



WALLACEA INDONESIA: Sulawesi & Halmahera

19th September - 9th October 2025

Guided by **Sam Woods** (Halmahera & Tangkoko) & **Charley Hesse** (All Sulawesi, except Tangkoko)

Sam's Photo Album from this tour:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/samwoodsbirding/albums/72177720329632249/>



Ivory-breasted Pitta is one of Indonesia's most spectacular birds and arguably the best species within the dramatic pitta family by virtue of its large size combined with astonishing colors out of a paint box. Unsurprisingly, this was ranked highly within the Top Ten Birds of the Tour vote. (**Sam Woods**)

TOUR SUMMARY:

This tour focused on the “Wallacea” region of far eastern Indonesia, where the avifauna transitions from that of the Orient to that of Australasia. It is an intriguing region and was a fascinating tour that remains among the guide’s favorite places to guide in the region by virtue of a stunning set of endemic birds split between the two islands covered on the tour, the spider-shaped Sulawesi, and the smaller, though similarly shaped, Halmahera spice island to the east of there in the Moluccan Islands. Once again this tour was littered with endemics – **nearly 130 species that are either endemic to the island of Sulawesi (and satellite islands), or the Moluccan Islands were recorded on this tour**, with many of the region’s most wanted birds among them, including **Purple-bearded Bee-eater** (photo page 5), the odd **Maleo**, **Sulawesi Pitta** (at exceedingly close range at a blind), **Diabolical (Satanic) Nightjar**, **Scaly-breasted**, **Green-backed**, **Great-billed**, and **Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfishers** (below), **Purple-winged (Sulawesi) Roller**, **Fiery-browed (Flame-browed)** and **White-necked Mynas**, **Rusty-backed (Red-backed) Thrush**, and **Geomalia**, all on the island of Sulawesi that boasts an endemic bird list higher than any other Indonesian island – around 90 bird species. There was also a major surprise on that island at the start of the tour with a vagrant **Asian Dowitcher** in Makassar, perhaps only the second record for the island.



Sulawesi Dwarf-Kingfisher was a very tricky customer on this year’s tour. Following brief views for some only in *Dumoga-Bone*, this was a top priority once we reached our final tour destination, *Tangkoko*. However, our first try there saw us leaving empty-handed. Then, after two hours into our final attempt with nothing to show for it, it was beginning to look like it was just not to be.

However, thanks to the extreme tenaciousness of the local guides, (following an epic 2.5 hour survey), we were treated to extended close ups of this handsome kingfisher, which only narrowly missed making it into the *Top Ten Birds of the Tour* (**Sam Woods**)

Then, our sojourn on the Spice Island of Halmahera **added a further 6 kingfishers** (15 kingfishers were found between the two main islands on this tour!), including **Common Paradise-Kingfisher**, **Blue-and-white Kingfisher**, and **Moluccan Dwarf-Kingfisher**, a night time **Moluccan Megapode (Scrubfowl)** – photo page 4 - made for a late night and a memorable experience, a magnificent **Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar** that finally showed after an epic battle to find the species, and two species of pittas, also at blinds, with the monstrous **Ivory-breasted Pitta** being the most popular bird of the entire tour in large part due to the views obtained. A profusion of parrots and pigeons also featured in the Moluccas, including several stellar looks at the scarce and local **Moluccan King-Parrot**, and the jaw-droppingly beautiful scarlet **Chattering Lory**, a favored cagebird in the region by virtue of its loud sounds and brilliant coloration, and the raucous **White (Umbrella) Cockatoo**. A surprise pair of the increasingly unpredictable **Azure Roller (Purple Dollarbird)** was rightly popular, as this species is getting rarer year-on-year, and it



had been several tours since our last sighting. A well-named **Goliath Coucal**, was also popular with the group, as was a last-minute male **Standardwing Bird-of-paradise (Wallace's Standardwing)**. All-in-all, it had been a tremendous tour, with excellent birding results, and some nice mammals too, with the **Gursky's Spectral Tarsiers** (above), **Celebes Crested Macaques**, and **Sulawesi Bear Cuscus** all found on that namesake island.

PHOTO PAGE BEFORE: These **Gursky's Spectral Tarsiers**, a troop of marauding **Celebes Crested Macaques**, (the famous “selfie monkey” that went viral a while ago), and a dozing trio of **Sulawesi Bear Cuscuses**, were all seen at *Tangkoko* on *North Sulawesi*, our final major tour destination (**Sam Woods**)



A memorable nighttime excursion on the Spice Island of *Halmahera* resulted in great looks at this **Moluccan Megapode (Scrubfowl)**, which is unique within this family in laying its eggs at *night* (**Sam Woods**)

Top Ten Birds of the Tour:

Unsurprisingly, there were many contenders for this split between the group, as this tour is simply loaded with spectacular specialties. Furthermore, some of these were seen splendidly (e.g., all three of the usual pitta species were seen very well at blinds on both Sulawesi and Halmahera). To highlight this, more than 30 species were mentioned in the Top Ten for the group! However, through a rigorous voting process and system this was perhaps unfairly whittled down to this final ten:

- 1= **Ivory-breasted Pitta** (*Aketajawe-Lolobata NP, Halmahera*) 27 points
- 1= **Purple-bearded Bee-eater** (*Lore Lindu, Sulawesi*) 27 points
- 3 **Azure Roller (Purple Dollarbird)** (*Aketajawe-Lolobata NP, Halmahera*) 22 points
- 4 **Sulawesi Pitta** (*Gunung Mahawu, Sulawesi*) 20 points
- 5 **Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar** (*Gunung Uni-Uni, Halmahera*) 15 points
- 6 **Hylocitrea** (*Lore Lindu NP, Sulawesi*) 13 points
- 7 **Moustached Treeswift** (*Sidangoli, Halmahera*) 11 points
- 8 **Standardwing Bird-of-Paradise (Wallace's Standardwing)** (*Gunung Uni-Uni, Halmahera*) 10 points
- 9= **Moluccan King-Parrot** (*Gunung Uni-Uni, Halmahera*) 9 points
- 9= **Moluccan Megapode (Scrubfowl)** (*Golea Beach, Halmahera*) 9 points



This **Purple-bearded Bee-eater** was a popular bird at *Lore Lindu National Park* near the start of the tour (*Charley Hesse*)

Other birds highlighted by the participants included: **Maleo, Philippine Megapode (Scrubfowl), Asian Dowitcher, Goliath Coucal, Great Cuckoo-Dove, Spectacled Imperial Pigeon, Great-billed Kingfisher, Sulawesi Lilac Kingfisher, Sulawesi Dwarf-Kingfisher, Common Paradise-Kingfisher, White Cockatoo, Ornate Lorikeet, Red-cheeked Parrot, Purple Needletail, Blyth's Hornbill, Purple-winged (Sulawesi) Roller, Great Shortwing, Rusty-backed (Red-backed) Thrush, Geomalia, Sulawesi Myzomela, and Finch-billed Myna (Grosbeak Starling).**

DAY-BY-DAY SUMMARY:

Day 1 (of birding): 19th September - Makassar Fishponds to Malino (Sulawesi)

The tour opened with lunch at our *Makassar* hotel, Sulawesi's bustling coastal capital, where the scent of salt and diesel still hangs in the humid air from centuries of maritime trade. The city once served as the headquarters of the seafaring *Bugis* people, whose reputation as shipbuilders and navigators remains legendary throughout Indonesia.

After lunch, we set out for *Makassar Fishponds*, a sprawling network of aquaculture pools fringed by mangroves and mudflats—a productive (if sweltering), spot for shorebirds. The midday heat shimmered off the water, but the birding quickly made up for it. Among the first sightings were **Pied Stilt**, **Pacific Golden Plover**, and both **Javan and Little Ringed Plovers**, all foraging busily along the exposed edges. The ponds produced a fine array of waders: **Siberian Sand-Plover**, **Common, Marsh and Wood Sandpipers**, and **Long-toed and Red-necked Stints**. The standout, however, was an **Asian Dowitcher** (*below*)—a rare gem and, according to eBird, only the second record ever for *Sulawesi*! It lingered long enough for us to admire its distinctive shape before continuing its migration. Other waterbirds included **Purple Heron**, **Javan Pond Heron**, and Sacred Kingfisher, while nearby scrub held **White-shouldered Triller** and **Lemon-bellied White-eye**. Despite our efforts though, the hoped-for *Pale-headed Munia* eluded us.

By mid-afternoon we began the drive up to *Malino*, about two and a half hours away. The road wound steadily into the hills, where the air cooled and rice paddies gave way to pine forests and vegetable fields. We arrived in *Malino* by early evening, a quiet highland town once favored by Dutch colonials for its temperate climate and enjoyed dinner together at our hotel.



Day 2: 20th September – Lompobattang Slopes & Return to Makassar (Sulawesi)

We set off early the next morning toward the lower slopes of *Gunung Lompobattang*, one of Sulawesi's highest peaks and the stronghold of two of its most range-restricted birds: **Lompobattang Flycatcher** (*photo next page*) and **Lompobattang Leaf Warbler**. The *leaf warbler* proved cooperative, singing from the mid-storey within minutes of our arrival, but the *flycatcher* was far more elusive. After considerable searching and patience, our excellent local guide finally located a quiet pair in the undergrowth.

These birds tend to vocalize only at dawn, so we were fortunate to find them at this time (mid-morning). Other species that added to the morning's tally included, **Yellow-billed (Sulawesi) Malkoha**, **Spot-tailed Goshawk**, **Sulawesi Drongo**, and **Sulawesi Myzomela**, making for a satisfying introduction to the Sulawesi's unique avifauna.

After a late morning return to the hotel to freshen up and pack, we set off back to *Makassar*. On arrival, we explored the grassland and farmland behind our hotel, following up on reports of *Pale-headed Munia* from the previous day. The local farmers were friendly and



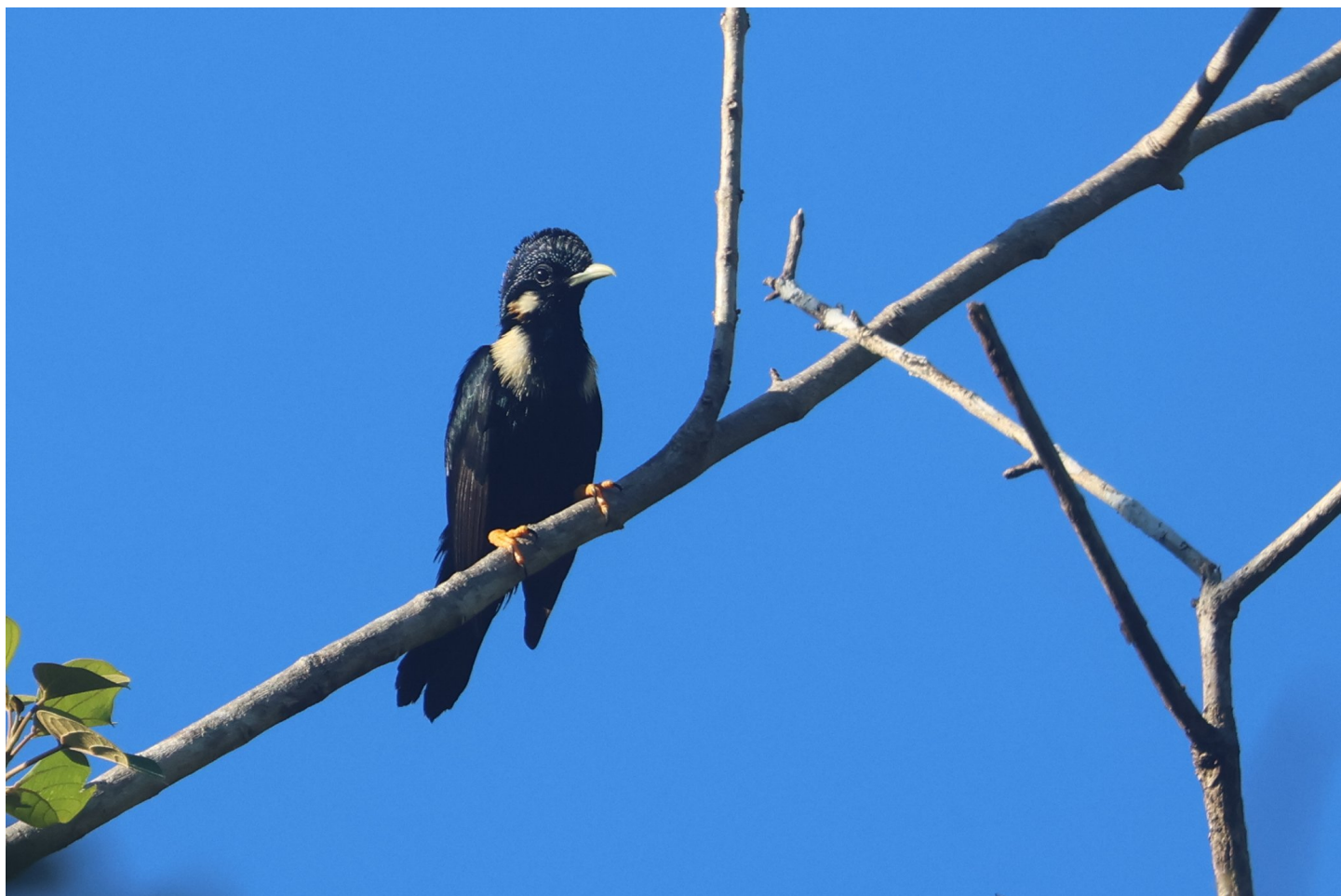
curious about our binoculars, and children ran up to greet us as we scanned the fields. Our persistence paid off when we finally located a small flock of *munias* including our target **Pale-headed Munia**, feeding quietly among the grass seeds—an excellent way to finish the day before another good dinner back at the hotel.

Day 3: 21st September – [Karaenta Reserve & Transfer to Lore Lindu via Palu \(Sulawesi\)](#)

We left *Makassar* before dawn for *Karaenta Reserve*, a remnant of lowland limestone forest within the *Bantimurung-Bulusaraung National Park* complex. The reserve is easily accessible from the road but protects a surprisingly rich patch of habitat—an increasingly rare thing in the lowlands of *South Sulawesi*. As we stepped out into the pre-dawn stillness, a *Sulawesi Masked Owl* called hauntingly from somewhere nearby, but despite our efforts, it refused to show itself. The main target of the morning was the “**Black-headed**” **Green-backed Kingfisher**, a striking subspecies found only in *South Sulawesi* and a possible future split. We were delighted to find it perched quietly in the half-light, its vivid blue back glowing against the limestone cliffs.

The remainder of the morning's birding was excellent. We enjoyed superb views of **Sulawesi (Dwarf) Hornbill**, the very local **Black-ringed White-eye**, scarce and recently described **Sulawesi Brown Flycatcher**, and phenomenal **Sulawesi Pitta**, glowing jewel-like among the shadows of the forest floor. Other highlights included **Sulawesi Dwarf-Kingfisher**, **Sulawesi (Crested) Myna** (photo page 8), and **Sulawesi (Large) Hanging-Parrot**, all providing a wonderful introduction to the island's rich endemic fauna. At a large clearing we had a fly-over **White-necked Myna** and **Sulawesi Honey-Buzzard**, rounding off an outstanding morning before heading back to *Makassar*.

PHOTO PAGE BEFORE: **Lompobattang Flycatcher** a very local species that was seen near *Malino* in *South Sulawesi* (**Charley Hesse**)



Sulawesi boasts a wonderful series of of *mynahs*, including this **Sulawesi (Crested) Myna**, the highland **Fiery-browed (Flame-browed) Mynah** and striking **White-necked Myna** of then lowlands and hills (**Charley Hesse**)

After lunch at the airport, we took a flight northward to *Palu*, a city lying between steep mountains and the deep *Palu Bay*, and then continued by road to *Wuasa*, a small farming village nestled at the edge of *Lore Lindu National Park*. Our lodging was basic but comfortable, and we enjoyed a hearty meal before turning in early, eager for the birding that awaited us in the mountains over the coming three days.

Day 4: 22nd September – Danau Tambing & Forest Trails, Lore Lindu NP (Sulawesi)

We were up long before dawn for our first morning in the famed *Lore Lindu National Park*, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve that protects one of *Sulawesi's* most important tracts of montane forest. The park is also famous for its ancient megaliths—stone figures scattered through the valleys, remnants of a lost culture that predates written history. Our first (pre-dawn) mission was to find the elusive *Cinnabar Boobook*, which we heard calling faintly in the dark but couldn't spot. As dawn broke, we entered the forest near *Danau Tambing*, a serene lake shrouded in mist and surrounded by towering trees draped in moss and orchids. It wasn't long before excitement spread through the group: a **Geomalina**—one of *Sulawesi's* most enigmatic birds—was spotted right along the entrance track by our sharp-eyed drivers, who know this bird, (and the value of this bird), well. Its dark plumage and long tail were noted as it skulked along the trail edge, a truly special sighting.

The rest of the morning brought a fine array of montane species: **Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker**, **Small Sparrowhawk**, **Sulawesi Leaf-Warbler**, and **Yellow-cheeked (Meyer's) Lorikeet**. However, another major highlight was the flamboyant **Purple-bearded Bee-eater**, one of Sulawesi's most spectacular and charismatic endemics, watched as it sallied for insects from exposed perches.



The pulchritudinous **Purple-bearded Bee-eater** is restricted to the island of *Sulawesi* and was an early highlight from our first morning in *Lore Lindu National Park* (**Charley Hesse**)

After lunch back at the lodge, we returned to the forest for a quieter but still enjoyable afternoon session, with nice looks at **Blue-fronted (Blue) Flycatcher** and **Superb Fruit-Dove**. As dusk fell, we tried again for *Cinnabar Boobook*, which came close but evaded us once more. Considerable consolation came in the form of a **Diabolical (Satanic) Nightjar** flitting through the canopy—a species that had become tricky recently (as the regular, roosting birds on the *Anaso Track* had gone missing) and was missed by several other recent birding groups.

Day 5: 23rd September – The Anaso Track Adventure, Lore Lindu NP (Sulawesi)

Today was our long-anticipated day on the *Anaso Track*, a name that strikes a mix of excitement and trepidation among birders. The trail ascends through steep montane forest and grasslands to the subalpine zone of *Lore Lindu* and is the only accessible site for several of Sulawesi's most sought-after high-elevation endemics. We split into two groups—one faster, one slower—to tackle the climb.

The main target was the legendary *Hylocitrea* (formerly the *Olive-flanked Whistler*), a species so distinct it now represents its own monotypic family, *Hylocitreidae*. The forest was cool and damp, alive with birdcalls and the occasional rustle of unseen macaques.

Among the birds seen on the ascent were **Red-eared Fruit-Dove**, including a nesting individual, and **Cerulean Cuckooshrike**, found by the lead group. After steady climbing, the moment we had hoped for arrived: the second group located a family of **Hylocitrea** (*below*), an adult and two recently fledged chicks feeding quietly in a fruiting tree. Everyone eventually enjoyed excellent views—truly one of the trip’s defining highlights. We rejoined at the helipad clearing near the summit for our packed lunches, surrounded by sweeping mountain views and drifting clouds. The descent was long and tiring, but spirits were high following that key sighting.



The **Hylocitrea** is a big motivation for many to come to *Sulawesi*. It is a scarce, endemic, *monotypic*, bird family that is restricted to the highlands on the island (**Charley Hesse**)

Later that afternoon, after a well-earned rest back at *Wuasa*, we set out again for some dusk birding around the rice fields. The wide valley below *Lore Lindu* glowed golden in the evening light, and we soon spotted a distant **Australasian Grass-Owl** quartering over the fields. Other birds included, **Lesser Coucal** and **Yellow Bittern**, and just as darkness fell, we were rewarded with close views of a magnificent **Sulawesi Masked Owl**—a spectacular end to an unforgettable day.

Day 6: 24th September – Danau Tambing & Forest Trails, Lore Lindu NP (Sulawesi)

We went out well before dawn again and finally scored ourselves a **Cinnabar Boobook** in the montane forest — a striking, fiery-eyed owl that had eluded us until now. With relatively few new birds left to find, it was a more relaxed morning, but still a satisfying one. After lunch back at our lodge, we headed out again and, after considerable effort, managed fine views of the *Lore Lindu* form of **Scaly-breasted Kingfisher**, a bird of dense undergrowth that is never easy to pin down.

We still had two target owls remaining, so we descended once more to *Wuasa* to search for **Speckled Boobook** and **Sulawesi Scops Owl**. Arriving at a cacao plantation before dusk, we added **Sulawesi Blue (Jungle) Flycatcher** — a handsome, soft-toned endemic — though the light was already fading. This time, our nocturnal mission went perfectly: both the *boobook* and the *scops-owl* were seen well, and we returned to the lodge with big smiles and thoroughly satiated.



Savanna Nightjar was seen during the daytime close to the city of *Palu* in *Central Sulawesi* (**Charley Hesse**)

Day 7: 25th September – Lore Lindu to Palu via the Olobogu River (Sulawesi)

With all the owls now seen, there was no need for another pre-dawn start. We took a final walk in the park, spending around four hours enjoying some last looks at this special montane forest. Highlights included **Maroon-backed Whistler** and **Great Shortwing (Heinrichia)**, two very tricky species that had so far evaded us.

After lunch at the hotel, we began our drive back towards *Palu*, where we would overnight. The weather finally turned — after days of luck without rain, the heavens opened, drenching the hillsides. Nearing *Palu*, it cleared again, allowing us to make our planned birding stops. At a patch of rice fields, we tracked down a flock of **Pale-headed Munias**, uncommon and striking little finches that favor such agricultural habitats. A little further along, at the *Olobogu River*, we explored the scrublands and flushed our target **Savanna Nightjar** (*photo page before*) — even spotting one perched on the ground, allowing everyone photos. The same site holds two buttonquail species, and while the elusive *Red-backed Buttonquail* stayed out of sight, we did flush a **Barred Buttonquail**. Then it was on to *Palu* for dinner and a well-earned rest.



This tour is exceptional for *kingfishers* with **15 different varieties** seen on this tour, **9 on Sulawesi** (including this **Scaly-breasted Kingfisher**), and **another 6 species on Halmahera (Charley Hesse)**



This dramatic sighting of **Sulawesi Pitta**, (standing literally within inches of our faces in a blind on *Gunung Mahawu* in *Sulawesi*), could easily have earned the bird of the tour vote, were it not for a larger, and arguably more dramatic, species that featured on the island of *Halmahera* (**Ivory-breasted**) (*Charley Hesse*)

Day 8: 26th September - **Palu to Gunung Mahawu via Manado (Sulawesi)**

Our early flight out of *Palu* took us first to *Makassar* (unavoidable), Sulawesi's largest city, and then on to *Manado* in the north. After lunch near *Manado*, we drove just over an hour to *Tomohon*, a scenic, temperate-feeling town surrounded by volcanoes. Our lodging, *Gardenia Country Inn*, offered a lovely setting amid cool gardens and mountain views.

After a short rest, we headed to *Gunung Mahawu*, where we met our local guide, *Epi*. He led us to two very special birds. The first, the exquisite **Sulawesi Pitta** (photo above), had given us only poor views at *Karaenta* a few days earlier — but this time, the encounter could hardly have been better. We watched a vivid male at close range, glowing with a bright red belly, a band of electric blue across the chest, and rich shades of brown on the head and back. Few birds on Sulawesi can rival it for beauty.

Later, we walked back to the road and drove to another spot for the local race of **Scaly-breasted Kingfisher** (photo page 12), which also showed well. A short stretch of open habitat yielded three rail species — **Barred Rail**, **Buff-banded Rail**, and **Isabelline Bush-hen** — a fine finish to an excellent afternoon.

Day 9: 27th September - [Gunung Mahawu to Tambun, Dumoga-Bone \(Sulawesi\)](#)

We made another early trip up *Gunung Mahawu*, adding **Sulawesi Brush-Cuckoo**, **Bay Coucal**, and **Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker** to our growing birdlist. After a leisurely breakfast (a rare buffet treat on this tour), we packed and set out for the long drive toward *Dumoga–Bone National Park*. En route, we stopped at *Lake Linow*, a scenic volcanic lake whose changing colors come from mineral-rich waters and sulfur vents. Here we added **Sunda Teal**, **Australasian Swamphen**, and **Oriental Darter**. A roadside lunch beneath coconut palms provided both shade and a **Barred Rail**, and the drivers made good time, getting us to *Tambun* by mid-afternoon — just in time for one of the tour’s major targets: the **Maleo** (*photo below*). This remarkable bird, a member of the megapode family, buries its large eggs in geothermally heated soil or sand. Once laid, the parents’ job is done — the chicks hatch fully feathered and fend for themselves, a remarkable evolutionary adaptation to Sulawesi’s volcanic soils. We met our local guide and soon glimpsed one bird scuttling from the trail. At the nesting site, we saw another pair dash off into the forest, before the guide found two perched up in the trees. Everyone had superb views — a highlight of the trip, and one that can take birders days to achieve. From there, it was still another hour and a half to our comfortable hotel — a long but very rewarding day for all, and especially for the drivers.



Maleo, one of *Sulawesi*’s most iconic endemics, was seen very well in the late afternoon at *Dumoga-Bone* (*Charley Hesse*)

Day 10: 28th September - Molibagu Road, Dumoga-Bone (Sulawesi)

The following morning we explored another section of the park, known as the *Molibagu Road*, enjoying a fine morning's birding. Highlights included **White-faced Cuckoo-Dove**, **Gray-cheeked Green Pigeon**, **Black-naped Fruit Dove**, **Knobbed Hornbill** (*incredibly close views – photo below*), **Finch-billed Myna** (**Grosbeak Starling**), **Ivory-backed Woodswallow**, **Pale-blue Monarch**, and our main target — the highly localized, **Maroon-chinned Fruit Dove**. Our ground agent had arranged for us to rest and enjoy lunch at a former guesthouse during the heat of the day — a welcome break — before heading back out in the afternoon. The birding was slower, but a fun river crossing on a bamboo raft added a touch of adventure. We walked a loop trail in the *Toraut* section of the same park, where highlights included **Azure-rumped Parrot** (surprisingly common here), **Green Imperial Pigeon**, and, as the day closed, a juvenile **Channel-billed Cuckoo**. Before heading back, we stopped for photos with the park workers and local children — clearly the highlight of their day — and spotted our first **Wandering Whistling Ducks** of the trip at the *Dolorado Pools*. Another tiring but thoroughly productive day.



Knobbed Hornbill is one of *Sulawesi's* most breathtaking endemics and was seen along the *Molibagu Road* in *North Sulawesi*. Amazingly though, it did NOT make the Top Ten Birds of the Tour, which probably illustrates just how many jaw droppers featured on this tour! (*Charley Hesse*)

Day 11: 29th September – Kotomobagu to Manado (Sulawesi)

After many early starts and long days, and with most of our key targets already under the belt, few were eager to return to yesterday's site for what would be a three-hour detour. Instead, we opted for a later start and a relaxed breakfast, before beginning the five-hour drive back to *Manado*.

We did make one birding stop along the way, checking some paddy fields that produced **Eastern Yellow Wagtail**, **Wood Sandpiper**, and a 'Swintail' Snipe (**Swinhoe's or Pin-tailed Snipe**) — its lack of white trailing edge clearly seen in flight (eliminating *Common Snipe*). By early afternoon, we reached the halfway point of the tour, where the guiding baton was passed: *Charley* departed to begin another tour, and the group continued west in the capable hands of *Sam*.



This **Common Paradise-Kingfisher** was the second new *kingfisher* found on *Halmahera* (of six in total that were new for us there), within hours of landing there. The first of them was a pair of **Beach Kingfishers** near the dock at *Sidangoli* (**Sam Woods**)

Day 12: 30th Sept 2025 – Sulawesi to Tobelo (Halmahera).

On this day we switched our position to the fabled Spice Islands of Eastern Indonesia, by way of a short flight out of *Manado* in *North Sulawesi* to the volcanic island of *Ternate*, from where we then took a 40-minute speedboat ferry ride to the shores of *Halmahera*.

This Moluccan island is another tentacled island in this *Wallacean* part of Indonesia, appearing somewhat like a miniature version of the octopus-shaped *Sulawesi*. However, its long time geographical isolation from that island meant that it offered up a swathe of new birds. *Kingfishers* were on our minds, as they often were on this tour, (for it is indeed one of the “Kingfisher Capitals of the World”), and so it was fitting that our first stop on *Halmahera* was to admire a pair of gleamingly white-headed **Beach Kingfishers**, to mark a lightning start to our time in the Spice Islands, native sources of *cloves*, *mace* and *nutmeg* that were more valuable than gold during a period in history that became the impetus for the 16th and 17th Century wars between first the Portuguese, then Dutch forces against the local military in *Maluku*. During this last leg of the tour we knew we had a reasonable shot at another TEN species of kingfisher what with us splitting our time between *Halmahera* and *Tangkoko*, back in *North Sulawesi*, the latter a global kingfisher hotspot of note in particular. After lunch in the sweltering town of *Sidangoli* on the western shores of *Halmahera*, we made our way north to the town of *Tobelo* in the northeast of the island for a very special excursion indeed.

Therefore, most of the afternoon was a travel day to reach there, although we tried to add a second and third new kingfisher (*Sombre* and **Common Paradise-Kingfisher** – photo page 16) on the way, falling short on the first one but succeeding with the second one that gave uncharacteristically lengthy standout views in the blazing heat of the early afternoon.



PHOTO PAGE BEFORE: A pair of **Moluccan Scops-Owls** was seen near the end of our first day on *Halmahera*, which also featured **Beach and Common Paradise Kingfishers**, and a magnificent **Moluccan Megapode** by night (*Sam Woods*)

After that, we continued to push north, arriving in the town of *Tobelo* in time for a quick, if somewhat chaotic, check-in and a dinner nearby, before heading an hour further north to a secluded beach for a nighttime “scrubfowl safari”, in pursuit of the only *nocturnal* egg-laying member of the family, *Moluccan Megapode* (*Scrubfowl*). Before we got to the beach though, we set about seeing a “growling” **Moluccan Scops-Owl** (*photo page 17*), which gave great views at the edge of a coconut grove. We took it in two shifts to be deployed to the megapode beach by way of a single canoe, hearing another target on the way in, *Large-tailed Nightjar*. Once we had all assembled on the beach, under the light of the moon, we studied the black volcanic sands for signs of life among the various diverts on the beach.

Armed with a thermal scope, and a good local guide, it did not take us long to find our main quarry there, and we were able to sidle up to a **Moluccan Megapode** (*photo page 4*) that had come to the beach to lay its eggs by night. What a start to our time on *Halmahera*! After that, we made light work of our finding our third and final target for the night, **Large-tailed Nightjar**, perched in the heavier growth behind the beach, before we returned by boat and a convoy of cars to *Tobelo*, rolling into to the hotel parking lot at around 11:30pm, much earlier than it could have been!



Amazingly, this diminutive, playing card-sized, **Moluccan Dwarf-Kingfisher** appeared to be dominant at the *Ivory-breasted Pitta* blind, with the latter being pushed away once this tiny bird returned! However, we saw them both well and so we were happy enough (*Sam Woods*)

Day 13: 1st Oct 2025 – Tobelo to Aketajawe-Lolobata National Park (Halmahera).

If you reviewed our first day on *Halmahera* as something of a *red* hot one, you could argue this one was *white* hot, as we set off to the island's national park, in search of one of the most dramatic birds in all of Indonesia, *Ivory-breasted Pitta*. We did not reach the site until the afternoon, with little of note before that as we concentrated on getting on site for then. We visited a forest blind in mid-afternoon, where a **Moluccan Dwarf-Kingfisher** (photo page 18) was waiting for us. Then, soon after, the main attraction bounded into view, as we got "eye-damaging" views of an **Ivory-breasted Pitta** (photo below), a big beast of a pitta that is dominantly black-and-white but with a gorgeous crimson vent and electric blue areas on the plumage too. It was soon obvious we were having one of the standout moments of the entire tour, until the tiny *kingfisher* returned and ran roughshod over the considerably larger *pitta*, which then retreated into the forest once more. We were all fully satiated and so moved on to our second *pitta* quest of the day, for the considerably less striking *North Moluccan Pitta*, though that was not to be. The odd call came from here and there, but it clearly showed little interest in visiting us in that other pitta blind that afternoon, and so we vowed to return the next morning. However, there was plenty to remember from that afternoon. The second *pitta* was quickly forgotten as we enjoyed our first looks at gargantuan **Blyth's Hornbills** flapping noisily over the canopy, saw our first bright emerald-green male **Moluccan Eclectus Parrots**, and found a perched **Variable Goshawk**.



PHOTO PAGE BEFORE: Ivory-breasted Pitta performed superbly well on Halmahera and was one of the overall trip highlights, as it bounded around in front of us at a purpose built blind in the national park (*Sam Woods*)

Best of all though was the sudden, (*and very, very unexpected*), appearance of a pair of “**Purple Dollarbirds**” (“**Azure Roller**” now, officially), which then perched, called and flew over us, bringing joyful celebrations all round, as it was truly most unanticipated, as it seems to be becoming rarer and rarer in recent years, and this was not a reliable site for it either. Flushed with that success, we decided to try for our second specialty nightbird of Maluku, *Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar* but despite guides Sam and Anes getting good looks, this particular bird was camera shy and always took off before the first of the group got there tantalizing moments later.



The national park provided us with two pittas over two days at two separate blinds. This **North Moluccan Pitta** finally appeared after nearly two hours of trying one morning, and having been entirely absent the afternoon before at the same venue (*Sam Woods*)

Day 14: 2nd Oct 2025 – Aketajawe-Lolobata National Park to Subaim & Gunung Uni-Uni (Halmahera).

A second session was scheduled for inside Halmahera's only national park, and we were glad that we had that time, having missed the *North Moluccan Pitta* the day previous to this. However, we started along the road first, where we heard the *Purple Dollarbirds* again, picked up our only **White-streaked Friarbird** of the trip, and our first **Rufous-bellied Trillers** and **Moluccan Flycatchers** too. We also finally caught up with the **North Moluccan Pitta** (*photo above*) at its own blind, even if it did take nearly two frustrating hours to show itself!

Our morning there was also punctuated with other notable sightings from outside of a blind, like a spiffing pied **White-naped Monarch**, sharing the trees with the recently split **Moluccan Spectacled Monarch**. We also had several looks at a **Scarlet-breasted Fruit-Dove**, to add to some other **Gray-headed Fruit-Doves** too.

After lunch, we made our way to *Subaim* for a three-night stay, by way of some **Blue-and-white Kingfishers** (*photo below*) on the journey, where three birds were perched on roadside wires and represented our *fifth new kingfisher of the trip provided by the island of Halmahera*. After arrival, we birded up on the nearby mountain, *Gunung Uni-Uni* that late afternoon and evening.



A party of three **Blue-and-white Kingfishers**, (our FIFTH new kingfisher of the tour provided by *Halmahera*), were seen between *Tobelo* in northeast *Halmahera* and *Subaim* further south. Ultimately, *Halmahera* provided us with **SIX new kingfishers** (*Sam Woods*)

An overcast and light rainy afternoon kept activity at a good level, with several stops on the way up the mountain to admire perched **Great-billed Parrot** and **Spectacled Imperial-Pigeon** and (the former a rare event!), and a displaying **Great Cuckoo-Dove** that then stayed calling beside us for an age. Late in the afternoon, a lumbering adult **Goliath Coucal** emerged from its hidey hole and came out into the open treetops, while we were at the mountain pass, so that this well-named bird was pretty much at eye level. Regular flyovers and perched views of **Blyth's Hornbills** were not to be scoffed at either.

We strayed again after nightfall in the hope of tracking down either an *owlet-nightjar* (which was heard only distantly), or a *boobook* (that was completely unresponsive and not heard at all), and so chose to return there again in the following days if needed...



Metallic Starlings were regularly sighted on the Spice Island of Halmahera (**Sam Woods**)

Day 15: 3rd Oct 2025 – **Foli & Gunung Uni-Uni (Halmahera).**

Early mornings are regular on this tour, and this was no exception, with us leaving the hotel around 4:00am for a visit to a site for *Wallace's Standardwing*, which we hoped would be preceded by one of Halmahera's *nightbirds*. However, the Gods were against us on this morning, and a close calling *Halmahera Boobook* got away as it was soon light after we heard it calling very close to us. Further frustration was found at the *standardwing* lek, where only *Sam* saw one displaying very early on, and *Mike* and *Sam* saw a male a little later but the lek was unusually quiet, and we left feeling frustrated. Other birding at *Foli* added birds such as **Drab Whistler**, further **Gray-headed Fruit-Doves** (including our best, smashing, view of it), **Moluccan Myzomela**, **Halmahera** and **White-bellied Cuckooshrikes**, our first tame **Cream-throated (Halmahera) White-eyes** (a potential island split), and **Halmahera Golden Bulbul**. It ended, rather dramatically, with several low fly overs of a responsive pair of raucous **White Cockatoos**, the clear highlight of our morning.

We were back in *Subaim* for lunch, followed by another trip up to *Gunung Uni-Uni*, which in much hotter weather during the late afternoon was oddly quieter than the day before, although we enjoyed another **Great Cuckoo-Dove**, had a flyover of two **Gurney's Eagles**, added a perched **Oriental Hobby**, got our first, perched, **Chattering Lorys** (which was seen perched and well multiple times on the tour after that too), and got our first **Halmahera Flowerpecker**. At night, we desperately searched for birds of the night but were thwarted with none heard close at all! We scheduled another early start to attempt to rectify this the next morning...

Day 16: 4th Oct 2025 – Gunung Uni-Uni (Halmahera).

On this day we took two sessions up on *Gunung Uni-Uni*, near the town of *Subaim* where we were staying over three nights at a hotel with good air con (AC), western toilets all round, 24-hour laundry service, and a good local restaurant, (a reasonably recent development in this town!) The day started out very badly though, with a calling *owlet-nightjar* evading us once again, this time as it called regularly from a stand of close, though very dense, bamboo. However, the morning that followed that was one of the best of the tour, with a stream of great birds in a rich area plastered with fruiting trees that drew in an appreciative avian crowd. Early on, one of the rarer of these flew by at close range, a pair of marvellous **Moluccan King-Parrots**, a species we were expecting to have a harder time finding, as they are limited to only the smaller, higher portions of the road up there.



It took FIVE attempts to find one, but it was well worth it, once *Anes* found us this obliging **Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar** on *Gunung Uni-Uni*, which helpfully remained in place until we walked away, some 20 minutes or so later. This was a major overall tour highlight for many in the group as it was a new bird family for them (*Sam Woods*)

I am sure the obvious presence of multiple fruiting trees aided our search for that species, and we were to see it again later that morning, when a male fed low and in the open! During that early, post-dawn spell, the birds came thick and fast as we took a field breakfast of Nasi Goreng (fried rice) and bread and peanut butter, with **Gray-headed Fruit-Doves** appearing again, and a lonely **Blue-capped Fruit-Dove** made a memorable appearance in a particular fruiting tree that also drew in a **Scarlet-breasted Fruit-Dove** after that, and then, dramatically, lured in a male **Wallace's Standardwing** (**Standardwing Bird-of-paradise**) to bring relief all round following a unanimous vote the night before not to return to *Foli*, due to the difficulty of the trail to get to the *standardwing* there. **Cinnamon-bellied Imperial-Pigeon** plundered the fruits of another closeby tree too, and *Spectacled Imperial-Pigeons* were hooting nearby but did not show themselves. The fruit worked wonders for *parrots* too, with perched views of both **Violet-necked and Chattering Lorys**, **Red-cheeked Parrots**, and a frustratingly briefer **Moluccan Hanging-Parrot** that left many still wanting, as it departed rather swiftly. A flock of **Moluccan Spectacled Monarchs** were checked for a while and also held **Cream-throated White-eyes** and an **Island (North Moluccan) Leaf Warbler** that only revealed itself to *Mike* who photographed it when the rest of us were not looking, (one of our major targets for the mountain pass area of *Uni-Uni*). We also located a pair of **Moluccan Cuckooshrikes** that remained with us for some time and represented our sole sighting on the island. Another **Halmahera Flowerpecker** featured too (a relief for many who had missed the day before's sighting due to its brevity), as did **Gray-streaked Flycatchers**, **Halmahera Paradise-Crow** (a *bird-of-paradise*), regular **Long-billed Crows**, and the odd **Rufous-bellied Triller** and the now familiar **Black and Sahul Sunbirds**. We returned to the site of our morning's frustration location (i.e., where we did *not* see the close calling *owlet-nightjar*), and this time got a reward and slayed another species that had fast become something of a trip nemesis on *Halmahera*, **Sombre Kingfisher**. However, on this occasion, *Sam* located a bird that lingered for as long as we wanted it, in an area that also held a singing **Sahul Brush-Cuckoo**, now a different *brush-cuckoo* species to that seen earlier on *Sulawesi*. We had by now added SIX new kingfishers to the tour on the island of *Halmahera* alone, and this same site held another **Blue-and-white Kingfisher** for us too. In the late morning, with the list still missing *Black-faced Munia*, we decided to bird some rice fields on the way back to our hotel, where *Sam* walked through an area flushing up a single, unexpected **Cinnamon Bittern**, several **White-browed Crakes** and lots of **Chestnut Munias** (but no *Black-faced* sadly), and as well as around eight *snipes*, which were all either **Swinhoe's or Pin-tailed Snipes**, notoriously difficult species to tell apart without good photos of them in flight. A calling *Pale-vented Bush-hen* refused to come in though unfortunately, but it had been a fun spell all the same, if blistering hot!

The group were nothing of not persistent, and we decided to return to *Gunung Uni-Uni* in the late afternoon and linger on for another attempt for *owlet-nightjar*, now our new nemesis, following four tries already, (two of which had resulted in regularly calling close birds). The mountain itself was rather quiet during a hot late afternoon, save for a hunting pair of **Oriental Hobby**, further **Chattering Lorys**, and another obliging **Great Cuckoo-Dove**, much to *David's* delight, who'd been absent through illness the afternoon before. Our original plan had been to try for *Halmahera Boobook* at spot where we ended up watching the *hobbys* hunting, then go down the mountain to the morning's spot hoping for a different result. However, before the *boobook* plan was put into play, a **Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar** (photo page 23) called close to the road, and another pursuit began all over again. We tried to call it into some nice, open branches (knowing that this can work often), but it refused to budge from a spot where the density of the vegetation was thwarting us once more. A pair called back and forth, and we tried many angles before *Anes*, tried another nearby spot and one finally relented and perched in an open branch, where it remained until we walked away with a skip in our stride.

On the way down we tried numerous spots for *boobooks* without success. Following dinner discussions, (and following many early mornings and late nights), the group decided not to go early the next morning for one more *boobook* push.

Day 17: 5th Oct 2025 – Gunung Uni-Uni to Sidangoli (Halmahera), transfer to Ternate.

Even without pre-dawn owling, we still left the hotel reasonably early all the same to reach the site for dawn (departing at 05:00am), and taking another well organised field breakfast accompanied by tea and some form of coffee. We had a busy morning up there, though it paled in comparison to the morning before, in spite of us positioning ourselves by the same fruiting trees, which were oddly quiet at the same time and place this next day. One tree played host to two different *cuckooshrikes*, with both **Halmahera Cuckooshrike** and **North Moluccan Cicadabirds** seen well in the same area, the latter a recent split from *Common Cicadabird*, which is now multiple species spread across *Australasia*. Better still, in the very same spot Mike spotted a perched **Moluccan Hanging-Parrot**, this one hanging around for all of us to see it well and for a lengthy period. We also had another pair of **Moluccan King-Parrots** (now our third sighting there), and more of both **Chattering and Violet-necked Lory**, and another **White Cockatoo**. We were still wanting for the **Island (North Moluccan) Leaf Warbler** though, and trying one of the few traditional spots known (it, like the *king-parrot*, requires some forest with elevation, which is rare to find on *Halmahera*) paid off when a silent bird came in and flitted excitedly around us several times. Another **Great-billed Parrot** flew over too. Then, on the way back down the mountain, we stopped for some calling roadside **Black-chinned Whistlers**, a bird that had been completely unresponsive when heard over the previous days. At the same spot we could hear three separate birds calling, and finally a gorgeous gold-and-black male came in and showed to us all on a couple of occasions. Just as we were setting up to leave the area, a **Moluccan Goshawk** flew in and perched beside us, which allowed for some of us to get fantastic views before it realised it had landed by a crowd and swiftly left us!



Moluccan Starling was one of the final bird species added on the island of *Halmahera*, in *Sidangoli* (Sam Woods)

Just before we went back to the hotel to pack up and check out, we stopped in at the rice fields again and again saw several *Swinhoe's/Pin-tailed Snipe* and presumably the same **Cinnamom Bittern**, as well as a **Spotted Kestrel** and the odd **Eastern Yellow Wagtail**. After packing up, we stocked up on snacks, (as we knew we would arrive back in the port town of *Sidangoli* for a late lunch at around 1:30pm). Lunch was broken up with a sighting of some perched **Violet-necked Lory**. After that we headed back into the field in the lowlands around *Sidangoli*, first stopping in an urban area with scattered trees where a party of four **Moluccan Starlings** (photo page 22) joined the list as hoped. Following that, we visited an area specifically to see a nesting **Moustached Treeswift** (photo below) at a site that held at least four of these smashing birds, which represented the final *treeswift* for *Pamela* and *David*, and so they were particularly thrilled with it. The same place held a male **Shining Flycatcher** and a catch up **Drab Whistler** for *David*. With that, our time on *Halmahera* came to a close, and we went next directly to then port, taking a ferry back to the Spice Island of *Ternate*, where we overnighted, picking up **Bulwer's Petrel** on the return journey. As we had arrived by 4pm in *Ternate*, we made a side stop to take in the "House of Wallace", the famous location where biogeographer and independent founder of the theory of evolution, famously wrote to *Charles Darwin* sharing his own thoughts on evolution, a big highlight for many in the group, *Sam* included.



This was the fourth and final treeswift (**Moustached Treeswift**) for *David* and *Pamela*, right "at the death", during our last scheduled stop on *Halmahera*, near the port of *Sidangoli* (*Sam Woods*)



Day 18: 6th Oct 2025 – Ternate to Sulawesi; Manado to Tangkoko Nature Reserve.

In the morning, we took an hour long 07:30am flight from *Ternate* to *Manado* (in *North Sulawesi*), arriving at the same time as we had departed, due to the hour time difference between the islands. Our crack team of drivers and helpers were waiting dutifully on arrival, and we were very quickly on the road to *Tangkoko*, two hours to the east of *Manado* on that uppermost tentacle of *Sulawesi*, the *Minahassa Peninsula*. This gave us time for some birding time in the mid to late morning, outside of the reserve, in the *Tangkoko* area. We began our birding there by visiting *Temboan Hill*, hoping for birds from some lookouts over the canopy there. We were greeted with the site of more than one hundred **Finch-billed Mynas** (**Grosbeak Starling**), (photo right), plastered over a prominent dead tree, decorating it like Christmas ornaments. This is always a sight to behold, with their bulbous orange-yellow beaks and crimson flecked rumps making them a regular tour favourite. They and some bright yellow **Black-naped Orioles** were among the most conspicuous birds on site, although we also located the striking **White-rumped Triller**, a pair of no less striking **Purple-crowned Rollers**, (which completed this family for *David* and *Pamela*), and managed to get several nice, perched views of **Sulawesi (Large) Hanging-Parrots**. There was also a small party of **Ivory-backed Woodswallows** resting prominently in the treetops there. A



pair of resting **Silver-tipped Imperial-Pigeons** were also new for us up there, while a male **Black-naped Fruit-Dove** was a repeat from our earlier visit to the *Minahassa Peninsula*.

Thus, in spite of our visit being much later than optimal, the cloudy conditions meant we had greater activity than expected and we increased our trip list a little further in the process, chalking off several targets already. Next up, we visited the most reliable area for *Sulawesi Dwarf-Kingfisher* close to our lodge, although did not manage to locate one during our spell there, although Mike made the trip to there, worthwhile when he found a perched accipiter, which turned out to be a nesting **Vinous-breasted Sparrowhawk**, identified by its call and larger size (it was likely a female) from the extremely similar (though far less likely in the lowlands), *Little Sparrowhawk*.

The first birding within the reserve of *Tangkoko* can be a heady experience, with its wonderful mix of *kingfishers*, *parrots*, *pigeons*, and fascinating mammals, and so that is what we had got planned for the afternoon. However, during lunch the thunderclouds rolled in, and heavy rain came with them. By the time our afternoon meet up came around, following a rest at the lodge post lunch, rain was bucketing down, a real surprise in this, the dry season on *Sulawesi* and *Tangkoko* traditionally being one of the drier destinations too. We stuck to our guns however, and set off for the park by car, hoping that it would cease in time for some late afternoon birding. We centered ourselves near the campground, where a large sheltered area allowed us to bird as the rain continued to fall heavily and constantly. Little was seen, therefore, aside from the strange and sudden appearance of a **Red-necked Phalarope** flying around a forest clearing and some **Green Imperial-Pigeons** shuffling around in the treetops. With rain constant, and constantly heavy, we returned to the lodge in the late afternoon, to rest up, and then take an early dinner, with our plan being to go out nightbirding if the rain were to finally ease. We got our wish, and sometime near 7:30pm, the rain had almost completely stopped and so we drove up into the hills nearby, finding a wonderful, close **Ochre-bellied Boobook** to add to the usual, impressive tour tally of owls. Looking back, this owl provided more than enough compensation for us missing a key afternoon's birding inside the park, which we were suitably pumped up for the following day...



PHOTO PAGE BEFORE: *Tangkoko*, in North Sulawesi, is a **Kingfisher Hotspot**, boasting no less than TEN species within the entire reserve. This is often the easiest of these, the forest-dwelling **Green-backed Kingfisher** seen during our unforgettable full day around the park (**Sam Woods**)

Day 19: 7th Oct 2025 – Tangkoko Nature Reserve.

The full day inside *Tangkoko* is often a major tour highlight, and this tour was no exception being amongst the tour's best days, ranking alongside that amazing morning on *Gunung Uni-Uni* in *Maluku*, and that first heady day in *Lore Lindu* at the start of the tour. However, it did not start well. We set off early in pursuit of *Sulawesi Nightjar* but after *Sam* found one perched inside the forest it fluttered out of sight before anyone could reach him. After that though, we were quickly back on track and seeing new birds left right and center, starting with a **Sulawesi Lilac Kingfisher** that was calling at first light, which enabled us to find it, with the aid of a sharp eyed local guide. Not long after, another new kingfisher fell to the sword, this time **Green-backed Kingfisher** (*photo page 29*), among a group of FIVE possible target kingfishers at this one site. This first one was a female, though a male was seen later and better (see above!) This all happened within the first hour of daylight. We took a break for breakfast back at our close hotel, and then were soon back inside the park, where our next major quarry was **Rusty-backed (Red-backed) Thrush** (*photo below and page 32*), arguably one of the World's best looking thrushes. A pair performed superbly well, and many in the group, in spite of the *kingfishers* seen that morning were talking of this species being a morning highlight.



This striking **Rusty-backed (Red-backed) Thrush** thrilled us in *Tangkoko* (**Sam Woods**)

Our focus then swung over to mammals to round out the morning, with us watching a troop of **Celebes Crested Macaques** (*photo below*) patrolling the beach, a trio of dozing **Sulawesi Bear Cuscus** virtually above them, and a pair of **Gurskey's Spectral Tarsier** (*photo page 3*) doing a good *gremlin* impression at their sleeping hollow. A pair of **Philippine Megapodes (Scrubfowl)** were also highly rated as we were able to observe them at length actively digging their burrow for laying their eggs (megapodes lay their eggs in the warm sands or soils-like the volcanic ones at *Tangkoko*, and then leave them, taking no part in caring for their young, which are born ready to go, able to fly and forage alone without parental care).



A habituated troop of **Celebes Crested Macaques** were seen close up, “beach-combing” at *Tangkoko*, during an hour that also featured a pair of **Gurskey's Spectral Tarsiers** and a trey of **Sulawesi Bear-Cuscus** (*Sam Woods*)

After such a wonderful morning, we switched the selection of birds and style of birding in the afternoon, by taking a coastal boat ride into some mangroves. The first and last parts of the ride saw us on the open *Celebes Sea*, and in full view of some of the local volcanoes dominating the horizon. Early into the ride, the first boat scoured a particular set of trees overhanging the scenic limestone craggy shoreline and quickly came up with our main target of the session, **Great-billed Kingfisher**! Another was seen much better once we entered into the mangroves themselves. **Blue Rock Thrush** and **Common Terns** were also noted on the way in. At the mouth of the river into the mangroves a resting party of plovers proved to be **Kentish Plovers**. After admiring the second **Great-billed Kingfisher** (*photo page 33*), we went deeper into the mangroves, where one boat got good looks at a **Ruddy Kingfisher** too.



The striking **Rusty-backed Thrush** is one of the World's most handsome thrushes, and usually easy to find on this tour, as it turned out for us in Tangkoko, thanks to the tenacity and skills of the local guiding community that keep track of this and so many other mega birds and other animals in the area (*Sam Woods*)

A short time after that, another primary avian objective was achieved when we found a vocal and responsive **White-rumped Cuckooshrike**, that preceded sightings of **Gray-tailed Tattler** and **Pink-necked Green Pigeon**. We then left the mangroves behind and set out into the open sea, visiting a tiny islet, which was mobbed with **Pied Imperial-Pigeons** and slaty, dark morph **Pacific Reef-Herons**, whilst a **White-bellied Sea-Eagle** glided effortlessly above.

On returning to dry land, we went to another spot for nightbirds, getting an early flyby from a **Sulawesi Nightjar** (as hoped), and then a later, longer, flight view of a slow moving **Great Eared-Nightjar** to close out a day of magnificent *Minahassa* birding!

PHOTO NEXT PAGE: The aptly-named **Great-billed Kingfisher** was seen during an afternoon boat ride in *Tangkoko* on a day where other wonderful *kingfishers* also headlined, like **Green-backed and Sulawesi Lilac Kingfishers** (*Sam Woods*)



Two **Great-billed Kingfishers** were seen on a boat ride into the mangroves near *Tangkoko* (**Sam Woods**)

Day 20: 8th Oct 2025 – **Tangkoko to Manado.**

After three weeks on the road birding, on two very different islands (*Sulawesi*, then *Halmahera*, then *Sulawesi* again), the tour end was nigh. All that was remaining was just one last morning in *Tangkoko* and then a final, casual birding spell at our final *Manado* hotel, which has a boardwalk into some mangroves and overlooks the *Celebes Sea*. Our target list left at *Tangkoko* was pretty clear, with ample *pigeon* and *parrot* gaps in our list initiating an early morning visit to forest, as this seemed to offer us the most possible new birds. We were there at “prime time”, first light, but it was oddly slow, with very few *parrots* or *pigeons*, although we did finally put to bed a much wanted upgrade for the fetching **White-faced Cuckoo-Dove**. The usual throng of **Finch-billed Mynas** were also present, as was the odd **White-faced Myna**, **Sulawesi Brush-Cuckoo**, and **Yellow-billed Malkoha**. However, overall, it was maddeningly quiet with regards to our final target birds. At around 08:30am, with very little happening, we set off for one of our most wanted remaining birds, and remaining *kingfishers*, the uber-attractive *Sulawesi Dwarf-Kingfisher*. We had already been to best spot locally during our first morning in the area but had come up blank. And to be honest, it was not looking good here on this day either, after an hour passed by without word from our local guides, who’d gone off to scour the various spots it was known to frequent (and had been seen in recent days).

Frustratingly too, little else was seen while we waited, aside from the same nesting **Vinous-breasted Sparrowhawk** that we'd seen there two days before, which ordinarily would have been a headline bird had we not seen it well before. It seemed as though the tour was ending in an annoyingly uneventful way. *Sam* was rather glum at this prospect, as another hour went by. However, things perked up when *Anes* reappeared with news of a day roosting owl and an upgraded sighting of **Sulawesi Lilac Kingfisher** (photo pages 35 and 45). We hurried over there and were rewarded with amazing views and plentiful photos of both, the owl turning out to be a **Sulawesi Scops-Owl** (photo below) sat completely in the open...



Although the group had already chalked up **Sulawesi Scops-Owl** earlier on the trip, (whilst in *Lore Lindu*), one of the highlights of our final day's birding was seeing this day roosting bird so patently in the open. It was also sitting just above a **Sulawesi Lilac Kingfisher** that could be seen within the same binocular view! (*Sam Woods*)

Anes also dropped the considerable bomb that in finding the owl they had also gained glimpses of a *Sulawesi Dwarf-Kingfisher* that had wisely fled the scene once the owl had revealed itself. By this point, (i.e., more than two hours into the search), the group had been waning in their patience for the *dwarf-kingfisher*, although this update brought us renewed hope and we decided to continue to stay on there in light of this more upbeat information. *And I am so glad we did.* Things went from the ridiculous to the sublime, when, a little later on, one of the local guides came back to fetch us and led us upslope to where a pair of extremely confiding **Sulawesi Dwarf-Kingfishers** (photo page 36) made the extensive wait all very worthwhile. A bonus nearby was yet another close up with **Sulawesi Lilac Kingfisher** to wrap up our time in *Tangkoko*, with the clock now just beyond noon.



This unequivocally tame **Sulawesi Lilac Kingfisher** was observed at very close quarters, as it sat just below a **Sulawesi Scops-Owl**.
Tangkoko at its scintillating best (Sam Woods)



One final kingfisher was provided in *Tangkoko* on our final morning's birding of the tour, this spectacular **Sulawesi Dwarf-Kingfisher**, which was seen in the same vicinity as two different tame **Sulawesi Lilac Kingfishers** too. Very *Tangkoko* indeed, one of the World's "Kingfisher Capitals" (*Sam Woods*).

We took a final lunch and then checked out of *Tangkoko*, before heading back to *Manado* by way of one, final *Magnum* ice cream stop on the journey! Once we reached *Manado*, we checked in to the best hotel of the tour, with grand grounds, complete with a short boardwalk into the *mangroves* and a jetty looking out into the *Celebes Sea*, and the volcanic cone of *Manadotua* ("Old Manado") visible offshore. This produced a wonderful final hour's birding of the tour, accompanied by a sunset and some nice final Indonesian birds. An important catch up bird for *Susan* was provided in the form of a pair of wonderful **White-rumped Cuckooshrikes**, which lingered in view, perched in the mangroves, for some time. Also in the mangroves were **Asian Glossy Starling**, **Pink-necked Green-Pigeon**, and some striking flocks of **Pied Imperial Pigeons** too. We also had fun with *shorebirds*, as a group of *sandplovers* was present on the jetty that held a lonesome **Ruddy Turnstone** with them, and appeared to be involve two different *sandplover* species within the same party. While most were displayed short, stubby bills (indicating **Siberian Sandplover**), one of them had a clearly longer bill, with a more pointed aspect to the tip, which indicated **Tibetan Sandplover**. This was later confirmed by flight shots too, showing that all but one had no toe projection in flight (*Siberian*), and one that clearly had toes extending beyond the tail in flight (i.e., *Tibetan*).

We watched the sun drop down and the sky turn burnt orange as we returned to the hotel for one final dinner, and to look back at some great memories of the tour, avian and otherwise, with some interesting birding being mentioned in the **Top Ten Birds of the Tour** vote (see page for more information on this), as usual, with so many splendid birds to choose from on this epic tour that remains one of *Sam's* favourite bird tours.

CHECKLIST:

The taxonomy of the bird list follows Clements, James F., White, Anthony W., and Fitzpatrick, John W. *The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World*. Cornell, 2007. This list is up to date with changes published by Cornell in **October 2024**.

Full eBird Checklist can be found here: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/412980>

(H) - INDICATES A SPECIES THAT WAS HEARD ONLY.

(GO) – INDICATES A SPECIES RECORDED BY THE GUIDE ONLY.

(S) – INDICATES THE ISLAND OF SULAWESI.

(Ha) – INDICATES THE ISLAND OF HALMAHERA.

BIRDS:

Ducks, Geese and Waterfowl: Anatidae

Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

Sunda Teal *Anas gibberifrons*

Megapodes: Megapodiidae

Maleo *Macrocephalon maleo* (SE)

Moluccan Megapode (Scrubfowl) Dusky Megapode (Scrubfowl) *Eulipoa wallacei*

Philippine Megapode (Tabon Scrubfowl) *Megapodius cumingii*

Dusky Megapode *Megapodius freycinet*

Pheasants, Grouse, and Allie: Phasianidae

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*

Pigeons and Doves: Columbidae

Rock (Domestic) Pigeon *Columba livia*

Red Collared-Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*

(Eastern) Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis tigrine*

Sultan's (Sulawesi) Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia doreya albicapilla* (SE)

Sultan's Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia doreya albiceps*

Great Cuckoo-Dove *Reinwardtoena reinwardtii*

White-faced Cuckoo-Dove *Turacoena manadensis* (SE)

Asian Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica indica*

Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata*

Pink-necked (Green) Pigeon *Treron vernans*

Gray-cheeked (Green) Pigeon *Treron griseicauda*

Red-eared Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus fischeri* (SE)

Maroon-chinned (Oberholser's) Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus epius* (SE)

Scarlet-breasted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus bernsteinii* (ME)

(Western) Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus temminckii*

Blue-capped Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus monacha* (ME)

Gray-headed Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus hyogastrus* (ME)

Black-naped Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus melanospilus*

White-bellied Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula forsteni* (SE)

Gray-headed Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula radiata* (SE)

Green (Paulina's) Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula aenea paulina*
Spectacled (Moluccan) Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula perspicillata* (ME)
Cinnamon-bellied Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula basilica*
Pied Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula bicolor*
Silver-tipped Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula luctuosa* (SE)
Cuckoos: Cuculidae
Bay Coucal *Centropus celebensis* (SE)
Goliath Coucal *Centropus goliath* (ME)
Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*
Yellow-billed (Sulawesi) Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus calyborhynchus* (SE)
Black-billed Koel *Eudynamis melanorhynchus* (SE)
Channel-billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*
Little (Gould's) Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*
Sulawesi Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis virescens* (SE)
Sahul Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*
Nightjars and Allies: Caprimulgidae
Diabolical (Satanic) Nightjar *Eurostopodus diabolicus* (SE)
Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*
Great Eared-Nightjar *Lyncornis macrotis macropterus*
Sulawesi Nightjar *Caprimulgus celebensis* (SE)
Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis*
Owlet-Nightjars: Aegothelidae
Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar *Aegotheles crinifrons* (ME)
Swifts: Apodidae
Purple Needletail *Hirundapus celebensis*
Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*
Moluccan Swiftlet *Aerodramus infuscatus*
Uniform Swiftlet *Aerodramus vanikorensis*
White-nest Swiftlet *Aerodramus fuciphagus*
Treeswifts: Hemiprocnidae
Gray-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocne longipennis*
Moustached Treeswift *Hemiprocne mystacea*
Rails, Gallinules, and Coots: Rallidae
Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*
Barred Rail *Gallirallus torquatus*
Eurasian (Common) Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
Australasian (Purple) Swamphehen *Porphyrio melanotus*
White-browed Crake *Poliolimnas cinereus*
Isabelline (Sulawesi) Bush-hen *Amaurornis isabellina* (SE)
White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
Pale-vented Bush-hen *Amaurornis moluccana* (H)
Stilts and Avocets: Recurvirostridae
Pied Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus*
Plovers and Lapwings: Charadriidae
Pacific Golden-Plover *Pluvialis fulva*
Little Ringed Plover *Thinornis dubius*
Siberian Sand-Plover *Anarhynchus mongolus*
Tibetan Sand-Plover *Anarhynchus atrifrons*

Javan Plover *Charadrius javanicus*

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Sandpipers and Allies: Scolopacidae

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus*

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Gray-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Common Redshank *Tringa tetanus*

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

Buttonquail: Turnicidae

Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator*

Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers: Laridae

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Great (Greater) Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*

Shearwaters and Petrels: Procellariidae

Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*

Storks: Ciconiidae

Asian Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*

Frigatebirds: Fregatidae

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*

Anhingas: Anhingidae

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

Ibises & Spoonbills: Threskiornithidae

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns: Ardeidae

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*

Pacific Reef-Heron (Reef-egret) *Egretta sacra*

Little (Black-footed) Egret *Egretta garzetta nigripes*

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

Javan Pond-Heron *Ardeola speciosa*

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

(Eastern) Great Egret *Ardea alba modesta*

Medium (Intermediate) Egret *Ardea plumifera*

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Hawks, Eagles, and Kites: Accipitridae

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata*

Sulawesi Honey-buzzard (Honeybuzzard) *Pernis celebensis* (SE)

Sulawesi Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis rufipectus* (SE)

Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus lanceolatus* (SE)
Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malaiensis*
Gurney's Eagle *Aquila gurneyi*
Sulawesi Goshawk *Accipiter griseiceps* (SE)
Small Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nanus* (SE)
Vinous-breasted Sparrowhawk *Tachyspiza rhodogaster*
Chinese (Goshawk) Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis*
Spot-tailed Goshawk (Sparrowhawk) *Accipiter trinotatus* (SE)
Variable (Gray-throated) Goshawk *Accipiter hiogaster griseogularis*
Moluccan Goshawk *Tachyspiza henicogramma*
Black Kite *Milvus migrans*
Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*:
White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
Barns-Owls: Tytonidae
Sulawesi Masked-Owl *Tyto rosenbergii* (SE)
Australasian Grass-Owl *Tyto longimembris*
Owls: Strigidae
Moluccan Scops-Owl *Otus magicus*
Sulawesi Scops-Owl *Tyto rosenbergii* (SE)
Ochre-bellied Boobook *Ninox ochracea* (SE)
Cinnabar Boobook *Ninox ios* (SE)
Halmahera Boobook *Ninox hypogramma* (ME) (H)
Speckled Boobook *Ninox punctulata* (SE)
Hornbills: Bucerotidae
Knobbed Hornbill *Rhyticeros cassidix* (SE)
Blyth's Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus*
Sulawesi Hornbill *Rhabdotorrhinus exarhatus* (SE)
Bee-eaters: Meropidae
Purple-bearded Bee-eater *Meropogon forsteni* (SE)
Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*
Kingfishers: Alcedinidae
Common (Hispid) Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis hispidoides*
Sulawesi Dwarf-Kingfisher *Ceyx fallax* (SE)
Moluccan (Variable/Halmahera) Dwarf-Kingfisher *Ceyx lepidus uropygialis* (ME)
Sulawesi Lilac Kingfisher *Cittura cyanotis* (SE)
Great-billed (Black-billed) Kingfisher *Pelargopsis melanorhyncha* (SE)
Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda rufa*
Blue-and-white Kingfisher *Todiramphus diops* (ME)
Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*
Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris* .
Beach Kingfisher *Todiramphus saurophagus*
Sombre Kingfisher *Todiramphus funebris* (ME)
Green-backed Kingfisher *Actenoides monachus monachus* (SE)
Green-backed (Black-headed) Kingfisher *Actenoides monachus capucinus* (SE)
Scaly-breasted (Scaly) Kingfisher *Actenoides princeps erythrorhamphus* (SE)
Common Paradise-Kingfisher *Tanysiptera galatea browning*
Rollers: Coraciidae
Purple-winged (Sulawesi) Roller (SE) *Coracias temminckii*

Azure Roller (Purple Dollarbird) *Eurystomus azureus* (ME)

Woodpeckers: Picidae

Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos temminckii* (SE)

Ashy Woodpecker *Mulleripicus fulvus* (SE)

Falcons and Caracaras: Falconidae

Spotted (Indonesian) Kestrel *Falco moluccensis*

Oriental Hobby *Falco severus*

Cockatoos: Cacatuidae

White (Umbrella) Cockatoo *Cacatua alba* (ME)

Old World Parrots: Psittaculidae

Moluccan King-Parrot *Alisterus amboinensis* (ME):

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

Yellow-breasted (Minahasa) Racquet-tail *Prioniturus flavicans* (SE) (H)

Moluccan Eclectus *Eclectus roratus*

Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi*

Great-billed Parrot *Tanygnathus megalorynchos*

Azure-rumped Parrot *Tanygnathus sumatranus*

Red-flanked Lorikeet *Charmosyna placensis*

Chattering Lory *Lorius garrulus* (ME)

Ornate Lorikeet *Trichoglossus ornatus* (SE)

Yellow-cheeked (Meyer's) Lorikeet *Saudareos meyeri* (SE)

Violet-necked Lory *Eos squamata*

(Large/Great) Sulawesi Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus stigmatus* (SE)

Moluccan Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus amabilis* (ME)

(Small Sulawesi) Pygmy Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus exilis* (SE) (H)

Pittas: Pittidae

Sulawesi Pitta *Erythropitta celebensis* (SE)

North Moluccan Pitta *Erythropitta rufiventris* (ME)

Ivory-breasted Pitta *Pitta maxima* (ME)

Honeyeaters: Meliphagidae

Dark-eared (Lesser) Myza *Myza celebensis* (SE)

White-eared (Greater) Myza *Myza sarasinorum* (SE)

Moluccan (Sultan's) Myzomela (Honeyeater) *Myzomela simplex* (ME)

Sulawesi Myzomela *Myzomela chloroptera* (SE)

White-streaked (Honeyeater) Friarbird *Melitograis gilolensis* (ME)

Thornbills and Allies: Acanthizidae

Golden-bellied Gerygone (Flyeater) *Gerygone sulphurea flaveola*

Cuckooshrikes: Campephagidae

Pied Cuckooshrike *Coracina bicolor* (SE) (H)

Cerulean Cuckooshrike *Coracina temminckii* (SE)

White-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina papuensis melanolora*

Moluccan Cuckooshrike *Coracina atriceps* (ME)

Halmahera (Cicadabird) Cuckooshrike *Celebesia parvula* (ME)

White-rumped Cuckooshrike *Coracina atriceps* (SE)

White-shouldered (Lesueur's) Triller *Lalage sueurii*

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

Rufous-bellied Triller *Lalage aurea* (ME)

Pygmy Cuckooshrike (Cicadabird) *Celebesia abbotti* (SE)

Sulawesi Cicadabird *Edolisoma morio* (SE)

North Moluccan (Common) Cicadabird *Edolisoma grayi* (ME)

Whistlers and Allies: Pachycephalidae

Maroon-backed Whistler *Coracornis raveni* (SE)

Black-chinned (Moluccan) Whistler *Pachycephala mentalis mentalis* (ME)

Sulphur-bellied Whistler *Pachycephala sulfuriventer* (SE)

Drab Whistler *Pachycephala griseonota* (ME)

Old World Orioles: Old World Orioles

Halmahera Oriole *Oriolus phaeochromus* (ME)

Black-naped (Sulawesi Golden) Oriole *Oriolus chinensis celebensis*

Woodswallows, Bellmagpies, and Allies: Artamidae

Ivory-backed Woodswallow *Artamus monachus* (SE)

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

Fantails: Rhipiduridae

Willie-wagtail (Willie Fantail) *Rhipidura leucophrys melaleuca*

Sulawesi Fantail *Rhipidura teysmanni* (SE)

Drongos: Dicuridae

Hair-crested (White-eyed Spangled) Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus leucops* (SE)

Sulawesi (Spangled) Drongo *Dicrurus montanus* (SE)

(Halmahera) Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus atrocaeruleus* (ME)

Birds-of-paradise: Paradisaeidae

Halmahera Paradise-crow *Lycorax pyrrhopterus* (ME)

Standardwing Bird-of-paradise (Wallace's Standardwing) *Semioptera wallacii* (ME)

Monarch Flycatchers: Monarchidae

Pale-blue Monarch *Hypothymis puella* (SE)

White-naped Monarch *Carterornis pileatus* (ME)

Moluccan Spectacled Monarch *Symposiachrus bimaculatus* (ME)

Moluccan (Monarch) Flycatcher *Myiagra galeata* (ME)

Shining (Monarch) Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto* Alecto

Crows, Jays, and Magpies: Corvidae

Sulawesi (Slender-billed) Crow *Corvus enca celebensis* (SE)

Piping Crow *Corvus typicus* (SE)

Long-billed Crow *Corvus validus* (ME)

Fairy Flycatchers: Stenostiridae

Citrine Canary-Flycatcher *Culicicapa helianthea*

Cisticolas and Allies: Cisticolidae

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

Grassbirds and Allies: Locustellidae

Gray's Grasshopper-Warbler *Locustella fasciolata* (GO)

Sulawesi Bush Warbler (Sulawesi Grasshopper Warbler) *Locustella castanea* (SE)

Malia *Malia grata* (SE)

Bar-winged Prinia *Prinia familiaris*

Swallows: Hirundinidae

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Bulbuls: Pycnonotidae

Halmahera Golden-Bulbul *Hypsipetes chloris* (ME)

(Sunda) Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier*

Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster*

Leaf Warblers: Phylloscopidae

Sulawesi Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus nesophilus* (SE)

Lompobattang Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus sarasinorum* (SE)

Island (North Moluccan) Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus maforensis henrietta* (ME)

Bush-Warblers and Allies: Scotocercidae

Mountain (Leaftoiler) Tailorbird *Phyllergates cucullatus riedeli*

White-eyes, Yuhinas, and Allies: Zosteropidae

Sulawesi Heleia (Streak-headed White-eye) *Lophozosterops squamiceps* (SE)

Warbling White-eye *Zosterops japonicus montanus*

Lemon-bellied White-eye *Zosterops chloris*

Black-crowned White-eye *Zosterops atrifrons*

Black-ringed White-eye *Zosterops anomalus* (SE)

Cream-throated (Halmahera) White-eye *Zosterops atriceps fuscifrons* (ME)

Ground Babblers and allies: Pellorneidae

Sulawesi Babbler *Pellorneum celebense* (SE)

Starlings: Sturnidae

Fiery-browed (Flame-browed) Myna (Starling) *Enodes erythrophris* (SE)

Finch-billed Myna (Grosbeak Starling) *Scissirostrum dubium* (SE)

Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis*

Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica*

Moluccan Starling *Aplonis mysolensis*

Sulawesi (Short-crested) Myna *Basilornis celebensis* (SE)

White-necked Myna *Streptocitta albigollis* (SE)

Javan Myna *Acridotheres javanicus*

Thrushes and Allies: Turdidae

Geomalia Zoothera *heintrichi* (SE)

Rusty-backed (Red-backed) Thrush *Geokichla erythronota* (SE)

Sulawesi Thrush *Cataponera turdoides* (SE)

Old World Flycatchers: Muscicapidae

Gray-streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa griseisticta*

Sulawesi Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa sodhii* (SE)

Blue-fronted (Hoevell's Warbling-/Blue) Flycatcher *Cyornis hoevelli* (SE)

Turquoise (Warbling-) Flycatcher *Eumyias panayensis*

Sulawesi (Jungle) Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis omissus omissus* (SE)

Great Shortwing (Latimojong Heinrichia) *Heinrichia calligyna calligyna* (SE)

Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra*

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*

Lompobattang Flycatcher *Ficedula bonthaina* (SE)

Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*

Hylocitrea: Hylocitreidae

(Northern) Hylocitrea *Hylocitrea bonensis bonensis* (SE)

Flowerpeckers: Dicaeidae

Yellow-sided Flowerpecker *Dicaeum aureolimbatus* (SE)

Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker *Dicaeum nehrkorni* (SE)

Halmahera Flowerpecker *Dicaeum schistaceiceps* (ME)

Gray-sided Flowerpecker *Dicaeum celebicum* (SE)

Sunbirds and Spiderhunters: Nectariniidae

Plain-throated (Brown-throated) Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis*

Black Sunbird *Leptocoma sericea*

Sahul Sunbird *Cinnyris frenatus*

(Sulawesi) Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja beccarii*

Waxbills and Allies: Estrildidae

Black-faced Munia *Lonchura molucca*

Scaly-breasted Munia (Nutmeg Mannikin) *Lonchura punctulate*

Chestnut (Black-headed) Munia *Lonchura atricapilla*

Pale-headed Munia *Lonchura pallida* (SE)

Blue-faced Parrotfinch *Erythrura trichroa*

Old World Sparrows: Passeridae

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Wagtails and Pipits: Motacillidae

Gray Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis*

Finches, Euphonias & Allies: Fringillidae

Indonesian (Mountain) Serin *Chrysocorythus estherae*

MAMMALS

Gursky's Spectral Tarsier *Tarsius spectrumgurskyae*

Moor Macaque *Macaca maura*

Celebes (Sulawesi/Black) Crested Macaque *Macaca nigra*

Whitish Dwarf Squirrel *Prosciurillus leucomus*

Sulawesi (Celebes) Dwarf Squirrel *Prosciurillus murinus*

Sulawesi Bear Cuscus (Phalanger) *Ailurops ursinus*

Mount Topagu Dwarf Squirrel *Prosciurillus topapuensis*

REPTILES

Flat-tailed House Geckos *Hemidactylus brachyura*

Pacific Bluetail Skink *Emoia caeruleocauda*

Rough Mabuya *Eutropis rudis*

Sphenomorphus variegatus

BUTTERFLIES

Acytolepis samanga

Plain Tiger Butterfly *Danaus chrysippus*

Hestialis divona

Grey Pansy *Junonia atlites*

Junonia intermedia

Pea Blue *Lampides boeticus*

Lohora imitatrix

Dark Evening Brown *Melanitis phedima*

Monodontides cara

Neptis ida

Parantica dabrera

Wizard *Rhinopalpa Polynice*

Dart sp *Telicota* sp
Uranobothria tsukadai
Ypthima gavalisi

DRAGONFLIES

Ditch Jewel *Brachythemis contaminata*
Chalky Percher *Diplacodes trivialis*
Neurothemis manadensis
Crimson-tailed Marsh Hawk *Orthetrum pruinatum*
Green Skimmer *Orthetrum serapia*



During a spectacular day at *Tangkoko*, we saw these **Celebes Crested Macaques** beachcombing, a pair of **Gursky's Spectral Tarsiers**, and a trio of **Sulawesi Bear Cuscuses**. Then, on the *bird front*, we sighted stellar species like **Great-billed**, **Green-backed** and **Sulawesi Lilac Kingfishers**, and **Rusty-backed (Red-backed) Thrush (Sam Woods)**.