

# SULAWESI & HALMAHERA

11 SEPTEMBER – 3 OCTOBER 2009

## TOUR REPORT

Another splendid Birdquest tour to Sulawesi and Halmahera, and one that was rather different to usual, in that we did not see rain until our penultimate day! Everywhere was very hot and dry, some areas not having had any rain for three months, perhaps the effect of an 'El Nino' weather event. This however didn't seem to have any negative effect on the birding, and we recorded a very handsome total of 283 species. Yet it is the quality and rarity of the endemic birds that are the main attraction, and we were not disappointed! On Sulawesi we enjoyed many superb endemics such as Green-backed, Lilac-cheeked, Sulawesi Dwarf, and Great-billed Kingfishers (some of the 14 species recorded!), daytime roosting Speckled and Ochre-bellied Boobooks, Sulawesi Scops Owls and Sulawesi Masked Owl, Cinnabar Boobook, Sulawesi and Heinrich's Nightjars (also at daytime roosts), Knobbed and Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbills, Red-eared and Maroon-chinned Fruit Doves, Sulawesi Ground Dove, Sombre Pigeon, Sulawesi Serpent and Sulawesi Hawk Eagles, Spot-tailed and Sulawesi Goshawks, Small Sparrowhawk, Purple-bearded Bee-eaters, Purple-winged Roller, Malia, Great Shortwing, Maroon-backed and Yellow-flanked Whistlers, Red-backed and Sulawesi Thrushes, the as-yet-undescribed 'Sulawesi' Flycatcher, plus the demure but entertaining Matinan Flycatcher. Our 'Bird-of-the-trip' however, was a richly coloured Maleo that posed for us in the afternoon sun. On Halmahera we saw Beach, Common Paradise and Sombre Kingfishers, Moluccan Boobook, Moluccan Scops Owl and the strange Moluccan Owlet Nightjar, Blue-capped, Grey-headed and Scarlet-breasted Fruit Doves, Spectacled and Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeons, Great-billed, Red-cheeked and Eclectus Parrots, Chattering and Violet-necked Lorys, a total of eight Ivory-breasted Pittas, Gurney's Eagle, Goliath Coucal, the odd Paradise Crow, and we enjoyed the thrilling experience of watching the dawn lek of Standardwing Bird-of-Paradise. The biggest surprise of all, however, was the sudden appearance of a pair of Invisible Rails! They remained in view long enough for three of us to get a good look, before scuttling away through the forest undergrowth. This is without a doubt the most important ornithological event of the tour – and may be the first time that any birders have seen the species in the field!

This year's tour actually began where previous tours would have finished, with a flight directly into Manado from Singapore, and a short drive to Tangkoko for a three-night stay. En route, a short stop produced Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon and Black-naped Fruit Dove,

then a twilight walk near our lodgings yielded our first Yellow-billed Malkoha, a Sulawesi Masked Owl flying by, and a superb look at a perched Great Eared Nightjar.

An early morning start in the Tangkoko forest soon brought us face to face with a stray Elegant Pitta feeding close to our first of five Red-backed Thrushes, followed by a suite of fine birds such a splendid Sulawesi Nightjar lying up under a bush, many Grosbeak Starlings, Silver-tipped and Green Imperial Pigeons, Purple-winged Roller, and a confiding Blue-breasted Pitta. The 'Tangkoko Kingfisher Showcase' kicked off with three Green-backed Kingfishers, and a Lilac-cheeked Kingfisher that posed with a strange gall in its mouth. Two Ochre-bellied Boobooks were located at roost by our exceptional guides, surprisingly perching just inches above the ground.

For our afternoon entertainment we took to boats, chugging along the coastline to see a Sulawesi Masked Owl roosting in a sea cave, and two huge Great-billed Herons standing on fishing platforms that dwarfed the nearby Pacific Reef Egrets. We paddled up mangrove creeks in search of the Great-billed Kingfisher, eventually locating one perched over the channels, along with Ruddy and Sacred Kingfishers, Black Bittern, Little Herons, Osprey, Large Sulawesi Hanging Parrots, Grey-rumped Tattler and Eurasian Whimbrel. A second day here was equally exciting, with Ornate Lorikeets, both Sulawesi and Spot-tailed Goshawks, Sulawesi Hawk Eagle, Knobbed Hornbills, Philippine Scrubfowl, Sulawesi Black Pigeon, two delightful Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfishers perched in the rattan undergrowth, and a roosting pair of Sulawesi Scops Owls. Isabelline Bush-hens appeared behind our lodgings, bathing in the stream in the midday heat. In the afternoon we explored roadside forest at a higher elevation, finding White-bellied Imperial Pigeons, Yellow-billed Malkoha, Bay Coucal, Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbill, some distant Golden-mantled Racquet-tails and Blue-backed Parrots, our only Sulawesi Cicadabirds of the tour, Grey-sided Flowerpeckers, and a surprise appearance by Yellow-crested Cockatoo, the first time it has ever been seen on this tour. Our final morning at Tangkoko produced a brief view of a Small Sulawesi Hanging Parrot, some obliging White-rumped Cuckooshrikes, Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpeckers, Barred Rails and some smart Sulawesi Trillers.

We returned to the airport and flew to Makassar at the opposite end of this island, where we squeezed in a visit to the nearby fishponds before sundown. It was a very productive hour, with several Javan Plovers seen running about on the mud, plus Sharp-tailed, Curlew, Wood and Marsh Sandpipers, Rufous-necked and Long-toed Stints, White-headed Stilt, Whiskered Terns, Sunda Teal and Uniform Swiftlets. Enjoying one of the few nights on the tour when we actually stay in a real hotel, we could just see some Savanna Nightjars from the hotel restaurant.

We drove out of the town in the early hours of the morning, to the nearby limestone hills of the Karaenta Forest. Here the endemic Black-ringed White-eyes performed for us as we ate our al-fresco breakfast, and as the sun climbed higher we found Silver-tipped and

Green Imperial Pigeons, Piping Crow, White-necked Mynas, Grey-rumped Treeswifts, Hair-crested Drongos, Pale Blue Monarch, Sulawesi Babbler, Black Sunbird and Yellow-sided Flowerpeckers. A quick look in the trees at the foot of the mountain revealed a pair of the as-yet-undescribed Sulawesi Flycatcher, showing very well as they fed a dependant juvenile. As we headed back towards the airport, a brief look in some fields produced a pair of Pale-bellied Mynas, a poorly known south Sulawesi endemic and yet another first for this tour!

It was then time to take a domestic flight to Palu in central Sulawesi, and we were met on arrival by our local crew with their vehicles. We set off on the three-hour journey up to the Lore Lindu National Park, arriving soon after dark. Our lodgings here are within easy reach of the cool montane forests, and on our first morning we were pitched headfirst into a lively avifauna, most of it endemic. Beginning with a pre-dawn hunt for nightbirds, we found a Satanic Nightjar hawking along the roadsides. As the light came up, we found a vocal Great Shortwing lurking in the undergrowth, while in busy feeding flocks were Pygmy and Caerulean Cuckooshrikes, Sulawesi Drongo, Yellow-vented Whistlers, Rufous-bellied Fantail, Sulawesi Leaf Warblers, Streak-headed Dark-eye, Mountain White-eyes, Island Verditer, Citrine and Blue-fronted Flycatchers, and several noisy Malia. We also found our first Fiery-browed Starlings, gaudy Sulawesi Myzomelas, Lesser Sulawesi Honeyeaters and Snowy-browed Flycatchers.

A short walk up the lower section of the Anaso track produced our first Purple-bearded Bee-eaters and Red-eared Fruit Doves, and a lunchtime spell by Lake Taming provided views of Ivory-backed Woodswallows, a group of Short-tailed Starling feeding high in the trees, plus various glimpses of the skulking Chestnut-backed Bush Warbler. At lower elevations we found displaying Rufous-bellied Eagles, Moluccan Swiftlets, Little Pied Flycatcher, Lemon-bellied and Black-fronted White-eyes.

Heavy rain damage has finally destroyed all chances of driving up the Anaso track, so to reach the higher elevations now means walking all of the way, as the makeshift bridges and rough road is no longer passable by jeep. An early start was required in order to get up as far as we needed, and as we ascended we found several endemic Grey-headed Imperial Pigeons plus a single egg lying in a shallow bowl on a club moss covered bank, Red-eared Fruit Doves, a roosting Satanic Nightjar, while overhead Yellow-and-Green Lorikeets and noisy Golden-mantled Racquet-tails shot by. We saw numerous Purple-bearded Bee-eaters, our first Sulawesi Serpent Eagles, both Lesser and Greater Sulawesi Honeyeaters, numerous Mountain Serins including some that perched long enough to show off their orange tones, and a sluggish Yellow-flanked Whistler.

Further explorations up and down the mountain over the following days were productive, with a sneaky Sulawesi Thrush making an appearance, plus Crimson-crowned Flowerpeckers, Crimson Sunbirds, hordes of Purple Needletails, Barred Honey Buzzard,

White-bellied Imperial Pigeon, Black-billed Koel, Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher, Tawny Grassbird, Piping Crow, Sulawesi Crested Myna, and Buff-banded Rail.

A final morning saw us divide into two parties; those who climbed the Anaso track once again had success with Cinnabar Boobook, Sombre Pigeon, Blue-faced Parrotfinch and Maroon-backed Whistler, while the rest of us strolled the roads through the high forest finding Grey-headed Imperial Pigeon, Small Sparrowhawk, Sulawesi Serpent Eagle and a Rusty-breasted Cuckoo. Flight cancellations and rearrangements over the Eid-al-Fitri festival meant we had to depart earlier than projected, (flight changes being a common feature of traveling in this part of the world!) but we were able to collect a 'paddyfields-worth' of Pale-headed, Black-faced and Chestnut Munias on the way to Palu, where we spent a night in a nice hotel.

We flew to Makassar early the next morning, and then flew from here to Manado. We discovered that our onward flight to Ternate was cancelled, so we had to overnight in Manado and hope for a flight the following day, when the plane had been fixed! We made an afternoon foray onto a nearby hill, and around a cap of remnant forest we found Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbill, Sulawesi Black Pigeon, White-bellied Imperial Pigeon, Large Sulawesi Hanging Parrot, Grey-streaked Flycatcher, and a Barred Rail going to roost in a banana tree.

Against all expectations, we actually boarded a flight the following morning, and with fingers crossed we actually arrived in Ternate! From here we crossed by fast motorboat to Sidangoli on Halmahera, and amazingly caught up with our original schedule! We were met by comfortable cars, which sped us to the town of Tobelo where we were to spend the night. After some dinner and refreshment, we made the nocturnal pilgrimage to the nesting beach of the Moluccan Scrubfowl, but despite our best efforts we drew a blank. The following morning we drove the relatively short distance to Daru, then crossed the channel to Foli by boat, seeing Bridled, Little, Common and White-winged Terns, plus a Beach Kingfisher that was distantly visible in the bushes along the shore. On arriving we walked the short distance to our home for the next three nights, a wooden house purpose-built for people like us in the yard of the village headman. Keen to start birding, we headed out into the field after some lunch and set about finding some of the many birds available here. A busy afternoons' birding produced Scarlet-breasted and Grey-headed Fruit Doves, Spectacled, Pied and Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeons, Red-cheeked and Eclectus Parrots, Great-billed Parrot, White Cockatoo and Blyth's Hornbills. We had good views of Dusky-brown Oriole, Rufous-bellied Triller, Slaty Flycatcher, White-naped Monarchs and Dusky Honeyeater. After darkness fell, we found a Moluccan Owlet Nightjar, and an enthusiastically calling Moluccan Boobook.

Foli is a great birding site, and we were certainly kept busy during our stay. We headed off-trail into the undergrowth, first finding a Dusky Scrubfowl which shuffled towards us for a view, then engaged in a prolonged attempt to see Ivory-breasted Pitta. We eventually

succeeded, with one that came right in, hovering noisily before perching just over heads! Almost immediately after this, a Sombre Kingfisher appeared and sat calmly on a high open perch. A little later some rustling in the leaf litter drew our attention. First unsure of what we were seeing, the birds revealed themselves to be large slaty fellows with long red legs and a long red bill – Invisible Rail! The birds were very aware of us, and unfortunately scuttled out of view. We are perhaps the first Western observers of this bird, with previous records referring to specimens, although rumours persist of some unconfirmed sightings in the recent past. Wow! What a morning!

So, continuing our birding in these wonderful forests, we also found Common Golden Whistlers, a pair of Common Paradise Kingfishers, Moluccan, Halmahera and White-bellied Cuckooshrikes, Common Cicadabird, Goliath Coucal, Blue-and-white Kingfishers, a female Standardwing Bird of Paradise, the furtive Paradise Crow and the lovable Long billed Crows. We found Parrots and Pigeons in abundance, such as Violet-necked Lorys, Moluccan Hanging Parrots, Red-flanked Lorikeets, and eventually the glorious Chattering Lorys (which have suddenly become much scarcer.) We were surprised by a Great Cuckoo Dove and a flock of Nicobar Pigeons, plus we found the tiny Blue-capped Fruit Dove, Spangled Drongos, Moustached Treeswifts, Moluccan Starlings among the more numerous Metallic ones, White-streaked Friarbird, Drab Whistler, Cream-throated White-eye and Flame-breasted Flowerpecker. Large-tailed Nightjars appeared along the tracks every morning, a migrant Gray's Grasshopper Warbler gave us a terrific show, and on a forest pool we found a pair of Spotted Whistling Ducks.

Our time to leave came, and we tried a new method of reaching Sidangoli – by road! Some of the roads were good, much of it was very bad, and we were grateful that there had been no rain! We paused to scan luxuriant forest on limestone escarpments, seeing several Gurney's Eagles in the air, Grey-throated Goshawk, Lesser Frigatebirds, and on a roadside pond we found more Spotted Whistling Ducks. Reaching Sidangoli and our lodgings, we headed to bed early in anticipation of an early start.

The following morning we rose before 3am, and made our way to the start point of our trek to see the Standardwing Bird of Paradise at their lek site. A two-hour walk in the dark was in order, not a difficult trail despite having to ford a shallow river, but the heat was rather intense. We made good time, and on arrival were treated to the crossover of night birds calling just as the day shift began their pre-dawn chorus. At 05:47, the first raucous cries of a male Standardwing began, and we sat silently beneath where just two males actively engaged in the lek, showing themselves off by jumping and shivering noisily, in their vain attempt to impress a female in spite of none being present! As the light increased, colour became visible and we could clearly see the white standards and metallic green epaulettes. The birds were still banging away as we left the site, and as we returned along the trail, Ivory-breasted Pittas were notably active and vocal, and we managed to see a total of five individuals between us!

We made some further explorations around Sidangoli, finding a few species for better looks such as Paradise Crows that defended a fruiting tree from all comers, and as we departed on our speedboat to Ternate we had outstanding views of a Beach Kingfisher in the mangroves. We paused briefly in Ternate before flying back to Manado. On arrival we were met by more vehicles, and sped on our way to our hotel in Kotamobagu.

This was our launch point for another pre-dawn departure, this time to the nearby Gunung Ambang. We reached the mountain in the dark, and set about chasing a Cinnabar Boobook that didn't want to play along. A Speckled Boobook was located however, and he decided to allow us a good look by sitting nonchalantly in the torch beam. As dawn broke, we searched high and low for Scaly Kingfisher, to no avail, but the Matinan Flycatcher gave us a good little performance, and some old friends appeared such as Superb Fruit Dove, White-bellied Imperial Pigeon, Yellow-vented Whistler, Sulawesi Leaf Warblers, Rusty-bellied Fantail and Streak-headed Dark-eye, to name but a few. After returning to our hotel, we headed the short distance to Tambun where an early attempt to see the Maleo was in order. There is an enclosure here (to keep people out, not to keep the birds in!) on the battered edge of the hill forest, where the ever-threatened Maleos come to lay their eggs in the volcanically heated soil. The eggs are then located by conservation staff and transferred to a secure pen until they hatch, to prevent the local villagers from eating them! Sure enough, after a short wait a male appeared in an open tree by the clearing, clearly wanting to pick a roosting place. Hurrah! That's the first time that I have ever seen this bird in the afternoon, and we revelled in some marvellous views, sufficient to ensure this fellow made it as our No.1 'Bird-of-the-trip'. We were then ready to continue to our lodgings in the Dumoga Bone 'National Park' (or what's left of it!)

The next morning we crossed the river at Toraut and explored the remnant forest patch on the other side. We had three birds to find; Pied Cuckooshrike, Yellow-breasted Racquet-tail and Maroon-chinned Fruit Dove. We succeeded in finding all of these, plus another Sulawesi Serpent Eagle, Purple-winged Roller, a smart juvenile Spotted Harrier, and Barred Buttonquail.

Having seen just about everything that needed here, we decided to make a return to the more comfortable lodgings in Kotamobagu, and make another attempt on the elusive birds of Gunung Ambang. Scaly Kingfishers were vocal yet never revealed themselves, also the Cinnabar Boobook disliked the torch beam and fled every time it was located. We nevertheless enjoyed a few hours birding here, finding Purple-bearded Bee-eater taking food to a nest, a vocal rusty-coloured juvenile Spot-tailed Goshawk, a Blue-breasted Pitta on the trail, and a big surprise in the form of a Sulawesi Ground Dove. Relocated as it ambled down a trail, we were able to get a look at his golden-yellow crown feathers that he flared in alarm, just before he clattered off into the forest.

We headed back towards Manado, en-route pausing in some paddies where we saw Java Sparrow, Black-faced and Scaly-breasted Munia, plus numerous Eastern Yellow Wagtails.

At our comfortable waterfront hotel, the birding continued for those who wished, with some seawatching producing Bulwer's Petrels, Aleutian and Bridled Terns, Brown Boobies and Red-necked Phalaropes, while onshore were Lesser and Greater Sandplovers, Grey-rumped Tattler, Ruddy Turnstone, Pied Imperial Pigeon, Sacred Kingfisher and White-rumped Cuckooshrikes.

We toasted our success that evening with fine food and a few 'cold ones', having had a very successful and enjoyable trip through these islands. The following morning we flew to Singapore and set a course for home, sated with so many good birds, most of them endemic, colourful, and exciting. With the rate of habitat destruction in this part of the world, we should feel blessed to have seen as many birds as we did. This has to be the world's most threatened region and the urgency to visit is now even more critical – go now before it's all gone!

## SYSTEMATIC LIST

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

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

### PROCELLARIIDAE

Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*: Some nine birds were seen passing off the Hotel Santika in the late afternoon soon after we arrived, with another three seen early the following morning.

### PODICEPIDIDAE

Little Grebe (Red-throated L G) *Tachybaptus ruficollis*: Two were seen on Lake Taming.

### FREGATIDAE

Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor*: An adult male was seen on our second crossing between Halmahera and Ternate.

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*: We saw quite a few cruising around off Tangkoko, and then smaller numbers were seen on our boat crossings around Halmahera.

### SULIDAE

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*: A splendid total of 24 birds seen passing off the Hotel Santika on the final morning of the tour.

### ARDEIDAE

Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*: We had great views of two splendid examples, standing on the fish platforms at Tangkoko, all part of a 'Great-billed' afternoon!

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*: Regularly encountered on or near minor wetlands, such as around Wuasa, at the Makassar fishponds and also at the Santika Hotel.

Great Egret *Egretta alba*: Singles were seen at Makassar fishponds and also in paddies as we drove from Foli.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*: Only noticed in the paddies between Foli and Sidangoli where there were several.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*: Encountered on wet paddies in various locations and also at Makassar fishponds.

Pacific Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*: Good looks at some dark morphs around the fishing rafts at Tangkoko, plus a couple seen around Halmahera.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*: Fairly common in open country on Sulawesi, with a handful seen on Halmahera.

Javan Pond Heron *Ardeola speciosa*: Frequent in the rice paddies and in various other wet places on Sulawesi.

Little Heron (Striated H) *Butorides striatus*: Several were seen at the Makassar fishponds, also in the mangroves at Tangkoko, plus a single at the Santika hotel.

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* (NL): A single was glimpsed in rice paddy as we dined near Anurang.

Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis*: A single was seen briefly in the mangroves at Tangkoko, then another was seen flying across the pond at Foli.

#### CICONIIDAE

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*: A single was seen soaring over the Karaenta forest.

#### ACCIPITRIDAE

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*: Two singles seen, one around the Tangkoko mangroves and another over logged forest near Sofifi on Halmahera. It is proposed that this form is split as 'Australasian Osprey' *P. cristatus*.

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*: Some good looks at up to four birds at Foli, plus another two as we scoured the roadsides between Sidangoli and Sofifi.

Barred Honey Buzzard *Pernis celebensis*: Just a couple of singles were noted, at Karaenta forest and at Lore Lindu. Note that if the Philippine form is split as *P. steerei* then this is better named Sulawesi Honey Buzzard, *P. celebensis*.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*: A few examples were seen cruising about over fields near Gunung Ambang, including one strikingly pale juvenile. The resident race here is *affinis*.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*: Frequently encountered on Halmahera, with a few more seen in Northern Sulawesi. It seems fairly common still in this part of the world.

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*: A single bird was seen at Tangkoko, with one other seen over the town at Ternate.

Sulawesi Serpent Eagle *Spilornis rufipectus*: Some excellent encounters with these this year, starting with two soaring over the Anaso track, another pair soaring over the roadside forest at Lore Lindu, one perched at Toraut and another perched bird along the Molibagu road. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.

Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*: A smart juvenile playing hard-to-get at Toraut was the only one of the tour.

Chinese Goshawk *Accipiter soloensis*: A migrant flock of 15 was seen at Tambun.

Sulawesi Goshawk *Accipiter griseiceps*: A vocal bird at Tangkoko was hard to observe, and fled before all had seen it. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.

Spot-tailed Goshawk *Accipiter trinitatus*: We had a great view of a vocal adult perched high in the trees at Tangkoko, then seen once more at Gunung Ambang where a bright chestnut juvenile allowed us to approach to within 5m! Several other birds were also vocal there. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion

Grey-throated Goshawk *Accipiter griseogularis*: A handful of singles were seen on Halmahera, usually offering fleeting views as they glided away. This is split from Variable Goshawk in 'Raptors of the World' (Ferguson-Lees & Christie). Endemic to the North Moluccas.

Moluccan Goshawk *Accipiter henicogrammus*: Two birds were seen by just one or two of us, flying through the forest at Foli. Endemic to the North Moluccas.

Small Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nanus*: A brief view of one along the road at Lore Lindu was the only sighting of this often hard-to-find bird. Endemic to Sulawesi.

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*: Several sightings, with two at Lore Lindu, a single near Sidangoli, several around Gunung Ambang, plus one at Tambun.

Gurney's Eagle *Aquila gurneyi*: We had multiple good views of these, on just one afternoon as we drove from Foli to Sidangoli.

Rufous-bellied Eagle *Hieraaetus kienerii*: Great views of these on two days at Lore Lindu, displaying over the forest. Another was seen at Toraut.

Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus lanceolatus*: Our first was a ghostly immature bird perched at Tangoko, then we had multiple sightings of adults at Lore Lindu. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.

#### FALCONIDAE

Spotted Kestrel *Falco moluccensis*: Scattered sightings throughout the tour; around Wuasa where we met our first ones, on Ternate, plus a few more seen on Halmahera.

#### DENDROCYGNIDAE

Spotted Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna guttata*: A write-in and a lifer for the leader! We found two on an idyllic pool at Foli, then another two on a roadside pool as we drove from Foli to Sidangoli.

#### ANATIDAE

Sunda Teal *Anas gibberifrons*: Two seen at Makassar fishponds were the only ones of the tour.

#### MEGAPODIIDAE

Philippine Scrubfowl *Megapodius cumingii*: At least three individuals were seen at Tangoko, lurking in the darker corners.

Dusky Scrubfowl *Megapodius freycinet*: Heard regularly at Foli and around Sidangoli, and we were able to tape them in on a couple of occasions although they only really ever show as a dark shape in the shadows! Subsequently at least two birds were seen briefly in the open as they strayed onto tracks.

Maleo *Macrocephalon maleo*: A fantastic look at one of these splendid birds secured its place as our collective 'Bird-of-the-trip', as it nervously paced up and down on a branch of an open tree as it prepared to roost. With our modified itinerary, we were able to try for this bird in the afternoon of our first day in the Tambun

area, and I was truly surprised when the plan actually worked! It is truly a marvel of evolution, laying its eggs in the volcanically heated sand, which hatch after 60 days and the newly-hatched chick can fly immediately! Many thanks once again to the WCS and government researchers who are doing such a great job of protecting the birds there. It is endemic to the Sulawesi subregion, and classified as 'Endangered' by BirdLife International. The entire population is estimated at just 5000, and is declining due to exploitation and human disturbance. In some areas, the populations have declined by up to 90% since 1950!

Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator*: Some brief looks at up to three birds in a cleared area at Toraut. The race here is *rufilata*.

## RALLIDAE

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*: Some brief looks at a few of these in and around Lore Lindu, in paddies on Halmahera, and a better look at Dumoga Bone.

Barred Rail *Gallirallus torquatus*: Regularly seen in northern Sulawesi, starting with flight views at Tangkoko, a long close look at one going to roost in a banana tree at Gunung Tumpa, then several sightings of birds scuttling along the roadsides around Tambun, Toraut and along the road to Manado. The subspecies concerned is *celebensis*, which lacks the chestnut breast band shown by birds in the Philippines.

Invisible Rail (Drummer R) *Habroptila wallacii*: The most remarkable and ornithologically important find of the tour, with an all-too brief encounter with a pair seen in the forest at Foli. Having attracted our attention with their heavy footfall in the leaf litter, two birds appeared on a facing slope just above a small gully that held some puddles of water. Although moving quickly away from us, they were in view long enough however for their large size, long red bill and red legs, uniform slaty grey plumage and a short slightly cocked tail to be visible. This would be the first ever known field observation of the species, for which there are several specimen records, the last being in 1985. Rumours persist, of course, of other recent sightings in the field, but as yet no evidence has come to light. I'm sure that local people might be familiar with the bird though.

White-browed Crake *Poliolimnas cinerea*: A couple of singles were seen at Tambun and at the Doloduo pools.

Rufous-tailed Bush-hen *Amaurornis moluccanus*: One seen running across the road as we drove from Foli to Sidangoli, surprisingly the only contact of the trip.

Isabelline Waterhen *Amaurornis isabellinus*: Another bird that can be awkward to see when conditions are so dry, we enjoyed a prolonged look at two that appeared and began washing in the stream behind the Tangkoko lodge. Another was also seen in the nearby lantana. Endemic to Sulawesi.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*: Singles were noted at Makassar and along the river at Toraut.

## RECURVIROSTRIDAE

White-headed Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus*: A good number were seen at the Makassar fishponds. This species was previously lumped in the familiar Black-winged Stilt *H. himantopus*, yet it shows a distinctive head pattern and calls *very* differently.

## CHARADRIIDAE

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*: Several were seen on the Makassar fishponds, and a handful more were seen on paddies en-route from Foli.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*: Several were seen at Makassar fishponds.

Javan Plover *Charadrius javanicus*: Some good looks at up to six birds on a dry pan at the Makassar fishponds. This is not well described in the field guide, however there are some good pictures at [www.orientalbirdimages.org](http://www.orientalbirdimages.org) that show the long lanky pale legs, chunky build, long bill, rusty-hued cheek and breast patches and dusky rear collar. Discovered here by Birdquest four years previously, this represents an extension of their known range, and they appear to be staying!

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*: Only seen on the jetty at the Hotel Santika, with eight birds present allowing good comparisons with the following species.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*: At least three on the jetty at the Hotel Santika.

## SCOLOPACIDAE

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*: Odd singles were seen at Tangkoko and Foli, then several were seen around the Hotel Santika. These birds are of the race *variegatus* that shows a heavily barred underwing and lightly barred rump.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*: One at Makassar fishponds and four in paddies near Foli.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*: Three seen at Makassar fishponds, and a single in paddies near Foli.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*: Several were seen at Makassar fishponds, and also in paddies near Foli.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*: Very numerous on the Makassar fishponds, we also found some on wet paddies near Foli and around Dumoga Bone.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*: This migrant was regularly encountered along our route, mostly on tidal habitats.

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes*: Singles were seen at Tangkoko and at Foli, while at the Santika Hotel there were five perched on the bushes.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*: Always nice to see; a single fed on the jetty at the Santika Hotel.

Sulawesi Woodcock *Scolopax celebensis* (H): An insistent metallic buzzing in four strophes was heard passing over us and the treetops at Lore Lindu, roughly half an hour after dusk. Given the obvious similarities to other Woodcocks roding calls, we concluded that this must be what it was!

Rufous-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*: 30 or more at Makassar fishponds.

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*: A large number (300+) were present on Makassar fishponds.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*: Rarely encountered on this tour, we saw at least four on Makassar fishponds.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*: 15 or so were on the Makassar fishponds.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*: A single bird was seen on wet paddies en route from Foli.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*: After a no show by these last year, we saw a few on our crossing to Foli, four as we crossed back to Ternate, and 159 off the Santika Hotel on the last morning!

## LARIDAE

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*: Ten were seen feeding over the Makassar fishponds.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*: Seen at sea en-route to Foli, and also on paddies nearby, plus a handful more were seen off the Santika Hotel.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*: Several were seen on our sea crossings around Halmahera, and also at Tangkoko and the Santika Hotel. They would all involve the eastern race *longipennis*.

Aleutian Tern *Sterna aleutica*: Three were seen fairly close inshore on the last morning from the Santika Hotel.

Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus*: A single was seen on our crossing to Foli, then 62 were seen off the Santika Hotel on the final morning.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*: Quite a few at the fishponds near Makassar where they had young, also seen while crossing to Foli and off the Santika Hotel.

## COLUMBIDAE

Rock Dove *Columba livia*: Recorded several times. Allegedly...

Red Collared Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*: A few were seen around the Makassar fishponds, near Palu and near Anurang.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*: Small numbers seen in open habitats in northern Sulawesi.

Brown Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis*: Seen fairly regularly at Lore Lindu, and also at Tangkoko and the Dumoga Bone area, plus smaller numbers seen and many heard on Halmahera. Two forms are involved; *albicapilla*, the paler-headed form on Sulawesi, and *albiceps* on Halmahera.

Great Cuckoo Dove *Reinwardtoena reinwardtii*: A bird that came flying low overhead on the track at Foli was a lifer for yours truly. A bird that is rarely seen on this tour.

Sulawesi Black Pigeon *Turacoena manadensis*: Some good looks at these at Tangkoko, and also on Gunung Tumpa near Manado. A Sulawesi endemic, with its scientific name referring to the town of Manado.

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*: Odd birds were seen on Halmahera and at Tangkoko, Toraut, and at the Santika Hotel.

- Stephan's Dove *Chalcophaps stephani* (NL): Seen bathing in the stream behind our lodge at Tangkoko.
- Nicobar Pigeon *Caloenas nicobarica*: A big surprise when eight or more were surprised from the forest floor at Foli, showing off their white tails as they clattered away. A single in flight was seen at dusk on the same day.
- Sulawesi Ground Dove *Gallicolumba tristigmata*: The big prize of our second visit to Gunung Ambang, found initially by Nigel then relocated as it walked down a trail, flaring his yellow crown feathers at us before flying off into the forest! The first seen on this tour since 1999!
- Pink-necked Green Pigeon *Treron vernans*: Several of these colourful birds were seen at Tangkoko, and a single at the Hotel Santika, in typical habitat of mangrove and coastal woodland.
- Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon *Treron griseicauda*: Numerous birds were seen at Tangkoko, then not again until Toraut. The obvious feature of a thick pale eye-ring is not described in Coates and Bishop.
- Red-eared Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus fischeri*: Only found along the Anaso track where they were not uncommon, and also heard at Gunung Ambang. An attractive Sulawesi endemic.
- Maroon-chinned Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus subgularis*: A timely showing by a pair in a tree over our heads at Toraut, still hanging on in that sorry little patch of forest!, Classified as 'Near Threatened' by BirdLife, and endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.
- Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus bernsteinii*: Often rather hard to find, this was the first bird we encountered once we began our birding in the forest at Foli. We enjoyed good views of that and two others during our stay. Endemic to the North Moluccas.
- Superb Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus superbus*: We had some good views of these at Lore Lindu, and a long look at a fine example on Gunung Ambang. The subspecies in Sulawesi is *temminckii*.
- Blue-capped Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus monacha*: A few of these gorgeous little fellows were seen at Foli, after much searching for some hidden calling birds. Also encountered around Sidangoli, it is endemic to the North Moluccas, and classified as 'Near Threatened' by BirdLife.
- Grey-headed Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus hyogastra*: Not uncommon on Halmahera where we found them in good numbers at Foli, with a few more seen near Sidangoli. Endemic to the North Moluccas.
- Black-naped Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus melanospila*: A few of these were seen at Tangkoko, plus singles at Karaenta and at Toraut.
- White-bellied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula forsteni*: Our first two were on the ridge at Tangkoko, then they were seen regularly at Lore Lindu and at Gunung Ambang, where they were in good voice. A good showing after very few seen in the previous year, it is endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.

- Grey-headed Imperial Pigeon *Ducula radiata*: Great looks at several of these along the Anaso track, with obvious pairing and nest action underway. At least one nest was located, with a single egg just lying in a hollow on a bank of club moss. Also seen on the last morning at Lore Lindu along the main road. Endemic to Sulawesi.
- Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea*: In good numbers at Tangkoko, also seen at Karaenta and around Dumoga Bone. The interesting subspecies *paulina* found on Sulawesi sports an attractive rufous nape which forms a shaggy mane, surely a very tempting split!
- Spectacled Imperial Pigeon *Ducula perspicillata*: Regularly seen at Foli where their loud booming was commonly heard, and also seen and heard around Sidangoli. Endemic to the Moluccas, plus one other island off West Papua.
- Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula basilica*: We could often hear the deep growling 'rumbling stomach' call on Halmahera, with several there seen well. Also noted near Sidangoli. Endemic to the North Moluccas.
- Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor*: Seen quite commonly in the forest at Foli, then not again until we reached the Hotel Santika.
- Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon *Ducula luctuosa*: Small groups were seen on a number of occasions at Tangkoko, and single birds were seen at Karaenta and Toraut. Often a tricky bird to find, it is endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.
- Sombre Pigeon *Cryptophaps poecilorrhhoa*: One was seen well and photographed along the Anaso track, by those able to make a second ascent.

#### PSITTACIDAE

- Violet-necked Lory *Eos squamata*: Seen regularly at Foli where they were vocal and pleasing, a welcome sight indeed.
- Ornate Lorikeet *Trichoglossus ornatus*: Our first of these gorgeous parrots appeared at Tangkoko, then not again until we reached Toraut where they were fairly numerous if not particularly obliging. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.
- Yellow-and-green Lorikeet *Trichoglossus flavoviridis*: Rather numerous at Lore Lindu, and we had some good looks at perched birds at Lake Taming. Endemic to Sulawesi and Sula.
- Chattering Lory *Lorius garrulus*: We enjoyed some good views of these gorgeous birds at Foli, however there were many fewer this year than previously. We saw no more than seven birds over two days. A sadly declining species, it is endemic to the North Moluccas and classified as 'Vulnerable' by Birdlife. Threatened by habitat destruction and human exploitation, it has an estimated population of 46,000 – 295,000, and it is estimated that trappers may catch as many as 10% of the population in a year, which is a clearly unsustainable rate of harvest!
- Red-flanked Lorikeet *Charmosyna placentis*: Quite numerous at Foli, with as many as 40-45 seen in a day as many little flocks of them buzzed about the forest. Another very attractive Parrot.

- Yellow-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua sulphurea*: A surprise write-in and lifer for the leader at Tangkoko, we had distant views of one from the ridge as it flew about over the treetops below us. It is endemic to Timor-Leste and Indonesia, and due to rapid population declines it classified by BirdLife as 'Critically Endangered'. The island of Sumba holds the largest remaining population, and the overall population is estimated at <10,000.
- White Cockatoo *Cacatua alba*: Regularly encountered on Halmahera, primarily due to its noisiness and high visibility rather than there being many birds involved. It is endemic to the North Moluccas, and is classified as 'Vulnerable' by BirdLife. The world population is estimated at between 43,000-183,000, though as the trees keep tumbling down, the potential nesting sites must become scarcer and combined with trapping this does not bode well for the future.
- Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus*: Just a handful seen this year at Foli and Sidangoli, with one female only. This species shows some of the most extreme sexual dimorphism in the bird world.
- Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi*: Common and noisy at Foli, with a handful more seen around Sidangoli. The calls seem remarkably similar to Rose-ringed Parakeet!
- Yellow-breasted Racquet-tail *Prioniturus flavicans*: A calling bird at Tangkoko slipped away before we could see it, then at Toraut we found three or more in the remnant forest patch. This species has some bizarre 'toy-trumpet' calls, often the best way to tell it from the following one. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion, and classified by BirdLife as 'Near Threatened'.
- Golden-mantled Racquet-tail *Prioniturus platurus*: Our first showed at long range at Tangkoko, then at Lore Lindu we had multiple encounters, although most were usually flying over, calling noisily. Also heard at Gunung Ambang. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.
- Blue-backed Parrot *Tanygnathus sumatranus*: Our first of these noisy birds was at Tangkoko, then more were seen at Karaenta Forest and Toraut.
- Great-billed Parrot *Tanygnathus megalorhynchos*: A good number of these seen at Foli this year, which included a memorable gathering of birds going to roost. Also seen in the Sidangoli area.
- Large Sulawesi Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus stigmatus*: Frequently seen along our route although usually vocal and airborne; at Tangkoko, Sedoa, and the Dumoga Bone area. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.
- Moluccan Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus amabilis*: Numerous examples were seen at Foli, with some good views acquired. Endemic to the North Moluccas, Sula and Banggai islands.
- Small Sulawesi Hanging Parrot *Loriculus exilis*: A single bird seen in flight at Tangkoko was our only contact on the whole trip. Endemic to Sulawesi, and classified by BirdLife as 'Near Threatened', with no population estimate given due to its scarce nature.

## CUCULIDAE

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus optatus*: Several birds were seen flying by at Foli, plus a single at Gunung Ambang. Note that this is the East Asian migrant, not the Himalayan breeding 'Oriental Cuckoo' which is now called Himalayan Cuckoo *C. saturatus*.

Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus* (H): Heard only, at Wuasa.

Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis sepulcralis*: A common feature of the background soundscape at Lore Lindu, we only saw one, on our last morning there. Also heard on Gunung Ambang.

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*: We saw at least three small pale cuckoos at Foli which had us perplexed for a while, all sub-adults with a few retained juvenile feathers. It would seem that these grey-bellied birds refer to the resident Moluccan form of Brush Cuckoo *C. v. infaustus* according to Coates & Bishop, but the reference is confusing and I suspect an error, I think these birds are more likely to be the migrant race from northern Australia.

Gould's Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx russatus* (H): Heard only, at Tambun.

Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris*: We managed to lure a persistently singing bird into view at Dase Hill, and had several looks as it buzzed to and fro over our position. The song is clearly different to mainland Drongo Cuckoos, so this could be considered a useful 'bank' bird!

Black-billed Koel *Eudynamis melanorhyncha*: Our first was at Lake Tambing, others were seen at Gunung Ambang and Toraut, and also heard at Tambun. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion, yet some authorities (see Handbook of Birds of the World) lump this form together with Australian and Common Koels.

Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae* (H): A ghastly sound in the mangroves at Tangkoko was identified as this species.

Yellow-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus calyrorhynchus*: A handsome favourite, we saw our first at Tangkoko, and subsequently they were seen in every Sulawesi forest that we visited. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.

Goliath Coucal *Centropus goliath*: Slow to reveal itself this year, we eventually tracked down a pair at Foli, and then saw another near Sidangoli. Perhaps their most impressive feature is their deep bassoon-like calls, usually heard at dusk. Endemic to the North Moluccas.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*: Seen just twice, but heard often on both islands.

Bay Coucal *Centropus celebensis*: Rather sneaky, and only seen at Tangkoko where we found two along the roadside, and also at Toraut, though they were heard more often. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.

## STRIGIDAE

Sulawesi Masked Owl *Tyto rosenbergii*: On our first foray on our first evening at Tangkoko we were treated to the sight of one flying right by us, then the Tangkoko regular was seen the next day from boats, roosting in his sea cave. Another was

seen flying through the headlights at Gunung Ambang. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.

Sulawesi Scops Owl *Otus manadensis*: A daytime roosting pair sat side by side under a palm frond. This saved us much torch work later on, with calling birds only heard once at Lore Lindu and once at Gunung Ambang. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.

Moluccan Scops Owl *Otus magicus*: Several nocturnal searches at Foli and Galela drew a blank, until Craig spotted one perched over the track at Foli as we were driving back to camp.

Ochre-bellied Boobook *Ninox ochracea*: We were lucky enough to be shown two roosting birds at Tangkoko, saving us a difficult search by night. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion, and classified as 'Near Threatened' by BirdLife.

Moluccan Boobook *Ninox squamipila*: We were also lucky with this fellow, and enjoyed a long close look at a very vocal fellow at Foli on our first evening there. A recent paper proposes a split from the vocally different forms of Moluccan Boobook *N. squamipila* on Buru, Seram and Tanimbar, and this would become Halmahera Boobook *N. hypogramma* that is endemic to Halmahera, Ternate and Bacan.

Speckled Boobook *Ninox punctulata*: A smart looking fellow was eventually lured in for a superb view at Gunung Ambang. At Toraut, the local rangers found a pair roosting in an old house, yet it was so dark inside we were glad we had seen it well already! Endemic to Sulawesi.

Cinnabar Boobook *Ninox ios*: These were playing hard to get this year, with four owling forays at Lore Lindu encountering just one bird that stayed hidden. On our final morning there, three of us were lucky enough to see two at the foot of the Anaso track. At Gunung Ambang, two early morning searches were successful in finding two birds, but they left their perch as soon as they were illuminated in the torch beam. Only described in 1999 from Gunung Ambang, the undescribed Lore Lindu birds show a slight plumage difference to the northern birds in that they are speckled with cream on the belly. Endemic to Sulawesi.

#### AEGOTHELIDAE

Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar *Aegotheles crinifrons*: Found on our first evening at Foli, with a clear, if not very close, view. A second bird was also seen but only in flight, and despite several attempts being made to see more of this strange fellow (including a try at Dase Hill), they just wouldn't play along. Endemic to the North Moluccas.

#### CAPRIMULGIDAE

Satanic Nightjar (Heinrich's N) *Eurostopodus diabolicus*: Our first was one hawking along the roadsides just before dawn on our first morning at Lore Lindu, then a fine roosting bird was seen along the Anaso track. We also saw one or two more

emerging to feed along the road at dusk. Endemic to Sulawesi, and classified by BirdLife as 'Vulnerable'.

Great Eared Nightjar *Eurostopodus macrotis*: A wonderful close illuminated view of one on our first evening at Tangkoko, hawking from a perch, and the first time this leader has ever seen one perched! There were also a couple seen at the Santika Hotel, and birds were also heard at Toraut and Gunung Ambang.

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*: Up to four birds appeared for us every morning at Foli, as we drove up the logging track in the dark.

Sulawesi Nightjar *Caprimulgus celebensis*: Only the second time that I have actually managed to focus my binoculars on this bird, on this occasion swiftly followed by scope and camera! Another superb find by the boys at Tangkoko, a bird at roost in the daytime that was reportedly sitting on an egg. Endemic to Sulawesi and the Sula islands.

Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis*: Vocal birds around our hotel at Makassar revealed themselves by eyeshine as they were lamped from the restaurant! Also heard calling in daytime at the fishponds.

#### APODIDAE

Uniform Swiftlet *Collocalia vanikorensis*: Common in northern Sulawesi, and also at Makassar, with a small number identified on Halmahera. Not the most striking of plumages, but a pitfall with this one is that in strong light the paler underparts appear to wrap around the sides of the rump giving them a pale rumped appearance.

Halmahera Swiftlet *Collocalia infuscata*: A recently proposed split, dividing this and the following taxon out of Moluccan Swiftlet *C. infuscata*. We only actually identified one example at Foli, which appeared more uniform, smaller and more compact than the previous species, and with only an indistinct narrow rump band. This taxon is endemic to Halmahera, Morotai and Ternate.

Sulawesi Swiftlet *Collocalia sororum*: We saw a small flock of these over the Sedoa river valley. Compared to the previous taxon, these are a much easier identification, being quite blackish and showing a fairly prominent whitish rump 'strap'. Endemic to Sulawesi and the Sula islands.

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*: The commonest Swiftlet throughout the tour. Smaller than the other two species and often seen flying much nearer the ground and close to forest surfaces. The race on Halmahera seems duller and has less white below than the Sulawesi birds, however it has many different races.

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*: A flock of 25 seen at Foli perplexed us as we couldn't see any white throats, but they were presumably this species in poor light!

Purple Needletail *Hirundapus celebensis*: A horde of these beasts was seen cruising over the forest at Lore Lindu, with a minimum of 115 birds seen together.

House Swift *Apus nipalensis*: Odd birds seen, around our hotel in Makassar and en-route to Kotamobagu.

Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*: A single was at the Hotel Santika. Apparently a recent colonist of Sulawesi.

#### HEMIPROCINIDAE

Grey-rumped Tree Swift *Hemiprocne longipennis*: Not uncommon on Sulawesi, we found them quite commonly in northern Sulawesi, and also at Karaenta and Lore Lindu.

Moustached Tree Swift *Hemiprocne mystacea*: All together now, what's it called!? These favourites were seen daily at Foli, and also around the Sidangoli area.

#### ALCEDINIDAE

Green-backed Kingfisher *Actenoides monachus*: Great views of this impressive beast, with two males and a female seen obligingly posing at close range in the forest at Tangkoko. They are obviously common there, as the dawn chorus of whistling at our lodgings would indicate. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.

Scaly Kingfisher *Actenoides princeps* (H): Despite a second attempt to see it on Gunung Ambang, they only performed unseen in the dark, despite us getting close to three calling birds. Endemic to montane areas of Sulawesi, replacing the more lowland Green-backed.

Common Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera galatea*: Clearly fairly common by voice at Foli, it was a long slog to get to see one! We eventually tracked down a pair that gave up hiding, and popped into view.

Lilac-cheeked Kingfisher *Cittura cyanotis*: Two of these wonderful creatures were seen in the forest at Tangkoko, one of which was carrying a large root-like object that could not be identified for sure, but perhaps was a gall with a juicy morsel locked inside? We also saw one, rather surprisingly, in the forest remnant at Toraut. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion, and classified as 'Near Threatened' by BirdLife.

Great-billed Kingfisher *Halcyon melanorhyncha*: A single bird was eventually tracked down in the mangroves at Tangkoko. Also heard but not seen in the mangroves at the Santika Hotel. Endemic to Sulawesi and the Sula islands.

Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda*: A single was seen in the mangroves at Tangkoko, and a pair were also seen along the stream behind our lodgings there during a midday lull.

Blue-and-white Kingfisher *Halcyon diops*: Just a few seen on Halmahera, with just three seen at Foli, one en-route from there, and some nice looks at several along roadsides near Sidangoli. Endemic to the North Moluccas.

Sombre Kingfisher *Halcyon funebris*: Always behaving rather aloof, we successfully located a silent bird in the forest at Foli which obligingly sat on an open perch and offered us a range of expressions! Also heard at Dase Hill. Restricted solely to Halmahera, it is surely one of the more exciting endemics.

- Collared Kingfisher *Halcyon chloris*: Frequently seen on Sulawesi in a variety of coastal and forest-edge habitats, no doubt becoming commoner as more forest gets trashed!
- Beach Kingfisher *Halcyon saurophaga*: A superb long look at one from fairly close range, in the mangroves at Sidangoli. We also saw one perched along the coast near Foli as we crossed from Daru by boat.
- Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sancta*: Singles were encountered at Tangkoko, Sidangoli, Toraut and the Hotel Santika. This species breeds in Australasia and spends the austral winter largely in Indonesia.
- Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx fallax*: A difficult bird to get on your 'self-found' list, when the local guides can so magically produce them on demand! We had prolonged looks at two birds in the rattan at Tangkoko, one of which was photographed bringing up a pellet! Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion, and classified as 'Near Threatened' by BirdLife.
- Variable Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx lepidus*: A single bird appeared briefly on a small forest stream at Foli, while we were trying to see some furtive Pittas.
- Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*: Singles were seen in coastal habitats at Tangkoko and at the Santika hotel, and also on the river at Toraut, The *hispidoides* race found in Sulawesi and Halmahera has a blue not rufous cheek patch, and looks quite different to the more typical *bengalensis* migrant race that also occurs here. Surely a contender for a split?

#### MEROPIDAE

- Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*: Just a few were seen around Makassar and Wuasa.
- Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*: Two were seen flying very distantly over the forest at Karaenta.
- Purple-bearded Bee-eater *Meropogon forsteni*: An exotic and spectacular Sulawesi endemic, that provided multiple encounters along the Anaso track where we counted five pairs. Another was seen taking a dragonfly to a nest hole on Gunung Ambang.

#### CORACIIDAE

- Purple-winged Roller *Coracias temminckii*: Some fair looks at two birds in treetops at Tangkoko on our first morning, then rather better views of one were had at Toraut. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.
- Common Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*: The only Dollarbird visible on Halmahera, we scanned large expanses of suitable areas at Foli, and between there and Sidangoli and Sofifi, yet failed to reveal any other species, just a few of this one.

#### BUCEROTIDAE

- Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbill *Penelopides exarhatus*: Two were seen from the ridge at Tangkoko, then at least five were seen on our unscheduled visit to Gunung Tumpa, also a

couple more singles were seen in the Dumoga Bone area. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.

Knobbed Hornbill *Rhyticeros cassidix*: A truly magnificent beast. We saw our first at Tangkoko, more were found at lower elevations at Lore Lindu, then two more were seen at Tambun. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.

Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus*: We saw these throughout our stay on Halmahera, and in good numbers at Foli and around Sidangoli, their wings making the strangest of sounds as they flew overhead.

#### PICIDAE

Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker *Picoides temminckii*: A trio was seen close to our Tangkoko accommodation, then we saw a few more in the Lore Lindu area. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.

Ashy Woodpecker *Mulleripicus fulvous*: This mighty beast appeared to us at Tangkoko, then despite being heard at other points along our route, we only saw one other, at Toraut. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.

#### PITTIDAE

Blue-breasted Pitta (Red-bellied P) *Pitta erythrogaster*: We enjoyed a great view of one of these at Tangkoko, glowing in the undergrowth. We also managed to find another at Gunung Ambang, which hopped down the path in front of us. These are of the race *celebensis*.

Ivory-breasted Pitta *Pitta maxima*: A commonly heard bird on Halmahera, but acquiring views of this fellow is never very easy! Our first attempts to see them at Foli took a long time, with responsive birds staying mostly out of sight, until one became so irate that it came and virtually hovered over our heads, before perching just feet away from us for a brief moment! As we trekked back from the Standardwing lek we actually saw another five (between us - with an average of two birds seen per person!) making eight birds seen on this tour, a very good result! Endemic to the North Moluccas.

Elegant Pitta *Pitta elegans*: It was just three years ago that a Birdquest group saw one of these at Tangkoko, the first record for Sulawesi, and now this is the third year that they have appeared here. This year it was one of the very first birds we saw, hopping around under bushes in the company of a Red-backed Thrush! Where it might come from is not clear, but the island of Sangihe is perhaps the closest place that it breeds.

#### HIRUNDINIDAE

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*: Quite a few seen at various points on the tour, and very commonly on roadside wires on Halmahera.

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*: The common resident hirundine, seen on both islands.

## MOTACILLIDAE

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla [flava] tschutschuensis*: Several singles and small parties seen along our route, particularly on wet paddies in northern Sulawesi.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*: A single migrant was seen at Foli, and a group of six bounded along the high road at Lore Lindu.

## CAMPEPHAGIDAE

Moluccan Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina atriceps*: We saw these regularly at Foli, sometimes together with Halmahera Cuckoo-Shrike. Also seen near Sidangoli. Endemic to the Moluccas.

Caerulean Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina temminckii*: Seen well on our first morning at Lore Lindu, then on a couple of occasions subsequently. Two more were also seen at Gunung Ambang. This handsome, white-eyed Sulawesi endemic is notably less blue than depicted in the book!

Pied Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina bicolor*: A couple of vocal pairs were seen at Toraut, though never well. We also heard it along the Molibagu Road. This lowland forest species is endemic to the Sulawesi subregion and classified as 'Near Threatened' by BirdLife.

White-rumped Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina leucopygia*: Great views of a pair on our last morning at Tangkoko, then five were seen on the final morning of the trip, in the mangroves at the Hotel Santika. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.

White-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina papuensis*: A rather poorly named bird, with its striking black mask being its most obvious feature. We saw several in the forest at Foli.

Halmahera Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina parvula*: Just a few seen along the logging track at Foli, our attention usually drawn by their Magpie-like chattering. Endemic to Halmahera, as its name would suggest!

Pygmy Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina abbotti*: A couple of pairs were seen together with mixed flocks in the montane forests at Lore Lindu, showing off their strikingly white bellies. Endemic to Sulawesi.

Common Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris*: A pair were seen at Foli, the only encounter of the trip.

Sulawesi Cicadabird *Coracina morio*: Two were seen at Tangkoko, and then a single was seen at Karaenta forest. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.

Sulawesi Triller *Lalage leucopygialis*: Some nice views of two flitting around in sunlit treetops at Tangkoko, the only sighting of the tour. This form was previously lumped in Pied Triller. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.

White-shouldered Triller *Lalage sueurii*: Several birds were seen in open country such as at Makassar fishponds, near Bantimurung (where they were very vocal) and also near Palu.

Rufous-bellied Triller *Lalage aurea*: An attractive North Moluccan endemic that was quite conspicuous and commonly encountered at Foli. Also seen near Sidangoli.

## PYCNONOTIDAE

Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster*: Common around Tangkoko, Makassar, and the Hotel Santika. This species is introduced to Sulawesi.

Golden Bulbul *Ixos affinis*: Regularly seen at Foli, yet often slipping away into cover quickly. We did however enjoy a good look at one on its nest there. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion, Sula and Moluccas.

## DICRURIDAE

Sulawesi Drongo *Dicrurus montanus*: A couple of birds were seen on two days along the high road at Lore Lindu, the only place that we encountered them. Endemic to Sulawesi.

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*: One of the most frequently seen and heard birds on Halmahera.

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentotus*: Not uncommon in the forest at Tangkoko, Karaenta, and notably numerous at dawn at Toraut. This distinctive white-eyed form here is of the race *leucops*.

## ORIOOLIDAE

Dusky-brown Oriole *Oriolus phaeochromus*: Just a couple were seen in the forest at Foli, however many more were heard. A true Halmahera endemic.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*: Seen fairly frequently, at Tangkoko, Karaenta, Tambun and Toraut.

## CORVIDAE

Slender-billed Crow *Corvus enca*: Often seen, but only in northern Sulawesi with many at Tangkoko.

Piping Crow *Corvus typicus*: A very handsome endemic corvid, and easily located by his raucous calls. We saw our first at Karaenta forest, and then found more around Lake Tambing at Lore Lindu. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.

Long-billed Crow *Corvus validus*: A personal favourite of mine, with his open bill and pale eye giving it a truly exotic look. We saw plenty of these around Foli, and also along the roads to Sidangoli. Endemic to the North Moluccas.

## PARADISAEIDAE

Paradise Crow *Lycocorax pyrrhopterus*: Pairs were seen on two days at Foli, but always staying rather elusive and not offering great views, so the sight of three defending a fruiting tree near Sidangoli was welcome. Lots of character, but rather demure for a Bird of Paradise! Endemic to the North Moluccas.

Standard-wing Bird of Paradise (Wallace's Standardwing) *Semioptera wallacii*: Another successful visit to the Sidangoli lek! It's still going strong, and we had very good looks at the birds this year, repeatedly returning to their display perches in a flurry of pennants and metallic green breast shields. As usual our trek to see these incredible birds began in darkness, and we completed it in record

time due to dry conditions and trail improvements. We were in position on the hill well before time, and had the bonus experience of being able to enjoy the calls of the nightbirds overlapping with the dawn chorus of the day shift. As the light crept up on the horizon, the cacophony of the Standardwings began, despite just three males attending the lek. They seemed to be a little spooked at times and were clearly giving us the 'hard stare', and had also shifted their display perches downhill slightly, but nonetheless resumed their tumbling and squawking in full view. They continued for a couple of hours at least, and were still active when we came to leave. Such a thrilling experience! We also heard them at Foli, and managed to lure a female into view there. Endemic to the North Moluccas.

#### TIMALIIDAE

Sulawesi Babbler *Trichastoma celebense*: We had several good views of these at Tangkoko, (subspecies *celebense*), then other birds were seen at Karaenta (subspecies *finschi*), and at Lore Lindu (subspecies *rufofuscum*). Also seen at Gunung Ambang, and heard in the mangroves at the Hotel Santika (*celebense* again). Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.

Malia *Malia grata*: Some great encounters with these curious fellows at Lore Lindu, their harsh chattering marking their position as they moved around in the big trees. They showed well on several occasions, often in loose mixed flocks. Endemic to Sulawesi.

#### TURDIDAE

Great Shortwing *Heinrichia calligyna*: Usually something of a headache to see, we were very fortunate to see an obliging male on our first morning at Lore Lindu, singing away close to the road. None others were heard here, underlining the importance of this sighting! This species is named after Gerd Heinrich, the German collector who worked in the Moluccas and Sulawesi between 1930 and 1932. Endemic to Sulawesi.

Red-backed Thrush *Zoothera erythronota*: Fantastic encounters with this beauty at Tangkoko, with five birds seen, but only on one morning when we seemed to kicking them off the trail! Always a favourite, and often qualifying as 'Bird-of-the-trip'! Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion and Sula.

Sulawesi Thrush *Cataponera turdoides*: Very much a 'missable' bird, after much searching we managed to extract one (or even two) from the forest at Lore Lindu, which popped out and showed well to us all for a short but satisfying moment. Endemic to Sulawesi.

Pied Chat *Saxicola caprata*: Odd birds seen in open country around Lore Lindu and Makassar.

## PARDALOTIDAE

Flyeater (Golden-bellied Gerygone) *Gerygone sulphurea*: Often heard in the forest at Lore Lindu where we managed to see a couple. Also birds were heard at Tangkoko, Makassar, and at the Hotel Santika. The *flaveola* form concerned is endemic to the Sulawesi subregion, however the birds at Lore Lindu have a clearly different song to the more typical songs of birds around the coasts.

## SYLVIIDAE

Chestnut-backed Bush-Warbler *Bradypterus castaneus*: Commonly heard in the montane forest at Lore Lindu with several birds actually seen quite well, although usually they were just shuffling along in the background. Also available on Gunung Ambang. Endemic to Sulawesi and the South Moluccas.

Gray's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella fasciolata*: Magnificent views of one of several calling birds along the track at Foli, plus a couple more at Sidangoli that stayed hidden.

Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*: Two were seen at Makassar fishponds, and were in good voice. The song is quite sweet and melodic and very unlike the typical grating song of Indian Reed Warbler. The endemic subspecies concerned is *celebensis*, which is probably closer to the Australian Reed Warbler *A. australis*.

Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis*: A couple of birds were seen at what remained of the pools at Doloduo, but never showing well.

Mountain Tailorbird *Orthotomus cuculatus*: Perhaps the commonest bird in the montane forests at Lore Lindu, and also seen at Gunung Ambang. The Sulawesi form is quite distinctive, showing a grey belly, but the song sounds similar to that of the mainland forms.

Sulawesi Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus sarasinorum*: Not uncommon at Lore Lindu, where it was seen regularly and heard often. It was also quite common on Gunung Ambang. Fairly drab and chunky compared to typical Phylloscopus warblers, and endemic to Sulawesi.

Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis*: A songster near Wuasa showed briefly. Just the second time this has been seen on this tour, mainly due to its skulking nature!

## CISTICOLIDAE

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*: A small number were noted around the Makassar fishponds.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*: A great look at a smart breeding plumaged bird by the 'car park' at Gunung Ambang.

## MUSCICAPIDAE

Grey-streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa griseisticta*: These migrants from NE Asia had obviously just arrived for the winter. We found them at Tangkoko, Gunung Tumpa, Foli, and the Dumoga Bone area.

- 'Sulawesi' Flycatcher *Muscicapa sp.nova*: Having missed this on the last few tours, it was exciting to see this 'new' Flycatcher at Bantimurung. A pair were busy feeding a dependant juvenile, perhaps something not observed previously? Since it was first observed more than ten years previously (I still like the name 'Ben-King Flycatcher') it has been seen in south, central and north Sulawesi.
- Island Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias panayensis*: Seen fairly frequently in the montane forests at Lore Lindu.
- Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra*: We saw a handful of these furtive midgets in the forests at Lore Lindu, with our first two appearing close by as we waited for the Shortwing to appear.
- Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*: Surprisingly few seen, with just two sightings at Lore Lindu.
- Blue-fronted Flycatcher *Cyornis hoevelli*: Quite a few of these most un-*cyornis*-like Flycatchers seen in the higher forests at Lore Lindu, idly whistling their pleasant little song. In appearance they are rather more reminiscent of a Redstart or a Rock Thrush! Endemic to Sulawesi.
- Matinan Flycatcher *Cyornis sanfordi*: A good close look at this drab songster on Gunung Ambang, and despite its nondescript appearance it is a rather endearing little bird! At least two were seen there, and it is a Sulawesi endemic.
- Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis omissus*: A pair showed well along the roadside at Lore Lindu, with several others heard there. Also seen at Gunung Ambang. This form is formerly lumped in Mangrove Blue Flycatcher *C. rufigastra*.

#### MONARCHIDAE

- Pale Blue Monarch *Hypothymis puella*: We saw several of these in the forest at Tangkoko, and then had a few more looks at them at Karaenta. Previously lumped in Black-naped Monarch *H. azurea*.
- White-naped Monarch *Monarcha pileatus*: Good looks at two vocal and showy birds on our busy first afternoon at Foli, but not seen subsequently. Endemic to the North Moluccas and east Lesser Sundas.
- Spectacled Monarch *Monarcha trivirgatus*: Always something of a skulker, but we had a good look at one in the forest at Foli, and then saw several near Sidangoli as we returned along the 'Standardwing trail'.
- Slaty Flycatcher *Myiagra galeata*: A few were seen at Foli on two dates, often high in the big open acacia trees. They seem to respond well to the calls of both themselves and also of White-naped Monarch! A Moluccan endemic.
- Shining Monarch *Piezorhynchus alecto*: Our only glimpse was of a male inside the forest at Foli, though others were heard.

#### RHIPIDURIDAE

- Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*: Notably common outside of the forest and along the roadsides in Halmahera, a sure sign of our closer proximity to Australasia! We

also saw them around Foli, where they gave us a little show as they bathed in the pool by our lodgings, and we also saw one nest stuck to a telephone wire. Rusty-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura teysmanni*: An attractive Sulawesi regional endemic that we encountered regularly at Lore Lindu, then again at Gunung Ambang.

#### PETROICIDAE

Citrine Flycatcher *Culicicapa helianthea*: An attractive little fellow seen with mixed bird flocks at Lore Lindu, and also at Gunung Ambang where they were quite common.

#### PACHYCEPHALIDAE

Yellow-flanked Whistler *Hylocitrea bonensis*: As usual, just a single bird seen, high on the Anaso track at Lore Lindu. A Sulawesi endemic that never seems to call, is always rather hard to see, and I am always surprised that we ever manage to find it!

Maroon-backed Whistler *Coracornis raveni*: One was heard calling on our first foray up the Anaso track, and one was eventually seen by those who headed up the track for a second time. A very sneaky Sulawesi endemic.

Yellow-vented Whistler *Pachycephala sulfuriventer*: The most visible Whistler in the montane forest at Lore Lindu, and usually quite vocal with a wide range of different calls. They were also fairly common at Gunung Ambang. Endemic to Sulawesi.

Common Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*: One of my favourite songsters on this tour, we saw at least four individuals on Halmahera, mostly bright males but also one demure female. The distinctive form concerned, *mentalis*, is endemic to the north Moluccas, and differs from most races by showing an incomplete black breast band. If you start splitting up this complex, then this one becomes 'Black-chinned Whistler' *P. mentalis*.

Drab Whistler *Pachycephala griseonota*: Just a couple of these demure little birds were seen at Foli, with others heard but not pursued. Not the most memorable of the birds we found there, but a pleasant little song nevertheless. Endemic to Sula and the Moluccas.

#### ARTAMIDAE

White-breasted Wood Swallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*: Seen often throughout the trip, on both islands and in a range of altitudes.

Ivory-backed Wood Swallow *Artamus monachus*: Quite few seen at Lore Lindu, with some nice views of them at Lake Tambing, calling like Avocets! Another was seen at Tambun. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.

## STURNIDAE

Moluccan Starling *Aplonis mysolensis*: We saw quite a few of these at Foli, showing the dark eye, large bill and shorter tail that separate this from Metallic Starling.

There were probably many more but its a tough ID with flying birds!

Short-tailed Starling *Aplonis minor*: We saw just a single group of these, with a flock of six feeding high in the trees at Lake Taming.

Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis*: Our first sighting was of a flock of 20 at Tangkoko, then seen again later on in the tour, en-route to Kotamobagu.

Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica*: The commoner starling on Halmahera, there were plenty at Foli on a daily basis. An easy ID when you get to see their piercing red-eyes.

Pale-bellied Myna *Acridotheres cinereus*: A great find in paddies near Makassar, the first time it has ever been seen on the tour. Two birds were watched messing around in some tall palm and mango trees. This is a Sulawesi endemic; what was previously referred to as *A. cinereus* has at some time included Javan *A. javanicus* and White-vented Myna *A. grandis*, and Coates & Bishop include all these taxa under White-vented Myna using the scientific name *A. cinereus*. The taxonomy has been confused by different authors treating these taxa differently, but the 'Starlings and Mynas' book (Feare & Craig) offers the clearest treatment.

Sulawesi Crested Myna *Basilornis celebensis*: Another 'missable' bird, we found a quartet of these at Karaenta forest, perched up in bare trees on a limestone outcrop. Another two were seen along the Sedoa river at Lore Lindu. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.

White-necked Myna *Streptocitta albicollis*: Our first sighting was of two on our first morning at Tangkoko, then more were seen there, at Karaenta Forest, and at Toraut. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.

Fiery-browed Starling *Enodes erythrophris*: Commonly encountered at Lore Lindu, from the higher altitude forest down to the Sedoa river valley. A few more were also seen at Gunung Ambang. Endemic to Sulawesi.

Grosbeak Starling *Scissirostrum dubium*: Yet another very attractive endemic starling of this tour, with his waxy red rump-feather tips and huge yellow bill. They were common and noisy at Tangkoko, then not seen again until Toraut where a few were seen. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.

## MELIPHAGIDAE

Lesser Sulawesi Honeyeater (L Streaked H) *Myza celebensis*: We had frequent sightings of these at Lore Lindu, typically feeding on flowering gingers. Two or more were also seen at Gunung Ambang. Endemic to Sulawesi.

Greater Sulawesi Honeyeater (G Streaked H) *Myza sarasinorum*: At least three of these were seen on the first ascent up the Anaso track, plus one more subsequently. They seem to only be present at the higher elevations, and show distinctive whitish patches on the face. Endemic to Sulawesi.

White-streaked Friarbird *Melitograis gilolensis*: Several good sightings of these rather unspectacular birds along the logging road at Foli. Endemic to the North Moluccas.

Dusky Honeyeater *Myzomela obscura*: A handful of these drab birds were seen in the forest at Foli.

Sulawesi Myzomela *Myzomela chloroptera*: We had some great looks at this lovely little birds around Lake Taming where they were in good voice. We also found them at Gunung Ambang. This endemic form is formerly lumped in Scarlet Honeyeater *M. sanguinolenta*.

#### NECTARINIIDAE

Brown-throated Sunbird (Plain-t S) *Anthreptes malacensis*: Several were seen at Tangkoko, at Karaenta and near Palu.

Black Sunbird *Nectarinia aspasia*: Seen commonly on Halmahera, particularly at Foli, and in smaller numbers on Sulawesi with birds noted at Bantimurung and at Lore Lindu.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis*: Seen frequently and commonly on both islands.

Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*: A male was see at Karaenta, then a few others showed well along the Sedoa river at Lore Lindu. The race here is *beccarii*.

#### DICAEIDAE

Yellow-sided Flowerpecker *Dicaeum aureolimbatum*: These were regularly encountered, at Tangkoko, Karaenta and in the Lore Lindu area. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.

Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker *Dicaeum nehrkorni*: A few of these often rather furtive birds were seen at Lore Lindu, from both high on the Anaso track and at lower altitudes in the Sedoa river valley. Endemic to Sulawesi.

Flame-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum erythrothorax*: Often hard to track down, we saw four birds in two days at Foli. Endemic to the Moluccas.

Grey-sided Flowerpecker *Dicaeum celebicum*: Seen regularly in suitable habitat on Sulawesi in most of the areas that we visited, except at the higher altitudes. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion.

#### ZOSTEROPIDAE

Mountain White-eye *Zosterops montanus*: Regularly encountered in the higher parts of Lore Lindu, typically in mixed feeding flocks.

Lemon-bellied White-eye *Zosterops chloris*: A single bird was seen at the Makassar fishponds (race *intermedius*) and then many were seen in scrub along the Sedoa river (race *mentoris*).

Black-ringed White-eye *Zosterops anomalus*: This was our primary target at the Karaenta Forest, and they made their appearance as soon as breakfast was finished! At least three were seen here. Endemic to southern Sulawesi.

Cream-throated White-eye *Zosterops atriceps*: Heard more often than seen on Halmahera, we saw one briefly on our first afternoon at Foli, then had a better look a couple of days later. Endemic to the North Moluccas.

Black-fronted White-eye *Zosterops atrifrons*: Our first was singing away every morning in the grounds of our Tangkoko lodgings, then they were seen quite commonly at Lore Lindu, and also at Gunung Ambang.

Streak-headed Dark-eye *Lophozosterops squamiceps*: This pleasant little bird was not uncommon in the higher reaches of Lore Lindu, and some were also seen at Gunung Ambang. Endemic to Sulawesi.

#### PASSERIDAE

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*: The common sparrow, present in all open and built up areas.

#### ESTRILDIDAE

Blue-faced Parrotfinch *Erythrura trichroa*: One seen up the Anaso track on the second ascent.

Black-faced Munia (Moluccan M) *Lonchura molucca*: Near Palu we found a rice paddy with at least 40 of these buzzing around it. A handful were seen along the track at Foli, and also at Gunung Ambang, Toraut, and in good number in paddies near Anurang.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*: A few were seen in paddies near Makassar, then not again until our lunchstop near Anurang.

Chestnut Munia *Lonchura malacca*: Plenty were seen in the paddies near Palu, and we found more around Dumoga Bone and at the Santika hotel.

Pale-headed Munia *Lonchura pallida*: At least 15 of these fellows joined the other Munia species in the paddies near Palu. Endemic to the Sulawesi subregion and Lesser Sundas.

Java Sparrow *Padda oryzivora*: Oooh.. can we not tick it? Two were seen at our 'paddyfield lunch stop' near Anurang. Introduced to Sulawesi.

#### FRINGILLIDAE

Mountain Serin *Serinus estherae*: Seen on two days along the Anaso track, with some of the 15 birds seen actually settling to give perched views and even sing to us. The race here is undescribed, and differs from other races in having orange instead of yellow on the rump, face and forehead.

#### MAMMALS

Whitish Dwarf Squirrel *Prosciurillus leucomus*: Despite no mammal book, the local guides at Tangkoko knew exactly what these were. They are the ones with the whitish mark behind the ear.

Sulawesi Dwarf Squirrel *Prosciurillus murinus*: With a fair amount of presumption over the identity of these due to the lack of a mammal guide, we saw several of these at Lore Lindu and at Tangkoko, and probably it was these at Gunung Ambang.

Spectral Tarsier *Tarsius spectrum*: No mystery about the identity of these! Two of these spooky-looking nocturnal primates were seen roosting in a huge Fig tree at Tangkoko, emerging only to take grasshoppers from the hands of our guides!

Moor Macaque *Macaca maura*: At least six were seen in the Karaenta forest.

Sulawesi Crested Macaque *Macaca nigra*: A fine looking troop of these impressive beasts appeared in the beach forest at Tangkoko, with 40 animals together displaying some ghastly looking rumps!

Short-finned Pilot Whale *Globicephala macrorhynchus*: Craig saw a group of ten of these off the Santika Hotel.