



Minahassa Masked Owl (Craig Robson)

ULTIMATE SULAWESI & HALMAHERA

4 - 24 SEPTEMBER 2016

LEADER: CRAIG ROBSON

The latest Birdquest tour to Sulawesi and Halmahera proved to be another great adventure, with some stunning avian highlights, not least the amazing Minahassa Masked Owl that we had such brilliant views of at Tangkoko. Some of the more memorable highlights amongst our huge trip total of 292 species were: 15 species of kingfisher (including Green-backed, Lilac, Great-billed, Scaly-breasted, Sombre, both Sulawesi and Moluccan Dwarf, and Azure), 15 species of nightbird seen (including Sulawesi Masked and Barking Owls, Ochre-bellied and Cinnabar Boobooks, Sulawesi and Satanic Nightjars, and Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar), the incredible Maleo, Moluccan Megapode at point-blank range, Pygmy Eagle, Sulawesi, Spot-tailed and

Moluccan Goshawks, Red-backed Buttonquail, Great and White-faced Cuckoo-Doves, Red-eared, Scarlet-breasted and Oberholser's Fruit Doves, Grey-headed Imperial Pigeon, Moluccan Cuckoo, Purple-winged Roller, Azure (or Purple) Dollarbird, the peerless Purple-bearded Bee-eater, Knobbed Hornbill, White Cockatoo, Moluccan King and Pygmy Hanging Parrots, Chattering Lory, Ivory-breasted, Moluccan and Sulawesi Pittas (the latter two split from Red-bellied), White-naped and Shining Monarchs, Maroon-backed Whistler, Piping Crow, lekking Standardwings, Hylocitrea, Malia, Sulawesi and White-necked Mynas, Red-backed and Sulawesi Thrushes, Sulawesi Streaked Flycatcher, the demure Matinan Flycatcher, Great Shortwing, and Mountain Serin.



Moluccan Megapode, taking a break from all that digging! (Craig Robson)

This year's tour began in Makassar in south-west Sulawesi. Early on our first morning we drove out of town to the nearby limestone hills of Karaenta Forest. Here the endemic Black-ringed White-eye performed for us soon after we had eaten our breakfast at the roadside and, as the forest awoke, we had good looks at Sulawesi Hornbill, scoped a Piping Crow, and enjoyed our first Pale-blue Monarch, Sulawesi Babblers, and Yellow-sided and Grey-sided Flowerpeckers. At the foot of the hills we were very fortunate to quickly track-down a pair of the recently described Sulawesi Streaked Flycatcher, while nearby ricefields held rather few surprises apart from 14 Glossy Ibises.

It was then time to take a domestic flight to Palu in north-central Sulawesi, where a new local crew met us on arrival with their vehicles. We had a tip-off about the scarce endemic Pale-bellied Myna in nearby fields and plantations, and sightings of the species had recently been posted on the internet. Sadly, we only found Javan Myna in this area, a closely related species that has recently been introduced to Sulawesi. Large numbers of Pale-headed Munias were on show. We continued on to Lore Lindu National Park, arriving at our accommodation in the early evening, and a large helping of good food awaited us.

Our lodgings were within easy reach of the cool montane forests, and we had three full days to explore this world-renowned birding hotspot. On two different days, we ascended the famous Anaso Track, primarily in



Satanic Nightjars at their roost (Craig Robson)

search of the holy-grail - or *Geomalia* to us mortals. Unfortunately, there were only a couple of brief glimpses this year of this notoriously unreliable endemic. Apart from that we did very well however, with some great



Red-eared Fruit Dove at Lore Lindu (Craig Robson)

views of Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle circling overhead, Red-eared and Western Superb Fruit Doves (the latter split from Superb), at least four different Satanic Nightjars at their roosts, gorgeous Purple-bearded Bee-eaters,

noisy flocks of Golden-mantled Racket-tails, Dark-eared and White-eared Myzas (Lesser and Greater Sulawesi Honeyeaters), Pygmy Cuckooshrike, the sultry but attractive Maroon-backed Whistler, Sulphur- (or



Sulawesi Serpent Eagle (Craig Robson)

Yellow-) vented Whistler, Rusty-bellied Fantail, several berry-eating Hylocitreas (in a mono-generic family related to the waxwings), fantastic and very vocal Malias, Sulawesi Leaf Warbler, very obliging Chestnut-backed Bush Warblers, Mountain White-eye, and we even scoped a Mountain Serin.



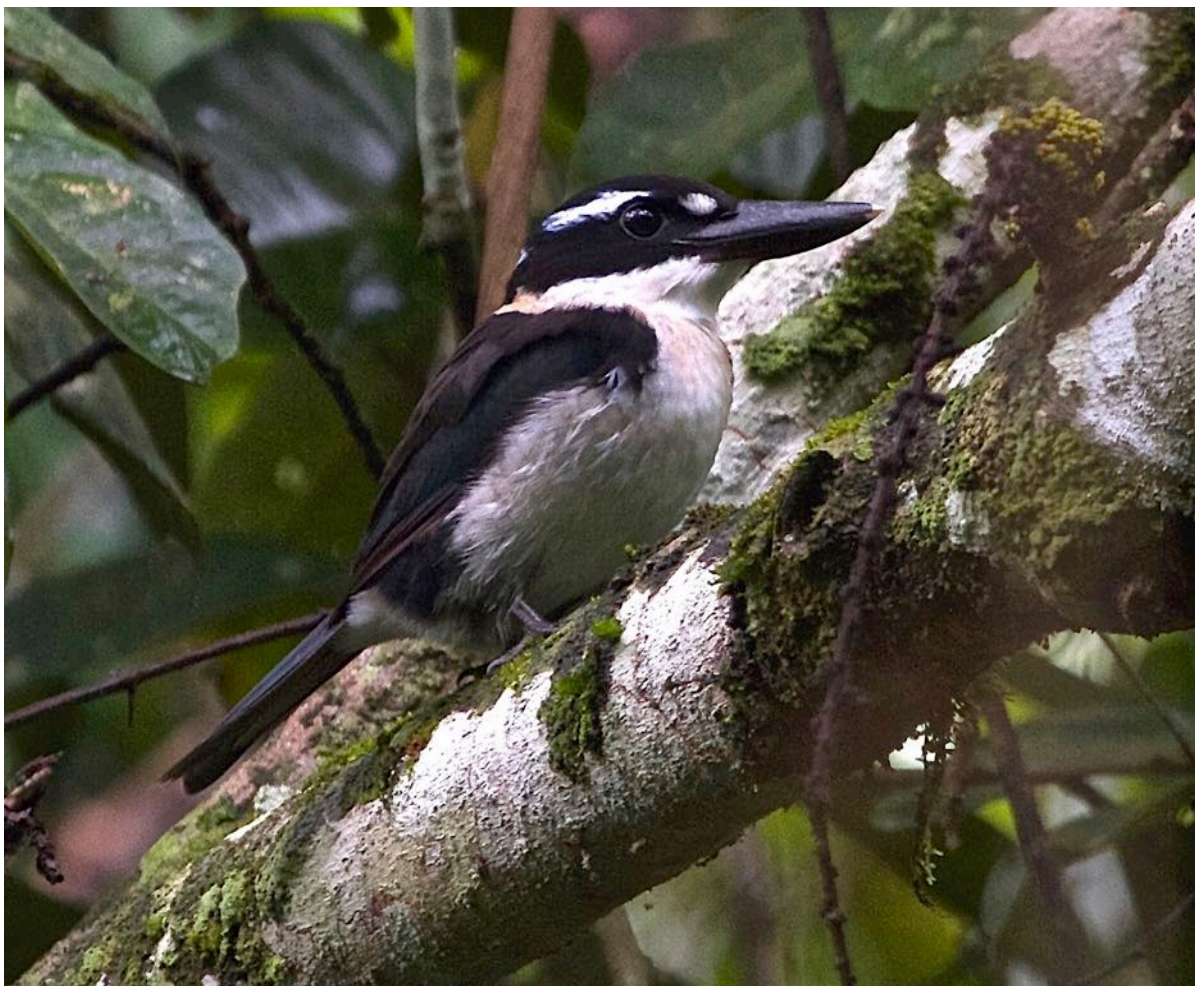
Female Red-backed Buttonquail (Craig Robson)

At the foot of the track, where the main road passes Lake Taming, we had a lengthy but successful search for the mega-skulking Great Shortwing, and also enjoyed close-ups of a juvenile Spot-tailed Goshawk, huge

numbers of Sultan's Cuckoo-Doves (split from Brown), Yellow-billed Malkoha, Ashy Woodpecker, numerous Citrine (or Yellow-and-green) Lorikeets feeding in fruiting trees, Sulawesi Myzomela, Sulawesi Drongo, Sulawesi Thrush, Blue-fronted Blue Flycatcher, Black-crowned White-eye, Streak-headed White-eye (or Dark-eye), and droves of incredible Fiery-browed and Grosbeak Starlings.

Back towards our guest house in the Sedoa River area, we found some really nice birding spots. With scopes to hand and some super-keen scanners in the group, we added Sulawesi (or Barred) Honey Buzzard, Sulawesi Serpent Eagle, Spotted Kestrel, flocks of Grey-cheeked Green and White-bellied Imperial Pigeons, Little (or Gould's) Bronze Cuckoo, Purple Needletail, Knobbed Hornbill, Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker, Ivory-backed Woodswallow, lots of Cerulean Cuckooshrikes, a couple of rare Sulawesi Cicadabirds, Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher, our first Sulawesi (Crested) Mynas, and several Crimson-crowned Flowerpeckers.

Our crepuscular and nocturnal forays were very productive also, with excellent views of Sulawesi Masked Owl and Cinnabar Boobook.



Sombre Kingfisher (Craig Robson)

Travelling back to Palu for our return flight to Makassar, we paused at some interesting-looking scrubby habitat. A good bash around this little patch resulted in some terrific close-up views of the local form of Red-backed Buttonquail.

After a comfy night at the hotel in Makassar, we had time for a short visit to the nearby fishponds, before our onward flight to Ternate. A very productive spell brought us good numbers of Javan Plovers, as well as Buff-banded Rail, Grey-tailed Tattler, Rufous-necked and Long-toed Stints, White-headed Stilt, Grey and Pacific

Golden Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Marsh and Terek Sandpiper, Whiskered and Little Terns, Sacred Kingfisher, Savanna Nightjar, and several Australian Reed Warblers.



Ivory-breasted Pitta (Craig Robson)

After flying to the island-hub of Ternate, and pausing long enough for lunch, we took a boat across the straits to Sidangoli on Halmahera; bagging Bulwer's Petrel and Great Frigatebird on the way. Met on the far side by



Azure (or Purple) Dollarbird (Craig Robson)

a new set of cars, we drove to Tobelo in the north of the island. After checking-in to our hotel and eating dinner in a nearby restaurant, we headed out once more, in order to reach the beach where Moluccan

Megapodes come to lay their eggs in the black volcanic sand. After locating the guide's house and negotiating a mangrove channel in small boats, we found ourselves at the site. No sooner had our guide switched on the spotlight, than he exclaimed "there is one", and sure enough a megapode was digging away only 30m in front of us. It proved very tame and allowed an incredibly close approach. What a stroke of luck to have one right there on this part of the huge beach!

The next morning we had a somewhat later start than normal, and then took the long drive around to Foli on the west coast of the northeast arm of Halmahera. Arriving at the homestay by mid-afternoon, we still had time to begin our exploration of the area. Along the old logging road above the village, we found our first north Moluccan specialities: Scarlet-breasted and Grey-headed Fruit Doves, Sombre Kingfisher, White Cockatoo, the very much-wanted Ivory-breasted Pitta, and Long-billed Crow. After nightfall we tracked down a superb Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar, that posed motionless for a long time.



Blue-and-white Kingfisher (Craig Robson)

The whole of the next day was spent along the old logging road at Foli. We began before dawn, quietly following a narrow forest trail down the flank of a valley to a pre-arranged location. As daylight crept into the forest we were treated to a great show by around four lekking male Standardwings, with two females

observing the proceedings. It was truly awe-inspiring to watch their antics from our concealed location. Moving further along the logging track after a field-breakfast, it was fortunately not too long before we happened upon our next main target, the superb Azure (or Purple) Dollarbird, which was kind enough to pose for a long time for nice scope views. Good birds during the remainder of the day included Dusky Megapode, the local form of Variable Goshawk, Blue-capped Fruit Dove, Spectacled and Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeons, Goliath Coucal, Moustached Treeswift, Blue-and-white and Sombre Kingfishers, Blyth's Hornbill, Eclectus and Great-billed Parrots, Red-flanked Lorikeet, Chattering and Violet-necked Lories, Moluccan Hanging Parrot, more Ivory-breasted Pittas, White-streaked Friarbird, Moluccan, White-bellied and Halmahera Cuckooshrikes, Rufous-bellied Triller, Spangled Drongo, Moluccan Monarch (split from Spectacled), Moluccan Flycatcher, the weird Paradise-crow, Northern Golden Bulbul, Cream-throated White-eye, and Halmahera Flowerpecker. The weather stayed fine for us until nightfall, enabling us to get fantastic views of two Halmahera Boobooks and two Barking Owls (the latter in the scope).

Early the next morning we changed location and drove to the Buli Road. We spent two full days here, based at a very nice small hotel. Reaching 500m elevation, we were to find a whole new set of birds. At the higher levels we found the soon to be split Halmahera Leaf Warbler, and this area also brought the rare Pygmy and



Moluccan Dwarf Kingfisher (Craig Robson)

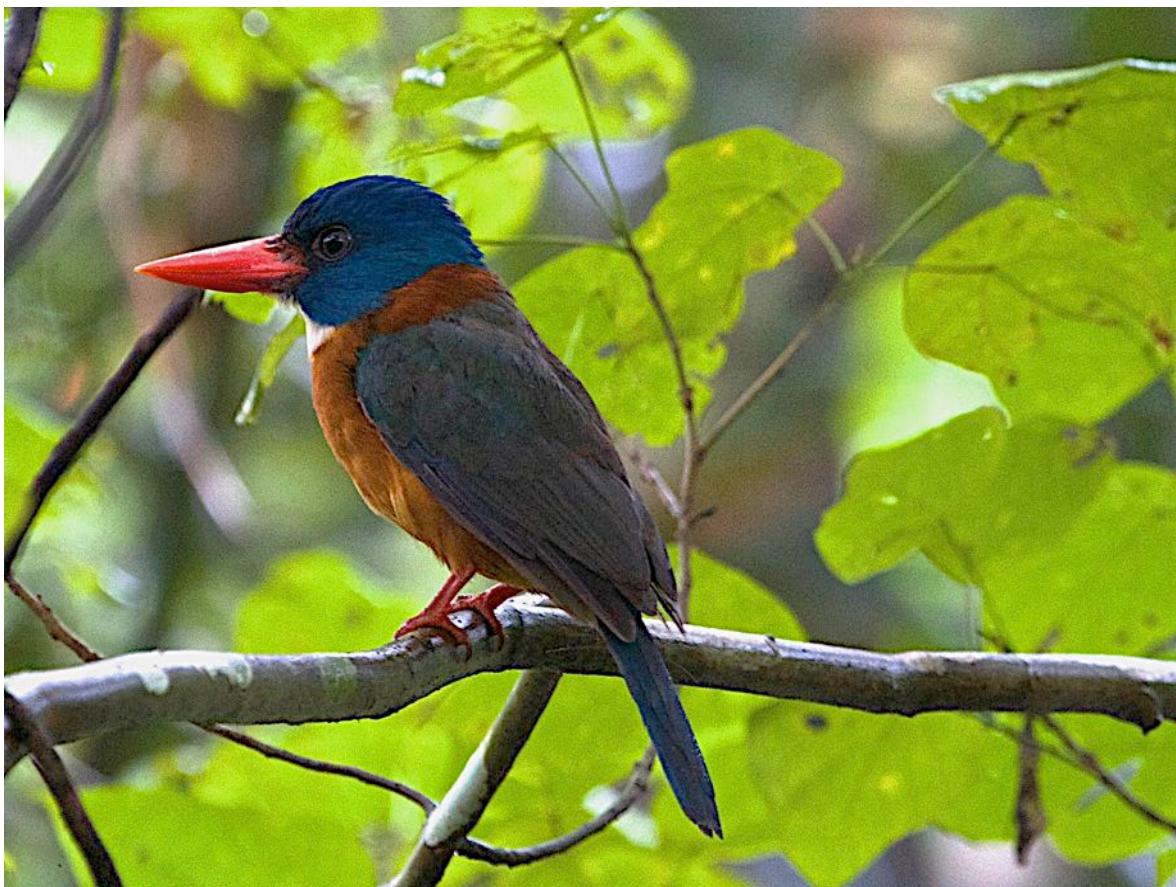
impressive Gurney's Eagles, a perched Moluccan Goshawk, Great Cuckoo-Dove, Eastern Superb Fruit Dove (split from Superb), Moluccan Cuckoo (difficult to find in this part of its range), fantastic Moluccan King Parrots, large numbers of White Cockatoos, Dusky Myzomela, a nice Moluccan (or North Moluccan) Pitta (split from Red-bellied), Black-chinned Whistler, Dusky-brown Oriole, a performing White-naped Monarch, sneaky Shining Monarch, and several Standardwings. Lower down, there were Pale-vented Bush-hens by the roadside, a stunning Moluccan Dwarf Kingfisher, Oriental Hobby, Gray's Grasshopper Warbler and, after dark, two very obliging Moluccan Scops Owls.

Our last full day in the field on Halmahera was spent at Aketajawe Lolobata National Park, where we potentially had a shot at seeing Invisible Rail. Unfortunately, it was not to be, and it seems that the birds have not been showing for some time. We did hear some calling loudly but distantly however. The area

provided a few new birds for us though, in the form of King Quail, Brush Cuckoo, Azure Kingfisher and Drab Whistler.

We overnighted in Sidangoli and, after bagging a nice Beach Kingfisher the following morning, we headed back to Ternate by boat and then flew to Manado. From the airport we drove to our very pleasantly situated hotel near Gunung Mahawu, to the south of Manado. We just had time for some birding, and Isabelline Bush-hen showed beautifully in the evening. After nightfall we had superb views of both Sulawesi Scops Owl and Speckled Boobook.

We returned to Gunung Mahawu well before dawn the following morning, with the hope of seeing Scaly-breasted Kingfisher. Sure enough, just as the first glimmer of light lit up the sky, one began calling from the dense forest, and we managed to get three different scope views as the skies brightened. We picked up our things from the hotel and headed off for Toraut and the forests of Dumoga Bone National Park. A nice marsh along the way gave us the opportunity to see some waterbirds, with Wandering Whistling Duck, Black-backed Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen and White-browed Crake.



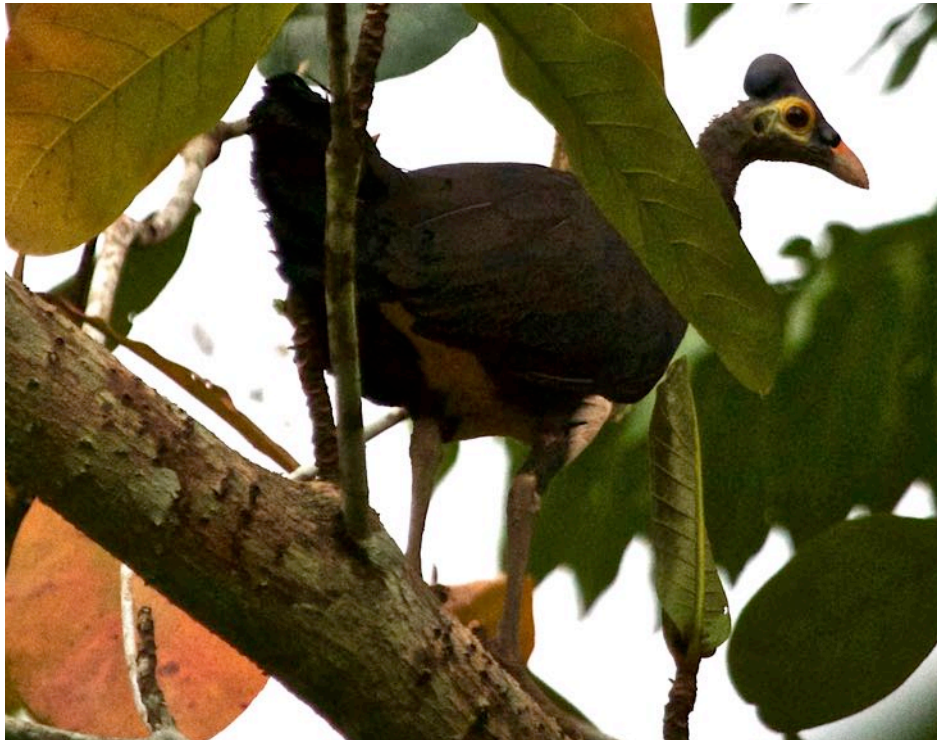
Green-backed Kingfisher (Craig Robson)

After reaching our lodgings, we crossed the river and birded along the lowland forest edge. A great selection of birds as usual here, with Oberholser's Fruit Dove, Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon, Blue-backed Parrot, perched Ornate Lorikeets, Pied Cuckooshrike, and White-rumped Triller.

Tambun, and the nesting grounds of the amazing Maleo, was one of our main destinations in this area, and we were to visit the site three times before we caught up with this incredible avian relic - and then we were lucky enough to get excellent prolonged views of a pair that had taken to the trees above us. We were also very fortunate to see a chick emerging from the ground in the hatchery, helped by a little bit of downward digging from Max, the site manager. Tambun is not only a good place for Maleo, and we were to get some great looks at Black-billed Koel, Bay Coucal, our first Green-backed Kingfisher, a pair of Purple-winged

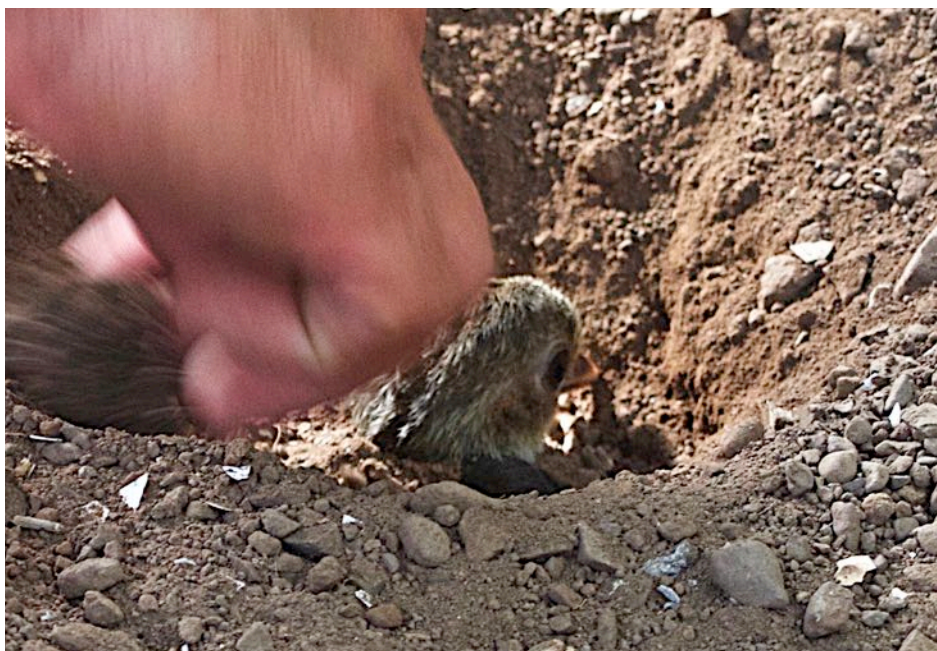
Rollers with their two recently fledged young, Sulawesi Hornbill (a different race from the one that we saw near Makassar), noisy Yellow-breasted Racket-tails, and some very close White-necked Mynas.

Another location, the forested Molibagu Road near Tapakolintang, brought yet more variety, with Jerdon's Baza, Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle, a lovely Lilac Kingfisher, great perched views of Pygmy Hanging Parrots



The amazing Maleo (Craig Robson)

(we saw at least ten in all, as well as the much commoner Great's), much closer Ivory-backed Woodswallows, more Sulawesi Mynas, and Crimson Sunbird.



Max helps-out an emerging Maleo chick (Craig Robson)

Our last morning based at Toraut saw us return to the forest edge directly across the river from our accommodation. While it was still dark, we managed to lure several Ochre-bellied Boobooks into full view, which felt like quite an achievement considering their rather elusive behaviour. We carried on through the forest, out into the cultivated areas, and then picked a nice vantage point on a hill. We ate our breakfast up there while the early morning mist cleared. After that we had a great selection of birds, highlighted by a good number of scarce Grey-headed Imperial Pigeons that were attracted to some fruiting trees. We had another very vocal juvenile Spot-tailed Goshawk, an amazing Channel-billed Cuckoo swooping over the tree tops, and Pied Cuckooshrike showed again. Heading to a different area for our last afternoon of birding in the area, we were unfortunately subjected to our first really heavy downpour of the tour. It was such a serious wash-out that we decided to head straight off to our hotel in Kotamobagu.

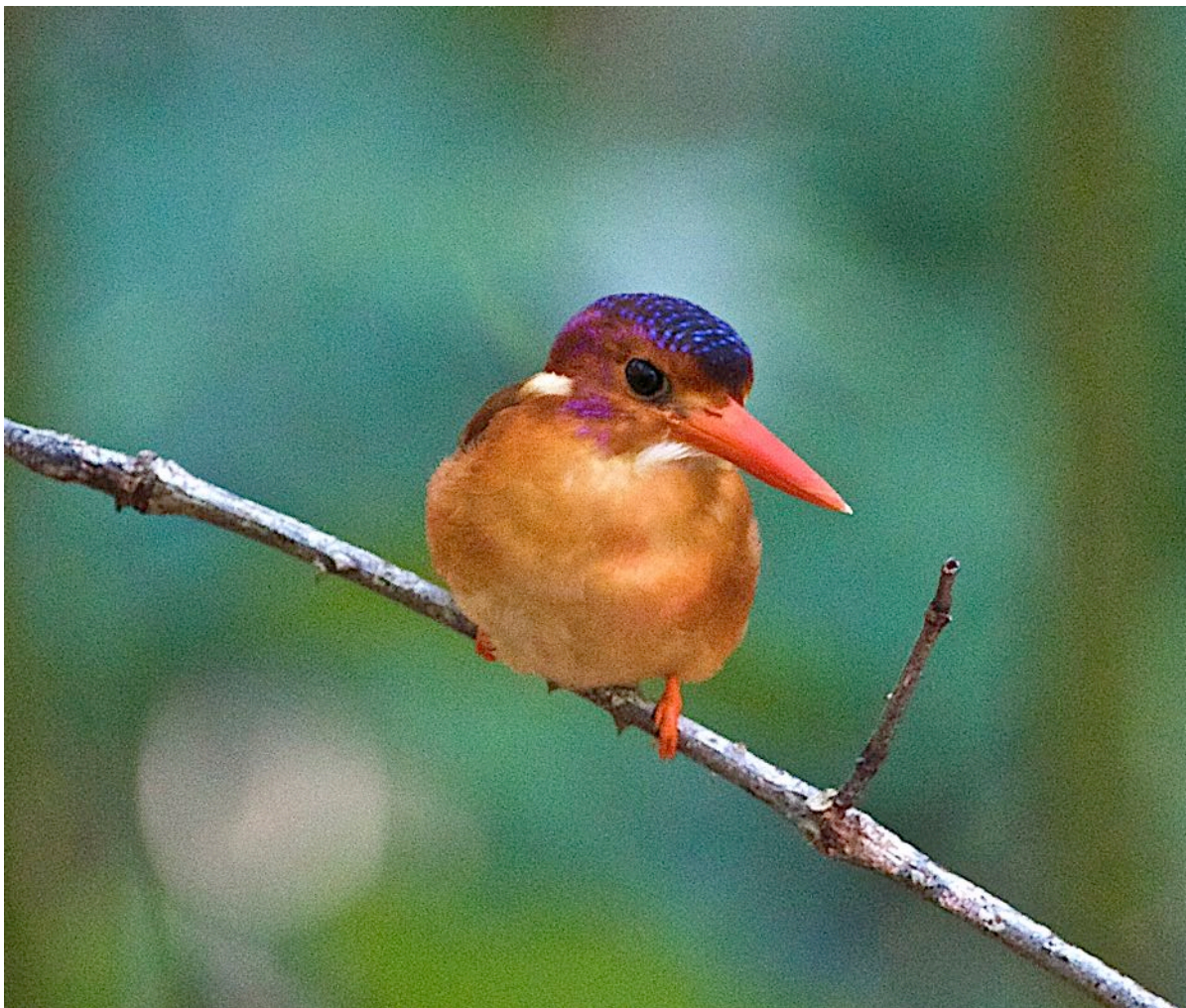
The next morning we had another predawn start, in order to reach Gunung Ambang at the optimum time. As we walked up through the fields towards the forest edge in the dark, we had the most amazingly close views of our second Sulawesi Masked Owl....so tame! We paused not far into the forest when our guide pointed out a Purple-bearded Bee-eater burrow at knee-height in the track-side bank. An adult could be seen incubating inside, and later on in the morning we could see a couple of small and very ugly chicks in there! We then watched two very entertaining Bear Cuscus as they clambered around in a tree-top, almost in slow-motion. We pressed on up the narrow mountain trail, and it wasn't too long before we found the rather subtle, but very localised endemic Matinan Flycatcher. After eating a very nice breakfast that our helpers had very kindly transported all the way up here for us, we continued with the birding. There was little else that was new for us



Sulawesi Masked Owl (Craig Robson)

but it was nice to reacquaint ourselves with many of the montane birds that we had seen at Lore Lindu, such as Red-eared Fruit Dove, Sulphur-vented Whistler, Rusty-bellied Fantail, Chestnut-backed Bush Warbler, and Malia. White bellied Imperial Pigeons were calling everywhere at dawn, and we also heard a strongly vocalizing Sombre Pigeon - sadly far from our reach once again. We made our way back down the hill to our vehicles, and then continued with the longish drive to our final destination of the tour, the world-renowned Tangkoko National Park.

On arrival, we spent some time at a viewpoint, over the obligatory coffee and biscuits. There was a nice selection of birds but nothing new for us, so we moved on to a good site for the endemic Sulawesi Nightjar. Even before it was dark, a male started calling and before long it was lured in for some very close views; even attempting to land on Craig's head at one point. We drove on down to the village, and were very pleased to see that we had some brand spanking new, and very comfortable accommodation to look forward to.



Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher (Craig Robson)

Very early the following morning (or was it the middle of the night?) our guide led us to a spot that he knew deep in the forest. Suddenly there was a single piercing screech and then something flew over our heads. Illuminating the branch with the spotlight, there was a fantastic Minahassa Masked Owl, the toughest endemic nightbird of all, and something we really had not even hoped to see in our wildest dreams. After watching it for as long as we wanted, and not wishing to unnecessarily disturb it, we walked down to the beach and enjoyed a beautiful sunset while our breakfast was delivered to us. We had few targets left now, so we were able to really focus-in on what was left for us. Over the next couple of days, led along a network of forest trails by our experienced guides, we successfully caught up with a day-roosting Ochre-bellied

Boobook, a stunning little Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher, several beautiful Red-backed Thrushes and, finally, a very nice Sulawesi Pitta (split from Red-bellied).

A short boat trip along a mangrove-lined channel enabled us to get close-up views of several stocky Great-billed Kingfishers, and a strangler fig that we visited at dusk was the roost site for the wonderful and spooky-looking Spectral Tarsier. We were also shown a huge spread-out troupe of Sulawesi Crested Macaques - perhaps the single most important animal in conservation terms in this crucially important protected area. Even just before leaving Tangkoko, there was time for one last mega, when our guide was kind enough to find us a perched Sulawesi Goshawk which remained in the same tree throughout a heavy rain shower, so that we could all get some excellent scope views.

Returning to the Manado area and the nicely situated Luley Resort, we finished off the tour scanning the crystal clear waters of Manado Bay, and enjoyed the likes of offshore feeding flocks of Red-necked Phalaropes and Bridled Terns and a Great-billed Heron.



Chris admires a maleo chick before releasing it (Craig Robson)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

Sunda Teal *Anas gibberifrons* Four at Makassar, one at Toraut, six at Bumbungon Marsh (near Kotamobagu).

Maleo *Macrocephalon maleo* A magical encounter with a pair at Tambun. We also liberated two chicks.

Moluccan Megapode *Eulipoa wallacei* Superb views at the beach near Galela, down to 2m!

Philippine Megapode *Megapodius cumingii* Frequent at Tangkoko, scuttling through the undergrowth.

Dusky Megapode *Megapodius freycinet* Several encounters on Halmahera.

King Quail (Blue-breasted Q) *Excalfactoria chinensis* Four at Aketajawe Lolobata NP were unexpected.

Red Junglefowl (introduced) *Gallus gallus* A male on the road at Karaenta Forest.

Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii* Two or three en-route to Sidangoli and back, from Ternate.

Tricolored Grebe *Tachybaptus tricolor* Five (including two young birds) at Bumbungon Marsh.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* 14 in fields near Bantimurung.
Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* (NL)
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*
Striated Heron (Little H) *Butorides striatus*
Javan Pond Heron *Ardeola speciosa*
Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*
Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana* Just one, at Luley Resort, near Manado.
Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*
Great Egret *Egretta alba*
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
Pacific Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*
Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor* One en route to Sidangoli from Ternate.
Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel* Two en route to Sidangoli from Ternate; one at Foli.
Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* (NL) Aristide saw a flock of around ten at Makassar fishponds.



Sulawesi Goshawk (Craig Robson)

Eastern Osprey *Pandion cristatus*
Barred Honey Buzzard (Sulawesi H B) *Pernis celebensis* Just one in the Sedoa River area, near Lore Lindu.
Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni* Two seen very well along the Molibagu Road (*celebensis*).
Sulawesi Serpent Eagle *Spilornis rufipectus* Frequently encountered.
Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus lanceolatus* Regularly seen, perched and in flight.
Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii* Two sightings along the Molibagu Road.



Two different juvenile Spot-tailed Goshawks (Craig Robson)

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malaiensis*

Pygmy Eagle (New Guinea Hawk-E) *Hieraetus weiskei* One, rather too briefly, along the Buli Road, Halmahera.

Gurney's Eagle *Aquila gurneyi* Nine were logged on Halmahera, and we had some good views.



Moluccan Goshawk (Craig Robson)

Sulawesi Goshawk *Accipiter griseiceps* Scoped at Tangkoko...fantastic last-minute effort.

Spot-tailed Goshawk *Accipiter trinotatus* 4 seen: Lore Lindu, Molibagu Rd, Toraut, G. Ambang. Heard at Tangkoko.

Variable Goshawk (Grey-throated G) *Accipiter [hiogaster] griseogularis* Several on Halmahera (*griseogularis*).

Moluccan Goshawk *Accipiter henicogrammus* A single bird perched above the Buli Road.

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis* A handful in the Kotamobagu-Toraut-Tambun area.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Lesser Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus humilis* One at Karaenta Forest.

Barred Rail *Gallirallus torquatus*

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis* A few sightings, including a pair with three chicks near Palu.

Isabelline Bush-hen *Amaurornis isabellinus* Several good sightings and many heard.

Pale-vented Bush-hen (Rufous-tailed B) *Amaurornis moluccana* Several roadside sightings on Halmahera.

White-browed Crake *Poliolimnas cinerea*

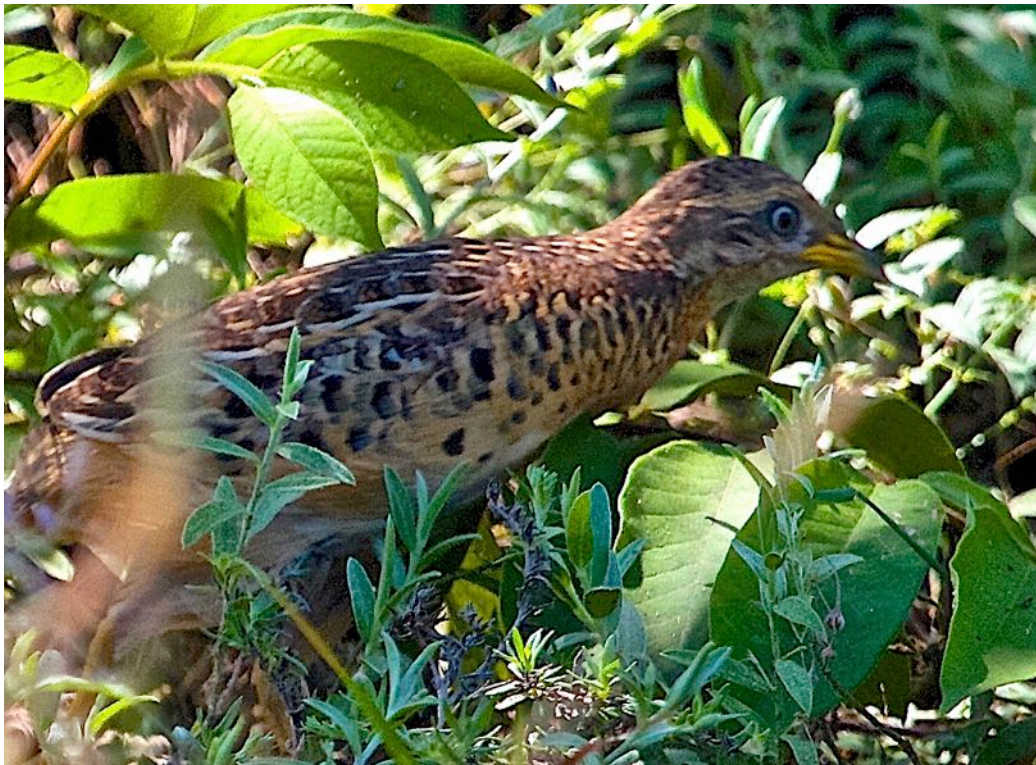
Invisible Rail *Habroptila wallacii* (H) Calling loudly, but very distantly, when we arrived at Aketajawe Lolobata NP.

Black-backed Swampphen *Porphyrio indicus* Three in the Kotamobagu-Toraut area.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa* Four at Bumbungon Marsh.

Red-backed Buttonquail *Turnix maculosus* At least four at a site near Palu – amazing close views.



Male Red-backed Buttonquail (Craig Robson)

Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator* Aristide saw one near Palu and we heard it in the Sedoa River area (*rufilatus*).

White-headed Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus*

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* Around ten at Makassar Fishponds.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Javan Plover *Charadrius javanicus* Around 15 at Makassar Fishponds.

Lesser Sand Plover (Mongolian P) *Charadrius mongolus*

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

Whimbrel (Eurasian W) *Numenius phaeopus*

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* One at Makassar Fishponds.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes* Three at Makassar Fishponds, 12 or so at Luley Resort.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* One at Makassar.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* One at Makassar Fishponds, five at Luley Resort.
Red-necked Stint (Rufous-n S) *Calidris ruficollis* Two at Makassar Fishponds.
Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*
Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* 10+ between Ternate and Sidangoli, and 200+ off Luley Resort.
Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* A flock of five flew past Luley Resort.
Greater Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*
Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*
Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus* At least 40 off Luley Resort.
Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* Several sightings. See notes.
Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*
White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* A few distantly from Luley Resort.
Rock Pigeon (introduced) *Columba livia*
Red Turtle Dove (introduced) *Streptopelia tranquebarica*
Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*
Sultan's Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia doreya* Common (*albicapilla* Sulawesi; *albiceps* Halmahera). See notes.
Great Cuckoo-Dove *Reinwardtoena reinwardti* Two seen well along the Buli Road; another heard (nominated).



Great Cuckoo-Dove (Craig Robson)

White-faced Cuckoo-Dove (Sulawesi Black Pigeon) *Turacoena manadensis* Common in northern Sulawesi.
Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*
Stephan's Dove *Chalcophaps stephani* Several sightings at Tangkoko, but all in flight.
Zebra Dove (Peaceful D) *Geopelia striata* A few at Luley Resort.
Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon *Treron griseicauda* Large gatherings near fruiting trees (*wallacei*).
Pink-necked Green Pigeon *Treron vernans* Good looks at several brightly-coloured examples at Luley Resort.
Red-eared Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus fischeri* Pretty common: Anaso track (*centralis*) and Gunung Ambang (*fischeri*).

Oberholser's Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus epius* A good look at a responsive calling bird at Toraut. See notes.



Yellow-billed Malkoha (Craig Robson)

Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus bernsteinii* A couple of these smart endemics at Foli (nominated).

Superb Fruit Dove (Eastern S F D) *Ptilinopus [superbus] superbus* Seven logged on Halmahera. See notes.



Little (or Gould's) Bronze Cuckoo (Craig Robson)

Superb Fruit Dove (Western S F D) *Ptilinopus [superbus] temminckii* 18 logged on Sulawesi. See notes.

Blue-capped Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus monacha* Several scoped on Halmahera. Monotypic north Moluccan endemic.

Grey-headed Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus hyogaster* Common on Halmahera. Monotypic north Moluccan endemic.

Black-naped Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus melanospila*

White-bellied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula forsteni* Regularly encountered on Sulawesi. Monotypic endemic.

Grey-headed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula radiata* 25 at Toraut and eight or so at Tangkoko. Another monotypic endemic.

Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea* Common on Sulawesi. See notes.



Brush, Rusty-breasted and Moluccan Cuckoos (Craig Robson)

Spectacled Imperial Pigeon *Ducula perspicillata* Good numbers on Halmahera. Seen notes.

Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula basilica* Seven seen and many heard on Halmahera.



Moluccan Scops Owl (Craig Robson)

Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor*

Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon *Ducula luctuosa* One at Karaenta Forest, two or three at Toraut, 50+ at Tangkoko.

Sombre Pigeon *Cryptophaps poecilorrhoea* (H) One vocalizing distantly at Gunung Ambang.

Bay Coucal *Centropus celebensis* Commonly heard but only seen at Tambun – a pair.

Goliath Coucal *Centropus goliath* Several seen well in the end on Halmahera; many heard (making us laugh!).

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*

Yellow-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus calyorrhynchus* Widespread; nominate in north, *meridionalis* at Lore Lindu.

Black-billed Koel *Eudynamis melanorhyncha* Particularly common at Tambun. Sulawesi and Sula endemic.

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae* One seen quite well at Toraut (*fordi*).

Little Bronze Cuckoo (Gould's B C) *Chrysococcyx [minutillus] jungei* One showed well in the Sedoa River area.

Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus* (NL) Romney saw one at Luley Resort.

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus* A couple showed very well on Halmahera (*infaustus*).

Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis sepulcralis* Common on Sulawesi (*virescens*).

Moluccan Cuckoo *Cacomantis aeruginosus* We were fortunate to see a singing bird along the Buli Rd. (*heinrichi*).

Moluccan Drongo-Cuckoo *Surniculus musschenbroeki* (H) One heard at Toraut.

Minahassa Masked Owl *Tyto inexpectata* Incredible views of one at Tangkoko National Park.

Sulawesi Masked Owl *Tyto rosenbergii* Seen near Lore Lindu & G. Ambang (nominate); heard G. Mahawu & Toraut.

Moluccan Scops Owl *Otus magicus* Great views of 2 along the Buli Rd. Heard at Galela and Foli. Race *leucospilus*.

Sulawesi Scops Owl *Otus manadensis* Seen very well at Gunung Mahawu; widely heard.

Barking Owl *Ninox connivens* A very vocal pair were scoped at Foli (*rufostriata*).

Ochre-bellied Boobook *Ninox ochracea* Several at night at Toraut; roosting bird at Tangkoko. Monotypic endemic.

Cinnabar Boobook *Ninox ios* A nice look at one of two calling near Lake Taming. Endemic.

Halmahera Boobook *Ninox hypogramma* Great looks at two at Foli; others heard. Monotypic endemic.

Speckled Boobook *N. punctulata* Lovely views of pair G. Mahawu; heard Lore Lindu & Toraut. Monotypic endemic.

Satanic Nightjar (Heinrich's N) *Eurostopodus diabolicus* At least four roosting Anaso Track. Monotypic endemic.



Roosting Satanic Nightjar (Craig Robson)

Great Eared Nightjar *Eurostopodus macrotis* Quite common Sulawesi (*macropterus*).

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus* Quite a few on Halmahera (*schlegelii*).

Sulawesi Nightjar *Caprimulgus celebensis* A great performance by a male at Tangkoko (nominate).

Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis* One flushed near Palu; several at Makassar Fishponds (*propinquus*).

Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar *Aegotheles crinifrons* Brilliant lengthy views of one at Foli. Others heard.

Grey-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocne longipennis* Frequently seen on Sulawesi (*wallacii*).

Moustached Treeswift *Hemiprocne mystacea* Locally common on Halmahera (*confirmata*).

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta* Common. Nominated C,S Sulawesi, *manadensis* N Sulawesi, *spilura* Halmahera.

Halmahera Swiftlet *Aerodramus infuscatus*

Sulawesi Swiftlet *Aerodramus sororum*

Uniform Swiftlet *A. vanikorensis* Common: *heinrichi* S Sulawesi, *aenigma* C,?N Sulawesi, *waigeuensis* Halmahera.
Purple Needletail *Hirundapus celebensis* Several sightings in the Lore Lindu area.
House Swift *Apus nipalensis* (NL) Only seen around Makassar Airport.
Purple-winged Roller *Coracias temminckii* An outstanding year. Family of 4 Tambun, 2 G. Ambang, 2 Tangkoko.
Oriental Dollarbird (Common D) *Eurystomus orientalis* Several on Halmahera (wintering nominate presumably).
Purple Dollarbird *Eurystomus azureus* A gorgeous bird at Foli.
Green-backed Kingfisher *Actenoides monachus* Great looks at Tambun & Tangkoko; heard Molibagu Rd & Toraut.
Scaly-breasted Kingfisher *Actenoides princeps* Good views of one at Gunung Mahawu, heard at Gunung Ambang.
Common Paradise Kingfisher *Tanyiptera galatea* Elusive Halmahera (*browningi*). We struggled to get a good view.
Lilac Kingfisher (Lilac-cheeked K) *Cittura cyanotis* Singles seen at Molibagu Road and Tangkoko NP.
Great-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis melanorhyncha* Four or more at Tangkoko, one at Luley Resort (nominate).
Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda* (H) At Tangkoko.
Blue-and-white Kingfisher *Halcyon diops* Some nice looks on Halmahera.



Lilac Kingfisher (Craig Robson)

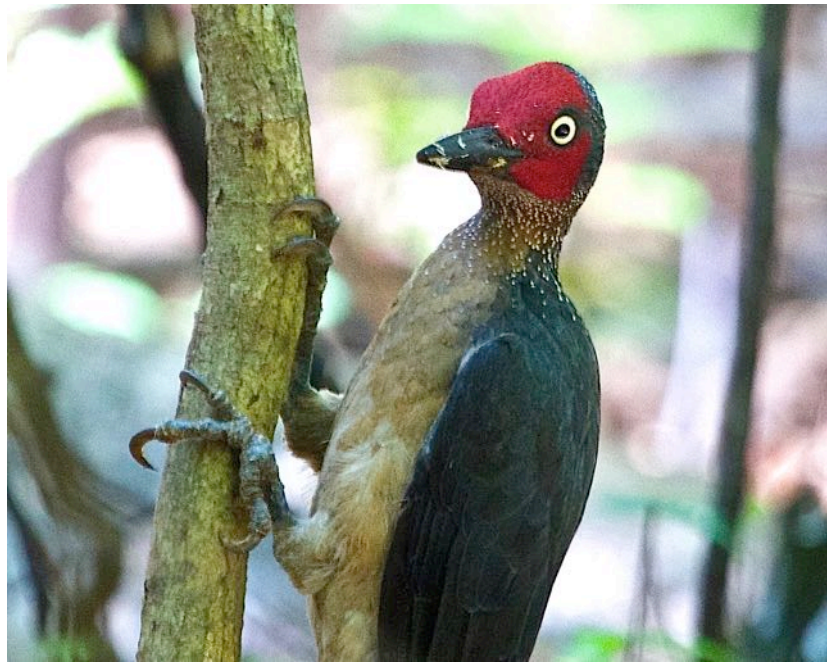
Sombre Kingfisher *Halcyon funebris* Four seen well on Halmahera. North Moluccan endemic.
Collared Kingfisher *Halcyon chloris*
Beach Kingfisher *Halcyon saurophaga* One at Sidangoli, Halmahera (nominate).
Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sancta*
Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* Scattered sightings on Sulawesi (*hispidoides*).
Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx fallax* A jewel, located by our guides at Tangkoko in a small stream valley.
Moluccan Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx lepidus* Single stunners at Buli Road and Aketajawe Lolobata NP (*uropygialis*).
Azure Kingfisher *Ceyx azureus* Briefly perched, then well in flight at Aketajawe Lolobata NP (*affinis*).
Purple-bearded Bee-eater *Meropogon forsteni* Several beauties Anaso Track & G. Ambang (plus nest with chicks).
Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus* Locally common Sulawesi (*celebensis*).
Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*
Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus* Common Halmahera (*ruficollis*).
Knobbed Hornbill *Rhyticeros cassidix* Frequent on Sulawesi. A monotypic endemic.

Sulawesi Hornbill (S Dwarf H) *Rhabdotorrhinus exarhatus* Multiple encounters. Nominate north, *sanfordi* south.
Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker *Yungipicus temminckii* Occasional.
Ashy Woodpecker *Mulleripicus fulvus* Nice looks. The nominate race in the north and *wallacei* in Lore Lindu area.
Spotted Kestrel *Falco moluccensis* Occasional (nominate).
Oriental Hobby *Falco severus* One at Buli Road (*papuanus*).
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*



Great-billed Kingfisher (Craig Robson)

White Cockatoo *Cacatua alba* Many on Halmahera, particularly Buli Road (30+).
Moluccan King Parrot *Alisterus amboinensis* Easily seen well at Buli Road, Halmahera (*hypophonioides*).
Golden-mantled Racquet-tail *Prioniturus platurus* Common enough in flight Lore Lindu and Tangkoko (nominate).
Yellow-breasted Racquet-tail *Prioniturus flavicans* Good views at Tambun and Toraut etc. Monotypic endemic.
Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus* Quite common Halmahera (*vosmaeri*).
Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi* Quite common Halmahera (*cyanicollis*).
Great-billed Parrot *Tanygnathus megalorhynchus* Frequent Halmahera (nominate).
Blue-backed Parrot *Tanygnathus sumatranus* Regularly seen on Sulawesi (nominate).
Red-flanked Lorikeet *Charmosyna placensis* Common Halmahera (*intensior*).
Chattering Lory *Lorius garrulus* Small numbers at Foli and Buli Road (nominate). Good perched views.
Violet-necked Lory *Eos squamata* Foli and Buli Road, but commoner at the former site (*riciniata*).
Ornate Lorikeet *Trichoglossus ornatus* Some good sightings in north Sulawesi. Monotypic endemic
Citrine Lorikeet (Yellow-and-green L) *Trichoglossus flavoviridis* Large numbers L. Tambing, Lore Lindu (*meyeri*).
Great Hanging Parrot (Large Sulawesi H P) *Loriculus stigmatus* Not uncommon (nominate).
Moluccan Hanging Parrot *Loriculus amabilis* Occasional in Halmahera forests.
Pygmy Hanging Parrot (Small Sulawesi H P) *L. exilis* 10 Molibagu Rd. Great perched views - monotypic endemic.
Red-bellied Pitta (Sulawesi P) *Pitta [erythrogaster] celebensis* Just one; seen well at Tangkoko. See notes.
Red-bellied Pitta (Moluccan P) *Pitta [erythrogaster] rufiventris* One seen well along the Buli Rd. See notes.
Ivory-breasted Pitta *Pitta maxima* Four seen at Foli, and many heard on Halmahera. North Moluccan endemic.
Elegant Pitta *Pitta elegans* (H) One was calling loudly at dawn off the Molibagu Road, but managed to elude us.



Ashy Woodpecker (Craig Robson)

Dusky Myzomela (Dusky H) *Myzomela obscura* A handful on Halmahera (*simplex*).

Sulawesi Myzomela *Myzomela chloropeta* Seen well at Lore Lindu (nominate).



Black-chinned Whistler (Craig Robson)

White-streaked Friarbird *Melitograis gilolensis* 13 on Halmahera (Foli & Buli Rd). Monotypic N Moluccan endemic.

Dark-eared Myza (Lesser Sulawesi Honeyeater) *Myza celebensis* Ten at Lore Lindu (nominate).

White-eared Myza (Greater Sulawesi Honeyeater) *Myza sarsinorum* Eight along the Anaso track (*chionogenys*).

Golden-bellied Gerygone (Flyeater) *Gerygone sulphurea* Widespread on Sulawesi. See notes.

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus* Widespread: *albiventer* Sulawesi, *leucopygialis* Halmahera.

Ivory-backed Woodswallow *Artamus monachus* Many sightings in central and north Sulawesi. Monotypic endemic.

Moluccan Cuckooshrike *Coracina atriceps* A few showed nicely on Halmahera (*magnirostris*).

Caerulean Cuckooshrike *Coracina temminckii* Several good looks at these at Salibu, near Lore Lindu.

Pied Cuckooshrike *Coracina bicolor* One or two seen well enough at Toraut. A monotypic endemic.

White-rumped Cuckooshrike *Coracina leucopygia* Scattered sightings north Sulawesi. Another monotypic endemic.

White-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina papuensis* Three seen well on Halmahera (nominate).

Halmahera Cuckooshrike *Coracina parvula* At least 12 on Halmahera. Monotypic north Moluccan endemic.

Pygmy Cuckooshrike *Coracina abbotti* Four in bird flocks at Lore Lindu. Another monotypic endemic.

Common Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris* (NL) One was seen along the Buli Road (*grayi*).

Sulawesi Cicadabird *Coracina morio* Two showed well at Salibu, near Lore Lindu.

White-rumped Triller (Sulawesi T) *Lalage leucopygialis* Many at Toraut, Tambun etc. A monotypic endemic.

White-shouldered Triller *Lalage sueurii*

Rufous-bellied Triller *Lalage aurea* A common forest bird on Halmahera, and a monotypic north Moluccan endemic.



White-naped Monarch (Craig Robson)

Maroon-backed Whistler *Coracornis raveni* About four seen at Lore Lindu; good views of this monotypic endemic.

Sulphur-vented Whistler (Yellow-v W) *Pachycephala sulfuriventer* Lore Lindu & G. Ambang. Monotypic endemic.

Black-chinned Whistler *Pachycephala mentalis* Three seen and several heard on Halmahera (nominate).

Drab Whistler *Pachycephala griseonota* Two were finally tracked down at Aketajawe Lolobata NP (*cinerascens*).

Dusky-brown Oriole *Oriolus phaeochromus* 1 of these N Moluccan endemics scoped on Halmahera. Many heard.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis* Regularly encountered on Sulawesi (*celebensis*).

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus* Rather common on Sulawesi. See notes.

Sulawesi Drongo *Dicrurus montanus* Several encountered in the higher forests at Lore Lindu.

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus* Quite common on Halmahera (*atrocaeruleus*).

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys* Common non-forest bird Halmahera (*melaleuca*), even nesting on phone-lines.

Rusty-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura teysmanni* Quite common in forest at Lore Lindu and G. Ambang (*toradja*).

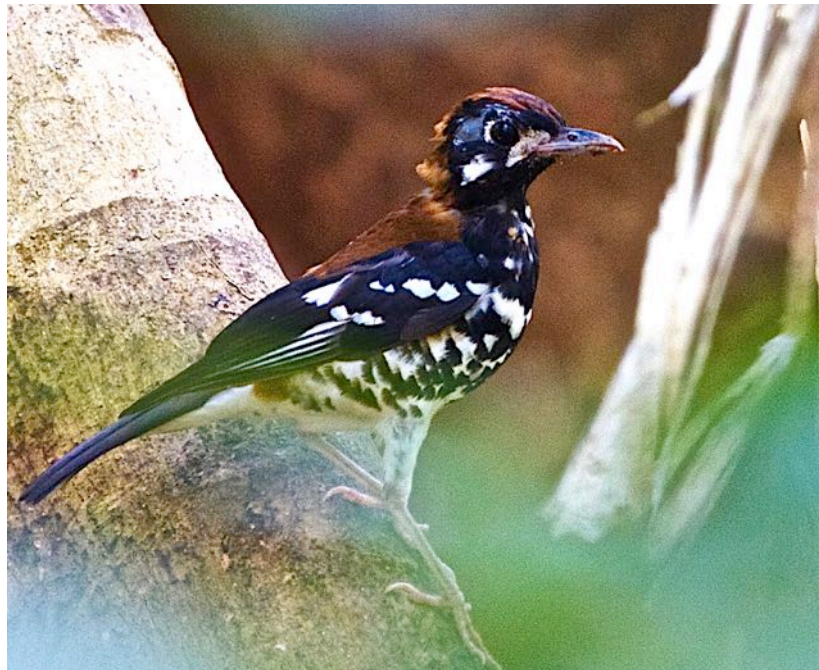
Pale Blue Monarch *Hypothymis puella* Scattered sightings of this attractive monarch on Sulawesi (nominate).

Moluccan Monarch *Symposiachrus bimaculatus* Ten logged on Halmahera (nominate). See notes.

White-naped Monarch *Carterornis pileatus* Just one of these lovelies seen along Buli Road (nominate).

Moluccan Flycatcher (Slaty F) *Myiagra galeata* A handful on Halmahera (nominate).

Shining Flycatcher (S Monarch) *Myiagra alecto* Secretive on Halmahera, but one showed well Buli Rd (nominate).
Slender-billed Crow *Corvus enca* Commonly found in northern Sulawesi, with striking calls (*celebensis*).
Piping Crow *Corvus typicus* Scoped at Karaenta Forest. Romney saw three at Lake Taming.
Long-billed Crow *Corvus validus* This well-endowed corvid was common on Halmahera.
Paradise-crow *Lycocorax pyrrhopterus* Several good views on Halmahera (nominate). Moluccan endemic.
Standardwing *Semioptera wallacii* Amazing display action at the Foli lek, and also seen along Buli Rd (*halmaherae*).
Hylocitrea (Yellow-flanked Whistler) *Hylocitrea bonensis* Ten along the Anaso Track; ever furtive (nominate).
Citrine Canary-Flycatcher *Culicicapa helianthea* Regular sightings in central and north Sulawesi (nominate).
Sooty-headed Bulbul (introduced) *Pycnonotus aurigaster* Common in parts of Sulawesi (*aurigaster*).
Yellow-vented Bulbul (introduced) *Pycnonotus goiavier* (NL) Two were seen at Makassar Fishponds.
Northern Golden Bulbul *Thapsinillas longirostris* Frequent Halmahera (*chloris*). Empty nest Aketajawe Lolobata.



Red-backed Thrush (Craig Robson)

Malia *Malia grata* Great views at Lore Lindu (*stresemanni*) and Gunung Ambang (*recondita*).
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*
Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cuculatus* Common at Lore Lindu (*stentor*) and Gunung Ambang (*riedell*).
Sulawesi Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus sarasinorum* As for the last species (*nesophilus*).
Island Leaf Warbler (Halmahera L W) *Phylloscopus [maforensis] henrietta* Just one singing along the Buli Road.
Australian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus australis* Several at Makassar Fishponds (*celebensis*). See notes.
Chestnut-backed Bush Warbler *Locustella castanea* Great views Lore Lindu & G. Ambang. Monotypic endemic.
Gray's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella fasciolata* 1 perched up nicely along the Buli Road; 1 heard. See notes.
Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* Three at Makassar Fishponds (*constans*).
Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis* Scattered on Sulawesi and Halmahera (*rusticus*).
Sulawesi Babbler *Trichastoma celebense* Widespread. Race *finschi* in SW, *rufoscum* in NC, and nominate in N.
Streak-headed White-eye (S-h Dark-e) *Lophozosterops squamiceps* A few seen at Lore Lindu (*striaticeps*).
Mountain White-eye *Zosterops montanus* Fairly common in Sulawesi montane forests (nominate).
Lemon-bellied White-eye *Zosterops chloris* Near hotel at Makassar (*intermedius*) & near Lore Lindu (*mentoris*).
Black-ringed White-eye *Zosterops anomalus* Seen well at Karaenta Forest. Monotypic endemic.
Cream-throated White-eye *Zosterops atriceps* Not uncommon on Halmahera. Now a monotypic endemic.
Black-crowned White-eye (B- fronted W-e) *Zosterops atrifrons* Widespread; *surdus* in NC, and nominate in N.
Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica* The commoner Starling on Halmahera, with its red eye (nominate).
Moluccan Starling *Aplonis mysolensis* Quite a few at Foli and Buli Road (nominate).

Short-tailed Starling *Aplonis minor* Some good numbers seen at Lore Lindu and the Sedoa River area (nominate).
Sulawesi Myna (S Crested M) *Basilornis celebensis* Great sightings at Salibu & Molibagu Rd. Monotypic endemic.
White-necked Myna *Streptocitta albigollis* A few *torquata* in north Sulawesi. Endemic.
Fiery-browed Starling (Finch-billed Myna) *Enodes erythrophris* Common at Lore Lindu. Monotypic endemic.
Grosbeak Starling *Scissirostrum dubium* Numerous in lower Sulawesi forests & Lake Taming. Monotypic endemic.
Javan Myna *Acridotheres javanicus* Recently introduced to Sulawesi. Two in fields near Palu.
Red-backed Thrush *Geokichla erythronota* Three beauties seen very well at Tangkoko NP (nominate).
Geomalia *Zoothera heinrichi* Just a couple of glimpses along the Anaso Track.
Sulawesi Thrush *Cataponera turdoides* One seen well several times at Lore Lindu NP (*abditiva*).
Sulawesi Streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa sodhii* A much wanted pair at Karaenta. Recently described endemic.



Sulawesi Streaked Flycatcher (Craig Robson)

Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis omissus* Nice close views Sedoa R area; also G. Mahawu and Toraut.
Blue-fronted Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis hoevelli* A few at Lore Lindu NP. Monotypic endemic.
Matinan Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis sanfordi* One singing bird found easily at Gunung Ambang.
Turquoise Flycatcher (Island Verditer F) *Eumyias panayensis* Regular sightings at Lore Lindu (*septentrionalis*).
Great Shortwing *Heinrichia calligyna* Took some work but seen well at Lore Lindu NP (nominate).
Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra* Several seen at Lore Lindu (*jugosae*).
Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni* A couple in the Lore Lindu area (nominate).
Blue Rock Thrush (Asian R T) *Monticola [solitarius] philippensis* One in Tobelo. See notes.
Pied Bush Chat *Saxicola caprata* Singles near Makassar and Palu (*albonotatus*).
Yellow-sided Flowerpecker *Dicaeum aureolimbatum* Regularly encountered on Sulawesi (nominate).
Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker *Dicaeum nehrkorni* Several seen well in the Lore Lindu area. Monotypic endemic.
Halmahera Flowerpecker *Dicaeum schistaceiceps* Common on Halmahera.
Grey-sided Flowerpecker *Dicaeum celebicum* Common on Sulawesi (nominate).
Brown-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis* Frequent on Sulawesi, particularly in the north (*celebensis*).
Black Sunbird *Leptocoma sericea* Common: *porphyrolaema* C & S Sulawesi, *grayi* N Sulawesi, *auriceps* Halmahera.
Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis* Common throughout: *plateni* on Sulawesi, *frenatus* on Halmahera.
Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja* Three at Tambun and Molibagu Road (*flavostriata*).
Eurasian Tree Sparrow (introduced) *Passer montanus*
Black-faced Munia *Lonchura molucca* Common throughout.
Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata* Common on Sulawesi (*particeps*).
Chestnut Munia *Lonchura atricapilla* Common throughout (*jagori*). Probably introduced to Halmahera.

Pale-headed Munia *Lonchura pallida* 60 at Makassar Airport, 100 near Palu.



Mountain Serin (Craig Robson)

Eastern Yellow Wagtail (Alaska W) *Motacilla [tschutschensis] tschutschensis* Scattered, with 25 at G. Mahawu.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

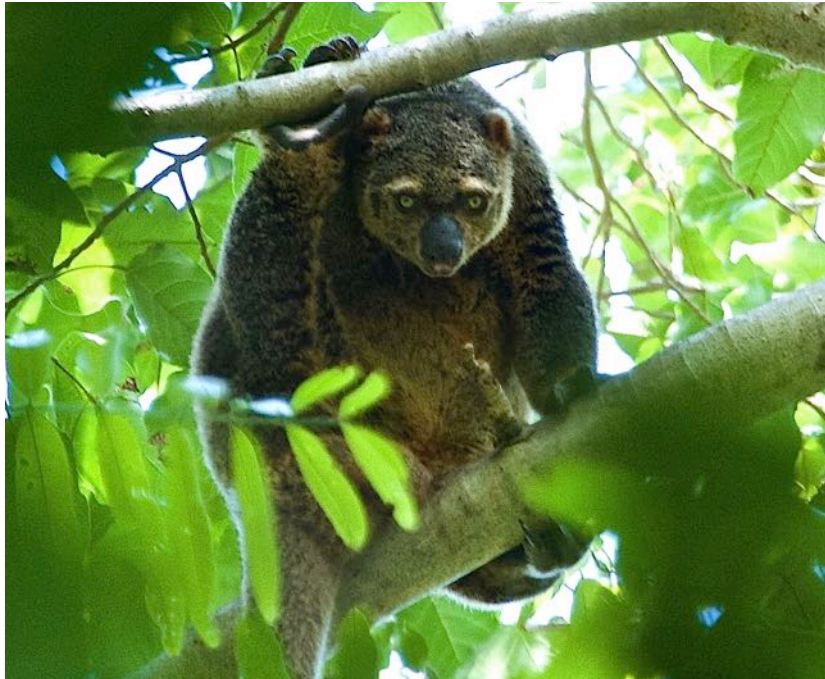
Mountain Serin *Chrysocorythus estherae* About eight along the Anaso track, with one scoped.



Scanning for Great-billed Kingfishers (Craig Robson)

MAMMALS

Bear Cuscus *Ailurops ursinus* Two at Gunung Ambang, and another at Tangkoko NP.



Bear Cuscus (Craig Robson)

Whitish Dwarf Squirrel (Pale D S) *Prosciurillus leucomus* One at Tangkoko. White neck-patch.

Sulawesi Dwarf Squirrel *Prosciurillus murinus* The little dark squirrel we saw most often.

Malayan Civet (introduced) *Viverra zibetha* One crossed the road en route to Binagara, Halmahera.

Spectral Tarsier *Tarsius spectrum* At least five seen at Tangkoko.



The amazing little Spectral Tarsier (Craig Robson)

Sulawesi Crested Macaque *Macaca nigra* A large troupe of at least 50 animals at Tangkoko.

Common Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* (NL) Mark saw five at Foli, Halmahera

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

Tricolored Grebe *Tachybaptus tricolor*

A recent split from Little Grebe *T. ruficollis*

(Eastern) Great Egret *Ardea [alba] modesta*

Most authors (including the IOC) still lump this form (found in much of Asia and Australasia) in Western Great Egret *A. alba*, using the name Great Egret for the enlarged species.

Eastern Osprey *Pandion cristatus*

Many authors lump this form in Western Osprey *P. haliaetus* using the name Osprey for the enlarged species.

Barred (or Sulawesi) Honey Buzzard *Pernis celebensis*

Many authors lump Steere's (or Philippine) Honey-buzzard *P. steerei* in this species.

Pygmy Eagle (New Guinea Hawk-E) *Hieraaetus weiskei*

This probably overlooked species was formerly lumped in Little Eagle *H. morphnoides* of Australia.

Variable (or Grey-throated) Goshawk *Accipiter [hiogaster] griseogularis*

Some authors split off the form concerned as a separate species. Alternatively, some authors lump Grey Goshawk *A. novaehollandiae* in this species, using the name Variable Goshawk for the enlarged species.

Pale-vented (or Rufous-tailed) Bush-hen *Amaurornis moluccanus*

Some authors lump this species in Plain Bush-hen *A. olivaceus* of the Philippines, using the name (Common) Bush-hen for the enlarged species.

Black-backed Swamphen *Porphyrio indicus*

Some authors lump this species (along with African Swamphen *P. madagascariensis*, Grey-headed Swamphen *P. poliocephalus*, Philippine Swamphen *P. pulverulentus* and Australasian Swamphen *P. melanotus*) in Western Swamphen *P. porphyrio*, using the name Purple Swamphen for the enlarged species.

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

The *atrifrons* group of subspecies may in the future be split off as *C. atrifrons* but retaining the English name Lesser Sand Plover. The *mongolus* group (the form seen on this tour) would then be renamed Mongolian Sand Plover.

(Eurasian) Whimbrel *Numenius [phaeopus] phaeopus*

Some authors have suggested that New World form *hudsonicus* (Hudsonian Whimbrel) should be treated as specifically distinct, in which case the Eurasian form would be renamed Eurasian Whimbrel. The form seen on this tour, *variegatus*, would be included with the latter.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

The form concerned, *longipennis*, is morphologically distinct. In breeding plumage it shows an all dark bill, grey underparts and a longer tail and may in the future be treated as a full species.

Sultan's Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia doreya*

A recent reclassification of cuckoo-doves has resulted in several new species. This species was formerly included in Amboyna Cuckoo-Dove *M. amboina* with the name Slender-billed or Brown Cuckoo-Dove being used for the enlarged species. In addition, the two forms seen on this tour, *albicapilla* the pale-headed form on Sulawesi and *albiceps* on Halmahera, are significantly different in plumage and voice and may represent separate species.

Oberholser's Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus epius*

This form (*epia* in Coates & Bishop) was previously lumped with Sula Fruit Dove *P. mangoliensis* and Banggai Fruit Dove *P. subgularis*; with the name Maroon-chinned Fruit Dove *P. subgularis* being applied to the enlarged species.

Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea*

The form concerned, *paulina*, is restricted to the Sulawesi region and is morphologically distinct, showing a bright rufous patch on the nape. It may in the future be treated as a full species.

Spectacled Imperial Pigeon *Ducula perspicillata*

Some authors lump Seram Imperial Pigeon *D. neglecta* in this species.

Black-billed Koel *Eudynamis melanorhynchus*

This species is often lumped in Asian (or Common) Koel *E. scolopacea*.

Little (or Gould's) Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx [minutillus] jungei*

The form concerned is sometimes split off as a separate species. When lumped, the combined species This form is sometimes lumped in Little Bronze Cuckoo *C. minutillus*, with the name Malay Bronze Cuckoo being used for the enlarged species. Note that Coates & Bishop use the scientific name *C. russatus*.

Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *Cuculus sepulcralis*

This form is sometimes lumped in Brush Cuckoo *C. variolosus* of Australasia.

Moluccan Cuckoo *Cacomantis aeruginosus*

This species was formerly known as *C. heinrichi*. However, it appears that birds from Halmahera (*heinrichi*) are identical (in plumage and vocalizations) to the form *aeruginosus* (known from Seram, Buru and the Moluccas) and should be placed together as a separate species, or indeed, the two forms may even be synonymous, as is the case with the IOC.

Moluccan Drongo-Cuckoo *Surniculus musschenbroeki*

Many authors lump this species in Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo *S. lugubris*, using the name Drongo Cuckoo for the enlarged species.

Halmahera Boobook *Ninox hypogramma*

Following recent studies, the former Moluccan Boobook *N. squamipila* has been split into four highly distinctive species: the current form, Buru Boobook *Ninox hantu* (Buru), Seram Boobook *Ninox squamipila* (Seram), and Tanimbar Boobook *Ninox forbesi* (Tanimbar Is).

Sulawesi Nightjar *Caprimulgus celebensis*

This species was formerly lumped in Philippine Nightjar *C. manillensis* which in turn was sometimes lumped in Large-tailed Nightjar *C. macrurus*.

Halmahera Swiftlet *Aerodramus infuscatus*

Sulawesi Swiftlet *Collocalia sororum*

Some authors lump Sulawesi Swiftlet in Halmahera Swiftlet, using the name Moluccan Swiftlet for the enlarged species. It is now in the genus *Aerodramus*.

House Swift *Apus nipalensis*

Some authors lump this species in Little Swift *A. affinis*.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Resident *hispidoides* is morphologically distinct, being somewhat intermediate in characters between nominate-type Common Kingfisher and Blue-eared Kingfisher *A. meninting*. It may in the future be treated as a full species.

Moluccan Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx lepidus*

The former Variable Dwarf Kingfisher *C. lepidus* has now been split into several similar allopatric species. The nominate form, the form that we have seen on this tour, is re-named Moluccan Dwarf Kingfisher.

Red-bellied (or Sulawesi) Pitta *Erythropitta [erythrogaster] celebensis*

Red-bellied (or Moluccan) Pitta *Erythropitta [erythrogaster] rufiventris*

Some authors (though as yet not the IOC) have split Red-bellied (or Blue-breasted) Pitta into 16 different species!

Sulawesi Myzomela *Myzomela chloroptera*

This species was formerly lumped in Scarlet Myzomela (or Honeyeater) *M. sanguinolenta*.

Golden-bellied Gerygone (Flyeater) *Gerygone sulphurea*

The resident form on Sulawesi, *flaveola*, is both morphologically and vocally distinct, and, somewhat unusually for this species, is common in montane forest. It may in the future be treated as a full species.

White-rumped (or Sulawesi) Triller *Lalage leucopygialis*

This species is sometimes lumped in Pied Triller *L. nigra*

Black-chinned Whistler *Pachycephala mentalis*

Many authors lump this and several related species in Australian Golden Whistler *P. pectoralis*, using the name common Golden Whistler for the enlarged species. Black-chinned Whistler is endemic to the north Moluccas.

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*

The resident form in the lower altitudes on Sulawesi, *lucops*, is morphologically distinct, showing a piercing white iris. It may in the future be treated as a full species.

Sulawesi Drongo *Dicrurus montanus*

This species was formerly lumped in Spangled Drongo *D. bracteatus*.

Pale Blue Monarch *Hypothymis puella*

This species was formerly lumped in Black-naped Monarch *H. azurea*.

Moluccan Monarch *Symposiachrus bimaculatus*

This is a recent split from Spectacled Monarch *S. trivirgatus*.

Hylocitrea (Yellow-flanked Whistler) *Hylocitrea bonensis*

This has been found to be unrelated to Whistlers, and more closely related to Waxwings, and has been placed in its own family Hylocitridae. The common name Hylocitrea is thus more appropriate.

Northern Golden Bulbul *Thapsinillas longirostris*

Many authors lump this species, along with Buru Golden Bulbul *Ixops mystacalis*, in Seram Golden Bulbul *I. affinis*, using the name Golden Bulbul for the enlarged species.

Island (or Halmahera) Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus henrietta*

It is likely that the form concerned will be split off as a separate species in the future. Note that this species was formerly known as *P. poliocephalus*, but it has been shown that *maforensis* has priority over *poliocephalus*.

Australian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus australis*

Some authors still lump this species in Clamorous Reed Warbler *A. stentoreus*.

Gray's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella fasciolata*

The IOC split off *amnicola* as a separate species, Sakhalin G W. There appears to be little evidence for the split, the two forms being almost identical in plumage and vocalizations. It is not known which form occurs in Wallacea.

Sulawesi Streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa sodhii*.

This species has only recently been formally described, following its first discovery in 1997. It is similar in plumage to Grey-

streaked Flycatcher *M. griseisticta* though has a streaked throat, a plain, unmarked face, a longer bill and shorter wings. It is most likely a resident endemic species.

Blue (or Asian) Rock Thrush *Monticola [solitarius] philippensis*

The eastern forms, including all of those occurring in South-East Asia, are sometimes considered as a separate species, Asian Rock Thrush *M. philippensis*.

Halmahera Flowerpecker *Dicaeum schistaceiceps*

Some authors lump this species in Buru Flowerpecker *D. erythrothorax*, using the name Flame-breasted Flowerpecker for the enlarged species.

Eastern Yellow (or Alaskan) Wagtail *Motacilla [tschutschensis] tschutschensis*

Some authors lump Eastern Yellow Wagtail *M. tschutschensis* in Western Yellow Wagtail *M. flava*, using the name Yellow Wagtail for the enlarged species. The form formerly known as *simillima* is generally included in *tschutschensis*.

APPENDIX 1 – Top five birds of the tour

- 1st Maleo
- 2nd Ivory-breasted Pitta
- 3rd Standardwing
- 4th Minahassa Masked Owl
- 5th Purple-bearded Bee-eater & Moluccan Megapode



'Maleo Max' (Craig Robson)