Sulawesi and Halmahera

28th August – 17th September 2011

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Purple-bearded Bee-eater, Sulawesi © Rob Hutchinson/Birdtour Asia

Sulawesi and Halmahera is always a top tour for those seeking rare Indonesian endemics but even by our high standards this tour was exceptional for the comprehensive set of specialities seen, and almost all seen very well. On Sulawesi highlights included the rare Geomalai, Sulawesi Thrush, Purple-bearded Bee-eater, Maleo, Matinan Flycatcher, all endemic kingfishers including the trick Scaly Kingfisher, and all possible night-birds including views of two different taxa of Cinnabar Boobook and amazing views of the rare Minahassa Masked Owl. Our success continued on Halmahera with all night-time targets seen well, including Molccan Scrubfowl on its nesting beach located in a matter of minutes. Wallace’s Standardwings performed splendidly and we had great views of Ivory-breasted Pitta, Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove and a brilliant performance from a pair of Purple Dollarbirds.

Our revised itinerary this year meant our group assembled from all around the globe in the metropolis of Makassar in southern Sulawesi ready for our adventure in some of the most endemic rich areas of Indonesia. On our first morning we headed off to the limestone karst forests of Karaenta for our first injection of new birds. The most important bird was Black-ringed White-eye since it is restricted only to this southern area of Sulawesi and we saw several easily along with our first of several other endemics like Sulawesi Babbler, fly-over Golden-mantled Racquet-tails, Silver-tipped and White-bellied Imperial...
Pigeons and Knobbed Hornbill. Two distinct subspecies were noted; *sanfordi* Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbill and *albicollis* White-necked Myna, and a restricted range primate; Moor Macaque. A detour on the way to the airport took in a productive area of fishponds where not only Savanna Nightjars and White-shouldered Triller, but also a fine array of waders were seen with Red-necked and Long-toed Stints, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Javan Plovers the highlights.

![Sulawesi Scops Owl, Lore Lindu, Sulawesi](image1)

![Diabolical Nightjars and Blue-fronted Flycatcher, Lore Lindu](image2)

Our flight to Palu in central Sulawesi left on time and upon arrival we were soon on our way to Sulawesi’s most famous national park; Lore Lindu. The journey to our accommodation took us through the heart of the higher parts of the park and we had time for a short stop which already gave highlights such as Sulawesi Drongo and Piping Crow before we continued down into the valley and our friendly guesthouse. Full of enthusiasm we were back up in the forest before dawn and were rewarded with a Cinnabar Boobook, here of an undescribed taxon, which snook in silently to show high over the road in the torch. As daylight broke the surrounding forest were full of birds in spite of the dull conditions with early excitement from a Blue-fronted Flycatcher and Sulawesi Thrush feeding on the road. As the morning progressed Cerulean Cuckoo-shrike, Pygmy Cuckoo-shrike, Malia, Yellow-billed Malkoha, Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker and Lesser Sulawesi Honeyeater with barely a break in the action! A walk along the roadside added good numbers of Fiery-browed Mynas before we took to a forest trail where things slowed a little but was worthwhile as one of the feeding flocks added a pair of Blue-faced Parrotfinches high in the canopy and a
shy group of Tonkean Macaques. After lunch back at base (with Barred Rails for added value) we spent the afternoon along the roadsides of the lower valleys where our target Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher was easily found and other added included Ivory-backed Woodswallows, Lemon-bellied White-eyes, Purple Needletail, Short-tailed Starlings, both Grey-headed and White-bellied Imperial Pigeons as flybys, and excellent studies of Sulawesi Swiftlet and Tawny Grassbird, the latter a very restricted bird on Sulawesi.

Excitement began before we had even left the village the next morning as a calling Sulawesi Masked Owl was spot-lighted before we continued up into the forest for a field-breakfast in preparation for our day on the famous (or infamous?) Anaso track. The Anaso track, a former logging road, is the only access point into the higher levels of the forest where some of the key birds hang out, but for some years now the track has been impassable to vehicles and now requires a rather energetic walk. We set out in the dark which turned out to be perfect timing because just after dawn broke the deep boom of a Sombre Pigeon was heard and in no time at all this bulky pigeon came lumbering into view for fine looks despite the early morning gloom. As we made our way higher the first Yellow-and-green Lorikeets zoomed over and a hulking Red-eared Fruit Dove was seen, then a pair of roosting Diabolical Nightjars allowed wonderful studies as they filled the scope and gave us a great excuse for a rest. The walking was more enjoyable from here onwards as we enjoyed a series of Greater Sulawesi Honeyeaters, another pair of roosting nightjars and our first Purple-bearded Bee-eaters. It was near the highest point of the track that we finally came upon another big target, the unobtrusive Hylocitrea, which is now recognised as a monotypic family and a major target for visitors! We were lucky enough to get some close views of a loose group of four birds. Some chance sightings of Geomalia on the descent left most desiring more, with only Ken and Barbara getting good views but Chestnut-backed Bush Warbler performed better and we finally had prolonged and satisfactory views of Purple-bearded Bee-eaters.

Given our great success the previous day, the torrential rain in the early morning deterred all except Rob and Rich for a second attempt on the Anaso track but despite the grim weather this was rewarded with Grey-headed Imperial Pigeons and after a cold wait, a glorious Geomalia hopping along the trail ahead of us, with its long floppy tail trailing behind. Meeting with the rest of the intrepid group lower down the trail we were able to get some stunning looks at Purple-bearded Bee-eaters attending their nest holes in improving light before making our way back down for lunch, a walk interrupted by some very active feeding flocks which contained another Hylocitrea, great looks at Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpeckers, Cerulean and Pygmy Cuckooshrikes, Blue-faced Parrotfinch and our first Little Bronze Cuckoo. A more relaxing afternoon in the lower valleys again produced more than 30 Purple Needletails, our first Sulawesi Cicadabirds and Sulawesi Crested Mynas.

Another pre-dawn start next day was rewarded by a very obliging Sulawesi Scops Owl and Sulawesi Hawk Cuckoo calling from a distance. Highlight of the morning was a singing Great Shortwing, albeit elusive and only seen by a few of us although a pair of Blue-faced Parrotfinch in a forest feeding flock were much more obliging. In the afternoon it was time to make our way back across to Palu but before we enjoyed the luxury rooms and hot showers we squeezed in a visit to a scrubby riverbank where Savanna Nightjars were positively common, Little Bronze Cuckoo showed well and Pale-headed Munia were new although not as obliging as usual. Several Barred Buttonquail were flushed and after soon work one of the Red-backed Buttonquail was seen extremely well on the ground.

The next day gave us chance to kick-back as we flew first from Palu to Makassar, then onwards to Manado before driving south-west to Kotamobagu, squeezing in some productive rice-field stops on the way to add...
flocks of munias and Java Sparrows, Pacific Golden Plover, Buff-banded Rail and a smart Cinnamon Bittern.

Pygmy Hanging Parrot at Molibagu and Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbill at Torout

Scaly Kingfisher, Gunung Ambang

We began our three days in this area with a morning visit to the Maleo sanctuary at Tambun which was very successful with at least 2 adults seen including one obligingly perched out high in the trees, and we were lucky enough to be able to release one of the newly hatched juveniles from the hatchery into the wild, with hopes that it would help to boost the already immensely successful protection program here. There was of course much more besides and by scanning the surrounds from our clearing we were able to add Black-billed Koel, Sulawesi Crested Myna, two displaying Sulawesi Black Pigeon, Sulawesi Cicadabird, Sulawesi Triller and distant but unobscured scopes looks at a pair of calling Bay Coucals. Pick of the bunch though was a calling Maroon-chinned Fruit Dove that gave good looks low in a tree, a lowland forest species which is only possible in this area on our tours. After a stop at some roadside pools for the distinctive hispidoides race of Common Kingfisher we continued to the Forest patch at Torout for our afternoon birding. After feasting our eyes on an obliging day-roosting Speckled Boobook we headed across into the forest where our first Pale Blue Monarch were found followed by a female Black-billed Koel, several Bay Coucals, Ashy Woodpecker and Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbills as we picked our way along the trails. Emerging into a garden area on the other side we settled down to scan the forest edge and what followed was 1 ½ hours of non-stop action! Firstly a group of Pied Cuckooshrikes came in to perched
openly on dead snags, many Golden-mantled Racquet-tails were flying and perched and we found a Grey-headed Imperial Pigeon, rare at these low altitudes, which gave far better views than at Lore Lindu. Next the toy-trumpet calls of Yellow-breasted Racquet-tails found at least two perched birds and we finished with great views of colourful Ornate Lorikeets before we headed back to Kotamobagu after a very successful first day.

The rainy conditions along the Molibagu road next morning did us no favours but we were still happy with our best views yet of Sulawesi Crested Myna, White-necked Myna and Ivory-backed Woodswallows while the Sulawesi Goshawk displaying overhead was quite superb. Also new here was Rufous-bellied Eagle and at long last, Sulawesi Hawk Eagle while a group of Gorontalo Macaques continued our excellent run of endemic primates. In the afternoon we made a return to Tambun where we enjoyed some even more obliging Maleos (both adults and juveniles) and at dusk we called in Sulawesi Nightjars for some brief but good flight views.

**Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher, Gn. Mahawu and Matinan Flycatcher, Gn. Ambang**

A return to the Molibagu road in much improved weather the next morning was much more successful with several Sulawesi Hawk Eagles, Sulawesi Honey Buzzard, Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbills and best of all, very prolonged views of our prime target, Pygmy Hanging Parrots, perched right overhead.

With most targets already seen the most notable omission was Isabelline Bush-hen so we headed off in the afternoon to Torout where we heard one almost instantly and had some nice looks by hiding ourselves away in the derelict building so the birds couldn’t see us! Heading back to the city we made stops at two different marshes with Black-backed Swamphen the highlight at the first with good numbers of Dusky Moorhen and a Little Pied Cormorant at the second.

It was a very early morning start the next day in order to reach Gunung Ambang in time for some owling but we were all soon awake when a magnificent Sulawesi Masked Owl appeared on a roadside post during the drive! Relieved to find the weather fine at the mountain we made our way up and were soon tracking down a calling Cinnabar Boobook which remained stubbornly hidden until close to dawn when it started to move and we had several close but brief views. In the fine weather we were soon watching Purple-bearded Bee-eaters while eating breakfast, followed not long after by a cracking male Scaly Kingfisher, the most elusive of Sulawesi’s endemic kingfishers. Further along the trail we completed the target list with fine views of a singing Matinan Flycatcher, not perhaps the finest looking endemic but certainly one of the rarest, still known in the field only from this one mountain! Making our way down logged our first good views of Rusty-breasted Cuckoos and a responsive pair of Spot-tailed Goshawks, then in the open fields below the forest several Black Kites and our first Spotted Kestrel. After lunch in Kotamobagu it was time to head back to Manado and another evening of indulgence with fine seafood and hot showers!

While some took advantage of the previous day’s success with the Scaly Kingfisher and stayed to enjoy the extensive hotel breakfast buffet the rest of us started early again to Gunung Mahawu where we had fine views of Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher, Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpeckers and after some searching at least two Crimson-crowned Flowerpeckers.

All meeting up again at Manado airport it was time for our next big adventure as a shortness of the flight across to Ternate belied the fact that we had crossed Weber’s line into a completely new avifaunal region. The crossing by chartered speedboat to Halmahera was enlivened by Greater Frigatebird and Red-necked Phalaropes, then as we skirted the mangroves near Halmahera we found no less than 5 Beach Kingfishers. Upon arrival we headed straight out north along the island with some stops for roadside treats like Grey-throated Goshawk, Long-billed Crow and striking Blue-and-white Kingfishers. After checking into our hotel
and enjoying a very slow dinner we continued north again to the village of Galela which is famed as the largest nesting colony of Moluccan Scrubfowl, although even here it is now rare due to human overexploitation. Making our way across to the volcanic black-sand beach by small dug-out canoes added to a great experience which culminated just 15 minutes later in a beautifully patterned Moluccan Scrubfowl captured in the spotlight! Pleased with our quick success we made our way back across the river, spotlighting our first Moluccan Scops Owl high in a coconut on the other side, before heading back to Tobelo for a well earned sleep!

Moluccan Scrubfowl at Galela beach and Moluccan Scops Owl, Halmahera

After a late breakfast the next morning (in daylight no less!) we headed south again to the small port of Daru for our boat across the bay to the small settlement of Foli, a crossing which produced many Bridled Terns, large numbers of Red-necked Phalaropes and two Bulwer’s Petrels passing lazily by. The old logging road at Foli is still one of the most accessible place to search for a host of north Moluccan endemics and we eagerly headed out in the afternoon, quickly adding our first specialities in the guise of Moluccan and Halmahera Cuckooshrikes, Rufous-bellied Triller, Grey-headed Fruit Doves, Moluccan Hanging Parrots, Moustached Treesifts, Paradise Crow, Halmahera Flowerpecker, White Cockatoo, Moluccan Starlings, Moluccan Imperial Pigeons and stunning Violet-necked Lories so that we could head back satisfied in the evening even though rain prevented our planned night-birding.

Purple Dollarbird and Sombre Kingfisher, Halmahera
The next morning began with a Halmahera Boobook called in pre-dawn although it didn’t stay long enough this time for everyone to get in position. In the dim light of dawn we made our way down the short trail to the lek site of Wallace’s Standardwings, thankful that this newly discovered site is a much shorter walk than the 3 hour slog of previous years! We arrived just as the Standardwings were beginning their raucous calls and as the light improved we were able to watch at least two males and a female as they performed their display in the canopy above. Perhaps even better though were the pair of Ivory-breasted Pittas which initially gave us quite a run-around but after some persistence gave quite brilliant views, surely one of the worlds ultimate pittas! Also in this area we located a bulky Sombre Kingfisher perched just overhead for as long as we wanted. Finishing the morning back out on the road, the sometimes difficult Drab Whistler was seen very well, sneaky Blue-capped Fruit Doves were seen in the scope and a burst of activity on the drive back added Rainbow Bee-eaters, Slaty Flycatcher and Cream-throated White-eye. Afternoon birding continued apace with Great-billed Parrot and the increasingly rare Chattering Lory at the fore, better views of Blue-capped Fruit Dove, several Halmahera Flowerpeckers (often oh-so-tricky!) and our first Dusky Honeyeater and White-naped Monarch. As dusk approached two Dusky Scrubfowl which had made their way into the trees to roost showed well in the spotlight, and the night-birding was looking promising as a Moluccan Scops Owl quickly appeared but the rain had other ideas and it was another wet journey back to the village in torrential rain for us.
The next morning was a little frustrating with a calling Moluccan Owlet Nightjar only seen in flight then at least two calling Scarlet-breasted Fruit Doves which just flatly refused to show for us. We were compensated though by excellent views of Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeons, a group of cumbersome Goliath Coucals and a flyby Great Cuckoo Dove. In the afternoon we finally got the chance at some serious night-birding which was very successful with a Moluccan Owlet Nightjar appearing at dusk then a Halmahera Boobook which showed strong eye-shine but was too distant for much other detail, even through the scope! We finished with great views of Barking Owl perched in exactly the same tree as the previous year. The next morning began as we had ended the previous day with fine views of Barking Owl, and at dawn we all finally had satisfactory views of Halmahera Boobook. As the light improved good views of Common Paradise Kingfisher were new for the tour but much better was to come as we hung around waiting for fruit doves, when a pair of Purple Dollarbirds appeared, one giving quite glorious views as it hawked insects from an open snag, not a bird many of us had realistically expected to see and we were all elated! On our last morning there was one gaping hole in our target list; Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove. With this in mind we headed for a different track which has a good track-record with the species but there we had relatively few pigeons or doves calling and although a single scarlet-breasted was heard it couldn’t be teased closer and soon disappeared. As we trudged back some had surely lost hope when another bird began calling and suddenly there it was, right above our heads! A fantastic finale right at the last moment. After great views of Pacific Baza and more White-naped Monarchs it was time to head back across the bay again and after lunch we continued south, deciding that the absolutely torrential rain wasn’t conducive to our raptor-watching plans, so headed after to the comfortable beds and hot showers of our posh hotel on Ternate, what a contrast to Foli!

The next morning we flew back to Manado and were soon on our way across to Tangkoko in the extreme north-east of the island where we soon settled in to our beautifully situated lodge. Keen to begin our exploration here we headed straight for the forest in the afternoon and even though we were towards the end of our tour, new birds appeared thick and fast. Firstly a pair of raucous Purple-winged Rollers were perched beautifully in the forest, then the first in a series of Green-backed Kingfishers perched confidingly, Tabon Scrubfowls scratched away in the undergrowth, two separate Red-backed Thrushes where seen and a single Lilac-cheeked Kingfisher was unconcerned by our close presence. At dusk we waited near the roost tree of a family of Spectral Tarsier which soon appeared, two adults with 2 young, giving delightful views of these unique and endearing creatures. The first of our targets appeared very soon the next morning; a pair of Stephan’s Doves which gave great views as the fed quietly in the leaf-litter by the roadside. As we made our way into the forest more Green-backed and Lilac-cheeked Kingfishers and scrubfowl were noted and a Red-backed Thrush gave even better views than the previous day as it sat up in a tree preening and showing us all angles. We also completed an excellent set of primates for the tour as a large troop of Sulawesi Crested Macaques made their way past us within touching distance as they marched forward like miniature gorillas! In the hillier parts of the forest one of our local guides had located a Red-bellied Pitta which with some careful positioning gave us all fantastic looks, followed very shortly by an Ochre-bellied Boobook at its day-roost. The afternoon was a very relaxed affair as we took to boats for a trip along the coast to a mangrove river in search of another endemic kingfisher. The Great-billed Kingfishers were quite obliging this time allowing particularly long and protracted views and we also logged our first White-rumped Cuckoo-shrikes, Great-billed Heron, Pacific Reef Egret, Grey-tailed Tattler and Lesser Sand Plover.
Not wanting to waste any time on our last day we were out again before dawn to secure much improved views of a pair of Sulawesi Nightjars in the grasslands and shortly afterwards one of the Ruddy Kingfishers calling nearby was located and gave prolonged views. After more Purple-winged Rollers and another pair of roadside Stephan’s Doves we set off purposefully into the forest again and this time were successful with our final endemic kingfisher, a delightful Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher as well as another Spot-tailed Goshawk, and the morning was completed by a surprise Bear Cuscus munching away on young leaves near the beach.

Minahassa Masked Owl, Tangkoko and Sulawesi Masked Owl, Gn. Ambang

Lunch-time birding from the comfort of the lodge was very enjoyable with Ivory-backed Woodswallows, Pied Cuckooshrikes, Sulawesi Cicadabird, Sulawesi Triller and Rufous-bellied Eagle the highlights before we headed back up the access road to finish the tour in style. From our idyllic viewpoint overlooking untouched forest all the way to the top of Tangkoko volcano we sat back and let the birds flow; Grey-headed and many White-bellied Imperial Pigeons gorged on fruit, Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbill popped in to say hello, Black-billed Koel gave the best views yet and three Purple-winged Rollers performed magnificently. All was not finished though for some of the intrepid (Rob, Rich and Ken) headed once again to the forest in the vague hope of some rare night-birds, optimism that was greatly rewarded by the most amazing sighting of a Minahassa Masked Owl studying us from just a few metres away. What a finish!

More tour photos...

Little Bronze Cuckoo at Palu and Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker at Lore Lindu, Sulawesi
Below (clockwise from top left): Green-backed Kingfisher, Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher, Stephan’s Dove, Purple-winged Roller x2, Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbill
**Systematic Bird List**

**PROCELLARIIDAE: Petrels and Shearwaters**
Bulwer’s Petrel  
*Bulweria bulwerii*

**FRIGATIDAE: Frigatebirds**
Great Frigatebird  
*Fregata minor*

**PHALACROCORACIDAE: Cormorants**
**ARDEIDAE: Herons**

- Little Pied Cormorant: *Phalacrocorax melanoleucus*
- Great-billed Heron: *Ardea sumatrana*
- Purple Heron: *Ardea purpurea*
- 'Eastern' Great Egret: *Ardea alba modesta*
- Intermediate Egret: *Ardea intermedia*
- Little Egret: *Egretta garzetta*
- Pacific Reef Egret: *Egretta sacra*
- Eastern' Cattle Egret: *Ardea ibis coromandus*
- Javan Pond Heron: *Ardeola speciosa*
- Striated Heron: *Butorides striatus javanicus*
- Black-crowned Night Heron: *Nycticorax nycticorax*
- Yellow Bittern: *Ixobrychus sinensis*
- Cinnamon Bittern: *Ixobrychus cinnamoceus*

**ACCIPITRIDAE: Hawks, Eagles and Allies**

- Osprey: *Pandion haliaetus cristatus*
- Pacific Baza: *Aviceda subcristata rufa*
- Sulawesi Honey Buzzard: *Pernis celebensis*
- Black-eared Kite: *Milvus lineatus affinis*
- Brahminy Kite: *Haliastur indus*
- White-bellied Sea Eagle: *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
- Lesser Fish Eagle: *Ichthyophaga humilis humilis*
- Sulawesi Serpent Eagle: *Spilornis rufifrons rufifrons*
- Sulawesi Goshawk: *Accipiter griseiceps*
- Spot-tailed Goshawk: *Accipiter trinotatus*
- Grey-throated Goshawk: *Accipiter novaehollandiae* griseogularis
- Rufous-necked Sparrowhawk: *Accipiter erythrauchen erythrauchen*
- Black Eagle: *Ictinaetus malayensis malayensis*
- Rufous-bellied Eagle: *Nisaetus kienerii formosus*
- Sulawesi Hawk Eagle: *Nisaetus lanceolatus*

**FALCONIDAE: Falcons and Allies**

- Spotted Kestrel: *Falco moluccensis microbalia*
- Oriental Hobby: *Falco severus*

**DENDROCYGNIDAE: Whistling-ducks**

- Wandering Whistling Duck: *Dendrocygna arcuata arcuata*

**ANATIDAE: Ducks, Swans and Geese**

- Sunda Teal: *Anas gibberifrons*

**MEGAPODIDAE: Megapodes**

- Tabon Scrubfowl: *Megapodius cuningii gibertii*
- Dusky Scrubfowl: *Megapodius freycinet*
- Moluccan Scrubfowl: *Eulipoa wallacei*
- Maleo: *Macrocephalon maleo*

**TURNICIDAE: Buttonquails**

- Red Junglefowl: *Gallus gallus gallus*
- Red-backed Buttonquail: *Turnix maculosa*
- Barred Buttonquail: *Turnix suscitator rufilata*

**RALLIDAE: Rails**

- Buff-banded Rail: *Gallirallus philippensis*
- Barred Rail: *Gallirallus torquatus celebensis*
- White-browed Crake: *Porzana cinerea*
- Rufous-tailed Bush-hen: *Amaurornis moluccanus*
Isabelline Bush-hen  Amaurornis isabellinus  
White-breasted Waterhen  Amaurornis phoenicurus leucomelanus  
Dusky Moorhen  Gallinula tenebrosa frontata  
Common Moorhen  Gallinula chloropus orientalis  
Black-backed Swamphen  Porphyrio [porphyrio] indicus  

**JACANIDAE: Jacanas**  
Comb-crested Jacana  Irediparra gallinacea  

**RECURVIROSTRIDAE: Stilts and Avocets**  
White-headed Stilt  Himantopus [himantopus] leucocephalus  

**CHARADRIIDAE: Lapwings and Plovers**  
Pacific Golden Plover  Pluvialis fulva  
Little Ringed Plover  Charadrius dubius curnicus  
Javan Plover  Charadrius javanicus  
Lesser Sand Plover  Charadrius mongolus mongolus  
Greater Sand Plover  Charadrius leschenaultii leschenaultii  

**SCHOOLPADIDAE: Sandpipers, Snipes and Allies**  
Whimbrel  Numenius phaeopus variegatus  
Common Redshank  Tringa totanus eurhinus  
Marsh Sandpiper  Tringa stagnatilis  
Common Greenshank  Tringa nebularia  
Wood Sandpiper  Tringa glareola  
Common Sandpiper  Actitis hypoleucos  
Grey-tailed Tattler  Heteroscelus brevipes  
Ruddy Turnstone  Arenaria interpres interpres  
Red-necked Stint  Calidris ruficollis  
Long-toed Stint  Calidris subminuta  
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper  Calidris acuminata  
Curlew Sandpiper  Calidris ferruginea  

**STERCORARIINAE: Skuas and Jaegers**  
Arctic Skua  Stercorarius parasiticus  

**STERNINAE: Terns**  
Whiskered Tern  Chlidonias hybridus  
White-winged Black Tern  Chlidonias leucopterus  
Gull-billed Tern  Sterna nilotica  
Common Tern  Sterna hirundo longipennis  
Roseate Tern  Sterna dougallii gracilis  
Black-naped Tern  Sterna sumatrana  
Bridled Tern  Sterna anaethetus anaethetus  
Little Tern  Sterna albifrons sinensis  
Greater Crested Tern  Sterna bergii cristata  

**COLUMBIADAE: Pigeons and Doves**  
Red Collared Dove  Streptopelia tranquebarica [introduced]  
Spotted Dove  Streptopelia chinensis tigrina  
Brown Cuckoo Dove  Macrocygna amboinensis albicapilla  
Great Cuckoo Dove  Reinwardtoena reingwardtii  
Sulawesi Black Pigeon  Turacoena manadensis  
Emerald Dove  Chalcophaps indica indica  
Stephan’s Dove  Chalcophaps stephani wallacei  
Pink-necked Green Pigeon  Treron vernans  
Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon  Treron griseicauda griseicauda  
Red-eared Fruit Dove  Ptilinopus fischeri centralis  


Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove

Superb Fruit Dove

Blue-capped Fruit Dove

Grey-headed Fruit Dove

Black-naped Fruit Dove

White-bellied Imperial Pigeon

Green Imperial Pigeon

Moluccan Imperial Pigeon

Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon

Pied Imperial Pigeon

Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon

Sombre Pigeon

PSITTACIDAE: Parrots, Lories and Cockatoos

Violet-necked Lory

Ornate Lorikeet

Yellow-and-green Lorikeet

Chattering Lory

White Cockatoo

Eclectus Parrot

Red-cheeked Parrot

Yellow-breasted Racquet-tail

Golden-mantled Racquet-tail

Blue-backed Parrot

Great-billed Parrot

Sulawesi Hanging Parrot

Moluccan Hanging Parrot

Pygmy Hanging Parrot

CUCULIDAE: Old world Cuckoos and Allies

Sulawesi Cuckoo

Himalayan / Oriental Cuckoo

Plaintive Cuckoo

Rusty-breasted Cuckoo

Brush Cuckoo

Little Bronze Cuckoo

Moluccan Drongo Cuckoo

Black-billed Koel

Yellow-billed Malkoha

CENTROPODIDAE: Coucals

Goliath Coucal

Lesser Coucal

Bay Coucal

TYTONIDAE: Barn Owls and Masked Owls

Sulawesi Masked Owl

Minahassa Masked Owl

STRIGIDAE: Typical Owls

Sulawesi Scops Owl

Moluccan Scops Owl

Barking Owl

Cinnabar Boobook

Ochre-bellied Boobook

Halmahera Boobook

Speckled Boobook

PSITTACIDAE: Parrots, Lories and Cockatoos

Purple-faced Fruit Dove

Superb Fruit Dove

Blue-capped Fruit Dove

Grey-headed Fruit Dove

Black-naped Fruit Dove

White-bellied Imperial Pigeon

Green Imperial Pigeon

Moluccan Imperial Pigeon

Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon

Pied Imperial Pigeon

Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon

Sombre Pigeon

PSITTACIDAE: Parrots, Lories and Cockatoos

Violet-necked Lory

Ornate Lorikeet

Yellow-and-green Lorikeet

Chattering Lory

White Cockatoo

Eclectus Parrot

Red-cheeked Parrot

Yellow-breasted Racquet-tail

Golden-mantled Racquet-tail

Blue-backed Parrot

Great-billed Parrot

Sulawesi Hanging Parrot

Moluccan Hanging Parrot

Pygmy Hanging Parrot

CUCULIDAE: Old world Cuckoos and Allies

Sulawesi Cuckoo

Himalayan / Oriental Cuckoo

Plaintive Cuckoo

Rusty-breasted Cuckoo

Brush Cuckoo

Little Bronze Cuckoo

Moluccan Drongo Cuckoo

Black-billed Koel

Yellow-billed Malkoha

CENTROPODIDAE: Coucals

Goliath Coucal

Lesser Coucal

Bay Coucal

TYTONIDAE: Barn Owls and Masked Owls

Sulawesi Masked Owl

Minahassa Masked Owl

STRIGIDAE: Typical Owls

Sulawesi Scops Owl

Moluccan Scops Owl

Barking Owl

Cinnabar Boobook

Ochre-bellied Boobook

Halmahera Boobook

Speckled Boobook
### AEGOTHELIDAE: Owlet-nightjars
- Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar: *Aegotheles crinifrons*

### CAPRIMULGIDAE: Nightjars
- Diabolocal Nightjar: *Eurostopodus diabolicus*
- Great Eared Nightjar: *Caprimulgus macrurus schlegeli*
- Large-tailed Nightjar: *Caprimulgus celebensis celebensis*
- Sulawesi Nightjar: *Caprimulgus affinis propinquus*
- Savanna Nightjar: *Caprimulgus affinis affinis*

### APODIDAE: Swifts and Swiftlets
- Uniform Swiftlet: *Aerodramus vanikorensis aenigma*
- Halmahera Swiftlet: *Aerodramus infuscata*
- Sulawesi Swiftlet: *Aerodramus sororum*
- Glossy Swiftlet: *Aerodramus esculenta manadensis*
- Purple Needletail: *Hirundapus celebensis*
- House Swift: *Apus nipalensis nipalensis*
- Asian Palm Swift: *Cypsiurus balasiensis*

### HEMIPROCNIDAE: Treeswifts
- Grey-rumped Treeswift: *Hemiprocne longipennis wallacii*
- Moustached Treeswift: *Hemiprocne mystacea confirmata*

### HALCYONIDAE: Wood Kingfishers
- Green-backed Kingfisher: *Actenoides monachus monachus*
- Scaly Kingfisher: *Actenoides princeps princeps*
- Common Paradise Kingfisher: *Tanysiptera galatea browningi*
- Lilac-cheeked Kingfisher: *Cittura cyanotis cyanotis*
- Great-billed Kingfisher: *Pelargopsis melanorhyncha melanorhyncha*
- Ruddy Kingfisher: *Halcyon coronanda rufa*
- Blue-and-white Kingfisher: *Halcyon diops*
- Sombre Kingfisher: *Halcyon funebris*
- Collared Kingfisher: *Todiramphus chloris chloris*
- Beach Kingfisher: *Halcyon saurophaga*
- Sacred Kingfisher: *Todiramphus sanctus*

### ALCEDINIDAE: Small Kingfisher
- Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher: *Ceyx fallax fallax*
- Common Kingfisher: *Alcedo atthis bengalensis*
- *Alcedo atthis hispidoides*

### MEROPIDAE: Bee-eaters
- Blue-tailed Bee-eater: *Merops philippinus*
- Rainbow Bee-eater: *Merops ornatus*
- Purple-bearded Bee-eater: *Meropogon forsteni*

### CORACIIDAE: Rollers
- Purple-winged Roller: *Coracias temminckii*
- Common Dollarbird: *Eurystomus orientalis orientalis*
- Purple Dollarbird: *Eurystomus azureus*
**BUCEROTIDAE: Hornbills**
- Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbill: *Penelopides exarhatus exarhatus*
- Knobbed Hornbill: *Penelopides exarhatus sanfordi*
- Blyth's Hornbill: *Aceros cassidix*
- Knobbed Hornbill: *Rhyticeros plicatus*

**PICIDAE: Woodpeckers**
- Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker: *Dendrocopos temminckii*
- Ashy Woodpecker: *Mullueripicus fulvus fulvus*
- Mullueripicus fulvus wallacei

**PITTIDAE: Pitta**
- Red-bellied Pitta: *Pitta erythrogaster celebensis*
- Ivory-breasted Pitta: *Pitta maxima maxima*

**HIRUNDINIDAE: Swallows and Martins**
- Barn Swallow: *Hirundo rustica*
- Pacific Swallow: *Hirundo tahitica*

**MOTACILLIDAE: Wagtails and Pipits**
- Grey Wagtail: *Motacilla cinerea*

**CAMPEPHAGIDAE: Cuckooshrikes, Trillers and Minivets**
- Moluccan Cuckooshrike: *Coracina fortis magnirostris*
- Cerulean Cuckooshrike: *Coracina temminckii temminckii*
- Pied Cuckooshrike: *Coracina bicolor*
- White-rumped Cuckooshrike: *Coracina leucopygia*
- White-bellied Cuckooshrike: *Coracina papuensis*
- Halmahera Cuckooshrike: *Coracina parvula*
- Pygmy Cuckooshrike: *Coracina abbotti*
- Common Cicadabird: *Coracina tenuirostris grayi*
- Sulawesi Cicadabird: *Coracina morio morio*
- Sulawesi Triller: *Lalage leucopygialis*
- White-shouldered Triller: *Lalage sueurii*
- Rufous-bellied Triller: *Lalage aurea*

**PYCNONOTIDAE: Bulbuls**
- Sooty-headed Bulbul: *Pycnonotus aurigaster aurigaster*
- Yellow-vented Bulbul: *Pycnonotus goiavier analis*
- Northern Golden Bulbul: *Alophoixus longorostris chloris*

**DICRURIDAE: Drongos**
- Sulawesi Drongo: *Dicrurus montanus*
- Spangled Drongo: *Dicrurus bracteatus atrocaeruleus*
- Hair-crested Drongo: *Dicrurus hottentotus leucops*

**ORIOLIDAE: Old World Orioles**
- Dusky-Brown Oriole: *Oriolus phaeochromus*
- Black-naped Oriole: *Oriolus chinensis celebensis*

**CORVIDAE: Crows**
- Slender-billed Crow: *Corvus enca celebensis*
- Piping Crow: *Corvus typicus*
- Long-billed Crow: *Corvus validus*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARIIDAE: Birds of Paradise</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paradise Crow</td>
<td>Lycocorax pyrrhopterus pyrrhopterus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wallace’s Standardwing</td>
<td>Semioptera Wallacei halmaherae</td>
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<td><strong>TILAMIDAE: Babblers</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sulawesi Babbler</td>
<td>Trichastoma celebense celebense</td>
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<td>Trichastoma celebense rufouscums</td>
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<td>Trichastoma celebense finschi</td>
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<td>Malia</td>
<td>Malia grata stresmanni</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geomalia</td>
<td>Geomalia heinrichi</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TURIDAE: Thrushes and Chats</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Great Shortwing</td>
<td>Heinrichia calligyna calligyna</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red-backed Thrush</td>
<td>Zoothera erythronota</td>
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<td>Sulawesi Thrush</td>
<td>Cataponera turdoides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pied Bushchat</td>
<td>Saxicola caprata albonotata</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PARDALIDAE: Australian Warblers and Allies</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden-bellied Gerygone</td>
<td>Gerygone sulphurea flaveola</td>
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<td><strong>SYLVIIDAE: Old World Warblers</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chestnut-backed Bush Warbler</td>
<td>Bradypterus castaneus castaneus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Reed Warbler</td>
<td>Acrocephalus australis celebensis</td>
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<td>Mountain Tailorbird</td>
<td>Orthotomus cucullatus riedeli</td>
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<td>Orthotomus cucullatus stentor</td>
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<td>Sulawesi Leaf Warbler</td>
<td>Phylloscopus sarasinorum</td>
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<td>Tawny Grassbird</td>
<td>Megalurus timoriensis celebensis</td>
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<td><strong>CISTICOLIDAE: African Warblers</strong></td>
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<td>Zitting Cisticola</td>
<td>Cisticola juncidis constans</td>
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<td>Golden-headed Cisticola</td>
<td>Cisticola exilis rustica</td>
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<td>Heard only</td>
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<td><strong>MUSCICAPIDAE: Old World Flycatchers</strong></td>
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<td>Island Verditer</td>
<td>Eumyias panayensis septentrionalis</td>
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<td>Snowy-browed Flycatcher</td>
<td>Ficedula hyperythra jugosae</td>
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<td>Little Pied Flycatcher</td>
<td>Ficedula westermanni</td>
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<td>Blue-fronted Flycatcher</td>
<td>Cyornis heoelli</td>
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<td>Matinan Flycatcher</td>
<td>Cyornis sanfordi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher</td>
<td>Cyornis [rufigastra] omissa</td>
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<td><strong>MONARCHIDAE: Monarch Flycatchers</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pale-blue Monarch</td>
<td>Hypothymis puella</td>
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<td>White-naped Monarch</td>
<td>Monarcha pileatus pileatus</td>
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<td>Moluccan Monarch</td>
<td>Monarcha [trivirgatus] bimaculatus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slaty Flycatcher</td>
<td>Myiagra galeata galeata</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shining Flycatcher</td>
<td>Piezorhynchus alecto alecto</td>
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<td><strong>RHIPIDURIDAE: Fantails</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Willie Wagtail</td>
<td>Rhipidura leucophrys melaleuca</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rusty-bellied Fantail</td>
<td>Rhipidura teysmanni toradja</td>
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<td><strong>PETROICIDAE: Australian Robins</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Citrine Canary Flycatcher</td>
<td>Culicicapa helianthea helianthea</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PACHYCEPHALIDAE: Whistlers</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Maroon-backed Whistler</td>
<td>Coracornis raveni</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellow-vented Whistler</td>
<td>Pachycephala sulphiventris</td>
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</table>
Golden Whistler  
Drab Whistler

**ARTAMIDAE: Woodswallows and Allies**

White-breasted Woodswallow  
Ivory-backed Woodswallow

**STURNIDAE: Starlings and Mynas**

Moluccan Starling  
Asian Glossy Starling  
Metallic Starling  
Sulawesi Crested Myna  
White-necked Myna  
Fiery-browed Myna  
Finch-billed Myna

**MELIPHAGIDAE: Honeyeaters**

Lesser Sulawesi Honeyeater  
Greater Sulawesi Honeyeater  
Dusky Honeyeater  
Sulawesi Myzomela

**NECTARINIIDAE: Sunbirds**

Brown-throated Sunbird  
Black Sunbird  
Olive-backed Sunbird  
Crimson Sunbird

**DICAEIDAE: Flowerpeckers**

Yellow-sided Flowerpecker  
Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker  
Halmahera Flowerpecker  
Grey-sided Flowerpecker

**ZOSTEROPIDAE: White-eyes and Dark-eyes**

Mountain White-eye  
Lemon-bellied White-eye  
Black-ringed White-eye  
Cream-throated White-eye  
Black-fronted White-eye  
Streak-headed White-eye

**PASSERINAE: Sparrow**

Eurasian Tree Sparrow

**ESTRILDINAE: Estrildine Finches**

Blue-faced Parrotfinch  
Black-faced Munia
Scaly-breasted Munia          Lonchura punctulata particeps
Black-headed Munia            Lonchura atricipila
Pale-headed Munia              Lonchura pallida
Java Sparrow                   Lonchura oryzivora [introduced]

HYLOCITREIDAE: Hylocitrea
Hylocitrea                      Hylocitrea bonensis

FRINGILLIDAE: Typical Finches and Allies
Mountain Serin                  Serinus estherae ssp. nov.

MAMMALS
Bear Cuscuc                     Ailurops ursinus
Sulawesi Dwarf Squirrel         Prosciurillus murinus
Sulawesi Giant Squirrel         Rubrisciurus rubiventer
Montane Long-nosed Squirrel     Hyosciurus heinrichi
Spectral Tarsier                Tarsius spectrum
Gorontalo Macaque               Macaca nigrescens
Moor Macaque                    Macaca maura
Sulawesi Crested Macaque        Macaca nigra
Tonkean Macaque                 Macaca tonkeana

S = Species endemic to the Sulawesi subregion
M = Species endemic to the Moluccas

Our total of 280 species recorded included 6 heard only

Birds of the tour

1. Ivory-breasted Pitta
2. Minahassa Masked Owl
3. Purple-bearded Bee-eater
4. Purple Dollarbird
5. Wallace’s Standardwing

For information regarding our scheduled tours to Sulawesi and Halmahera please click here. Alternatively please contact us via e-mail regarding organising a custom tour.