very murky view of a Lesser Myza and we had got to highest point without seeing anything else. As we turned around and began to descend a couple of us who were straggling came across Greater (White-eared) Myza and most of the group managed to catch up with this bird later in the day. By now it was close to 11am and we had very little to show for our considerable efforts; things were about to change though. As we walked along the track one member of our party almost stepped upon a pair of Satanic Nightjars, which flew a short distance into the forest. Fortunately we were able to find one of these birds sitting on the forest floor and we were able to really enjoy superb views of this wonderfully-named bird and get some superb photographs. This was the luck we needed to change things and it was not much further along the trail that Royke pointed out some red berries and told me that these were the sort of fruits that Hylocitrea liked. I took a look through my binoculars and guess what, a pair of Hylocitreas were right there feeding on them! A great relief to find another of our major targets for the day in the dreadful conditions we were experiencing.

After a picnic lunch we continued downhill and the weather improved giving us sunny spells between rain showers which allowed us to get really nice views of a male Sulawesi Myzomela feeding on some flowers quickly followed by more stunning views of a pair of Satanic Nightjars on a daytime roost. While watching a flock of small birds everyone caught up with a very obliging Sulawesi Thrush that spent a long time...
foraging among the leaves of some palm trees. **Red-eared Fruit Dove** was next and then at a lookout we found another **Purple-bearded Bee-eater**, really one of the best birds we saw at Lore Lindu, with a **Rufous-bellied Eagle** showing well at the same spot. Although our bodies may have been registering that the day should be over, the birds were not paying any attention and a final flock appeared for us to pick through with our first **Pygmy Cuckooshrike** among many of the commoner species that we had seen previously. It was nice to end the day with a new bird before heading back for a much-needed shower and dinner.

**Day 6; 9th September**

With a lot of night birds to find in the area we were up and about way before first light. After trying to call in Sulawesi Masked Owl next to a Mosque with the accompanying call to prayer, sanity prevailed and we went back to a quiet field behind our accommodation. After a short time, just as it was beginning to get light, a pair of **Speckled Boobooks** began to call and after a few fly-past views we eventually got a great sighting of one of these great birds perched in the open as it was getting light. Calling **Great Eared Nightjars** were also nearby and we obtained a spectacular sighting of several birds as they flew overhead while contorting themselves as they vocalized.

This morning we had a change of scenery again, birding along the forest edge from the roadside and then along a dirt track into some farmland overlooking the forest. As we were driving along I heard the deep call of a Hornbill and a word to the drivers got us stopped quickly and we soon spotted a wonderful **Knobbed Hornbill** sitting on an exposed perch, preening. We were able to enjoy this bird for some time as he moved around the large trees along the valley; it is always special to see large Hornbills well like this. While we enjoyed this, a group of **Tonkean Macaques** was spotted on the other side of the road leaving many of us not knowing which way to look. Moving along a dirt track we had an appointment to keep with a large flock of **Grosbeak Mynas** and **Flame-browed Starlings** enjoying the morning sunshine on top of some trees and by searching through the flock we found at least 4 **Sulawesi Mynas** which turned out to be surprisingly nice birds. A foray through some farmland to scan the forest edge for Piping Crow was unsuccessful but we got the consolation prize of photographing a **Golden-headed Cisticola** in full breeding plumage as well as a stunning encounter with 3 **Barred Rails** that hung around right next to the vehicles for several minutes. Back along the road we added **Sulawesi Cicadabird** to our list along with some more **Cerulean Cuckooshrikes**, **Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker**, **Black-naped Orioles** and many of the other small birds we had started to become familiar with before finishing the session with excellent views of a pair of **Sulawesi Jungle (Blue) Flycatchers**. By now it was getting a bit hot along the exposed road so we drove back to our accommodation for lunch and an afternoon break.

It was good to take a break but, of course, birders find it hard to rest when there may be more species to add to the list and **Grosbeak Myna**, **Black Eagle**, **Chestnut Munia**, **Indonesian (Spotted) Kestrel** and **Grey-sided Flowerpecker** were all added to the accommodation garden list and one lucky person had a **Tree Sparrow** in their room!
In the late afternoon we headed back to the forest putting some effort into looking for Piping Crow and Ashy Woodpecker but coming up with little reward. Things were pretty quiet although we did come across one nice flock containing a pair of Pygmy Cuckooshrikes for better views than before. Mostly though we had to enjoy seeing many of the commoner birds again until dusk when we got ourselves to the right place for Cinnabar Boobook. It was all remarkably civilized, drinking coffee while we waited and very shortly after dark we got a reply from our target bird and it did not take long to spotlight our second Boobook of the day. A nice ending to a good day.

Day 7; 10th September

We had another very early start this time at the back of our accommodation having another go at finding some owls. It did not take that long to get a response although actually seeing the Sulawesi Masked Owl was not so easy. Eventually we managed to spotlight it in flight as it cruised past us but every time it settled it managed to do so in dense foliage. Never mind, the flight views we had were as good as any you could get and the sheer size of the bird was impressive. With that success we headed into the forest for the last time here, to make another attempt at some birds that had only been seen by part of the group. While waiting in the forest we got more good views of Malia and in a stroke of luck a Maroon-backed Whistler turned up right in front of us. This time things went pretty well for us with Heinrichia (Great Shortwing) performing in an exposed gulley for some time, allowing everyone to get great views of this difficult bird. With that one in the bag we made another attempt at Scaly Kingfisher and it was surprising how quickly we found it although it took some tracking down to make sure everyone got the type of view they wanted of this top bird. The rest of the morning was spent birding along the road and although things were a bit quiet we found another Purple-bearded Bee-eater, Sulawesi Cuckoo Dove, more Sulawesi (Yellow-billed) Malkohas and some photography with Mountain White-eye, Lesser (Dark-eared) Myza and a pair of Flame-browed Starlings that really showed off. Bringing the morning to a close we had a coffee and cake at the vehicles before a nice flock of birds appeared very close to the road. Here we saw many of the birds that we had grown familiar with over the past few days including a very close Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker and adding Sulawesi Heleia (Streak-headed White-eye) to our list. As we drove back to the accommodation for an afternoon break we stopped at a lookout where some of us saw 3 Purple Needletails, a pair of fly-by Sulawesi Mynas and then ‘scope views of a party of at least 8 Ivory-backed Woodswallows; a very nice way to end the morning.

Refreshed from our lunch, in the late afternoon we drove out to an open area in hope of finding those pesky Piping Crows. On the way we stopped at some rice fields where a flock of at least 35 Glossy Ibis were circling. Chestnut Munia and Purple Heron made it onto the day list here too but much to the disappointment of the children of the village we deprived them of their afternoon’s entertainment and moved on. Well, those crows remained elusive as did pretty much everything else but after finding a decent lookout spot we stood patiently and eventually had good views of a subadult Sulawesi Hawk Eagle.
perched, several Grey-headed Imperial Pigeons and White-bellied Imperial Pigeons as well as a fly past Purple Needletail. Finally, back to our accommodation to enjoy our last dinner at Sendy Homestay.

**Day 8; 11th September**

Having squeezed pretty much all the birds that we were able to from the forest, we said our goodbyes and drove an hour or so to some open country on our way back to Palu and our afternoon flight. Stopping along the way we found Sulawesi Babbler singing in the open and a couple of White-breasted Waterhens. By the time we got back to the Olobogo River, where we had birded on the way in, it was already hot. We spent an hour walking around, building up quite a sweat but it was quite profitable with good numbers of Savanna Nightjar seen, a couple of Lesser Coucals, Pale-headed Munias, Lemon-bellied White-eyes and a few Barred Buttonquails. Eventually, after much searching, we also flushed a Red-backed Buttonquail for a reasonable flight view and a few people also got onto Buff-banded Rail.

After that successful little stop we drove to an area of fish farms just outside the city of Palu. It turned out to be a bit of a scruffy place but the target birds were there, 3 Javan Plovers. This species has been extending its range in Indonesia and this was a tip off from one of Royke’s contacts about a possible range extension for this bird. Separation from Kentish Plover is not easy but we confirmed the bird’s identification by call. A few Common Sandpipers and a Wood Sandpiper were also present and at the waterfront there was a Striated Heron and 3 Pacific Reef Egrets.

That was about it for the birding. The rest of the day consisted of lunch in Pizza Hut, our flight to Makassar, delayed by an hour and a drive through all sorts of crazy side roads to get out of Makassar and then into the darkness arriving at our accommodation, in the foothills of Mount Lompobattang, a bit early than expected. The only things of ornithological interest were a few House Swifts at Makassar airport.

**Day 9; 12th September**

Breakfast was at 4am but it did not take long to drive to the start of the trail. An undulating walk got us to where we wanted to be rather earlier than we wanted to be there but for the mammal fans there was some sort of Tree Rat to try and identify. Eventually it became light but although we were at the designated spot the birds had not read the script and for the first hour things were looking grim. Our key target here was Lompobattang Flycatcher and although we heard its song it refused to show itself. Well, eventually the forest became alive and we tracked down a lovely pair of Ashy Woodpeckers which showed extremely well and for a long time and while we were watching these a flock of Piping Crows came in noisily calling. I would have named them Screaming Crows myself little did their call resemble “piping” to me. Anyway this was a great bird to catch up on having thought we may have missed it with our lack of success with this species at Lore Lindu. Next up was a Spot-tailed Sparrowhawk seen sitting in a tree and then a pair of “Lompobattang” Leaf Warblers. This latter species is not yet split by most authorities but as its plumage varies quite a lot from the Sulawesi Leaf Warblers elsewhere and its
song is noticeably different we were happy to see and photograph this bird. Close by were Sulawesi (Rusty-bellied) Fantail, Sulawesi Heleia (Streak-throated White-eye) and then a small party of Black-ringed White-eyes, yet another of our endemic target species, this one restricted to this small area of Southwestern Sulawesi. We were starting to run out of time with our main target still elusive but just in time we found a co-operative Lompobattang Flycatcher that even allowed us to take photographs. With this success we decided to leave so that we would have time for some birding in the wetlands near Makassar, getting spectacular views of a pair of Sulawesi Serpent Eagles on the way out.

After lunch we drove for several hours, arriving at a large area of fishponds near Makassar in the late afternoon. The fishponds themselves were not exactly alive with birds but there were large numbers of Little Egret and Whiskered Terns and we found a pool with a few waders in; a single Pied Stilt, a Common Greenshank, numerous Wood Sandpipers, Common Sandpiper, several Common Redshanks and at least 2 Long-toed Stints. A flock of Rufous (Nankeen) Night Herons was a little distant but Little Tern and Gull-billed Tern were closer. We walked through some remnant mangroves to get to the shore, with a number of Australasian Reed Warblers showing well (there is some debate over the taxonomy of these with most authorities retaining the birds here within Clamorous Reed Warbler. The rather slender bills and non-migratory habits of the birds in Indonesia would suggest they should not be included with Clamorous Reed Warbler in my opinion). We had timed our visit to the shore well with an incoming tide there were lots of birds close by on the mudflats including Terek Sandpiper, Great Knot, Grey-tailed Tattler, lots of Grey Plovers and Whimbrel, a few Bar-tailed Godwits and a couple of Sacred Kingfishers on the edge of the mangroves. Moving to a second spot where there was some shelter from the intense sun we found ourselves overlooking a bay full of birds including large numbers of Little Black Cormorant coming in from the sea, the flock of Rufous Night Herons rather closer than before and a couple of Far Eastern Curlews at close range. It was nice to be able to do some open country birding after a lot of forest birding and by scanning the mud flats we added (Eastern) Great Egret and 4 Great-billed Herons to our tally as well as 2 Greater Sand Plovers, a Pacific Golden Plover, 2 fly by Red Knot and a small flock of Black-tailed Godwits. A couple of extremely distant Caspian Terns tested the eyeballs but it had been an enjoyable session of birding before we drove into Makassar for dinner and onto the airport only to find that our 8.40pm flight to Manado had been delayed by over 2 hours. Eventually we arrived at Manado only to be left at 5.30am to beat the Grey Gull -tailed Tattler, a couple of extremely distant Caspian Terns tested the eyeballs but it had been an enjoyable session of birding before we drove into Makassar for dinner and onto the airport only to find that our 8.40pm flight to Manado had been delayed by over 2 hours. Eventually we arrived at Manado only to be left at 5.30am to beat the Grey Gull -tailed Tattler, a couple of extremely distant Caspian Terns tested the eyeballs but it had been an enjoyable session of birding before we drove into Makassar for dinner and onto the airport only to find that our 8.40pm flight to Manado had been delayed by over 2 hours. Eventually we arrived at Manado only to be

Day 10; 13th September

Waking up 2 hours before we went to bed we had breakfast in the hotel and left at 5.30am to beat the Manado traffic, arriving at a lookout over the forest at Tangkoko at around 6.30. Unfortunately the only thing we saw was rain so we decided to go and check in at our accommodation and wait for a break in the weather. After a short while and a coffee the rain, indeed, did stop and immediately a few birds were active close to the restaurant – Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon, White-rumped Cuckooshrike, Brown-throated Sunbird and Uniform Swiftlet. With the weather dry for the moment we drove short distance to the forest entrance and spent the remainder of the morning in the lowland forests of Tangkoko. Birding was slow and difficult in low light conditions but a quartet of Sulawesi Cuckoo Doves showed nicely as did some Grey-faced Green Pigeons and a Bear Cuscus in the car park. As we moved through the forest we came across a pair of Tabon (Philippine) Scrubfowl feeding on the forest floor and shortly after we had a wonderful male Green-backed Kingfisher posing in front of us. The next highlight were the Spectral Tarsiers hiding in a tree trunk but luckily one came out to greet us for an incredible experience with a very cute little mammal. More mammals were next in the form of Sulawesi Crested Macaques which came
incredibly close without paying any attention to us at all. Birds were in pretty short supply though but we did see an Ashy Woodpecker and Sulawesi (Yellow-billed) Malkoha on the way back and a second Green-backed Kingfisher, this time a female.

After lunch back at our accommodation we drove a short distance to a village on a beach. From here we boarded two rustic boats and sped off down the coast towards an area of mangroves. The scenery was very good although large clouds building up promised more rain, which held out until we had finished our trip thankfully. Along the way there were a couple of White-bellied Sea Eagles and Brahminy Kites as well as a Grey-tailed Tattler on the beach as we arrived and a Pacific Reef Egret. We slowly went down a channel in the mangroves, with our boatmen taking us very slowly and quietly along we saw some Grey-faced Green Pigeons as well as a few Pink-necked Green Pigeons in the mangrove trees. Sulawesi (Slender-billed) Crows and Pied Imperial Pigeons were everywhere and eventually we got sight of our main target – Great-billed Kingfisher. This monster sat very still on the edge of the mangrove and allowed us to approach quite close and gave us excellent views. Shortly after this we also saw Ruddy Kingfisher, flying back and forth and perched – wonderful. On the way out we saw a couple more Great-billed Kingfishers as well as a pair of Common Kingfishers, Collared Kingfisher and Sacred Kingfisher. This very nice afternoon was very enjoyable with success with the target bird and a very good supporting cast of species. By the time we finished the boat trip it was time to go back for an early dinner and catch up on some sleep.

Day 11; 14th September

Our second morning at Tangkoko was again plagued by rain but although we got completely soaked, by the end of the day we had an impressive list of sightings behind us. In the lowland forest things started slowly but one by one we enjoyed some good birds. A Lilac Kingfisher was a big scruffy in the rain, but lovely none the less, while a group of Ashy Woodpeckers gave me some great photo opportunities. White-eyed Spangled Drongo showed well and a Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher glowed like a beacon in the dark forest. After this the rain came down with intent and we were forced to shelter but as soon as the rain stopped we were alerted to something special. A short walk up the trail and our local guides had found Red-backed Thrush. For the next 30 minutes we watched 4 of these smart birds foraging on the forest floor and they proved to be far more popular with the group than any of us had expected. With lunch calling us we began our walk back to the vehicles but had time to stop for a nice Purple-winged Roller.
In the afternoon we tried a different trail through the forest and our first sighting was a Sulawesi Dwarf Cuscus disturbed from its sleeping place. We heard the distant call of Sulawesi Pitta but it was always far away on the wrong side of a river so we could not get closer. However, after some searching our local guides found what they had been looking for here – Ochre-bellied Boobook which we all got great views of although it was a bit gloomy for photos. A pair of White-necked Mynas were found next although with their long tails they were more reminiscent of magpies than mynas.

Back out on the road we traveled up to a viewpoint for the remainder of the afternoon, scanning the treetops for birds. Here we saw plenty of Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeons, Green Imperial Pigeons as well as a few White-rumped Cuckoo-shrikes but where were the flocks of parrots we had heard about? Well, never mind soon enough we had a wonderful pair of Sulawesi Hornbills in the ‘scope and we were able to watch these beauties at length although Black-billed Koel just laughed at us from the thick forest. Eventually we began to run out of light but there was one more stop for Sulawesi Scops Owl which showed itself to all with the minimum of fuss – that’s the sort of owl I like. We had a short try for other owl species but there was no reply so we called it a day and went for dinner.

Day 12, 15th September

Our final morning at Tangkoko and we revisited the lookout in hope of some Parrots. Well, we got a few but not quite what was expected with a few Sulawesi (Great) Hanging Parrots and a fly-past Blue-backed Parrot. In the early morning there were plenty of other birds to be seen with some distant Sulawesi Hornbills, Green Imperial Pigeons, a Sulawesi Goshawk, two lovely White-faced Cuckoo Doves and another pair of White-necked Mynas while some of the group saw the only Bay Coucal of the trip. Standing on a slope was not easy so we moved to a second lookout spot where we saw many of the same species with the addition of a very welcome Black-naped Fruit Dove. Although we hung around a while most of the action was done quickly and we got back to the vehicles where the only Sulawesi Triller of the trip was hanging out.

Before leaving we had another go at finding Sulawesi Pitta but it was still calling from an inaccessible place so we had to make do with our first Black Sunbird. After this it was lunch and leave for a marathon journey back to Manado, through some appalling traffic and out the other side where we made a stop in some rice fields. Cinnamon Bittern, Chestnut Munia, Scaly-breasted Munia, Common Kingfisher, White-breasted Woodswallow, Javan Pond Heron and a pair of Buff-banded Rails were all nice but we had a long way to go the sinisterly-named Kota Mobagu so we left for the next leg of our long drive, eventually arriving some time around 9pm for dinner in a nice hotel that would be our base for the next 3 nights.

Day 13, 16th September

Another early start so that we could get in place to wait for a very special bird – Maleo. On first arrival we were lured away from our main target by a Sulawesi (Isabelline) Bush Hen lurking around the edges of the garden of the Maleo sanctuary headquarters. Walking down a short, slippery trail we were checked in to a very well-built little hide right next to a riverside beach that Maleo use to lay their eggs in. Somehow, despite the builders carrying in bags of cement, iron poles, tin roofing etc. whoever had been in charge of chairs had forgotten their duty leaving an excellent hide being rather uncomfortable to wait in. We all knew what we had to do to see Maleo; sit quietly and wait. Unfortunately, someone had forgotten to tell the Maleos and a 3 hour wait was all for nothing and we returned to the HQ area to recover. One of the rangers decided that we should go for a walk so down to the riverside we went and did not go far before flushing a pair of Maleos which thankfully decided to land on a branch on the other side of the river so
that we could see them nicely. Much of the rest of the day was spent hanging around the garden of the HQ from where we enjoyed repeated views of Knobbed Hornbills, Lesser Fish Eagle, Black Eagle, Brahminy Kite, Sulawesi Hawk Eagle and Black-naped Oriole before making a second effort in the Maleo hide to try and get close-up views. They did not come so we left, giving ourselves time to stop at a roadside marsh where we found Little (Tricoloured) Grebe, Purple (Black-backed) Swamphen, plenty of Dusky Moorhens, a single Common Moorhen and White-browed Crake before it became too dark and we went back to enjoy our dinner and Guinness!

**Day 14, 17th September**

This was to be quite a long day and with drizzle on arrival we stopped in some rice fields where a couple of Cinnamon Bitterns were accompanied by a single Yellow Bittern. On arrival at Dumoga Bone the rain would not stop but neither do birders! Crossing a river on a bamboo raft we saw Ruddy Kingfisher and several Black Kites along the way before spending the next few hours on a nature trail through the forest. Blue-backed Parrot showed itself nicely which was followed by a pair of Pied Cuckooshrikes perched up on a treetop. Finally the playing of Black-billed Koel calls paid off as one gave us a couple of good fly past views and we also added Oberholser’s Fruit Dove to our collection as well as another Black-naped Fruit Dove. Further along the trail we heard the call of Sulawesi Pitta and as we got ourselves into place it hopped right out onto the trail. Unfortunately, not everyone was ready and the Pitta was scared off before most people got a tickable view leaving us spending the next hour or more trying to relocate it. Although it called a lot we were not able to see this bird again but a Lilac Kingfisher helped us get over this upset.

Out in an open area we finally came across what could be described as flocks of parrots and although the rain kept on it did not stop us from seeing several Blue-backed Parrots, a pair of Minahasa (Yellow-breasted) Racquet-tails, a few Sulawesi (Golden-mantled) Racquet-tails, Sulawesi (Great) Hanging Parrots and a couple of very striking Ornate Lorikeets. Then it really began to rain hard so we re-crossed the stream, with our ranger nearly falling in, and had some lunch.

After lunch we were unable to go back across the stream as the rain had swollen the river so much it was now a raging torrent and dangerous. Instead we walked along the forest edge and adjacent farmland where we got our best views of Purple Needletails, a group of around a dozen hawking low over the forest. We were in search of a particular raptor with our attention repeatedly drawn to the numerous Black Kites and Brahminy Kites as well as a single Sulawesi Honey-buzzard. Eventually, though, we were treated to one of the sightings of the entire trip, a pair of Spotted Harriers nest-building and mating on the tree tops at close range. We watched this action for quite some time and everyone agreed that not only was this a good bird but being able to see it the way we did put it in the running for the bird of the trip.

Driving down the road we returned to some rice fields where we got good views of a few Wandering Whistling Ducks, some very wet Lesser Coucals and an Indonesian (Spotted) Kestrel before tiring of
getting wet ourselves and going for dinner on site. Following this was the drive back to our hotel and a nice warm shower.

**Day 15, 18**th **September**

Our final birding on Sulawesi was to be on Mount Ambang and another early start to get there in time. A pothole in the road had other ideas about that causing us a delay but shortly after first light we were walking up the slopes of the mountain, glad we had brought our umbrellas. After around 40 minutes of walking we began our search for the target species but for a long time it was fruitless. Some great persistence from Royke finally got an answer from Matinan Flycatcher and after it eluding most of us at first we all finally got a view of this extremely regional endemic. Apart from a Sulphur-vented Whistler and a Turquoise Flycatcher there was little else to see in the rain so we made an early escape and with the rain getting harder we found a small group of birds just outside the forest that consisted of Black-crowned White-eye, Yellow-sided Flowerpecker and a single Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker before the only Sulawesi Streaked Flycatcher of the tour was spotted. A couple of Rainbow Bee-eaters provided a splash of colour on a very grey day before we went for a very early lunch and then the massive drive back to Manado. Things were pretty good and we stopped at the same rice fields as before where we finally got good views of Black-faced Munias and many of the birds previously seen there but as we got into Manado the traffic became truly awful and what was supposed to be an early arrival at our very comfortable hotel ended up being 7pm for some. We had a good dinner here and a great night’s sleep.

**Day 16, 19**th **September**

Breakfast at 7am, sheer luxury! A 15 minute drive to the airport and a flight delayed by an hour took us to the island of Ternate where Alfred Russel Wallace wrote his thoughts on natural selection. However, anyone who remembers the UK quiz show, of the 1980s, will understand why for the rest of the day I had the theme tune of “Bullseye” in my head after being shown that we were to be traveling in a speedboat to Halmahera. Bird watching was basically impossible on this 45 minute journey as we bounced around inside a boat with very small windows although somehow we managed to identify Lesser Frigatebird, Greater Crested Tern and Common Tern along the way. However, things improved dramatically for the rest of the day as although it was a travel day we picked up some good birds along the way.

Stopping for a lunch break by the roadside was a good plan and here we saw our first Halmahera endemics; Moluccan Cuckooshrike, Grey-headed Fruit Dove, Blue-capped Fruit Dove, some beautiful Rufous-bellied Trillers, Halmahera Swiftlet and Halmahera (Cream-throated) White-eye. Added to this were Metallic Starling, White-bellied Cuckooshrike and numerous Willie Wagtails with their nests perched on top of overhead wires.

Further along the road we stopped for a stunning view of Blyth’s Hornbill, then some Red-flanked Lorikeets and finally at some mangroves where we found 2 superb Beach Kingfishers as well as a pair of Moustached Treeswifts which, compared to the size of other Treeswifts, were monsters. All pretty
good stuff for a travel day and after this last stop we drove directly to our accommodation for the final 5 nights of the tour.

Day 17, 20th September

In visiting Halmahera one of the prime target species was always going to be Wallace’s Standardwing, a weird Bird-of-Paradise that is only found on this island. Arriving before dawn was essential and after a slippery drive uphill then an equally slippery walk downhill we were in place at exactly the right time to see this amazing creature at its lek. The male proceeded to screech for any listening females for about 20 minutes, at eye level, flaring out his “standards” and flexing his bottle green breast patch putting on a great performance. The females were not impressed though as none showed up although a second male arrived overhead and a third bird could be heard calling not too far away. This was quite a wonderful start to the day and as we slogged up the short but steep muddy trail we came upon a Red-cheeked Parrot and a Moluccan (Spectacled) Imperial Pigeon sitting on a dead snag. Back at the vehicle it was time for a coffee and time to appreciate some Long-billed Crows and Blyth’s Hornbills sitting in the open before we moved along to a lookout point seeing some Red-flanked Lorikeets and a Dusky Myzomela along the way. Looking out across the forest we picked up some more good birds including really good views of Moluccan Starling, Grey-headed & Blue-capped Fruit Doves as well as Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon.

Although viewing here was good birding we had another very special target bird to look for so after going down a forest trail we stood quietly and waited for a response to our call playback, hoping for sign from Ivory-breasted Pitta. At first there was no answer but we took a moment out to enthuse over a spectacular female Eclectus Parrot which seemed like a red neon light against the dark green background of the forest. Here we also scoped Halmahera Flowerpecker and Halmahera Hanging Parrot before hearing an answer from a pair of Pittas and very shortly afterwards we were enjoying good views of two extremely smart Ivory-breasted Pittas hopping along the track in front of us and then behind us. We spent about 30 minutes with these birds as they flew back and forth, with whirring wings, and repeatedly emerged onto the track, amazed how big they were compared to other Pittas; what a fantastic morning.

Glowing in that success we went back to our lookout and began a big sit viewing across the forest both before and after lunch which we had on site. A pair of Violet-necked Lories were beautiful perched in a tree preening each other and a pair of Great-billed Parrots flew past. Over the course of our time here we saw many of the previously seen species again, getting better views of some, as well as Halmahera (Dusky-brown) Oriole, Wallacean (Common) Cicadabird, Halmahera Cuckoo-shrike and lots more Blyth’s Hornbills. Unfortunately, heavy rain cut short the afternoon and after spotting a distant Oriental Hobby eating its prey we began to walk back to the vehicles in order to leave. Along the way there were breaks in the rain and we made several stops to watch perched birds sitting out attempting to get dry. In this way we added Umbrella (White) Cockatoo, Halmahera Goshawk, Varied Goshawk and, best of all, a pair of Gurney’s Eagles before the rain came down again. Despite the day shortened because of rain it had been very successful, if tiring, but it was nice to get a warm shower and dinner.

Day 18, 21st September

We spent the day birding along the road to Buli, which is forested for much of the way. Arriving before daylight we attempted to call in Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar but although we got a response we eventually ran out of darkness in which to lure the bird in. A pair of Blue-and-white Kingfishers at the same spot, as it got light, was a nice consolation though. Further along the road we stood and waited for birds to
emerge as it got light, and emerge they did with our first Goliath Coucals very impressive as they hopped from branch to branch shortly followed by a couple of Paradise-crows which repeatedly visited the same tree to find food. There was another Umbrella (White) Cockatoo and plenty more Red-cheeked Parrots but it was a fine male Moluccan King Parrot that stole the show. Bird activity levels were high here for a while with Moluccan (Spectacled) Imperial Pigeon, Grey-headed Fruit Dove, Halmahera Cuckooshrike and Wallacean (Common) Cicadabird side-by-side for comparison and everyone finally got good views of Halmahera (Northern) Golden Bulbul having seen them several times just flying away beforehand. While watching these we heard a shrieking sound we all recognized, Wallace’s Standardwing, sure enough there was a male high in the trees calling away and it was nice to see this species again. Things quietened down a fair bit as the morning wore on but with patience we managed to find a lovely male Moluccan (Black-chinned) Whistler followed by White-naped Monarch, a small party of Moluccan Monarchs (Moluccan Flycatcher) and a nice Wallacean (Spectacled) Monarch all within a short stretch of forest and the birds must have been struggling with an identity crisis as much as we were struggling to remember the old and new names of all these species. Black Sunbirds proved to be common in this area and after some effort we got great views of Halmahera (White-streaked) Friarbird feeding on small flowerlets before moving along the road to an area where we spotted a soaring Gurney’s Eagle. With the day becoming hot we began our journey back to our accommodation for lunch and an afternoon break, stopping in an area of rice fields along the way. This quick stop produced some interesting birds including Eastern Yellow Wagtail, Wandering Whistling Duck, White-browed Crake, Buff-banded Crake and several Common Snipe, something of a surprise but undoubtable with white trailing edges to the wings and white underwings when in flight. A little further along a great flock of Whiskered Terns contained a few White-winged Terns for a nice finish before lunch.

We returned to the same area in the late afternoon but rain began almost as soon as we arrived and did not stop, putting an end to our plans for night birding on this evening.

**Day 19, 22nd September**

We were out early to look for night birds and at the same spot as the previous day we got a response from Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar. This strange bird was high on our list of priorities and after about 5 minutes we had it in the spotlight. Unfortunately, a car came along, tooting its horn to scare the bird away before we were able to really appreciate it fully and despite getting brief views again later we could not get it to sit out in the open before dawn came along. Much of the remainder of the morning consisted of visiting many of the same spots as the previous day with highlights being several stunning Chattering Lories, Great-billed Parrot in flight, a female Superb Fruit Dove, for some a Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove and after a long search a wonderful pair of Sombre Kingfishers. These birds were very difficult to locate at first, laughing at us from within the forest, but when they did show, they performed wonderfully well. Species including Goliath Coucal, several Wallace’s Standardwings, Paradise-crow and Eclectus Parrot were all good to see again too.
Having seen so many of Halmahera’s birds it felt like it would start to become difficult to find anything new but a nice find was a **Shining Monarch** along with a very friendly pair of **Moluccan (Black-chinned) Monarchs** before lunch.

Out again in the late afternoon the undoubted highlight was a stunning **Common Paradise-kingfisher** which Royke found with extreme determination. **White-bellied Cuckooshrike** was nice to see again and once more there were good numbers of **Blyth’s Hornbills** to enjoy. I have never been anywhere else where a large Hornbill species was so common as here and we never grew tired of this magnificent bird. Before it got dark we toyed with Pale-vented Bush Hen and Gray’s Grasshopper Warbler but neither bird would emerge from the dense vegetation and shortly after dark we heard both Moluccan Scops Owl and Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar only for the search to be confounded once again by heavy rain.

**Day 20, 23rd September**

A drive of a couple of hours took us to a known site for Invisible Rail. A secretive forest rail, all black with an orange bill, most of the allure of seeing this bird lies in the name; who does not want to say that they have seen an invisible bird? Alas, for us it remained predictably invisible although we did at least hear it calling once. However, on arrival at the site we were greeted by numerous **Black-faced Munias** and as we walked down a forest trail we got our best view of **Violet-necked Lory** in a rare moment of sunshine. In the sunny treetops there were also **Grey-headed Fruit Doves, Paradise-crows, Moluccan Imperial Pigeons** and **Rufous-bellied Trillers** but a **Nicobar Pigeon** scurrying away was only glimpsed by a few members of the group, untickable views unfortunately.

When we actually heard the Invisible Rail we stalked off into the forest, along a stream failing to even get another response out of the bird. If we were to perform this effort in mime it would be with a troop of earnest souls, striding off, with purpose, into the forest in a slow motion version of the Ministry of Silly Walks only to emerge as a group of teary-eyed Pierrot clowns, with heads down, a weary trudge…..well, you get the picture, it was a disappointment but not entirely unexpected given the nature of the bird.

The effort had been quite tiring and with the sun blazing down we returned to our accommodation for lunch and to regain our strength for one last effort at night birding.

With huge clouds looming it did not look promising but we were determined. As usual with this type of oppressive weather bird activity was extremely low, our biggest success being our best views of **Chattering Lory** perched and feeding in a tree. **Long-billed Crows** having a tussle with a **Brahminy Kite** was interesting but as soon as it became dark the rain started! We waited for 45 minutes as the rain got harder and harder before abandoning the effort and returning for our last dinner together and to vote for the bird of the trip.
Day 21, 24th September

With it raining through the night and into the morning we did not make another effort at night birding but instead said our goodbyes to our hosts for the last few days, some parting group photographs and we were on our way making a number of birding stops along the road as well as a number of stops to repair punctures. Great-billed Parrot, Blyth’s Hornbill, a pair of Blue-and-white Kingfishers, lots of Willie Wagtails, Blyth’s Hornbills and Black Sunbirds as Shining Monarch were all nice but we did not add anything to our list until our return speedboat journey to Ternate. On this bumpy journey it was impossible to look at anything through binoculars but a small group of Red-necked Phalaropes came up off the sea, close to the boat, as we passed for our final new species of the tour.

Lunch in a busy restaurant in Ternate was good and our flight back to Jakarta was only about 30 minutes late. We gave our thanks to Royke for looking after us and being so persistent in his search for birds and a comfortable flight of about 3 hours took us back to Jakarta where most of the group took their connecting flight back to UK and some of us spent a night in Jakarta before taking later flights.

Conclusion

With 265 species seen, including 117 endemics and lots more good birds besides, the trip had been a success and we did not feel like anything that we had not seen was because of any lack of effort. Voting for the bird of the trip was interesting because the group was quite diverse in terms of what types of birds they enjoyed. Our votes did not only reflect the quality of the birds but also the quality of the observations and how we experienced those birds; in other words the bird of the trip was something of a surprise.

1. **Red-backed Thrush** – seen so well and for so long with the birds very active. More stunning than any of us expected from the illustrations in the book.
2. **Wallace’s Standardwing** – more colourful than any of us expected and a wonderful sighting, flared standards, calling, jumping around at eye-level.
3. **Eclectus Parrot** – the female was just breath-taking, one of the few birds that made us use expletives!
4. **Ivory-breasted Pitta** – awesome in size and colour.
5. **Common Paradise-kingfisher** – a much-wanted bird, found when most had given up on it. It posed for everyone to take photos – lovely.

I would also like to thank all participants on this trip for their good humour and easy-going natures that made birding and meal times together a real pleasure. I hope to see you all again.
SYSTEMATIC LIST – SULAWESI/HALMAHERA SEPTEMBER 2017

**ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae**
- Wandering Whistling Duck  
  *Dendrocygna arcuata arcuata*
- Sunda Teal  
  *Anas gibberifrons*

**GALLIFORMES: Megapodiidae**
- Maleo  
  *Macrocephalon maleo*
- Tabon Scrubfowl (Philippine Megapode)  
  *Megapodius cumingii gilbertii*

**PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae**
- Little (Tricoloured) Grebe  
  *Tachybaptus ruficollis (tricolor) tricolor*

**PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae**
- Glossy Ibis  
  *Plegadis falcinellus*

**PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae**
- Yellow Bittern  
  *Ixobrychus sinensis*
- Cinnamon Bittern  
  *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*
- Rufous (Nankeen) Night Heron  
  *Nycticorax caledonicus australasiae*
- Striated Heron  
  *Butorides striata javanica*
- Javan Pond Heron  
  *Ardeola speciosa speciosa*
- Eastern Cattle Egret  
  *Bubulcus coromandus*
- Great-billed Heron  
  *Ardea sumatrana*
- Purple Heron  
  *Ardea purpurea manilensis*
- Eastern Great Egret  
  *Ardea (alba) modesta*
- Little Egret  
  *Egretta garzetta nigripes*
- Pacific Reef Heron (Egret)  
  *Egretta sacra sacra*

**SULIFORMES: Fregatidae**
- Lesser Frigatebird  
  *Fregata ariel ariel*

**SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae**
- Little Black Cormorant  
  *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

**SULIFORMES: Anhingidae**
- Oriental Darter  
  *Anhinga melanogaster*

**ACCIPITRIFORMES: Pandionidae**
- Western Osprey  
  *Pandion haliaetus haliaetus*
ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae
- Sulawesi (Barred) Honey-buzzard: Pernis celebensis
- Sulawesi Serpent Eagle: Spilornis rufipectus rufipectus
- Sulawesi Hawk Eagle: Nisaetus lancerolatus
- Rufous-bellied Eagle: Lophotriorchis kienerii formosus
- Black Eagle: Ictinaetus malaiensis malaiensis
- Gurney’s Eagle: Aquila gurneyi
- Sulawesi Goshawk: Lophospiza (Accipiter) griseiceps
- Spot-tailed Sparrowhawk: Tachyspiza (Accipiter) trinitatus
- Varied (Variable) Goshawk: Tachyspiza (Accipiter) hiogaster griseogularis
- Halmahera (Moluccan) Goshawk: Tachyspiza (Accipiter) henicogramma (us)
- Spotted Harrier: Circus assimilis
- Black Kite: Milvus migrans affinis
- Brahminy Kite: Haliastur indus intermedius
- Brahminy Kite: Haliastur indus girrenera
- White-bellied Sea Eagle: Haliaeetus leucogaster
- Lesser Fish Eagle: Haliaeetus humilis humilis

GRUIFORMES: Rallidae
- Barred Rail: Gallirallus torquatus celebensis
- Buff-banded Rail: Gallirallus philippensis philippensis
- Isabelline Bush Hen: Amaurornis isabellina
- Pale-vented Bush Hen: Amaurornis moluccana moluccana
- White-breasted Waterhen: Amaurornis phoenicurus leucomelana
- White-browed Crake: Porzana cinerea
- Purple (Black-backed) Swamphen: Porphyrio porphyrio (indicus) indicus
- Common Moorhen: Gallinula chloropus orientalis
- Dusky Moorhen: Gallinula tenebrosa frontata

CHARADRIIFORMES: Turnicidae
- Red-backed Buttonquail: Turnix maculosus beccarii
- Barred Buttonquail: Turnix suscitator rufilatus

CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvisrostridae
- Pied (White-headed) Stilt: Himantopus leucocephalus

CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae
- Pacific Golden Plover: Pluvialis fulva
- Grey Plover: Pluvialis squatarola squatarola
- Javan Plover: Charadrius javanicus
- Greater Sand Plover: Charadrius leschenaultii leschenaultii
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Grey-headed Fruit Dove  
Black-naped Fruit Dove  
White-bellied Imperial Pigeon  
Grey-headed Imperial Pigeon  
Green Imperial Pigeon  
Spectacled Imperial Pigeon  
Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon  
Pied Imperial Pigeon  
Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon

Blue-capped Fruit Dove  
Grey-headed Fruit Dove  
Black-naped Fruit Dove  
White-bellied Imperial Pigeon  
Grey-headed Imperial Pigeon  
Green Imperial Pigeon  
Spectacled Imperial Pigeon  
Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon  
Pied Imperial Pigeon  
Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon

**CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae**  
Bay Coucal  
Goliath Coucal  
Lesser Coucal  
Lesser Coucal  
Sulawesi (Yellow-billed) Malkoha  
Sulawesi (Yellow-billed) Malkoha  
Black-billed Koel  
Little Bronze Cuckoo  
Sulawesi Brush (Rusty-breasted) Cuckoo

**CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae**  
Bay Coucal  
Goliath Coucal  
Lesser Coucal  
Lesser Coucal  
Sulawesi (Yellow-billed) Malkoha  
Sulawesi (Yellow-billed) Malkoha  
Black-billed Koel  
Little Bronze Cuckoo  
Sulawesi Brush (Rusty-breasted) Cuckoo

**STRIGIFORMES: Tytonidae**  
Sulawesi Masked Owl

**STRIGIFORMES: Tytonidae**  
Sulawesi Masked Owl

**STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae**  
Sulawesi Scops Owl  
Ochre-bellied Boobook  
Cinnabar Boobook  
Speckled Boobook

**STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae**  
Sulawesi Scops Owl  
Ochre-bellied Boobook  
Cinnabar Boobook  
Speckled Boobook

**CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae**  
Satanic Nightjar  
Great Eared Nightjar  
Savanna Nightjar

**CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae**  
Satanic Nightjar  
Great Eared Nightjar  
Savanna Nightjar

**APODIFORMES: Aegothelidae**  
Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar

**APODIFORMES: Aegothelidae**  
Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar

**APODIFORMES: Hemiprocnidae**  
Grey-rumped Treeswift

**APODIFORMES: Hemiprocnidae**  
Grey-rumped Treeswift
Moustached Treeswift

**APODIFORMES: Apodidae**

Glossy Swiftlet
Glossy Swiftlet
Glossy Swiftlet
Halmahera Swiftlet
Sulawesi Swiftlet
Uniform Swiftlet
Purple Needletail
Brown-backed Needletail
Asian Palm Swift
Pacific Swift
House Swift

**CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae**

Purple-winged Roller
Common (Oriental) Dollarbird

**CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae**

Green-backed Kingfisher
Scaly (Scaly-breasted) Kingfisher
Common Paradise-kingfisher
Sulawesi Lilac (Lilac) Kingfisher
Great-billed Kingfisher
Ruddy Kingfisher
Blue-and-white Kingfisher
Sombre Kingfisher
Collared Kingfisher
Beach Kingfisher
Sacred Kingfisher
Common Kingfisher
Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher

**CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae**

Purple-bearded Bee-eater
Blue-tailed Bee-eater
Rainbow Bee-eater

**BUCERITOFORMES: Bucerotidae**

Blyth’s Hornbill

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* Hemiprocne mystacea confirmata
* Collocalia esculenta manadensis
* Collocalia esculenta esculenta
* Collocalia esculenta spilura
* Aerodramus infuscatus
* Aerodramus sororum
* Aerodramus vanikorensis aenigma
* Hirundapus celebensis
* Hirundapus giganteus indicus
* Cypsiurus balasiensis infumatus?
* Apus pacificus pacificus
* Apus nipalensis nipalensis
* Coracias temminckii
* Eurystomus orientalis pacificus
* Actenoides monachus monachus
* Actenoides princeps erythrhorhamphus
* Tanysiptera galatea browningi
* Cittura (cyanotis) cyanotis
* Pelargopsis melanorhyncha melanorhyncha
* Halcyon coromanda rufa
* Todiramphus diops
* Todiramphus funebris
* Todiramphus chloris chloris
* Todiramphus saurophagus saurophagus
* Todiramphus sanctus sanctus
* Alcedo atthis hispidoides
* Ceyx fallax fallax
* Meropogon forsteni
* Merops philippinus
* Merops ornatus
* Rhyticeros plicatus
Knobbed Hornbill
Rhyticeros cassidix

Sulawesi Hornbill
Rhabdotorrhinus exarhatus exarhatus

PICIFORMES: Picidae

Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker
Yungipicus temminckii

Ashy Woodpecker
Mulleripicus fulvus fulvus

Ashy Woodpecker
Mulleripicus fulvus wallacei

Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker

FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae

Indonesian (Spotted) Kestrel
Falco moluccensis

Oriental Hobby
Falco severus

Peregrine Falcon
Falco peregrinus ernesti

PSITTACIFORMES: Cacatuidae

Umbrella (White) Cockatoo
Cacatua alba

PSITTACIFORMES: Psittaculidae

Moluccan King Parrot
Alisterus amboinensis hypophonius

Sulawesi (Golden-mantled) Racquet-tail
Prioniturus platurus platurus

Minahasa (Yellow-breasted) Racquet-tail
Prioniturus flavicans

Eclectus Parrot
Eclectus roratus vosmaeri

Red-cheeked Parrot
Geoffroyus geoffroyi cyanicollis

Great-billed Parrot
Tanygnathus megalorynchos megalorynchos

Blue-backed Parrot
Tanygnathus sumatranus sumatranus

Red-flanked Lorikeet
Charmosyna placentis intensor

Chattering Lory
Lorius garrulous garrulous

Violet-necked Lorikeet
Eos squamata ricinia

Ornate Lorikeet
Trichoglossus ornatus

Meyer’s (Citrine) Lorikeet
Trichoglossus (flavoviridis) meyeri

Sulawesi (Great) Hanging Parrot
Loriculus stigmatus stigmatus

Moluccan Hanging Parrot
Loriculus amabilis

PASSERIFORMES: Pittidae

Sulawesi Pitta
Erythropitta celebensis

Ivory-breasted Pitta
Pitta maxima maxima

PASSERIFORMES: Meliphagidae

Dusky Myzomela
Myzomela obscura simplex

Sulawesi Myzomela
Myzomela chloroptera chloroptera

Sulawesi Myzomela
Myzomela chloroptera jugala

Halamahera (White-streaked) Friarbird
Melitograis gilolensis
Lesser (Dark-eared) Myza  
Greater (White-eared) Myza

**PASSERIFORMES: Acanthisiidae**

Golden-bellied Gerygone

**PASSERIFORMES: Artamidae**

White-breasted Woodswallow
Ivory-backed Woodswallow

**PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae**

Moluccan Cuckooshrike
Cerulean Cuckooshrike
Pied Cuckooshrike
White-rumped Cuckooshrike
White-bellied Cuckooshrike
Halmahera Cuckooshrike
Pygmy Cuckooshrike
Wallacean (Common) Cicadabird
Sulawesi Cicadabird
Sulawesi (White-rumped) Triller
Lesueur’s (White-shouldered) Triller
Rufous-bellied Triller

**PASSERIFORMES: Pachycephalidae**

Maroon-backed Whistler
Sulphur-vented Whistler
Moluccan (Black-chinned) Whistler

**PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae**

Halmahera (Dusky-brown) Oriole
Black-naped Oriole

**PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae**

White-eyed Spangled (Hair-crested) Drongo
Sulawesi Spangled Drongo
Halmahera Spangled (Spangled) Drongo

**PASSERIFORMES: Rhipiduridae**

Willie Wagtail
Sulawesi (Rusty-bellied) Fantail
Sulawesi (Rusty-bellied) Fantail  
* *Rhipidura teysmanni toradja*

**PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae**

- Pale-blue Monarch  
  *Hypothymis puella puella*
- Wallacean (Spectacled) Monarch  
  *Symposiachrus trivirgatus bimaculatus*
- White-naped Monarch  
  *Carterornis pileatus pileatus*
- Moluccan Monarch (Flycatcher)  
  *Myiagra galeata galeata*
- Shining Monarch (Flycatcher)  
  *Myiagra alecto alecto*

**PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae**

- Sulawesi (Slender-billed) Crow  
  *Corvus enca celebensis*
- Piping Crow  
  *Corvus typicus*
- Long-billed Crow  
  *Corvus validus*
- Large-billed Crow  
  *Corvus macrorhynchos*

**PASSERIFORMES: Paradisaeidae**

- Halmahera Paradise-crow (Paradise-crow)  
  *Lycocorax (pyrrhopterus) pyrrhopterus*
- Wallace’s Standardwing  
  *Semioptera wallacii halmaherae*

**PASSERIFORMES: Hylocitreidae**

- Hylocitrea  
  *Hylocitrea bonensis bonensis*

**PASSERIFORMES: Stenostiridae**

- Citrine Canary Flycatcher  
  *Culicicapa helianthea helianthea*

**PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae**

- Sooty-headed Bulbul  
  *Pycnonotus aurigaster aurigaster?*
- Halmahera (Northern) Golden Bulbul  
  *Hypsipetes (Thapsinillas longirostris) chloris*

**PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae**

- Barn Swallow  
  *Hirundo rustica guttaralis*
- Pacific Swallow  
  *Hirundo tahitica javanica*

**PASSERIFORMES: Cettiidae**

- Mountain Leaftoiler (Tailorbird)  
  *Phyllergates cuculatus stentor*

**PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae**

- Sulawesi Leaf Warbler  
  *Phylloscopus (sarasinorum) nesophilus*
- Lompobattang (Sulawesi) Leaf Warbler  
  *Phylloscopus (sarasinorum) sarisinorum*
PASSERIFORMES: Acrocephalidae
Australasian (Clamorous) Reed Warbler  
*Acrocephalus (stentoreus) australis celebensis*

PASSERIFORMES: Locustellidae
Sulawesi Grashopper Warbler  
(Chestnut-backed Bush Warbler)  
*Locustella castanea catanea*

PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae
Zitting Cisticola  
*Cisticola junci constans*
Golden-headed Cisticola  
*Cisticola exilis rusticus*

PASSERIFORMES: Pellorneidae
Sulawesi Babbler  
*Trichastoma celebense celebense*
Sulawesi Babbler  
*Trichastoma celebense rufofuscum*

PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae
Sulawesi Heleia (Streak-headed White-eye)  
*Heleia (Lophozosterops) squamiceps striaticeps*
Sulawesi Heleia (Streak-headed White-eye)  
*Heleia (Lophozosterops) squamiceps squamiceps*
Mountain White-eye  
*Zosterops montanus montanus*
Lemon-bellied White-eye  
*Zosterops chloris mentoris*
Black-ringed White-eye  
*Zosterops anomalous*
Halmahera (Cream-throated) White-eye  
*Zosterops (atriceps) fuscifrons*
Black-crowned White-eye  
*Zosterops atrifrons surdus*
Black-crowned White-eye  
*Zosterops atrifrons atrifrons*

PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae
Metallic Starling  
*Aplonis metallica metallica*
Moluccan Starling  
*Aplonis mysolensis*
Short-tailed Starling  
*Aplonis minor minor*
Short-crested (Sulawesi) Myna  
*Basilornis celebensis*
White-necked Myna  
*Streptocitta albicollis torquata*
Flame-browed Myna (Fiery-browed Starling)  
*Enodes erythrophris*
Grosbeak Myna (Starling)  
*Scissirostrum dubium*

PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae
Red-backed Thrush  
*Geokichla erythronota erythronota*
Sulawesi Thrush  
*Cataponera turdoides abdita*

PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae
Sulawesi Streaked Flycatcher  
*Muscicap sodhii*
Sulawesi Jungle (Blue) Flycatcher  
*Cyornis amissus*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hoevell’s Warbling (Blue-fronted Blue) Flycatcher</td>
<td>Eumyias(Cyornis) hoevelli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matinan Warbling (Blue) Flycatcher</td>
<td>Eumyias (Cyornis) sanfordi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turquoise Warbling Flycatcher</td>
<td>Eumyias panayensis septentrionalis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turquoise Warbling Flycatcher</td>
<td>Eumyias panayensis meridionalis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heinrichia (Great Shortwing)</td>
<td>Heinrichia calligyna calligyna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowy-browed Flycatcher</td>
<td>Ficedula hyperythra jugosae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lompobattang Flycatcher</td>
<td>Ficedula bonthaina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Pied Flycatcher</td>
<td>Ficedula westermannii westermannni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pied Bushchat</td>
<td>Saxicola caprata albonotatus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Dicaeidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-sided Flowerpecker</td>
<td>Dicaeum aureolimbatum aureolimbatum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker</td>
<td>Dicaeum nehrkorni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halmahera Flowerpecker</td>
<td>Dicaeum schistaceiceps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey-sided Flowerpecker</td>
<td>Dicaeum celebicum celebicum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brown-throated Sunbird</td>
<td>Anthreptes malacensis celebensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Sunbird</td>
<td>Leptocoma aspasia grayi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Sunbird</td>
<td>Leptocoma aspasia auriceps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sahul (Olive-backed) Sunbird</td>
<td>Cinnyris (jugularis) clementiae plateni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sahul (Olive-backed) Sunbird</td>
<td>Cinnyris (jugularis) clementiae frenatus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crimson Sunbird</td>
<td>Aethopyga sifara beccarii</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eurasian Tree Sparrow</td>
<td>Passer montanus malaccensis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Ploceidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Streaked Weaver</td>
<td>Ploceus manyar manyar?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue-faced Parrotfinch</td>
<td>Erythrura trichroa sanfordi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-faced Munia</td>
<td>Lonchura molucca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scaly-breasted Munia</td>
<td>Lonchura punctulata particeps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-headed (Chestnut) Munia</td>
<td>Lonchura atricapilla jagori</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pale-headed Munia</td>
<td>Lonchura pallida</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Yellow Wagtail</td>
<td>Motacilla tschutschensis tschutschensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey Wagtail</td>
<td>Motacilla cinerea cinerea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OTHER SPECIES RECORDED

Great Cuckoo Dove Heard
Nicobar Pigeon Very brief, untickable views
Oriental Cuckoo Leader only
(Moluccan) Drongo Cuckoo Heard
Invisible Rail Heard
Rufous-winged Buzzard One observer only
Small Sparrowhawk Leader only
Moluccan Scops Owl Heard
Azure Dollarbird Very distant, untickable views
Pygmy Hanging Parrot Several brief flyovers, untickable views
Yellow-vented Bulbul Leader only
North Moluccan Leaf Warbler Heard
Gray’s Grasshopper Warbler Heard
Java Sparrow One observer only
Red-throated Pipit Heard
Indonesian Serin Heard

MAMMALS

Mountain Bear Cuscus *Ailurops (ursinus) furvus* - One seen and photographed at Lore Lindu National Park. Handbook of the Mammals of the World elevates subspecies furvus to species level.
Common Bear Cuscus *Ailurops ursinus* - One seen well, high in a tree, at the car park entrance to Tangkoko Forest Reserve.
Sulawesi Dwarf Cuscus *Strigocuscus celebensis* - One seen at very close range along a forest trail at Tangkoko.
Whitish Dwarf Squirrel *Prosciurillus leucornus* - Fairly common at Tangkoko.
Sulawesi Pygmy Squirrel *Prosciurillus murinus* - A few of these tiny squirrels at Lore Lindu National Park.
Montane Long-nosed Squirrel *Hyosciurus heinrichi* – At least one on the Anaso track, Lore Lindu.
Spectral Tarsier *Tarsius spectrum* – One seen incredibly well and at least two more hiding with a tree at Tangkoko.
Sulawesi Crested Macaque *Macaca nigra* – Many of these at very close range at Tangkoko. Obviously very used to humans.
Tonkean Macaque *Macaca tonkeana* – A small group in the trees along the road in the low areas at Lore Lindu National park.