

SULAWESI & HALMAHERA 2012

7th – 27th September

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Either for rarity value, excellent views or simply a group favourite.

- Sulawesi Honey-buzzard •
- Sulawesi Serpent-eagle
- Spot-tailed Goshawk
- Small Sparrowhawk
- Sulawesi Hawk-eagle
- Oriental Hobby
- Moluccan Scrubfowl
- Maleo
- Red-backed Buttonquail
- Isabelline Bush-hen
- Sulawesi Black Pigeon

- Scarlet-breasted Fruit-dove
- Cinnamon-bellied Imperial-pigeon
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- Ornate Lorikeet
- White Cockatoo
- Great-billed Parrot
- Bay Coucal
- Minahassa Masked Owl
- Ochre-bellied Boobook
- Satanic Nightjar
- Lilac-cheeked Kingfisher
- Scaly Kingfisher

- Purple-bearded Bee-eater
- Purple-winged Roller
- Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbill
- Ivory-breasted Pitta
- Wallace's Standardwing
- Geomalia
- Red-backed Thrush
- Ivory-backed Woodswallow
- Sulawesi Crested Myna
 - White-streaked Friarbird
 - Hylocitrea

SUMMARY:

Our second tour to these endemic-rich and bird-filled islands, once again, proved to be very successful with 255 species seen – and more importantly, 108 were endemics. This was a superb tour with so many highlights it is difficult to know where to begin, however how can you beat seeing the fabulous Wallace's Standardwing, one of the

most bizarre Birds-of-Paradise? There was also Geomalia, walk-away views of lvory-breasted Pitta, the extraordinary Maleo, 7 species of owl, Satanic Nightjar, 24 species of Columbidae, 16 species of *psittacidae*, 13 kingfishers and so many other endemics. We have many happy memories from such an adventurous tour and look forward to returning in the future.



The stunning Green-backed Kingfisher - Tambun 2012

Days 1 - 2 7th to 8th September

Following our overnight flight from London to Dubai with Emirates Airlines we eventually arrived at Jakarta close to midnight. Following the usual immigration checks we transferred to a nearby hotel for the night.

Day 3 Sunday 9th September

The internal flight to Palu was delayed slightly (as usual) allowing us to find the endemic Javan Munia around the airport complex and we arrived mid-afternoon where we met our guide and good friend Royke Mananta. After loading the luggage onto our three vehicles we set off on the long drive to Lore Lindu, stopping along the way amidst an area of low scrub and rice paddies to take a look at a couple of roosting **Savannah Nightjars**. It was really nice to be out birding and we pretty quickly notched up Little Bronze Cuckoo, Lemon-bellied White-eye, Grey-sided Flowerpecker, White-shouldered Triller, Olive-backed Sunbird and both Sulawesi and Uniform Swiftlets. Nearby, we had a look at several Pale-headed Munias, and also picked up Chestnut and Scaly-breasted Munias, White-breasted Woodswallow, Purple Heron and managed to flush a pair of Rufous-backed Buttonguails. All too brief views of Large Sulawesi Hanging-parrot and Brown Cuckoo-dove were rather frustrating, but we'd have to save those for later! Moving on we slowly wound our way up into the hills and drove the last few hours in the dark, which enabled us to make our first attempt at **Cinnabar Boobook**. Despite luring one in and hearing its distinctive call we just couldn't manage to find it in the spotlight so had to drag ourselves away and head to the Sendy Inn near Wuasa Village where we'd be staying for the next four nights.

Day 4 Monday 10th September

A day of surprises lay in store for us today, beginning with a new trail that Royke has discovered and which turned up a number of excellent birds. We had great luck in seeing 23 endemics along this trail which meandered along the edge of the forest and we began with a fine trio of **Crimson-crowned**, **Yellow-sided** and **Grey-sided Flowerpeckers**, several **Grey-**



Black-fronted White-eye - Lore Lindu 2012

cheeked Green-pigeons, a close perched White-bellied Imperial-pigeon, Sulawesi Serpent-eagle, Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher and Yellow-vented Whistler. The trail from here crossed an area of damp woodland and clearings and we picked our way along on wooden planks that had been carefully placed so we wouldn't sink into the mud. Some brave souls had donned wellingtons for the walk...... We spent some time scanning the flocks of Grosbeak Mynas and soon found lots of Fiery-browed Mynas, but best of all were several groups of Sulawesi Crested Mynas flying by and landing in some tall, dead trees. Although a pair of Knobbed Hornbills slowly flying across the hillside was also very nice and we could hear the sound of the wind rushing through their immense wings.

Once the trail entered the forest we found our first **Black-fronted White-eye**, and then more endemics appeared with **Slender-billed Cuckoo-dove**, **Large Sulawesi Hanging-parrot**, **Yellow-billed Malkoha**, **Pale-blue Monarch**, **Rusty-bellied Fantail**, **Sulawesi Honeybuzzard**, **Sulawesi Drongo** and **Cerulean Cuckooshrike**. A fruiting tree held a couple of Black-naped and a Superb Fruit-dove, although our views of a male of the latter species were stunning a little later in the morning. A spot of raptor watching proved worthwhile and yielded Sulawesi Hawk-eagle, Rufous-bellied Eagle, and another Sulawesi Honeybuzzard. A nice cup of coffee was well deserved upon reaching our waiting vehicles and then we birded a short distance along the road in the heat of late morning which seemed like madness. But only until at least three endemic Ivory-backed Woodswallows were scoped on the forested hillside opposite us. Wow! A male Sulawesi Cicadabird was also much appreciated but we had to retreat to the relative comfort of our hotel and lunch, followed by a short siesta. In the afternoon we drove up higher to Lake Tambing where a walk along the concrete path produced nice views of a pair of superb Blue-fronted Flycatchers, Piping Crow, flocks of Yellow-and-green Lorikeets, Black-billed Koel, Rusty-breasted Cuckoo and a typically skulking Chestnut-backed Bush-warbler. Across the road we made our first attempt at Great Shortwing which only called back from the dense forest, but a showy Snowy-browed Flycatcher came as a little compensation.

As the light began to fade we stopped for coffee before beginning our evening owling session which got off to a good start with nice views of **Cinnabar Hawk-owl**. We then drove down into the lowlands and tried to call in **Sulawesi Masked Owl** which failed to respond apart from calling back briefly. However a **Speckled Boobook** began calling and was eventually spotlighted high in the canopy beside the road to round off an excellent day's birding.

Day 5 Tuesday 11th September

We spent the day birding along the road and around Lake Tambing and found the birding a little slow today as we made numerous attempts either side of lunch for **Great Shortwing**. Our first attempt gave some of the group a decent view as it appeared behind some ferns and onto an area of mossy forest floor. A **Chestnut-backed Bush-warbler** was almost constantly on view and produced numerous close views which were quite misleading at times! Then a group of **Malias** appeared and showed well, followed by a superb **Ashy Woodpecker** as well. As some of the group kept on trying various sites for the shortwing, the rest of us birded from the road and had a **Black Eagle**, David spotted a **Small Sparrowhawk**, **Slender-billed Cuckoo-dove**, **Superb Fruit-dove** and **Rusty-breasted Cuckoo** amongst others. A nice roadside flock also held **Sulawesi Leaf-warbler**, **Cerulean Cuckooshrike** and our first

Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker.

As we returned to the lake area after lunch at the hotel, we had a **Spotted Kestrel** perched on a dead tree giving really nice views. There was also **Black-billed Koel**, **Snowybrowed** and **Little Pied Flycatchers** amongst others. But most of the afternoon session was again spent on finding **Great Shortwing** and when a random bit of tape playing got a response we were lucky to find a trail leading inside the forest. After quite some time and a huge dose of patience we enjoyed repeated views of an



Our rustic lodge at Lore Lindu

individual that circled us as if by magic but would cross the path in front of us a few times allowing everyone to get onto it. As we waited for the light to drop we enjoyed a nice cup of coffee and then spent ages trying to find at least two calling **Sulawesi Scops-owls** that never came in quite far enough to be seen in the dense roadside forest.

Day 6 Wednesday 12th September

Following a very early breakfast we drove 45 minutes to the start of the famous Anaso Track and began our ascent in search of some very special birds. The beginning of the walk was undertaken in the dark but as the day dawned clear yet again, the forest came alive with birdsong. There was nothing new however, until we spotted a **Red-eared Fruit-dove** feeding on some berries at the top of a tree and followed this with brief views of **Spot-tailed Goshawk** perched beside the trail. But it's about 3km to the **Diabolical Nightjar** site from the road and we didn't waste any time in walking up to the small plateau area, and sure enough we had crippling views of this much-wanted endemic in the morning sunshine.



Diabolical or Satanic Nightjar - Anaso Track 2012

It's uphill all the way to the top of the mountain and another 3km or so, but we took our time and found a number of goodies such as Small Sparrowhawk, flyover Golden-mantled Racquet-tails, Sulawesi Myzomela, Greater Sulawesi Honeyeater and Sulawesi Leaf-warbler. Pride of place went to a pair of Purplebearded Bee-eaters perched over the trail and we watched them in perfect light as they hawked for insects right in front of us. As we approached our lunch stop we made a couple of attempts at the always tricky

Maroon-backed Whistler which gave several very brief views allowing some of the group to get onto it. A flyover White-bellied Sea Eagle was a surprise as we checked out the highest area for Mountain Serin, a number of which were seen flying over at various stages today. A couple of Grey-headed Imperial-pigeons were seen here as well, including one sat on a nest and a few Streak-headed Dark-eyes were also found. However the undoubted highlight of the day happened after lunch and on our return to the same spot after our excursion to the top of the mountain. Firstly, a small flock was seen beside the path and scanning through this finally revealed our one and only Hylocitrea of the trip, after much searching and sweating over this bird it was a total relief! As we enjoyed repeated views of this bird, Royke said the local guide accompanying us had seen a Geomalia close by inside the forest. So after all the waiting and watching along the trail we had already done for this species we were not too hopeful of seeing it to say the least. Yet you just never know in birding and amazingly most of us who attempted the walk over fallen trees and tree roots were rewarded with varying degrees of views. Amazing! So on that note we headed back down to our waiting vehicles, seeing another Purple-bearded Bee-eater, and a much needed cup of coffee and a cracking slice of cake!

Other endemics seen today included Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker, Yellow-billed Malkoha, Great Shortwing, Cerulean Cuckooshrike, Sulawesi Cicadabird, Malia, Bluefronted Flycatcher, Rusty-bellied Fantail, Fiery-browed Myna and Sulawesi Drongo.

Day 7 Thursday 13th September

Another early start saw us back at the lake at first light in search of the last couple of endemics we still needed for this area. Almost immediately we were enjoying close views of several **Sulawesi Babblers** creeping around the vines of some trees beside the path on the way down to the lake. A quick scan of the lakeside vegetation revealed **Small Sparrowhawk**, **Streak-headed Dark-eye**, **Black-fronted** and **Mountain White-eyes** and **Short-tailed Starling**. We then spent the next few hours along the road, trying to find some flocks with anything new in them, and managed to get better views of **Ashy Woodpecker** and **Sulawesi Leaf-warbler** than we'd had before. There were more **Superb Fruit-doves**, **Fiery-browed Starlings**, **Cerulean Cuckooshrike**, **Piping Crow** and others but time passed all too soon and we had to leave and head back down into the heat of the lowlands and a lunch stop in Palu before taking the late afternoon flight to Makassar.

Day 8 Friday 14th September

An hour's drive saw us reach Karaenta Forest at first light and it wasn't long before we were

watching the extremely localised endemic Black-ringed White-eye. It was really nice to get the target bird so quickly and have prolonged and close views which was much appreciated by everyone. Leaving here we called into the Makassar Fish Ponds where we spent an enjoyable couple of hours scanning the area for waders. Pride of place went to Broadbilled Sandpiper and Grey-tailed Tattler, but there was also 20+ Longtoed Stints and lots of Red-necked Stints, White-headed Stilts, both Greater and Lesser Sandplovers, and a few Terek Sandpipers. Several Clamorous Reed-warblers and flocks of Whiskered Terns provided a distraction



Black-ringed White-eye - Karaenta Forest 2012

before we left and drove to an area for **Javan Sparrow** and then a mad dash to the airport for an early afternoon flight to Manado and then a 5 hour drive to Kota Mogabu where we would be staying for the next 3 nights. Phew...!

Day 9 Saturday 15th September

We spent the day hiking up into the hills for a couple of highly prized endemics, and after several hours of searching we had nice looks at **Scaly Kingfisher** and **Matinan Flycatcher**. There were plenty of other birds about and we spent some time enjoying the birds before returning to our superb hotel a little earlier than usual for a rest before dinner.

Day 10 Sunday 16th September

An exciting day lay in store for us as we headed to the famous **Maleo** site at Tambun, arriving as the sun's rays began to light the hillside above us and enjoyed several **Great Eared Nightjars** hawking for insects above us. After last year's protracted two day search I wasn't sure what to expect, but having walked maybe 30 yards into the reserve - seeing a pair of **Maleos** in the tree above us certainly wasn't high on the list of possibilities! Totally unbelievable and then to be able to watch one for the next 20 minutes really took the biscuit. That left us a couple of hours of nice, general birding when we could enjoy our first **White-necked Myna** and **Green-backed Kingfisher** to the full. Other birds here were all common things such as **Grosbeak Myna**, **Hair-crested Drongo**, **Slender-billed Cuckoo-dove**, although the local race of **Imperial Green-pigeon** was rather nice and a flyby **Stephan's Dove** was also new.

We left here and drove to Dumoga Bone passing rice fields full of egrets and stopping to look at **Barred Rail**, **Black Eagle**, **Little Pied Cormorant**, **Oriental Hobby**, **Large Sulawesi**



Speckled Boobook - Dumoga Bone 2012

Hanging-parrot, Purple Needletail and Slender-billed Crow amongst others. Upon arrival at Dumoga Bone National Park we crossed the river on a bamboo raft and followed the trails for a couple of hours, and despite the heat managed to pull out Pied Cuckooshrike and Sulawesi Triller from a flock of Grosbeak Mynas, Black-naped Oriole and other common birds. A Bay Coucal proved too fleeting a glimpse to make it onto our lists though and we also saw a Crimson Sunbird in the same bush as a family of Yellowsided Flowerpeckers.

After an excellent lunch and siesta we paid our respects to the roosting **Speckled Bobook** in the nearby abandoned house, scoped a cracking pair of **Knobbed Hornbills** from the car park and returned across the river. Unfortunately the heavens opened and we got soaked again, but did see a pair of **Sunda Teal** on the river, **Silver-tipped Imperial-pigeon**, **Blue-backed Parrot** and a brief **Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbill**. The rain eased at dusk and as we made our way back to the river a **Sulawesi Masked Owl** began calling and we had a couple of flybys from this little beauty and heard several **Sulawesi Scops-owls** which didn't cooperate with us at all.

Day 11 Monday 17th September

We went back into the wonderful forest of Dumoga Bone this morning with the intention of catching up with **Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbill** which has been a rather tricky species to find this year. After last night's brief silhouetted flight views it was a real pleasure to get a pair perched up in the scope this morning. We also eventually found an **Oberholser's Fruit-dove** (a recent split from Maroon-chinned Fruit-dove) in a large fruiting tree, in company with numerous **Grey-cheeked Green-pigeons** and **Green Imperial-pigeons**. There was also **Sulawesi Serpent-eagle**, the endemic **Bay Coucal** and **Yellow-billed Malkoha**, as well as some

superfast **Purple Needletails** zooming down to the river to drink. On return to the lodge a **Spotted Harrier** was seen flying overhead,

After lunch we drove towards Minado and took a side road where we parked up in a small village and waited until dusk when a **Minahassa Masked Owl** flew over calling.

Day 12 Tuesday 18th September

After a leisurely and rather late breakfast we drove to Tangkoko and stopped at the viewpoint where we spent most of the morning. The view from here is quite splendid and enabled us to scan the canopy along the valley and we quickly picked up a couple of **Ornate Lorikeets**, followed by both **Large** and **Small Sulawesi Hanging-parrots**. A **Black-naped Fruit-dove** was picked up by Nigel and Stuart found a **White-necked Myna**. All the time we were surrounded by **Sulawesi** and **Glossy Swiftlets**. A steady passage of **Chinese Goshawks** was taking place and we had eye-level views of them flying through the valley, along with a **Sulawesi Goshawk** and **Sulawesi Honey-buzzard**, and eventually a **Sulawesi Hawk-eagle** was found. Leaving here we drove just down the road to our lodge where we spent a leisurely lunchtime before heading into the forest.

What an afternoon session it turned out to be with at least 8 Green-backed Kingfishers

seen, and as we walked up the track into the dry forest we found a wonderful **Red-backed Thrush** feeding in the leaf litter. Lower down a couple of **Lilac-cheeked Kingfishers** showed very well and we spent some time observing them. But after all of our hard work with owls over the previous nights it was a stunningly huge relief to finally see a pair of **Sulawesi Scops-owls** at their day roost, and an **Ochre-bellied Boobook** was also seen at its roost. We ended the day hearing **Sulawesi Nightjar** before returning to our lodge.



Sulawesi Scops-owls - Tangkoko 2012

Day 13 Wednesday 19th September

First light saw us carefully scanning a narrow creek in search of **Ruddy Kingfisher** which failed to materialise, so we headed out on a long walk through the dry forest, getting a brief flyover from a pair of **White-rumped Cuckooshrikes**. Amazingly we came across a pair of roosting **Ochre-bellied Boobooks** which were totally unfazed by us. Another roosting **Sulawesi Scops-owl** was also found, just to make a mockery of our lengthy night-time attempts earlier in the trip. One of the highlights of the morning was watching a male **Knobbed Hornbill** bringing fruit into its walled up female in a tall tree, and we could just see her moving around in the narrow slit of dried mud... A pair of **Purple-winged Rollers** gave tantalising brief views flying over the canopy above, a **White-necked Myna** showed well, as did a confiding **Yellow-breasted Racquet-tail**, and a Stephan's Dove flew by.

A troop of **Sulawesi Crested Macaques** provided some non-avian interest as we walked back down to the creek where one of the park rangers had found a pair of **Ruddy Kingfishers** which gave nice views. On the way back to the lodge we took a diversion and followed a new trail in search of **Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher** but we failed to locate, although a pair of **Ivory-backed Woodswallows** were rather nice.

During lunch a **Ruddy Kingfisher** was found by one of the lodge's staff along the narrow stream behind our bungalows and this one was very confiding and was absolutely beautiful, showing its lilac mantle to good effect in the shadows. After lunch we were back in the forest, this time nailing the **Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher**, as well as having seconds of **Red-backed Thrush**. As usual there were numerous **Green-backed** and **Lilac-cheeked Kingfishers** to keep us occupied throughout the day.

Day 14 Thursday 20th September

We headed over to the mangroves in some small boats this morning which made for a pleasant change from forest birding and passed a **Sulawesi Goshawk** and **Eastern Osprey** along the way. Upon entering a narrow channel into the mangroves, several **Pink-necked Green-pigeons** were seen, along with **Dollarbird** and for some people a **Small Sulawesi Hanging-parrot**. It took a couple of trips along the channel to the end and back again before

we nailed Great-billed Kingfisher, a hulking Sulawesi endemic. After a very fast flypast we had two views of a perched bird, giving great looks and much appreciated by everyone. Leaving here we sailed back to the forest, passing a **Blue Rock Thrush** along the way and then spent the next couple of hours searching for **Red-bellied Pitta**, but there just weren't any about. A fine **Red-backed Thrush** was outshone by a pair of **Purple-winged Rollers** but apart from that the forest was very quiet. A brief stab at Sulawesi Nightiar on the way back to the lodge resulted in a quick flight view but by late morning the temperature was soaring and we were in need of some cold drinks!



Great-billed Kingfisher - Tangkoko 2012

We spent the afternoon at the viewpoint scanning the treetops across the valley which were literally brimming with birds. Exceptionally confiding **Golden-mantled** and **Yellow-breasted Racquet-tails** were feeding in some close trees, whilst flocks of **Ornate Lorikeets** wheeled around below us. A **Moluccan Red Lory** was something of a surprise and was undoubtedly an escape, but a **Blue-backed Parrot** was more at home here. There were lots of fruiting trees attracting numerous **Green**, **Grey-headed**, **White-bellied** and **Silver-tipped Imperial-pigeons**, and a fine adult **Rufous-bellied Eagle** was seen. But it wasn't until late afternoon that we eventually found a group of 6 **Sulawesi Black Pigeons** feeding quietly in a fruiting tree. As the light fell a **Sulawesi Nightjar** began calling and gave another brief flyby.

Day 15 Friday 21st September

Another early start saw us bid farewell to our wonderful hosts and spend a little time back up on the ridge, which gave us further views of all the usual species. Then we drove to Manado and took the 45 minute flight to the island of Ternate where we hopped into some taxis which took us down to the seafront. Here we boarded a speedboat and set off across the channel that separates Sulawesi from Halmahera, seeing Great Crested Tern, Lesser Frigatebird and a few **Red-necked Phalaropes**. As we approached Halmahera the boat slowed down and cruised close to the Mangroves where we found at least 4 Beach Kingfishers before reaching the tiny harbour at Sidangoli. Upon landing we were aware of many locals congregating to take a look at these strange visitors before driving just a few minutes away and our accommodation for the next few nights. After a siesta we drove into the hills and scored with our first endemics on this new island with Moluccan Goshawk, Grey-faced Fruit-dove, White Cockatoo and Black-chinned Golden Whistler. Numerous Blyth's Hornbills were seen and giving some impressively close flybys and one male was even seen visiting its nesting hole and feeding the female walled up inside. A pair of Eclectus Parrots showed well from our viewpoint and were seen mobbing a White Cockatoo at one stage. As dusk fell we managed to finally call in an owl quite quickly, when a **Moluccan Scops-owl** was spotlighted beside the road.

Day 16 Saturday 22nd September

We spent the day birding various sites from the road, with a break in the early afternoon back at the hotel in Sidangoli. At first light we were scanning from the top of a hill and had our first **Cream-throated White-eyes**, as well as a **Red-cheeked Parrot**, **Halmahera Swiftlet**, **Blueand-white Kingfisher**, **Scarlet-breasted Fruit-dove**, **Slaty Flycatcher**, **Northern Golden Bulbul**, **Halmahera Cuckooshrike**, **White-streaked Friarbird**, **Paradise Crow** and a pair of **Rufous-bellied Trillers**. But most of the morning was spent on our quest to find **Ivory-**



Ivory-breasted Pitta - Halmahera 2012

breasted Pitta, and our first attempt to lure in a calling bird failed miserably. But there were plenty of other calling birds along this stretch of forest and on entering a different site we sat quietly on a small hill from where we could scan a narrow gulley below us. Once everyone was settled a short burst form the ipod got an immediate response quite a way off into the forest opposite us. Then a short while later it called closer and we then heard its noisy wingbeats as it flew off to our left, and was seen by some of the group. Over the course of the next hour or so we had

plenty of views, initially of one bird skulking in the gulley below us, then working its way up the hillside off to our right and eventually perched up in the canopy from where it called repeatedly and was quite bold as it allowed us to work our way across the noisy leaf litter to get better and better views. All you can say is "wow"!!

In the afternoon we drove further along the road and found a **Sombre Kingfisher** being mobbed by a pair of **Slaty Flycatchers**, **Metallic Starling**, **Grey-throated Goshawk**, lots more **Blyth's Hornbills**, **Moustached Treeswift** and **Moluccan Imperial-pigeon**, before heading back to the hotel at a reasonable time for dinner.

Day 17 Sunday 23rd September

It only took just over a couple of hours to reach the **Wallace's Standardwing** lek site before dawn, and despite an awkward trail and a shallow river crossing everyone made it safely! Along the way we had put the spotlight on roosting **Black-chinned Golden Whistler** and **Common Paradise-kingfisher**. As the day dawned we had pretty decent views of a displaying male standardwing in the mid-canopy which remained on view for half an hour.....

It was extremely hot this morning and the extra bottles of water we carried were certainly necessary, but this didn't seem to deter the birds and we saw plenty of goodies such as a **Dusky-brown Oriole** perched in a bare tree, had a brief view of **Moluccan Cuckooshrike** for some of the group, both **White-naped** and the recently split **Moluccan Monarchs**, and a superb **Cinnamon-bellied Imperial-pigeon**.

In the afternoon we drove to a new site and spent most of the time watching a huge tree beside the road which held **Pied Imperial-pigeon**, a pair of **Pacific Bazas**, **Spotted Kestrel** and a flock of **Moluccan Starlings**. Then a pair of **Ornate Lorikeets** flew into their nest hole and finally a pair of **Great-billed Parrots** flew in and gave great views as they fed, preened and mated whilst we watched avidly in the scope. Sounds kind of wrong really! But from our vantage point at the top of a steep hill we had eye-level views of all these birds and spent over an hour watching all of the activity. Also had **Rufous-bellied Triller**, **Blue-and-white Kingfisher**, and a few **Grey-throated Goshawks** here as well.

Day 18 Monday 24th September

Another foray along the road produced a few more new birds this morning, with **Dusky Scrubfowl**, **Red-flanked Lorikeet**, **White-bellied Cuckooshrike** and cracking views of **Blue-capped Fruit-dove**, as well as a few more common birds. After lunch we drove the 4 hours north to Tobelo where we made a night-time excursion about an hour or so away from the town. Here we walked for 20 minutes through the forest to the coast and boarded a small dugout canoe that took us along a narrow channel to a secluded beach. Our luck was really in tonight as within 10 minutes we were watching the main prize here, a **Moluccan Scrubfowl** in the spotlight for several minutes. Wow!

Day 19 Tuesday 25th September

After a night of 'aircon' and a lie-in we drove to a nearby forest and finally managed to nail **Halmahera Flowerpecker** and **Moluccan Hanging-parrot**, and also had a brief view of a **Great Cuckoo-dove** and a pair of **Gurney's Eagles** before it got way too hot to hang around and we headed back to town for lunch. In the afternoon we drove back down the island and headed to our site for some late afternoon birding close to Sidangoli. Along the way we passed a scenic bay where loads of **Lesser Frigatebirds** were following a flock of terns that comprised **Gull-billed**, **Roseate**, **Black-naped** and **Great Crested**. We then spent several

hours chasing **Moluccan Owlet-nightjar** and despite getting very close to a calling bird the forest was just too dense to catch site of it and we had to leave around 9pm to get our dinner.

Day 20 Wednesday 26th September

A last spot of birding from the viewpoint resulted in a perched **Moluccan Goshawk**, **Cinnamon-bellied Imperial-pigeon**, and nice views of a **White-naped Monarch** before we had to leave and return to the hotel for breakfast. We then packed our bags and loaded the luggage into the cars and headed down to the small quay from where a speedboat took us back across to the island of Ternate. An afternoon flight took us to Jakarta and our onward international flight home, eventually arriving home on Day 21

Nick Bray.



Ochre-bellied Boobooks - Tangkoko 2012

BIRDLIST FOR SULAWESI & HALMAHERA SEPTEMBER 2012

	SPECIES		SCIENTIFIC NAME
	S = Endemic to Sulawesi Region		
	M = Endemic to Moluccas		
1.	Lesser Frigatebird		Fregata ariel
	Great Frigatebird – single observer only		Fregata minor
2.	Little Pied Cormorant		Phalacrocorax melanoleucos
3.	Oriental Darter		Anhinga melanogaster
4.	Brown Booby		Sula leucogaster
5.	Great-billed Heron		Ardea sumatrana
6.	Purple Heron		Ardea purpurea
7.	'Eastern' Great Egret		Ardea alba modesta
8.	Intermediate Egret		Ardea intermedia
9.	Little Egret		Egretta garzetta
10.	Pacific Reef Egret		Egretta sacra
11.	Eastern Cattle Egret		Bubulcus coromandus
12.	Javan Pond-heron		Ardeola speciosa
13.	Striated Heron		Butorides striatus
14.	Cinnamon Bittern		Ixobrychus cinnamomeus
15.	Eastern Osprey		Pandion cristatus
16.	Pacific Baza		Aviceda subcristata rufa
17.	Sulawesi Honey-buzzard	S	Pernis celebensis
18.	Brahminy Kite		Haliastur indus
19.	White-bellied Sea-eagle		Haliaeetus leucogaster
20.	Sulawesi Serpent-eagle	S	Spilornis rufipectus
21.	Spotted Harrier		Circus assimilis
22.	Chinese Goshawk		Accipiter soloensis
23.	Sulawesi Goshawk	S	Accipiter griseiceps
24.	Spot-tailed Goshawk	S	Accipiter trinotatus
25.	Grey-throated Goshawk	Μ	Accipiter griseogularis
26.	Moluccan Goshawk	Μ	Accipiter henicogrammus
27.	Small Sparrowhawk	S	Accipiter nanus
28.	Black Eagle		Ictinaetus malayensis
29.	Gurney's Eagle		Aquila gurneyi
30.	Rufous-bellied Eagle		Hieraaetus kienerii
31.	Sulawesi Hawk-eagle	S	Nisaetus lanceolatus
32.	Spotted Kestrel		Falco moluccensis
33.	Oriental Hobby		Falco severus
34.	Wandering Whistling-Duck		Dendrocygna arcuata
35.	Sunda Teal		Anas gibberifrons
36.	Philippine (Tabon) Megapode		Megapodius cumingii gilberti
37.	Dusky (Scrubfowl) Megapode		Megapodius freycinet
38.	Moluccan (Scrubfowl) Megapode		Eulipoa wallacei

39.	Maleo S	5	Macrocephalon maleo
40.	Red-backed Buttonquail		Turnix maculosa
41.	Barred Rail		Gallirallus torquatus
42.	White-browed Crake		Porzana cinerea
43.	Isabelline Bush-hen	5	Amaurornis isabellinus
44.	White-breasted Waterhen		Amaurornis phoenicurus
45.	Common Moorhen		Gallinula chloropus
46.	Dusky Moorhen		Gallinula tenebrosa
47.	Purple Swamphen		Porphyrio p. melanopterus
48.	White-headed Stilt		Himantopus leucocephalus
49.	Pacific Golden Plover		Pluvialis fulva
50.	Little Ringed Plover		Charadrius dubius
51.	Greater Sandplover		Charadrius leschenaultii
52.	Lesser Sandplover		Charadrius m. mongolus
53.	Whimbrel		Numenius phaeopus variegatus
54.	Bar-tailed Godwit		Limosa lapponica
55.	Common Redshank		Tringa totanus
56.	Common Greenshank		Tringa nebularia
57.	Wood Sandpiper		Tringa glareola
58.	Terek Sandpiper		Xenus cinereus
59.	Common Sandpiper		Actitis hypoleucos
60.	Grey-tailed Tattler		Tringa brevipes
61.	Red-necked Stint		Calidris ruficollis
62.	Long-toed Stint		Calidris subminuta
63.	Curlew Sandpiper		Calidris ferruginea
64.	Broad-billed Sandpiper		Limicola falcinellus
65.	Red-necked Phalarope		Phalaropus lobatus
66.	Whiskered Tern		Chlidonias hybridus
67.	Gull-billed Tern		Sterna nilotica
68.	Black-naped Tern		Sterna sumatrana
69.	Roseate Tern		Sterna dougallii
	Bridled Tern - leader only		Sterna anaethetus
70.	Little Tern		Sterna albifrons
71.	Greater Crested Tern		Sterna bergii
72.	Rock (Feral) Dove		Columba livia
73.	Red Collared Dove		Streptopelia tranquebarica
74.	Spotted Dove		Streptopelia chinensis
75.	Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove		Macropygia a. albicapilla
76.	Slender-billed Cuckoo Dove		Macropygia a. albiceps
77.	Great Cuckoo Dove		Reinwardtoena reinwardtii
78.		S	Turacoena manadensis
79.	Emerald Dove		Chalcophaps indica
80.	Stephan's Dove		Chalcophaps stephani
81.	Pink-necked Green-pigeon		Treron vernans
82.	Grey-cheeked Green-pigeon		Treron griseicauda
83.	Red-eared Fruit Dove		Ptilinopus fischeri
84.		S	Ptilinopus epius
85.	Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove	Л	Ptilinopus bernsteinii
86.	Superb Fruit Dove		Ptilinopus superbus temminckii

87.	Blue-capped Fruit Dove	М	Ptilinopus monacha
88.	Grey-headed Fruit Dove	M	Ptilinopus hyogaster
89.	Black-naped Fruit Dove		Ptilinopus melanospila
90.	White-bellied Imperial-pigeon	S	Ducula forsteni
91.	Grey-headed Imperial-pigeon	S	Ducula radiata
92.	Green Imperial-pigeon		Ducula aenea paulina
93.	Spectacled Imperial-pigeon	М	Ducula perspicillata
94.	Cinnamon-bellied Imperial-pigeon	Μ	Ducula basilica
95.	Pied Imperial-pigeon		Ducula bicolor bicolor
96.	Silver-tipped Imperial-pigeon	S	Ducula luctuosa S
97.	Violet-necked Lory		Eos squamata riciniata
98.	Ornate Lorikeet	S	Trichoglossus ornatus
99.	Yellow-and-green Lorikeet	S	Trichoglossus flavoviridis
100.	Chattering Lory	Μ	Lorius garrulus garrulus
101.	Red-flanked Lorikeet		Charmosyna placentis
102.	White Cockatoo	М	Cacatua alba
103.	Eclectus Parrot		Elclectus roratus vosmaeri
104.	Red-cheeked Parrot		Geoffroyus geoffroyi cyanicollis
101.	Yellow-breasted Racquet-tail	S	Prioniturus flavicans
105.	Golden-mantled Racquet-tail	S	Prioniturus platurus
107.	Blue-backed (Azure-rumped) Parrot	-	Tanygnathus sumatranus
107.	Great-billed Parrot		Tanygnathus megalorynchos
	Great Hanging Parrot	S	Loriculus stigmatus
	Moluccan Hanging Parrot	M	Loriculus amabilis
111.	Pygmy Hanging Parrot	S	Loriculus exilis
111.	Plaintive Cuckoo - heard only	-	Cacomantis merulinus
112.	Rusty-breasted Cuckoo		Cacomantis sepulcralis
113.	Little Bronze Cuckoo		Chrysococcyx minutillus
	Black-billed Koel	S	Eudynamys melanorhyncha
115.	Yellow-billed Malkoha	S	Phaenicophaeus calyorhynchus
116.	Goliath Coucal	Μ	Centropus goliath
117.	Lesser Coucal		Centropus bengalensis
118.	Bay Coucal	S	Centropus celebensis
119.	Sulawesi Masked Owl	S	Tyto rosenbergii rosenbergii
	Minahassa Masked Owl	S	Tyto inexspectata
121.	Sulawesi Scops-owl	S	Otus manadensis
122.	Moluccan Scops-owl		Otus magicus leucospilus
123.	Cinnabar Boobook	S	Ninox ios
124.	Ochre-bellied Boobook	S	Ninox ochracea
125.	Speckled Boobook	S	Ninox punctulata
	Moluccan Owlet Nightjar - heard only	Μ	Aegotheles crinifrons
126.	Satanic (Diabolical) Nightjar	S	Eurostopodus diabolicus
127.	Great Eared Nightjar		Eurostopodus macrotis
	Large-tailed Nightjar - heard only		Caprimulgus macrurus
128.	Sulawesi Nightjar	S	Caprimulgus celebensis
129.	Savanna Nightjar		Caprimulgus affinis
130.	Uniform Swiftlet		Aerodramus vanikorensis
131.	Halmahera Swiftlet	Μ	Aerodramus infuscata
132.	Sulawesi Swiftlet	S	Aerodramus sororum
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133.	Glossy Swiftlet		Collocalia esculenta
	Purple Needletail		Hirundapus celebensis
135.	Asian Palm Swift		Cypsiurus balasiensis
	Grey-rumped Treeswift		Hemiprocne longipennis
	Moustached Treeswift		Hemiproche mystacea
137.	Green-backed Kingfisher	S	Actenoides m monachus
139.	Scaly Kingfisher	S	Actenoides princeps princeps
140.	Common Paradise-Kingfisher	•	Tanysiptera galatea browningi
-	Lilac-cheeked Kingfisher	S	Cittura c. cyanotis
142.	Great-billed Kingfisher	S	Pelargopsis melanorhyncha
143.	Ruddy Kingfisher	•	Halcyon coromanda
144.	Blue-and-white Kingfisher	М	Todiramphus diops
145.	Sombre Kingfisher	M	Todiramphus funebris
146.	Collared Kingfisher		Todiramphus chloris
147.	Beach Kingfisher		Todiramphus saurophaga
147.	Sacred Kingfisher		Todiramphus sanctus
140.	Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher	S	Ceyx fallax
	Common Kingfisher	5	Alcedo atthis hispidoides
150.	Blue-tailed Bee-eater		Merops philippinus
151.	Purple-bearded Bee-eater	S	
152.	Purple-winged Roller	S	Meropogon forsteni Coracias temminckii
155.	Common Dollarbird	3	
	Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbill	S	Eurystomus orientalis Penelopides e. exarhatus
155.	Knobbed Hornbill	S	Aceros cassidix
150.	Blyth's Hornbill	3	
157.	Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker	S	Rhyticeros plicatus
158.	Ashy Woodpecker	S	Dendrocopos temminckii
160.	Ivory-breasted Pitta	M	Mullueripicus fulvus Pitta maxima
161.	Barn Swallow	IVI	Hirundo rustica
161.	Pacific Swallow		Hirundo tahitica
162.	Eastern Yellow Wagtail		
164.	Moluccan Cuckooshrike	М	Motacilla tschutschensis
165.	Cerulean Cuckooshrike	S	Coracina atriceps magnirostris
165.	Pied Cuckooshrike	S	Coracina temminckii Coracina bicolor
167.	White-rumped Cuckooshrike	S	
	White-bellied Cuckooshrike	3	Coracina leucopygia
168.	Halmahera Cuckooshrike	N/	Coracina papuensis
169.		M	Coracina parvula
170.	Sulawesi Cicadabird	S S	Coracina morio
171.	Sulawesi Triller White-shouldered Triller	3	Lalage leucopygialis
172.		5.4	Lalage sueurii
173.	Rufous-bellied Triller	Μ	Lalage aurea
174.	Sooty-headed Bulbul		Pycnonotus aurigaster
175.	Northern Golden Bulbul	•	Thapsinillas longirostris chloris
176.	Sulawesi Drongo	S	Dicrurus montanus
177.	Spangled Drongo		Dicrurus bracteatus atrocaeruleus
178.	Hair-crested Drongo		Dicrurus hottentotus leucops
179.	Dusky-Brown (Halmahera) Oriole	Μ	Oriolus phaeochromus
180.	Black-naped Oriole		Oriolus chinensis
181.	Slender-billed Crow		Corvus enca celebensis

182.	Piping Crow	S	Corvus typicus
183.	Long-billed Crow	Μ	Corvus validus
184.	Paradise Crow	Μ	Lycocorax pyrrhopterus
185.	Wallace's Standardwing	Μ	Semioptera wallacei
186.	Sulawesi Babbler	S	Trichastoma celebense
187.	Malia	S	Malia grata stresemanni
188.	Geomalia	S	Zoothera heinrichi
189.	Great Shortwing	S	Heinrichia calligyna
190.	Blue Rock Thrush		Monticola solitarius
191.	Red-backed Thrush	S	Zoothera erythronota
192.	Sulawesi Thrush	S	Cataponera turdoides
193.	Pied Bushchat		Saxicola caprata
	Golden-bellied Gerygone - heard only		Gerygone sulphurea flaveola
194.	Chestnut-backed Bush-warbler S		Bradypterus c. castaneus
195.	Clamorous Reed Warbler		Acrocephalus stentorus celebensis
196.	Mountain Tailorbird		Phyllergates cuculatus
197.	Sulawesi Leaf Warbler	S	Phylloscopus sarasinorum
198.	Zitting Cisticola		Cisticola juncidis
199.	Golden-headed Cisticola		Cisticola exilis
200.	Grey-streaked Flycatcher		Muscicapa griseisticta
201.	Island Verditer		Eumyias panayensis
202.	Snowy-browed Flycatcher		Ficedula hyperythra
203.	Rufous-throated Flycatcher	S	Ficedula rufigula
204.	Little Pied Flycatcher		Ficedula westermanni
205.	Blue-fronted Flycatcher	S	Cyornis hoevelli
206.	Matinan Flycatcher	S	Cyornis sanfordi
207.	Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher	S	Cyornis [rufigastra] omissa
208.	Pale-blue Monarch	S	Hypothymis puella
209.	White-naped Monarch	Μ	Carterornis pileatus pileatus
210.	Moluccan Monarch	Μ	Symposiachrus bimaculatus gouldii
211.	Slaty Flycatcher	Μ	Myiagra galeata galeata
212.	Shining Flycatcher		Myiagra alecto alecto
213.	Willie Wagtail		Rhipidura leucophrys
214.	Rusty-bellied Fantail	S	Rhipidura teysmanni
215.	Citrine Canary-Flycatcher		Culicicapa helianthea
216.	Maroon-backed Whistler	S	Coracornis raveni
217.	Yellow-vented Whistler	S	Pachycephala sulfuriventer
218.	Black-chinned (Golden) Whistler	Μ	Pachycephala mentalis
219.	White-breasted Woodswallow		Artamus leucorynchus
220.	Ivory-backed Woodswallow	S	Artamus monachus
221.	Moluccan Starling		Aplonis mysolensis
222.	Short-tailed Starling		Aplonis minor
223.	Asian Glossy Starling		Aplonis panayensis
224.	Metallic Starling		Aplonis metallica
	Sulawesi Crested Myna	S	Basilornis celebensis
225.	Sulawesi Crested Wiyna		
225. 226.	White-necked Myna	S	Streptocitta a. albicollis
226.	White-necked Myna	S	Streptocitta a. albicollis

230.	Greater Sulawesi Honeyeater	S	Myza sarasinorum
231.	White-streaked Friarbird	М	Melitograis gilolensis
232.	Sulawesi Myzomela	S	Myzomela chloroptera
233.	Brown-throated Sunbird		Anthreptes malacensis celebensis
234.	Black Sunbird		Leptocoma sericea grayi
235.	Olive-backed Sunbird		Cinnyris jugularis plateni
236.	Crimson Sunbird		Aethopyga siparaja flavostriata
237.	Yellow-sided Flowerpecker	S	Dicaeum aureolimbatum
238.	Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker	S	Dicaeum nehrkorni
239.	Halmahera Flowerpecker	Μ	Dicaeum schistaceiceps
240.	Grey-sided Flowerpecker	S	Dicaeum celebicum
241.	Mountain White-eye		Zosterops m. montanus
242.	Lemon-bellied White-eye		Zosterops chloris mentoris
243.	Black-ringed White-eye	S	Zosterops anomalus
244.	Cream-throated White-eye	Μ	Zosterops atriceps
245.	Black-crowned White-eye	Μ	Zosterops atrifrons
246.	Streak-headed White-eye	S	
		3	Lophozosterops squamiceps
247.	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	3	Lophozosterops squamiceps Passer montanus
247. 248.		3	
	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	3	Passer montanus
248.	Eurasian Tree Sparrow Black-faced Munia	3	Passer montanus Lonchura molucca
248. 249.	Eurasian Tree Sparrow Black-faced Munia Javan Munia	3	Passer montanus Lonchura molucca Lonchura leucogastroides
248. 249. 250.	Eurasian Tree Sparrow Black-faced Munia Javan Munia Scaly-breasted Munia	3	Passer montanus Lonchura molucca Lonchura leucogastroides Lonchura punctulata
248. 249. 250. 251.	Eurasian Tree Sparrow Black-faced Munia Javan Munia Scaly-breasted Munia Chestnut Munia	3	Passer montanus Lonchura molucca Lonchura leucogastroides Lonchura punctulata Lonchura atricipilla
248. 249. 250. 251. 252.	Eurasian Tree Sparrow Black-faced Munia Javan Munia Scaly-breasted Munia Chestnut Munia Pale-headed Munia	S	Passer montanus Lonchura molucca Lonchura leucogastroides Lonchura punctulata Lonchura atricipilla Lonchura pallida

	Other Animals	Scientific Name
1.	Spectral Tarsier	Tarsius tarsier
2.	Common House Gecko sp	Hemidactylus frenatus
3.	Large Black Squirrel	Rubrisciurus rubiventer
4.	Sulawesi Dwarf Squirrel	Prosciurillus murinus
5.	Ornate Cuscus/Halmahera Cuscus	Phalanger ornatus
6.	Sulawesi Bear Cuscus	Ailurops ursinus
7.	Sulawesi Crested Macaque	Macaca nigra
8.	Bamboo Pit Viper	Trimeresurus gramineus