

PEREGRINE BIRD TOURS
SULAWESI AND HALMAHERA

14th August – 7th September 2010

TOUR REPORT

LEADERS: Chris Doughty and Nurlin Djuni

This really was a splendid and very enjoyable tour; however, it was not an easy tour, as we had some very early morning starts and a few mountains to climb, and more than one muddy track to negotiate! The rewards for our efforts were simply magnificent; we saw over 100 endemic species of birds that only occur in the Sulawesi-Halmahera region, as well as a supporting cast of a further 130 species of more widespread, but still very colourful, tropical birds. We enjoyed splendid looks at the big 3 important birds of this region; the remarkable Maleo, surely the strangest member of the megapode family, the superb Wallace's Standardwing, one of the most spectacular of all the birds-of-paradise and superb, close views, of the bizarrely named Diabolical Nightjar, at its daytime roost. We even managed to find a selection of very interesting mammals, with perhaps the Spectral Tarsier, being the most appreciated. A couple of things worked in our favour; firstly, the weather, we lost no birding time due to heavy rain, which even in the dry season, is so easy to do in this part of the world, and secondly, we had great local support from a superb team of cooks and local bird guides, all working together to ensure we had a very enjoyable time, they were all under the expert leadership of Darwin Sumang, from Vacation Indonesia Tours. We would not have seen half the total number of birds without the organisational and birding skills of Nurlin Djuni, head ornithologist of the team, and his very able assistant, the indomitable Eddie Sunardi.

After a long and tiring flight from Australia we arrived in the attractive coastal town of Manado, in the far north of Sulawesi. Our first bird of the tour was a Purple Heron, which was in grassland, alongside the runway, at the airport. Here we were met by the team from Vacation Indonesia Tours, as well as several pairs of Pacific Swallows and Eurasian Tree Sparrows, who were nesting in the airport terminal. We were then taken to a beautiful waterfront hotel, where some of us tried out the very inviting swimming pool. This was no ordinary hotel, it had a very well built boardwalk leading from the hotel and down into a substantial patch of coastal mangroves, which enabled us to look at mangrove birds, without getting our feet muddy, it's a pity we could not say the same about the rest of the tour! In the shrubs and bushes of the hotel we found Zebra Dove, Sooty-headed Bulbul, Olive-backed Sunbird, White-breasted Woodswallow, and Chestnut Munia. In the mangroves we enjoyed watching a flock of Pied Imperial-Pigeons, a trio of kingfishers, Collared, Sacred and Common; we enjoyed watching a family party of White-rumped Cuckoo-shrikes and a few Sulawesi Trillers. Small flocks of Glossy and Moluccan Swiftlets flew overhead, as did a few Slender-billed Crows. Along the coast, at the end of the boardwalk we watched a few Striated Herons, a couple of Greater Sandpipers, a solitary Whimbrel, plenty of Common Sandpipers and a small group of Grey-tailed Tattlers, who were preparing to roost in the mangroves for the night.

The following day was very much a travel day, as we drove south from Manado to Kotamobagu. The edges of the roads were lined with large numbers of cloves, which had been put out to dry. The fences of the homes along the roadside were painted the same colours of the political party, which was in power at the time. The local people were very friendly and waved to us wherever we went. During the drive, we did a little birding in some rice paddies, where we watched Little and Cattle Egrets, several Javan Pond-Herons in spectacular breeding plumage, a Buff-banded Rail, our only Common Moorhen of the tour, good numbers of Wood Sandpipers, a Lesser Coucal and small flocks of Barn Swallows, which had recently arrived from their breeding grounds in China and we also saw a small flock of Scaly-breasted Munias. We saw our first of many Brahminy Kites and a couple of Barred Rails ran across the road in front of our vehicles. In a patch of wooded farmland we added Feral Pigeon, Spotted and Emerald Doves, Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove, White-bellied Imperial Pigeon, Grey-rumped Treeswift, Black Sunbird, Yellow-sided Flowerpecker, Black-fronted White-eye, Hair-crested Drongo, and two spectacular species of endemic starlings, Fiery-browed and Grosbeak Starlings.

This morning we had an early start to ensure that we were in position in the Bogani Nani Wartabone National Park, by sunrise. Just before dawn we arrived at the area where we needed to be and were greeted by several loudly calling Great-eared Nightjars, who were swooping overhead. At dawn we were in position sitting on chairs watching an area of open forest, where we were hoping to spot a Maleo up a tree, where it had roosted for the night. We were served tea and coffee and then we began to wait and watch. Unfortunately, the Maleo was a no show! However; our time had not been wasted as we saw a great many other beautifully coloured birds, which included an immature White-bellied Sea-Eagle, a magnificent Black Eagle, which was skimming the tops of the trees of the rainforest which lined the hillside, a ghostly white, immature Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle flew by, we saw Sulawesi Black Pigeon, Pink-necked and Grey-cheeked Green-Pigeons, Green Imperial-Pigeon, a small flock of Yellowish-breasted Racquet-tails flew overhead and a Small Sulawesi Hanging-Parrot perched long enough for us to enjoy good scope views of it. Suddenly a Black-billed Koel popped into view, a pair of Yellow-billed Malkohas showed well, we enjoyed super scope views of the very attractive Black-naped Oriole and a pair of White-necked Mynas flew by. We also encountered our first mammal of the tour here; we enjoyed watching a Sulawesi Dwarf Squirrel, which would prove to be the commonest mammal we would observe during the tour. We now changed to plan B; we would search for the Maleo by walking the forest trails. We were joined by three local bird guides, which meant we now had a total of five bird guides, as we searched for the Maleo, surely the strangest of all megapodes. Suddenly, our guides heard a Maleo calling from the tree tops and all the guides disappeared into the depths of the forest. Some time later, one of the guides reappeared and told us to follow him; the other guides had treed a Maleo! Our guides repeated this on four separate occasions, until all of us had seen the Maleo very well indeed. This had been a great team effort, by Nurlin and the team of local bird guides and it was to be repeated throughout the whole tour, over and over again. Following our picnic lunch, we were taken to the nesting area of the endangered Maleo, these bizarre birds nest in volcanically heated soil. A member of the conservation staff dug up an egg from one nest which was removed to be artificially hatched at a nearby secure location. We were then taken to a pen which held a few Maleo chicks, ranging from one to three days old. These chicks are born with the ability to fly and are totally self sufficient, not requiring any parental guidance. If only my four had been the same! We were then allowed to release a couple of the birds that were three days old, and somewhat reluctantly, they flew off into the forest.



In the afternoon, we did some more birding in the forest, where we saw huge birds such as the Knobbed Hornbill, to tiny little birds, like the Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher. Despite the attention of several biting Green Tree Ants, we also saw Wandering Whistling-Duck, Green-backed and Blue-eared Kingfishers, Sulawesi Babbler and Grey-sided Flowerpecker. In the late afternoon, we were taken to a very old tree where hundreds of Grosbeak Starlings had excavated nest holes in the soft decaying timber of the tree. It was an amazing spectacle and quite remarkable behaviour for a starling. As we drove back to our lodgings, it coincided with one of the five times per day, when Muslims are required to pray at the Mosque. All the people inside the Mosque knelt on the ground in neat rows, the men and boys at the front and the women and girls at the rear, all the women were dressed in white, from head to toe. It was quite a spectacle, for those of us who had not seen this before.

Another early start found us walking along a mountain trail which climbed steadily upwards, into the upper reaches of the Gunung Ambang National Park. The trail became more like a trench, in some areas it was over 2 metres in height and very muddy. Slowly we managed to prize the birds out of the forest; a superb Spot-tailed Goshawk responded well to tape playback, allowing us fine looks at this superb endemic. A Superb Fruit-Dove showed well momentarily and then a Scaly-breasted Kingfisher, one of Sulawesi's least known endemics, was seen wonderfully well, a splendid Purple-bearded Bee-eater showed very well and higher up the mountain we managed to find Snowy-browed Flycatcher, Citrine Canary-Flycatcher, Rusty-bellied Fantail, Mountain Tailorbird, Sulawesi Leaf-Warbler, Malia, Yellow-vented Whistler and Golden-bellied Gerygone.

We later found out that the deep trench in the trail had been gouged out by people dragging illegally logged trees along the trail. Encroachment of national parks is a worldwide problem, which unfortunately is getting steadily worse. Encroachment upon national parks in Asia is greater than in any other part of the world and we were to experience it in all of the protected areas that we visited, in both Sulawesi and Halmahera. The encroachment on national parks is orchestrated by men of influence, usually with high political connections, who often hire thugs, who intimidate and threaten national park staff, into allowing the encroachment. In the afternoon, we did a little

birding in some nearby farmland, where we added Spotted Kestrel, Large Sulawesi Hanging-Parrot and Golden-headed Cisticola. We then taped in the normally very shy Isabelline Bush-hen, which very uncharacteristically, strutted around on the track, in front of us! As we drove back to our lodgings we could not help but notice hundreds of red-and-white flags lining the roadside. It was Independence Day in Indonesia, and they were celebrating 65 years of independence from their Dutch colonisers. On our return to our hotel, we were asked to leave our muddy boots outside. The following morning our boots were returned to us and our wonderful local guides had cleaned them for us. This was an unexpected treat, for which we were all very grateful.

The following morning we did some birding in rice paddies, close to the township of Kotamobagu, which proved a little easier birding than the dense rainforest, where we spent most of our time during the tour. In and around the rice paddies we found both Black-crowned and Rufous Night-Herons, White-browed Crake, Black-backed Swampphen, Dusky Moorhen, Little Bronze-Cuckoo, Black-faced Munia and Java Sparrow. In the afternoon we birded an area of secondary forest, where we enjoyed good looks at the endemic Bay Coucal and Brown-throated and Crimson Sunbirds. At dusk we tried a little spotlighting, we were not having much success when Nurlin received a phone call from a friend who owned an orchard on the outskirts of Kotamobagu; Nurlin's friend told him that he had Sulawesi Masked-Owl and Sulawesi Scops-Owl calling in his orchard. We then jumped into our four-wheel drive vehicles and sped off in the direction of the orchard. A short time later we were able to watch both Sulawesi Masked-Owl and Sulawesi Scops-Owl in the spotlight.

The next day of our adventure was very much a travel day, as we drove northwards to Tangkoko National Park, taking most of the day to get there. During the first part of our journey we experienced heavy rain, but after a couple of hours it slowly began to abate, and the rain was replaced by brilliant sunshine. For part of the drive we drove alongside the Tarout River, when we were close to Amurang, some members of the group saw a pair of Sunda Teal flying above the river. Approximately 40 kilometres south of Manado we stopped for a brief leg stretch, along the coast. During the rest stop Rob pointed out a dark morph Pacific Reef-Egret flying out in the bay. On our arrival in Manado we enjoyed a very pleasant lunch in a restaurant overlooking the bay. While having lunch we all enjoyed our only look at a small flock of House Swifts, which were flying around close to the restaurant. By mid-afternoon we had arrived at our destination and settled in to our somewhat rustic homestay. Once the heat of the day had passed, we ventured out into Tangkoko National Park, which is situated on the side of a forested volcano. There were nine clients plus myself, plus another six local birding guides in the party. Once we started walking the trails of the national park, two of the local guides stayed with us and the others disappeared into the forest. As we walked the narrow trails of the forest, we came across a few Sulawesi Crested Macaques, which look more like small apes, rather than macaques. We then came across an Ashy Woodpecker, a huge species of woodpecker, which we enjoyed watching, pecking away in a large tree, directly above us. Then Nurlin received a phone call from one of the guides who had disappeared into the forest, he had found a very interesting bird. In no time at all, we had joined the local guide who pointed out the superb and endemic Ochre-bellied Boobook, sitting at eye level in a small sapling. Continuing along the track, a second phone call produced the stunning and endemic Lilac-cheeked Kingfisher. We were then taken to a large tree in the forest, by now it was getting dark, and no less than three Spectral Tarsiers popped up from a large hole in the tree. They

are the smallest primates in the world and this incredible looking species with its endearing large eyes, was very much the inspiration for Steven Spielberg's 'ET'.



Spectral Tarsier

Following breakfast we birded an open area in Tangkoko National Park, which proved very productive, new birds here included Blue-breasted Quail, Uniform Swiftlet and Rainbow Bee-eater. We then found a large fruiting tree, which had large numbers of birds visiting the tree, to feed on the fruit. Here we enjoyed good looks at the often difficult to find Silver-tipped Imperial-Pigeon, the beautiful Ornate Lorikeet, a single Blue-backed Parrot and small numbers of Golden-mantled Racquet-tails. For the rest of the day we birded deep inside the forest, together with our six local guides. New birds for our ever growing list included a pair of Black-naped Fruit-Doves building a nest, a stunning pair of Purple-winged Rollers, the unobtrusive Sulawesi Cicadabird, a pair of recently split Pale-blue Monarchs and a pair of stunning Sulawesi Crested Mynas. Perhaps the highlight of today's birding was the very uncommon and endemic Red-backed Thrush. This stunning bird was found by our local guides and using their great skill they shepherded this bird towards the group, so that eventually, we all managed to enjoy good looks, at this seldom seen speciality. We also found two new species of mammals today; we enjoyed good close looks at the Whitish Dwarf Squirrel and once again, our local guides found a Small Sulawesi Cuscus, rolled up in a ball, asleep in the treetops. We were able to enjoy good scope views of this attractive, nocturnal animal. We stayed in the forest until it got dark, we then enjoyed good looks at a fairly responsive Sulawesi Nightjar, who responded fairly well to tape playback. During the night there were torrential downpours of rain, which kept us awake for a while.

The following morning dawned sunny and bright and free from rain, the volcanic soil had drained very well and all that was left from the tremendous overnight rain were a few puddles along the roadside. We did some pre-breakfast birding on top of a high ridge, which looked down on the valley below. This meant that we had the luxury at looking down on the birds in the canopy of the rainforest, rather than looking up at them, as we usually did, from the forest floor. We saw a large number of species very well indeed, including our best looks at some of the birds we had already seen, as well as new birds for the tour, which included a perched Peregrine Falcon, in the scope,

beautiful scope views of the uncommon Grey-headed Imperial-Pigeon and best of all, tremendous scope views of the endangered Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbill. Following breakfast, we walked some of the forest trails, where we had a few quick looks at the very shy Philippine Scrubfowl. Before lunch, our guides still had one last rabbit to pull out of the hat; they enabled us to enjoy very close looks at the shy, but very beautiful Ruddy Kingfisher. For our afternoon entertainment we donned our life vests and went out to sea in two boats, which traveled along the coast. Our first stop was a small sea cave, which had two Sulawesi Masked-Owls roosting at the entrance, which we saw superbly well. Our boatman then turned into the mangrove lined Sanpiran River, where he paddled slowly up the creek. Our main quarry here was the extremely localised Great-billed Kingfisher, but apart from Striated Herons, there was very little to see. We did find a flock of Asian Glossy Starlings, which was new for us and as we were about to give up, a Great-billed Kingfisher flew across the front of the boat and disappeared up a small creek. Once again we had tremendous amounts of rain during the night.

Once again, the day dawned sunny and bright and free from rain. Our final morning in Tangkoko produced a Great Frigatebird, a fairly obliging Barred Buttonquail and a not so obliging Stephan's Dove. In the mid-afternoon we returned to the forest and found a small clearing where we enjoyed good scope views of an immature Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle. We also enjoyed good scope views of a displaying Green Imperial-Pigeon, who would raise and lower the rufous feathers on its nape, which formed a shaggy main. The Sulawesi race *paulina* is the only race of Green Imperial-Pigeon that has this rufous shaggy main! We also found a beautiful Sulawesi Black Pigeon who did not want to be outdone by the Green Imperial-Pigeon and every time we played a tape of its call, it would fly above our heads, displaying as it did so, with its wings and tail outspread as it flew overhead. We then played hide-and-seek with a Red-bellied Pitta, but try as we may, we could only manage a fleeting glimpse of it. However, we did much better with a pair of Pied Cuckoo-shrikes, which eventually, we all saw very well indeed.

The following morning we drove back to Manado airport and took a short flight to the small island of Ternate. From here we took a boat across to the nearby island of Halmahera, here we saw a Lesser Frigatebird and in the mangroves in the small harbour we added the very uncommon Beach Kingfisher and a White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, before driving to nearby Sidangoli, for a three nights stay. In the afternoon we birded areas of forest close to Sidangoli. It was interesting to see large flocks of Rainbow Bee-eaters here, which would shortly be leaving, to fly to their breeding grounds in Australia. The birding was very enjoyable and the birdlife varied; new birds here included super scope views of the attractive Cinnamon-bellied Imperial-Pigeon, a few Dollardbirds, great looks at the very large Blyth's Hornbill, lots of Willie Wagtails, several Long-billed Crows and large noisy flocks of both Metallic and Moluccan Starlings.

A very early start was required this morning; for this was the morning we had set aside to go and see Wallace's Standardwing, a species of bird-of-paradise. The males display at first light, hoping to attract the attention of a female, this goes on for approximately one hour and then these shy birds simply melt away into the rainforest and become very hard to find. It required a two hour walk in the dark to reach the display area. The first half hour went well and then we came to a river we had to cross, normally the river is very shallow, but unfortunately unseasonably heavy rain during the last few days had turned the river into a waist high, raging torrent. It was decided that it would be too dangerous to cross the river. As it was, Rob lost his footing on the steep descent down to the

river and fell off the track and into the forest. Putting his hands out to break the fall, Rob injured one of his wrists. On returning to Australia, subsequent x-rays revealed that Rob had unfortunately broken his wrist. However, all was not lost the surrounding rainforest proved very productive and new birds for the tour came thick and fast. They included Dusky Scrubfowl, Grey-headed Fruit-Dove, Spectacled Imperial-Pigeon, White Cockatoo, Chattering Lory, Red-cheeked and Eclectus Parrots, Moluccan Hanging-Parrot, Goliath Coucal, Blue-and-white Kingfisher, Common Cicadabird, Rufous-bellied Triller, Northern Golden Bulbul, Spectacled Monarch, Flame-breasted Flowerpecker, the endangered Dusky Friarbird, Spangled Drongo and Paradise Crow.

Fortunately, no rain fell during the night and we set off at three o'clock in the morning, with high hopes that the river would have dropped overnight, enabling us to cross it and visit the Wallace's Standardwing site. A very bright full moon shone overhead and we took this as a good omen, as we set off for the river. Fortunately for us, the river had dropped overnight and was only knee deep and we were able to cross the river and walk in the dark to the viewing site. We were in position before dawn and the raucous cries of the male standardwings filled our ears. We sat silently and watched the incredible display of this most spectacular of birds, unfold before our eyes. A total of six males displayed before a solitary female, flinging themselves into the air before fluttering down to a well used branch, where the breast shield would be extended and the white pennants were thrust upwards and outwards. It was well worth the effort. Other new species in the rainforest close to Sidangoli included a very close pair of Gurney's Eagles, which had a juvenile bird with them, Oriental Hobby, the rarely observed Azure Kingfisher, a stunning Ivory-breasted Pitta, Halmahera Cuckoo-shrike, Golden Whistler and Dusky-brown Oriole. At dusk a Large-tailed Nightjar flew around us, to round off a very fine day in Wallacea.

Today we were on the move again; we slowly birded our way from Sidangoli to Tobelo, further to the north. There is still a good area of rainforest a little to the north of Sidangoli and this is where we concentrated our efforts. Here we enjoyed super scope views of a perched Variable Goshawk; we could clearly see the grey throat, which is distinctive of the Halmahera race of this species. We also enjoyed fine scope views of the very attractive Blue-capped Fruit-Dove and this was followed by good scope views of the colourful Violet-necked Lory. Close to the town of Katana we paid a visit to a coconut plantation where we were hopeful of finding the endemic but very elusive Sombre Kingfisher. Once again our luck continued and one bird responded well to tape playback, ensuring that we had very good looks, at this seldom seen species. Here we also added Shining Flycatcher and the endemic Cream-throated White-eye. On our arrival in Tobelo we drove to a very fine hotel, which would be our home for the next three nights and we ate at a particularly fine Chinese restaurant, where we enjoyed the best food of the tour.

As we set off the following morning the Mamuya Volcano that towered over the town, had a long plume of smoke trailing away to the east. We spent the morning birding in an area of mangroves and rainforest, where we saw a good number of birds. New birds included a flock of four Pacific Bazas, which flew right past us and finally, we got good scope looks at a Brush Cuckoo, after having heard it on many occasions and glimpsed it on a couple of others. In the afternoon we visited Lake Paca, near Katana. One of the highlights here was watching an Oriental Hobby for a long period of time. The bird had a favourite perch high in a very tall palm tree; where we enjoyed very good scope views of it. From its favourite perch it would launch itself into midair and start chasing the recently arrived Barn Swallows, who were flying around the edge of the lake.

Following one or two near misses, the hobby managed to catch one of the swallows, which it took to its favourite perch and began eating it. We even found new birds for the tour, which included a few Little Grebes on the lake, we watched up to 20 flocks of Red-flanked Lorikeets, all flying in the same direction, presumably to their roosting site. We would have seen up to 200 Red-flanked Lorikeets that afternoon. Once it had got dark, we managed to tape in a splendid Moluccan Scops-Owl, which was a real treat. We also watched a tremendous display of Fireflies, all in one tree, which was lit up like a Christmas tree. Today we also added a new mammal for the tour; I had an Eastern House Mouse in my hotel room that evening!

Our final day in the Tobelo area produced only one new bird, the endemic and attractive Slaty Flycatcher, which we all saw very well. It was time to move on.

Another travel day; we birded our way from Tobelo to Sidangoli, on the island of Halmahera, without adding any new birds to our list. On reaching Sidangoli we did a little birding in the harbour, where we found two new birds for the tour, a solitary Pacific Golden-Plover, in full breeding plumage, as well as a couple of Greater Crested Terns, both of which, were in non-breeding plumage. During the ferry trip from Halmahera to Ternate a solitary Bulwer's Petrel was glimpsed by myself. On our arrival at the port on Ternate Island, we were met by the usual four, four-wheel drive vehicles and sped away to a very comfortable hotel, where we spent the night.

Ternate Island is situated 23 kilometres west of Halmahera; it is only 15 square kilometres in size and is made up entirely of one active volcano, named Gamalama, which is 1,271 metres high. The volcano has three distinct peaks and has been active since the 15th century, the worst eruption occurring in 1763 and stones from Gamalama's eruptions are scattered across the landscape. With smoke billowing out of the volcano we spent the following morning birding at Tolire Lake, a crater lake situated on the side of the volcano. Coconut plantations dominate the lowlands of the island, but the upper reaches of the volcano including the area around Tolire Lake, are cloaked in luxuriant rainforest. We found two new birds here, Ted pointed out a Little Pied Cormorant, which was perched on a branch overhanging the lake, drying out its wings, and a search in the rainforest revealed a recently arrived Arctic Warbler. We then drove to the airport on Ternate for lunch. Unfortunately, we were still in the month of Ramadan, and on this deeply devotedly Muslim island, the only food they would prepare for us was two minute noodles, over which they poured boiling hot water! We then flew to Makassar Airport, in the far south of Sulawesi and as we were taxiing to the airport terminal, we admired two beautiful Woolly-necked Storks, feeding in grassland, along the edge of the runway. We had some time to kill before taking the flight to Palu, in central Sulawesi, so we did some birding around the airport. Somewhat surprisingly, we added no less than four new species to our trip list; these included White-shouldered Triller, Pied Chat, Zitting Cisticola and Pale-headed Munia.

We decided to do some birding in Palu Bay, before commencing the long drive to Lore Lindu National Park. Amongst the many Little Egrets here, we managed to pick out a solitary Grey Plover, which was still in breeding plumage. This is a very uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant, to Sulawesi. On the outskirts of Palu, we made a birding stop in some rice paddies, where we enjoyed good looks at Blue-tailed Bee-eaters and Lemon-bellied White-eyes and a frustratingly small glimpse at a Rusty-breasted Cuckoo. The road to Lore Lindu was very pot-holed, and it was slow going. We broke the long drive with lunch, at a small roadside restaurant, where the food was

surprisingly good. We arrived at our lodgings in Lore Lindu National Park by mid-afternoon and then did some birding along the main road in the park. We appreciated the higher altitude at Lore Lindu; it was much cooler here while we were birding and the nights were much cooler, making it easier to sleep. Lore Lindu is the best birding area in the whole of Sulawesi and new birds were plentiful. Small flocks of Yellow-and-green Lorikeets flew overhead, we enjoyed good looks at a few Island Verditer Flycatchers, saw a few Mountain White-eyes, enjoyed a solitary Sulawesi Honeyeater, got to grips with a few Sulawesi Drongos, we very much enjoyed watching the beautiful and endemic Piping Crow and best of all we were very fortunate to find a new species of flycatcher, which has still not been officially described, which is referred to as the Sulawesi Flycatcher.

One of the most sought after birds in Lore Lindu National Park is the Diabolical Nightjar, which was rediscovered in 1998, following a 60 year absence. Nurlin was confident he could find a roosting bird during daylight hours, on the upper stretches of the famous Anaso track. An early morning start was required, so we set off before sunlight to try for another not yet officially described bird, the Cinnabar Boobook. Although the bird responded well to tape playback, we only saw the bird in flight, before it became light. In the early morning light we played tape of the rarely observed and endemic Great Shortwing, to our surprise a female responded by flying into the middle of the road, where we all saw it well. The endemic Sulawesi Thrush was then lured into view and performed well for us and this was followed by a fleeting glimpse of the Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher, a recent split, from Mangrove Blue Flycatcher. One of the features of today's birding was the large clouds of bright blue butterflies that adorned the main road, through the national park. Following a picnic breakfast we started slowly up the Anaso track, the only real access to the moss encrusted montane forests of Lore Lindu National Park. One of the first birds that we encountered was a Barred Honey-buzzard, soaring above the forest, a pair of Red-eared Fruit-Doves then showed amazingly well, even allowing close scope views of them. A mixed species feeding party provided us with two new birds for the trip, Cerulean and Pygmy Cuckoo-shrikes. As good as his word, Nurlin then found a superb Diabolical Nightjar, roosting on the ground, in full daylight. We had now seen the big three birds of the region and we were all delighted. We then walked slowly down the Anaso track and drove back to our lodging for a well deserved lunch and siesta. In the afternoon we enjoyed a leisurely stroll along the main road in the park which produced a trio of new birds, Speckled Boobook, Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker and Little Pied Flycatcher. We also saw a couple of Sulawesi Giant Squirrels.

We decided to have an easy day today and just birded along the main road that cuts through the lower section of the park. It was a very productive and enjoyable day, which produced great scope views of a perched Sulawesi Serpent-Eagle, similar scope views of a perched Small Sparrowhawk, a seldom seen denizen of the dense forest, a pair of stunning Blue-fronted Blue-Flycatchers, a delightful Lesser Sulawesi Honeyeater and quick looks at an Ivory-backed Woodswallow. Tremendous shepherding by our local guides enabled us to see very well indeed, the extremely shy and seldom seen Chestnut-backed Bush-Warbler. We also found a solitary adult male Tonkean Macaque and a species of squirrel with no common name, whose scientific name is *Prosciurillus topapuensis*.

A final morning in Lore Lindu National Park saw us divided into two parties; one party who wanted to climb up the Anaso track once again and those who wanted to bird along the main road.

The mountaineers were rewarded with new birds including Yellow-flanked Whistler, Streak-headed Dark-eye and Greater Sulawesi Honeyeater. The lowland group also found the Greater Sulawesi Honeyeater and a new bird for the tour, a Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker. In the late afternoon we combined together, where we enjoyed good scope views of the Short-tailed Starling.

On the last day of the tour we reluctantly left Lore Lindu National Park and headed back to Palu. We made a birding stop in farmland close to Palu, where we added Red Collared-Dove and roosting Savanna Nightjars, this gave us a grand total of 11 nocturnal birds for the tour. We were then all delighted to enjoy very good scope views of the previously only glimpsed Rusty-breasted Cuckoo. In the middle of the afternoon we enjoyed a quick look at the Palu Shrimp Ponds, where new birds included a recent coloniser to Sulawesi, the Javan Plover, with a supporting cast of Common Redshank, Marsh Sandpiper and Red-necked Stint. In the bay itself, offshore from the Shrimp Ponds we added the last new birds for the tour a Black Kite and an immature Common Tern.

The following day we flew from Palu to Makassar and then onto Manado, where we stayed in a very comfortable hotel. That evening we met up with some of our crew from earlier in the tour, who came to dinner with us, at a superb Chinese restaurant, overlooking the bay. We all let our hair down, completely took over the restaurant and Doris even managed to get me on to the dance floor. We toasted the success of the tour with fine food and a few 'cold ones'. We had had a wonderful tour and seen some marvelous birds, including 100 endemic birds, in what has to be one of the world's most threatened regions, where the wonderful birdlife faces a very uncertain future.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

PODICIPEDIDAE

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* A small number of this species were observed on Lake Paca, near Katana, on Halmahera. This was followed by a second sighting of literally dozens of this species on Danae Tolire Lake, on Ternate Island, in the Northern Moluccas.

PROCELLARIIDAE

Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii* A solitary bird was seen very briefly by myself, just off Tidore Island, in the Northern Moluccas, during the ferry crossing from Halmahera to Ternate Island. The Reverend James Bulwer (1794-1879) was a Scottish collector, naturalist and conchologist, (the study of mollusk shells). Bulwer collected the petrel which is named after him, in Madeira in 1827.

PHALACROCORACIDAE

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos* A single bird was pointed out by Ted at Danau Tolire Lake, on Ternate Island, in the Northern Moluccas.

FREGATIDAE

Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor* I saw a single bird offshore from Tangkoko National Park and this was followed by a second sighting of a bird during the ferry crossing from Ternate Island to Halmahera.

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel* A single bird was observed offshore from Sidangoli, on Halmahera.

ARDEIDAE

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* This species was surprisingly common at all wetland areas throughout Sulawesi.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* This species frequented rice paddies and small wetlands throughout the tour.

Pacific Reef-Egret *Egretta sacra* A couple of birds were pointed out by Rob along the coast 40 kilometres south of Manado, in Sulawesi. We also saw a few more around the fishing rafts out at sea, on our way to explore the mangroves along the Sanpiran River, close to Tangkoko National Park.

Javan Pond-Heron *Ardeola speciosa* Commonly encountered in rice paddies and small wetlands throughout Sulawesi.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* This species proved to be fairly common in farmland throughout Sulawesi.

Striated Heron *Butorides striatus* Regularly encountered in mangrove swamps and small wetlands, throughout the tour.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* A single adult bird was observed in flight, over farmland close to Kotamobagu, on Sulawesi. This is an uncommon bird in Sulawesi and interestingly, it hybridizes here with the Rufous Night-Heron!

Rufous Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus* We saw good numbers of this species early one morning, in farmland close to Kotamobagu, on Sulawesi.

CICONIIDAE

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* An uncommon and declining species in Sulawesi,

therefore, we were very fortunate to find two birds in grassland, close to the main runway at Makassar Airport, in southern Sulawesi.

ANATIDAE

Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata* A small flock flew directly overhead at the park headquarters in Bogani Nani Wartabone National Park, in Sulawesi.

Sunda Teal *Anas gibberifrons* A pair were observed flying above the Tarout River, near Amurang, in Sulawesi, by some members of the group.

ACCIPITRIDAE

Pacific Baza *Aviceda subcristata* A flock of four birds flew by us while we were birding close to Galela, on Halmahera.

Barred Honey-buzzard *Pernis celebensis* We enjoyed very good looks at a bird soaring over upland forest in Lore Lindu National Park, on Sulawesi.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* This was the last new bird we saw on the tour; a solitary bird was observed in flight, along the edge of Palu Bay, on Sulawesi.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* This species was observed on almost every day of the tour.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* Our first, was an immature which flew by us and perched in a nearby tree, where we were able to enjoy good scope views of it, in Bogani Nani Wartabone National Park. A second bird was observed on the last day of the tour, flying along the edge of Palu Bay.

Sulawesi Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis rufipectus* Our first sighting was of a perched bird, which we were all able to see very well in the scope. Some members of the group enjoyed a second sighting, both sightings occurred in Lore Lindu National Park, on Sulawesi. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Spot-tailed Goshawk *Accipiter trinotatus* An adult bird responded well to tape playback in Gunung Ambang National Park, on Sulawesi, allowing us to approach it, to within a few metres. This bird was very co-operative and turned around a couple of times, so that we could see both the upperparts and underparts very well indeed. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Variable Goshawk *Accipiter hiogaster* Our first sighting of this species involved super scope views of a bird perched high in a tree. Our second sighting was of a bird in flight. Both sightings occurred in rainforest close to Sidangoli, on Halmahera.

Small Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nanus* We were very fortunate to observe this rarely seen species, during our time in Lore Lindu National Park. An adult bird was perched in a tree overhanging a road and we were able to enjoy good scope views of it. This bird also turned around a couple of times, allowing us to see all the bird very well indeed. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis* We saw this species very well, soaring over rainforest, on two separate occasions. The first occurred in Bogani Nani Wartabone National Park, and the second took place in Lore Lindu National Park, both sightings occurred in Sulawesi.

Gurney's Eagle *Aquila gurneyi* We saw this uncommon species on three separate occasions; all three sightings occurred in rainforest close to Sidangoli, on Halmahera. By far the best

sighting, was the second one; we very much enjoyed watching a pair of adults in the company of a juvenile bird, they perched in trees very close to us and we were also able to watch them flying around, as well. John Henry Gurney (1819-1890) was a banker in Norwich, England, and an amateur ornithologist who worked at the British Natural History Museum.

Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus lanceolatus* We enjoyed three separate sightings of this species; all were of immature birds, which we saw very well, both perched and in flight. All the sightings took place on Sulawesi, as this species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

FALCONIDAE

Spotted Kestrel *Falco moluccensis* Regularly encountered throughout the tour, in both Sulawesi and Halmahera.

Oriental Hobby *Falco severus* Somewhat surprisingly, we enjoyed three sightings of this sparsely distributed and seldom seen species. All the sightings occurred on Halmahera, where this species is presumed to be resident, but very little is known about it. The first sighting occurred in rainforest close to Sidangoli, the second sighting occurred in the township of Tobelo and the third and most impressive sighting, took place at Lake Paca, not far from Katana. Here we watched a bird for more than half an hour; the bird kept returning to the same perch, a bare branch above the leafy canopy of the rainforest, on the edge of Lake Paca. While on its favourite perch, we were able to enjoy great scope views of the bird; suddenly, it would leave the perch and start pursuing flocks of Barn Swallows, which had recently arrived from their breeding grounds in Russia and China. Most of the time, it failed to make a kill, but on one occasion it was successful and returned to its favourite perch and began plucking the bird, before eating it.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* The Peregrine Falcon is a rare and very sparsely distributed bird in Sulawesi. The subspecies concerned is *ernesti* and is the darkest of all the many subspecies of Peregrines in the world. We were very fortunate to enjoy good scope views of a pair of birds perched in trees above the canopy of the rainforest, in Tangkoko National Park.

MEGAPODIIDAE

Maleo *Macrocephalon maleo* A superb effort by our team of local birding guides enabled the whole group to see at least one of these splendid birds, perched high on a branch of an open tree in the rainforest of Bogani Nani Wartabone National Park. The Maleo is a marvel of evolution: they lay their eggs in the volcanically heated sand, which hatch after 60 days and the newly-hatched chick can fly immediately. Many thanks to the Indonesian government researchers who dug up a recently laid egg, so that we could see just how large it really was. This egg was then taken to an incubator, to be hatched. They also allowed us to handle a couple of three day old chicks, which we released into the wild. The government researchers are doing a tremendous job in protecting the Maleos that breed in this area. It is not surprising, that these splendid observations resulted in the Maleo being voted 'Bird-of-the-trip'. This bird is classified as vulnerable in 'Threatened Birds of the World'. By far the main threat to the Maleo is the unsustainable harvesting of eggs, combined with human disturbance of nesting grounds. This has caused the abandonment of most coastal nesting colonies. Continued forest destruction and fragmentation increasingly threatens the few surviving populations. Invasive non-native vegetation poses a further threat to nesting

colonies. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.



Maleo Chick from a photograph by Una Stephenson

Philippine Scrubfowl *Megapodius cumingii* Two individuals were observed in Tangkoko National Park, lurking in the darker, more shaded areas, of the forest floor.

Dusky Scrubfowl *Megapodius freycinet* A dark shape in the shadows of the rainforest close to Sidangoli, turned out to be a Dusky Scrubfowl. This species is always very shy as it is heavily hunted and trapped by the local villagers.

PHASIANIDAE

Blue-breasted Quail *Coturnix chinensis* A pair of birds was flushed from cover in a small clearing in Tangkoko National Park. A second pair was flushed from farmland, on the edge of Lore Lindu National Park.

TURNICIDAE

Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator* A pair was observed surprisingly well on a wide track, in Tangkoko National Park, even though the birds initially moved into dense cover when we first saw them, a little later they reappeared on the track, allowing most of the group to see them quite well.

RALLIDAE

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis* A few seen crossing roads in both Sulawesi and Halmahera.

Barred Rail *Gallirallus torquatus* Several good looks at this species, mainly along the roadside, during our time in Sulawesi.

Isabelline Bush-hen *Amaurornis isabellinus* We saw this species on several occasions; we even saw it well on a couple of occasions. The best sighting was when Nurlin taped one in, which walked around on the road in front of us, quite amazing. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

White-browed Crake *Porzana cinerea* Only seen on one occasion, when a bird showed very well in a rice paddy close to Kotamobagu, in Sulawesi.

Black-backed Swamphen *Porphyrio indicus* The Black-backed Swamphen is a scarce bird throughout Sulawesi; therefore we were very fortunate to have a good long look at an individual in a rice paddy, close to Kotamobagu, in Sulawesi.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* Sulawesi is the only place in the world where the Common and Dusky Moorhens coexist, this is the place in the world where the two distributions meet and somewhat surprisingly, both species are scarce on the island and not readily seen. So we did well to see a Common Moorhen very well in a rice paddy, close to Manado, in Sulawesi.

Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa* We also did well to see a single Dusky Moorhen, in a rice paddy close to Kotamobagu, in Sulawesi.

CHARADRIIDAE

Pacific Golden-Plover *Pluvialis fulva* A single bird in breeding plumage was seen very well in Sidangoli Harbour, in Halmahera. Another two birds, which were moulting into non-breeding plumage, were seen well at the Palu Shrimp Ponds.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* This species is an uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor to Sulawesi. We saw a single bird at the mouth of the Palu River, in Palu Bay, on Sulawesi.

Javan Plover *Charadrius javanicus* We enjoyed terrific scope views of up to six Javan Plovers at the Palu Shrimp Ponds, in Sulawesi. This species has only recently colonised Sulawesi; it was first discovered in Sulawesi, as recently as five years ago. Some of the birds we saw were immatures and probably bred locally.

Greater Sandplover *Charadrius leschenaultii* Only seen on the jetty at the Hotel Santika, in Manado Harbour, where four birds were present.

SCOLOPACIDAE

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* A single bird was seen very well in the mangroves at the Hotel Santika, in Manado Harbour.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* A single bird was observed very well, at the Palu Shrimp Ponds.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* A single bird of this species was also observed very well, at the Palu Shrimp Ponds.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* Observed well on a few occasions in rice paddies during our time in Sulawesi and also seen at the Palu Shrimp Ponds.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Regularly recorded from coastal areas in both Sulawesi and Halmahera.

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heterosceles brevipes* A small flock of six birds were preparing to roost in the mangroves at the Hotel Santika, in Manado Harbour. We also saw a couple of birds in the Palu Shrimp Ponds.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* A few individuals were present at the Palu Shrimp Ponds.

STERNIDAE

Greater Crested Tern *Sterna bergii* We saw two birds very well, flying around Sidangoli Harbour, on Halmahera.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* An uncommon passage migrant in Indonesia, these birds are probably passing through on their way to their wintering grounds in Australia. We enjoyed

good scope views of a single bird sat on the top of a pole, in Palu Bay, on Sulawesi.

COLUMBIDAE

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* Small numbers present in towns and villages.

Red Collared-Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica* This introduced species was first found in Sulawesi in 1978 and only occurs in the Palu Valley, on Sulawesi. It has now become quite common there and we saw it well at the Savanna Nightjar stakeout and again, at the Palu Shrimp Ponds.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis* Regularly encountered throughout Sulawesi and Halmahera.

Slender-billed Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia amboinensis* Commonly encountered throughout rainforests, in both Sulawesi and Halmahera.

Sulawesi Black Pigeon *Turacoena manadensis* We had brief looks at this very attractive bird in Bogani Nani Wartabone National Park, and then enjoyed superb looks at an individual which responded very well to tape playback in Tangkoko National Park. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* A single bird was observed in flight close to Manado, on Sulawesi.

Stephan's Dove *Chalcophaps stephani* We played hide-and-seek with a pair of Stephan's Doves in Tangkoko National Park, on Sulawesi, eventually, most of us were able to see the bird. Etienne Stephan Jacquinet was the father of the French explorer Vice-Admiral Charles Hector Jacquinet (1796-1879). His brother Honore Jacquinet (1815-1887) served as ships surgeon on the same ships as his brother and he asked the French zoologist Jacques Pucheran (1817-1894) to name the dove after his father.

Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata* Another introduced species, which we saw well on a few occasions, but only around Manado, on Sulawesi.

Pink-necked Green-Pigeon *Treron vernans* This species occurs in mangroves and coastal woodland; we saw it well on a number of occasions, in both Sulawesi and Halmahera.

Grey-cheeked Green-Pigeon *Treron griseicauda* We enjoyed many good sightings of this attractive species, throughout our time in Sulawesi.

Red-eared Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus fischeri* This particularly attractive species of fruit-dove is quiet, inconspicuous and easily overlooked; fortunately, it is not uncommon at higher elevations in Lore Lindu National Park. We saw it very well on two occasions while walking the Anaso track. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Superb Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus superbus* Another shy and inconspicuous species, even so, we enjoyed good looks at a bird in Gunung Ambang National Park, and a second, in Lore Lindu National Park.

Blue-capped Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus monacha* This attractive species proved to be fairly common in rainforest close to Sidangoli, on Halmahera. This species is endemic to the North Moluccas.

Grey-headed Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus hyogaster* This attractive species also proved to be fairly common in rainforest close to Sidangoli, on Halmahera. This species is endemic to the North Moluccas.

Black-naped Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus melanospila* We only saw this species on one occasion; a pair were building a nest in Tangkoko National Park and this enabled us to see both male

and female very well.

White-bellied Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula forsteni* Seen almost daily during our time in Sulawesi, this species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Grey-headed Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula radiata* We were very fortunate to enjoy good scope views of one of these very uncommon birds, high on the ridge, in Tangkoko National Park. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Green Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula aenea* Proved to be common throughout northern Sulawesi; this interesting subspecies *paulina*, which only occurs on Sulawesi, has an attractive rufous nape, which forms a shaggy mane, a tempting candidate for a split!

Spectacled Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula perspicillata* We enjoyed some good scope views of this attractive pigeon, in rainforest close to Sidangoli, on Halmahera. This species is endemic to the North Moluccas, plus one other island off West Papua.

Cinnamon-bellied Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula basilica* We also enjoyed a few good scope views of this rather attractive pigeon, in rainforest close to Sidangoli, on Halmahera. This species is endemic to the North Moluccas.

Pied Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula bicolor* We saw this species well in both Sulawesi and Halmahera.

Silver-tipped Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula luctuosa* We were very fortunate to observe a few small groups of this uncommon species during our time in Tangkoko National Park. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

CACATUIDAE

White Cockatoo *Cacatua alba* This highly visible species was regularly encountered during our time on Halmahera. This species is endemic to the North Moluccas and is classified as vulnerable, in 'Threatened Birds of the World'. At the moment this species is fairly plentiful, but as the forest continues to shrink in size, the potential nesting sites must become scarcer. The major threat to this species is due to the fact that the recently revised trapping quotas, are not being effectively enforced and this attractive species of cockatoo is facing a very uncertain future.

PSITTACIDAE

Violet-necked Lory *Eos squamata* This stunningly attractive species was not uncommon in the rainforests around Sidangoli, on Halmahera.

Ornate Lorikeet *Trichoglossus ornatus* Seen well on a couple of occasions in Tangkoko National Park; it was observed particularly well one morning, in a fruiting tree, on the side of the main track into the park. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Yellow-and-green Lorikeet *Trichoglossus flavoviridis* Small flocks regularly flew overhead in Lore Lindu National Park; but it was not until our second walk on the Anaso track, that we finally enjoyed good scope views of it. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region and the island of Sula.

Chattering Lory *Lorius garrulus* We enjoyed a couple of good sightings of this unfortunately, rapidly declining species, in rainforest close to Sidangoli, on Halmahera. This species is

endemic to the North Moluccas and is classified as vulnerable, in 'Threatened Birds of the World'. The two main threats to this species are destruction of habitat and trapping, for the caged bird trade. It is estimated that trappers are currently catching 10% of the population in a single year; this is clearly an unsustainable rate of harvest, and this very attractive species of parrot, faces a very uncertain future.

Red-flanked Lorikeet *Charmosyna placentis* Not uncommon, during our time on Halmahera; none of us will ever forget the afternoon spent at Lake Paca, near Katana, when many small flocks of them buzzed over our heads, on their way to their roosting site.

Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi* This species proved to be common in the rainforest close to Sidangoli, on Halmahera. Most were seen in flight, but we did enjoy one scope view of this species.

Yellow-breasted Racquet-tail *Prioniturus flavicans* This uncommon species was observed in both Bogani Nani Wartabone and Tangkoko National Parks, we even enjoyed scope views on one occasion in Tangkoko National Park. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Golden-mantled Racquet-tail *Prioniturus platurus* More common than the previous species; although most encounters, were of birds flying overhead, calling noisily as they did so, during our time in Tangkoko and Lore Lindu National Parks. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Blue-backed Parrot *Tanygnathus sumatranus* This uncommon species was seen well on a couple of occasions during our time in the Tangkoko National Park.

Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus* Regularly encountered in the rainforest close to Sidangoli, on Halmahera. This beautiful species exhibits one of the most extreme examples of sexual dimorphism in the bird world.

Large Sulawesi Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus stigmatus* Frequently encountered during our time in Sulawesi, although usually in flight, we did enjoy one or two scope views as well. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Moluccan Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus amabilis* We also frequently encountered this species during our time on Halmahera, once again, mainly in flight, but we did see it in the scope on one occasion. This species is endemic to the North Moluccas and Sula and Banggai Islands.

Small Sulawesi Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus exilis* This species is far less common than the Large Sulawesi Hanging-Parrot; even so we saw it very well on a few occasions. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

CUCULIDAE

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus* We had a couple of fly-bys of the grey-bellied *variolosus*, the migratory northern Australian race of Brush Cuckoo, before we enjoyed good scope views of one, close to Galela, on Halmahera.

Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis sepulcralis* In most literature this species of cuckoo is lumped with Brush Cuckoo. However, this cannot be correct, we saw both species on

Halmahera and they were very different in plumage and the vocalisations were also different. The call of this species was the common call in the background during our visit to Lore Lindu National Park. So it is obviously common there; even so, it is still very hard to observe, as it prefers to sing from dense cover and spends long periods of the day perched, without any movement. On the way to Lore Lindu National Park one was calling just a few metres away from us, but only Rob got to see it, and that was as it was flying away from us. A pair of birds was observed briefly on our second walk on the Anaso track and finally, we all enjoyed wonderful scope views of a bird, in Lore Lindu National Park.

Little Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus* Seen well in farmland on two separate occasions; firstly, in farmland close to Kotamobagu, and secondly, in farmland close to Palu.

Black-billed Koel *Eudynamys melanorhyncha* We saw this species very well, on a couple of occasions in the Bogani Nani Wartabone National Park. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Yellow-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus calyrorhynchus* This very handsome species was seen well on many occasions, during our time in Sulawesi. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Bay Coucal *Centropus celebensis* This is a rather shy species and consequently it is often difficult to see well. Therefore, we were very fortunate to watch a pair of birds for a considerable length of time on one occasion, in farmland close to Kotamobagu, on Sulawesi. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Goliath Coucal *Centropus goliath* We saw this large and impressive species very well on a few occasions, during our time in Halmahera. This species is endemic to the North Moluccas.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis* A bird of extensive grasslands, which we observed well on many occasions, in both Sulawesi and Halmahera.

TYTONIDAE

Sulawesi Masked-Owl *Tyto rosenbergii* Seen brilliantly in the spotlight in an orchard in Kotamobagu, and this was followed by a second, excellent daytime sighting, of a pair of birds roosting in a cave on a sea cliff, while on our boat trip to the Sanpiran River, near Tangkoko National Park. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

STRIGIDAE

Moluccan Scops-Owl *Otus magicus* One of these responded very well to tape playback in a coconut plantation close to Lake Paca, near Katana. We saw it very well indeed.

Sulawesi Scops-Owl *Otus manadensis* We also tracked one of these delightful birds down, in the same orchard in Kotamobagu, where we saw our first Sulawesi Masked-Owl. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Ochre-bellied Boobook *Ninox ochracea* We were lucky enough to be shown a few daytime roosting birds, by our local guides in Tangkoko National Park. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Cinnabar Boobook *Ninox ios* A bird was seen in flight, responding to tape playback in Lore Lindu National Park. This species was only described as recently as 1999 and is classified

as vulnerable, in 'Threatened Birds of the World'. The main threat to this species is deforestation, which is a major problem throughout Sulawesi and many other parts of Indonesia. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Speckled Boobook *Ninox punctulata* This very smart looking species of owl, is an uncommon species and fortunately for us, our local guides knew where to find a pair roosting at their daytime roost, in a coconut plantation, close to Lore Lindu National Park. The birds were rather nervous and flushed rather readily, but in the end, we all enjoyed good scope views of them. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

CAPRIMULGIDAE

Great Eared-Nightjar *Eurostopodus macrotis* A good number of this species put on a spectacular display for us prior to dawn, one morning in Bogani Nani Wartabone National Park. They were swooping over our heads catching insects, while giving their long, plaintive call as they did so. This was the beginning of a very good day for us, where we saw lots of endemic birds, including the 'Bird of the trip' the spectacular Maleo.

Diabolical Nightjar *Eurostopodus diabolicus* Undoubtedly, one of the great highlights of the tour. The Diabolical Nightjar was first collected in 1931 and was not seen again until 1993, an absence of 62 years. Little wonder then, that it was one of the main target birds of the tour, along with Maleo and Wallaces' Standardwing. We were very fortunate that Nurlin was able to find a bird at its daytime roost on the ground, in a clearing in the montane forest of Lore Lindu National Park. We observed this bird on two separate days; the bird was very tame and approachable, enabling us to get good photographs of it, like the one below, taken by Ted. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region and is listed as vulnerable, in 'Threatened Birds of the World'. The main threat to this poorly-known species is the continual deforestation and consequent fragmentation of its rainforest habitat.



Diabolical Nightjar, from a photograph by Ted Brown

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus* Commonly encountered at dusk on the rainforest trails close to Sidangoli, on Halmahera.

Sulawesi Nightjar *Caprimulgus celebensis* A rare and localised species; we were very fortunate that a bird responded well to tape playback one evening, in Tangkoko National Park. This species is endemic to Sulawesi and the Sula Islands.

Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis* We saw many birds at their daytime roost in farmland, close to Palu, and that evening, we heard them calling as we were having dinner in our restaurant in Palu.

APODIDAE

Glossy Swiftlet *Aerodramus esculenta* By far the commonest swiftlet throughout the tour, seen on almost a daily basis in both Sulawesi and Halmahera. This species is smaller and flies closer to the ground than the other two species that occur in this region.

Moluccan Swiftlet *Aerodramus infuscatus* This species proved to be common throughout Sulawesi and was seen on almost a daily basis. We did not see it on Halmahera, although it does occur there, and it was very common on the island of Ternate, in the North Moluccas. This species is endemic to Sulawesi, Sula Island and the Moluccas.

Uniform Swiftlet *Aerodramus vanikorensis* Observed regularly throughout both Sulawesi and Halmahera.

House Swift *Apus nipalensis* We were fortunate to observe a few birds flying around our restaurant in Manado harbour, while having lunch one day. This species has only recently colonised Sulawesi, first appearing there in 1978.

HEMIPROCINIDAE

Grey-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocne longipennis* We enjoyed many good sightings of this attractive species, which proved to be fairly widespread, throughout Sulawesi.

ALCEDINIDAE

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* A few birds were present in the mangroves at the Santika Hotel, in Manado Harbour, and a couple of birds were also observed in rice paddies, close to Kotamobagu.

Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting* This uncommon species flew in front of one of our vehicles, while driving in Bogani Nani Wartabone National Park, in northern Sulawesi.

Azure Kingfisher *Alcedo azurea* A very uncommon resident on Halmahera; a single bird was observed for a short period of time, in rainforest close to Sidangoli.

Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx fallax* We were very fortunate to be shown this particularly uncommon species of kingfisher, by our local guides, during our time in Bogani Nani Wartabone National Park. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Lilac-cheeked Kingfisher *Cittura cyanotis* This uncommon species was shown to us on two separate occasions by our wonderful local guides, during our time in the Tangkoko National Park. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Great-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis melanorhyncha* A single bird was eventually tracked down in the mangroves along the Sanpiran River, close to Tangkoko National Park. This species is endemic to Sulawesi and the Sula islands.

Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda* Once again, this uncommon species of kingfisher, was shown to us by our local guides along the stream close to our lodgings, in the Tangkoko

National Park. This is a stunning looking bird and we saw it amazingly well.

Blue-and-white Kingfisher *Todirhamphus diops* Regularly encountered on roadside overhead wires, during our time in Halmahera. This species is endemic to the North Moluccas.

Collared Kingfisher *Todirhamphus chloris* Regularly encountered throughout Sulawesi and Halmahera.

Sombre Kingfisher *Todirhamphus funebris* This uncommon and seldom seen species, responded well to tape playback, in a coconut plantation, close to the township of Katana, on Halmahera. We were able to enjoy very good looks at this bird which is endemic to Halmahera and is classified as vulnerable, in 'Threatened Birds of the World'. The main threat to this species is the usual one; loss of habitat, due to deforestation. In the early 1990's, 90% of Halmahera remained forested; since then, the clearance to forests has accelerated dramatically and most remaining forest, is already earmarked for logging.

Beach Kingfisher *Todirhamphus saurophaga* Good looks at one at fairly close range from our boat, in the mangroves at Sidangoli, on Halmahera.

Sacred Kingfisher *Todirhamphus sanctus* A non-breeding visitor from Australia; it proved to be common on Halmahera, but much less so on Sulawesi.

Green-backed Kingfisher *Actenoides monachus* We enjoyed super looks at this very attractive species in Bogani Nani Wartabone National Park and in Tangkoko National Park. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Scaly-breasted Kingfisher *Actenoides princes* This very uncommon and seldom seen species is endemic to montane areas of Sulawesi. We were very fortunate to see a single bird at very close quarters in Gunung Ambang National Park.

MEROPIDAE

Purple-bearded Bee-eater *Meropogon forsteni* An exotic and spectacular Sulawesi endemic; that we saw very well indeed, in Gunung Ambang National Park and especially, in Lore Lindu National Park.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus* Seen very well in rice paddies, close to Palu, and again, at the Shrimp Ponds, in Palu.

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus* A non-breeding visitor from Australia; it proved to be common on Halmahera, but much less so on Sulawesi.

CORACIIDAE

Purple-winged Roller *Coracias temminckii* This attractive species was seen well in the Tangkoko National Park, and again, in the Lore Lindu National Park. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis* A non-breeding visitor from Australia; it proved to be common on Halmahera, but it rarely occurs on Sulawesi.

BUCEROTIDAE

Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbill *Penelopides exarhatus* We scoped a couple of birds very well, from the ridge at the top of Tangkoko National Park. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Knobbed Hornbill *Aceros cassidix* This is a really magnificent species and it proved to be common throughout most forested areas of Sulawesi, to which it is endemic.

Blyth's Hornbill *Aceros plicatus* Yet another very large and splendid species of hornbill. It was seen on a daily basis in the rainforests of Halmahera. Edward Blyth (1810-1873) was an

English zoologist and author. He was Curator of the museum of the Asiatic Society of Bengal from 1842-1864. He wrote *The Natural History of Cranes* in 1881.

PICIDAE

Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos temminckii* We enjoyed good looks at this diminutive species of woodpecker, during our time in Lore Lindu National Park. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Ashy Woodpecker *Mulleripicus fulvus* This very large species of woodpecker, was seen on a daily basis, but only during our time in Tangkoko National Park. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

PITTIDAE

Ivory-breasted Pitta *Pitta maxima* This very beautiful and very large species of pitta responded very well to tape playback, on our way back from the Wallace's Standardwing lek. This species is endemic to the North Moluccas.

Red-bellied Pitta *Pitta erythrogaster* This bird proved very difficult to find and although we tried very hard in Tangkoko National Park, it was only glimpsed by a couple of tour participants.

HIRUNDINIDAE

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* A migrant from the northern hemisphere; we saw good numbers perched on roadside wires in both Sulawesi and Halmahera.

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica* The common resident swallow; which we saw almost daily on both islands.

CAMPEPHAGIDAE

Pied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina bicolor* This lowland forest species was seen very well in the scope, on one occasion in Tangkoko National Park. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Cerulean Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina temminckii* This very handsome, white-eyed cuckoo-shrike, was seen very well on a couple of occasions, in upland forest in Lore Lindu National Park. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

White-rumped Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina leucopygia* We enjoyed super looks at a few of these birds on the first day of the tour, in the mangrove at the Hotel Santika. We also saw it again in Tangkoko National Park. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis* This species also occurs in Australia; we saw it well in mangroves in the harbour at Sidangoli and then again near Galela.

Halmahera Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina parvula* We saw this species well in the rainforest close to Sidangoli and in the rainforest adjoining Lake Paca. As the name would suggest, this species is endemic to Halmahera.

Pygmy Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina abbotti* During our two visits to the montane forests at Lore Lindu National Park, we saw a few pairs of this species in mixed species feeding flocks. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Common Cicadabird *Coracina tenuirostris* We were fortunate to enjoy good scope views of a pair of these uncommon birds in rainforest close to Sidangoli. This was our only sighting.

Sulawesi Cicadabird *Coracina morio* Proved to be not uncommon in the rainforest of Sulawesi, where we saw it well on a number of occasions. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi

region.

Sulawesi Triller *Lalage leucopygialis* Once again, we were fortunate to enjoy good looks in the scope at this uncommon bird, in the mangroves at the Hotel Santika, on the first day of the tour. As the name would suggest, this species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

White-shouldered Triller *Lalage sueurii* A bird of open country which we saw well on a few occasions in both northern and southern Sulawesi.

Rufous-bellied Triller *Lalage aurea* An attractive and very conspicuous bird of the rainforest throughout Halmahera, which we saw on a daily basis. This species is endemic to the North Moluccas.

PYCNONOTIDAE

Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster* Another bird of open country, which we saw on several occasions during our time in Sulawesi. This species is introduced to Sulawesi.

Northern Golden Bulbul *Alophoixus longirostris* The Golden Bulbul has very recently been split into two species; the species on Halmahera, is now known as the Northern Golden Bulbul. We saw it on a daily basis in the rainforests on Halmahera. This species is endemic to the North Moluccas and the Sula Islands.

TURDIDAE

Red-backed Thrush *Zoothera erythronota* In my opinion, this is one of the most beautiful birds in the world and it is also very uncommon. Our wonderful team of local guides shepherded this bird towards us in Tangkoko National Park, enabling us to see it very well indeed. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region and the Sula Islands.

Sulawesi Thrush *Cataponera turdoides* A rather plain looking species of thrush, which is normally very difficult to see. Fortunately, we saw it on three separate occasions, during our time in Lore Lindu National Park. As the name would imply, this species is endemic to Sulawesi.

Great Shortwing *Heinrichia calligyna* This is a very uncommon and shy species; we were very fortunate to find one in the middle of the main road through Lore Lindu National Park, at dawn one morning. This species is named after Gerd Heinrich, the German collector who worked in the Moluccas and Sulawesi between 1930 and 1932. This species is endemic to Sulawesi.

CISTICOLIDAE

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* Recorded in rank grassland, on a number of occasions during our time in Sulawesi.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis* Seen well on one occasion in farmland, in the lowlands of Gunung Ambang National Park and on a second occasion, in farmland close to our accommodation, in Lore Lindu National Park.

SYLVIIDAE

Chestnut-backed Bush-Warbler *Bradypterus castaneus* Once again, our local guides shepherded one of these shy birds, right past our group, in the lowlands of Lore Lindu National Park. This species is endemic to Sulawesi and the South Moluccas.

Mountain Tailorbird *Orthotomus cuculatus* Frequently encountered throughout all the rainforested areas we visited on Sulawesi.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* A winter visitor from the northern hemisphere; the birds wintering in Indonesia, usually breed in Russia. We saw a solitary bird in the rainforest that flanked Danau Tolire Volcanic Lake, on Ternate Island and we saw a second bird in Lore Lindu National Park, in Sulawesi.

Sulawesi Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus sarasinorum* A rather drab phylloscopus warbler, which we saw well on a few occasions, in the rainforests of Sulawesi. As the name would imply, this species is endemic to Sulawesi.

MUSCICAPIDAE

Sulawesi Flycatcher *Muscicapa* ??? This new species to science, was first observed in the year 2000 and has not yet been officially described. It is a very uncommon bird and we were fortunate to find a pair feeding fully fledged young, in the lowlands of Lore Lindu National Park. This species is endemic to Sulawesi.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra* We saw an immature bird very well in Gunung Ambang National Park and this sighting, was followed by a second sighting of a beautiful adult bird, in Lore Lindu National Park.

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni* A stunning male, in full breeding plumage was seen very well indeed, in the lowlands of Lore Lindu National Park.

Island Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias panayensis* This attractive species was observed daily, during our time in Lore Lindu National Park.

Blue-fronted Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis hoevelli* Regularly encountered in the rainforests of Lore Lindu National Park. This species is endemic to Sulawesi.

Sulawesi Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis omissus* This species has been recently split from the Mangrove Blue-Flycatcher. Not surprisingly really; as this bird is a bird of montane rainforest, hardly the place where you would expect to find mangroves! We saw it fleetingly on one occasion in Lore Lindu National Park. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Citrine Canary-Flycatcher *Culicicapa helianthea* This attractive species was often found in the mixed species feeding flocks, in rainforest, throughout Sulawesi. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region and the Sula Islands.

Pied Chat *Saxicola caprata* A bird of open country; which we saw at Makassar Airport and in farmland close to Palu, on Sulawesi.

RHIPIDURIDAE

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys* Seen daily on roadside wires, during our time in Halmahera. We saw several nests which were built on top of telephone wires, this seems like a very precarious place, on which to build a nest.

Rusty-bellied Fantail *Rhipidura teysmanni* A common bird in the rainforests of Sulawesi. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

MONARCHIDAE

Pale-blue Monarch *Hypothymis puella* This species is a recent split from the far more widespread Black-naped Monarch. We saw a couple of family parties very well, during our time in Tangkoko National Park. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Spectacled Monarch *Monarcha trivirgatus* Seen well on a couple of occasions, in rainforest close to Sidangoli, on Halmahera.

Slaty Flycatcher *Myiagra galeata* A solitary adult male, was seen well in a plantation close to Katana, on Halmahera. This species is endemic to the North Moluccas.

Shining Flycatcher *Myiagra alecto* Glimpsed on a couple of occasions and then a pair was seen well on one occasion. All sightings occurred in riverside vegetation, during our time on Halmahera.

PACHYCEPHALIDAE

Yellow-flanked Whistler *Hylocitrea bonensis* A very shy and uncommon Sulawesi endemic, that never seems to call. Therefore, we were very fortunate to enjoy good looks at four birds together, on the higher slopes of Lore Lindu National Park.

Yellow-vented Whistler *Pachycephala sulfuriventer* The common and conspicuous whistler throughout the rainforests of Sulawesi. This species is endemic to Sulawesi.

Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis* A solitary adult male was seen very well on one occasion, in rainforest close to Sidangoli, on Halmahera.

Drab Whistler *Pachycephala griseonota* As the name would imply, this rather dull species of whistler, was glimpsed by John, in roadside vegetation near Sidangoli. This species is endemic to the Moluccas and the Sula Islands.

TIMALIIDAE

Malia *Malia grata* We had a brief encounter with one in Gunung Ambang National Park and then some great encounters with these very curious birds in Lore Lindu National Park. This species is endemic to Sulawesi.

Sulawesi Babbler *Trichastoma celebense* Seen well on several occasions, in the rainforests of Sulawesi. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

ACANTHIZIDAE

Golden-bellied Gerygone *Gerygone sulphurea* Commonly encountered throughout our time on Sulawesi.

NECTARINIIDAE

Brown-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis* Frequently encountered along the roadside, during our time in Sulawesi.

Black Sunbird *Leptocoma sericea* Seen daily during our time on Halmahera and in smaller numbers, on Sulawesi.

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

Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja* A stunning, adult male was seen very well in farmland close to Kotamobagu, on Sulawesi.

DICAEIDAE

Yellow-sided Flowerpecker *Dicaeum aureolimbatum* Regularly encountered throughout our time on Sulawesi. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker *Dicaeum nehrkorni* A male was seen very well by some members of the group, in the lowlands of Lore Lindu National Park. This species is endemic to Sulawesi.

Flame-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum erythrothorax* A male was observed well on one occasion, in rainforest close to Sidangoli, on Halmahera. This species is endemic to the

Moluccas.

Grey-sided Flowerpecker *Dicaeum celebicum* Seen regularly on Sulawesi, in most areas we visited. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

ZOSTEROPIDAE

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

Lemon-bellied White-eye *Zosterops chloris* Regularly encountered around Palu and in the lowlands of Lore Lindu National Park.

Cream-throated White-eye *Zosterops atriceps* Observed very well close to Katana, and then again, at Lake Paca. This species is endemic to the North Moluccas.

Black-fronted White-eye *Zosterops minor* Commonly encountered throughout a variety of habitats, during our time in Sulawesi.

Streak-headed Dark-eye *Lophozosterops squamiceps* This species was seen well on one occasion in the upland forests of Lore Lindu National Park. This species is endemic to Sulawesi.

MELIPHAGIDAE

Sulawesi Honeyeater *Myzomela chloroptera* A recent split from the Scarlet Honeyeater, of Australia. It was seen on two separate occasions, in Lore Lindu National Park. This species is endemic to Sulawesi.

Dusky Friarbird *Philemon fuscicapillus* This species is endemic to the islands of Morotai, Bacan and Halmahera. However, the only recent sightings are from Halmahera, where it is an inconspicuous and infrequently seen species. Therefore, we were very fortunate to observe this species on one occasion in rainforest close to Sidangoli and in rainforest close to Katana. This species is classified as vulnerable, in 'Threatened Birds of the World'. The main threat to this species is habitat loss. In the 1990's, 90% of Halmahera was still forested, since then forest clearance has accelerated greatly.

Lesser Sulawesi Honeyeater *Myza celebensis* Observed well on one occasion in the lowland forests of Lore Lindu national Park. This species is endemic to Sulawesi.

Greater Sulawesi Honeyeater *Myza sarasinorum* Observed well on two occasions, in the forests of Lore Lindu National Park. This species is endemic to Sulawesi.

ORIOOLIDAE

Dusky-brown Oriole *Oriolus phaeochromus* Seen very well on one occasion, in rainforest close to Sidangoli, on Halmahera. This species is endemic to Halmahera.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis* This stunningly attractive species was seen well on a few occasions, during our time in Sulawesi.

DICRURIDAE

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus* The distinctive white-eyed form that occurs on Sulawesi, is of the race *leucops*, and it proved to be common throughout all forested areas of Sulawesi.

Sulawesi Drongo *Dicrurus montanus* Seen well on three separate occasions in Lore Lindu National Park. This species is endemic to Sulawesi.

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus* Recorded daily, during our time on Halmahera.

ARTAMIDAE

Ivory-backed Woodswallow *Artamus monachus* This very attractive species was seen twice during our time in Lore Lindu National Park. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus* Frequently encountered on both islands and at a range of altitudes.

PARADISAEIDAE

Paradise Crow *Lycorax pyrrhopterus* We enjoyed very good sightings of this species of bird-of-paradise on a number of occasions, in the rainforests, on Halmahera. Although the bird has lots of character, it is rather demure for a bird-of-paradise. This species is endemic to the North Moluccas.

Wallace's Standardwing *Semioptera wallacii* A spectacular species of bird-of-paradise. On our second attempt, we managed to be in position on the hill overlooking the lek, a little before dawn and we had the added bonus of being able to enjoy the call of the Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar, overlapping with the dawn chorus of the day shift. As the light slowly improved the males repeatedly jumped in the air and repeatedly returned to their display perches, calling loudly as they did so, in a flurry of pennants and metallic green breast shields. There were up to six males present and one very lucky female! The lek was active for a full hour after daylight and this was without doubt, one of the great highlights of the tour. This species is endemic to the North Moluccas. Alfred Russell Wallace (1823-1913) was an English naturalist, evolutionary scientist, geographer and anthropologist. He went to Brazil in 1848 on a self-sustaining natural history collecting expedition. During this expedition he not only collected specimens but he also made maps of the area. His return to England was a near disaster; his ship caught fire and sank with all his specimens, and he was lucky to be rescued by a passing vessel. He also spent 8 years in the East Indies, during which he undertook about 70 different expeditions. He visited every important island in the archipelago at least once, and collected a remarkable 125,660 specimens, including more than 1,000 new species. It was during this time that he developed his theory on natural selection and later collaborated with Charles Darwin on the theory of evolution. Wallace's Line separates the Oriental and Australasian faunal regions.

CORVIDAE

Slender-billed Crow *Corvus enca* Observed daily during our time in northern Sulawesi.

Piping Crow *Corvus typicus* We saw this very handsome species on a few occasions, in Lore Lindu National Park. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Long-billed Crow *Corvus validus* This splendid species of crow, with its open bill and pale eyes, has a very exotic look about it. We saw it on a daily basis during our time in Halmahera. This species is endemic to the North Moluccas.

Torresian Crow *Corvus orru* We all heard, and Rob saw Torresian Crows in the rainforest that flanked Danau Tolire Volcanic Lake, on Ternate Island.

STURNIDAE

Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica* We saw large flocks of this species, on a daily basis, during

our time on Halmahera. Their piercing red eyes made it possible to identify them from the Moluccan Starling.

Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis* A small flock was observed on one occasion, in the mangroves along the edge of the Sanpiran River, close to Tangkoko National Park.

Moluccan Starling *Aplonis mysolensis* We also saw many small flocks of this species, during our time on Halmahera.

Short-tailed Starling *Aplonis minor* Our local guides took us to a roost site for this species, late one afternoon, on the edge of Lore Lindu National Park.

Sulawesi Crested Myna *Basilornis celebensis* This stunningly attractive bird, is very uncommon and difficult to see well. Fortunately, we managed to enjoy good scope views of this species, on a couple of occasions while birding in Tangkoko National Park. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

White-necked Myna *Streptocitta albigollis* Yet another very attractive species; we enjoyed good looks at this long tailed myna in Bogani Nani Wartabone and Tangkoko National Parks. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

Fiery-browed Starling *Enodes erythrophris* Another very attractive species of starling; which we saw on a regular basis during our time in Sulawesi. This species is endemic to Sulawesi.

Grosbeak Starling *Scissirostrum dubium* With its waxy red tips to the feathers of its rump and its huge orange bill, this is yet another very attractive species of starling that was common and easy to see during our time in Sulawesi. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region.

PASSERIDAE

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* The common sparrow of Asia; it was present in all the open areas and in all the towns and villages. We saw it on almost a daily basis.

ESTRILDIDAE

Black-faced Munia *Lonchura molucca* We found this attractive species in rice paddies, in both Sulawesi and Halmahera.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata* Small numbers of this species were located on a few occasions in farmland, while we were birding in Sulawesi.

Chestnut Munia *Lonchura atricapilla* Seen on a daily basis, during our time in Sulawesi.

Pale-headed Munia *Lonchura pallida* Not as commonly encountered as the other species of munias; even so, we did enjoy good looks at birds in rice paddies at Makassar Airport and in the Palu Valley. This species is endemic to the Sulawesi region and the Lesser Sundas.

Java Sparrow *Padda oryzivora* We were very fortunate to find a flock of these birds in rice paddies, just outside the town of Kotamobagu, in northern Sulawesi. They were quite tame and allowed us to have a good look at them. This very attractive species is unfortunately now almost extinct on the three islands to which it is endemic, Java, Bali and Madura. Fortunately, feral populations have now been established in many parts of the world. The popularity of this finch as a cage bird has resulted in a rapid decline in its population. This species is classified as vulnerable in 'Threatened Birds of the World' and unless stringent measures are taken to reduce trapping, this species faces a very uncertain future.

MAMMALS

Small Sulawesi Cuscus *Strigocuscus celebensis* There was nothing small about this species of cuscus, it was a very large lump of a mammal, with a very long tail. We were fortunate that our local guides in Tangkoko National Park, pointed it out to us on a couple of occasions, which allowed us to enjoy good scope views of it. This species is endemic to Sulawesi, the Sangihe Islands and Taliabu Island, in the Sula Islands group.

Whitish Dwarf Squirrel *Prosciurillus leucomus* This small species of squirrel was seen well on a few occasions during our time in Tangkoko National Park. This was the squirrel with the whitish mark on the nape. This species is endemic to Sulawesi and Buton.

Sulawesi Dwarf Squirrel *Prosciurillus murinus* This was the common small squirrel that we saw in Bogani Nani Wartabone, Gunung Ambang, Tangkoko and Lore Lindu National Parks. It was smaller than the Whitish Dwarf Squirrel and lacked the whitish mark on the nape. This species is endemic to Central and Northeastern Sulawesi.

Squirrel with no common name *Prosciurillus topapuensis* Recent research undertaken on squirrels in Lore Lindu National Park, by the American Museum of Natural History, has raised this species to full species status. This was the common squirrel in Lore Lindu National Park. This species is endemic to Sulawesi.

Sulawesi Giant Squirrel *Rubrisciurus rubriventer* We saw a couple of these very large, very dark squirrels, during our time in Lore Lindu National Park. This species is endemic to Sulawesi.

Eastern House Mouse *Mus musculus* I had one of these in my room at Tobelo, he was quite friendly and he did not eat very much!

Spectral Tarsier *Tarsius spectrum* What a wonderful animal; this the world's smallest species of primate, was shown to us by our local guides, as it was getting dark one evening, in Tangkoko National Park. This species was the inspiration of Steven Spielberg's 'ET'. This species is endemic to Sulawesi and the Togian Islands.

Sulawesi Crested Macaque *Macaca nigra* We enjoyed a particularly fine looking troop of these endangered and very impressive beasts, during our time in Tangkoko National Park. This species is endemic to Northeastern Sulawesi.

Tonkean Macaque *Macaca tonkeana* A splendid adult male, showed well for a very short period of time, on one occasion, in Lore Lindu National Park. This species is endemic to Central Sulawesi and the Togian Islands.