



Cerulean Flycatcher has a global population of fewer than 50 individuals (Simon Mitchell).

SULAWESI WITH A DIFFERENCE

MAIN TOUR: 6 OCTOBER – 31 OCTOBER 2022
WAKATOBI EXTENSION: 1 – 3 NOVEMBER 2022

LEADER: SIMON MITCHELL

The Indonesian archipelago includes an dazzling array of islands, many with their own endemic bird species. The most complex amongst all these are Sulawesi and its accompanying satellite islands. Sulawesi itself is comprised of a South-western peninsular of Sundaic geological origin and the Northern and Eastern arms which were originally Australo-Papuan islands but which gradually moved westward to collide, producing an avifauna that includes both worlds the South-eastern most outpost for two Woodpecker species and the North-western most location for Myzomelas and Racquet-tails. Sulawesi's satellite islands host even more endemic species, many of them little-known and with tiny global ranges. Each island seemed in profound contrast to the previous one. Our tour took us from tall primary forest on the islands of Peleng, to the heavily degraded remnant patches on Taliabu. We birded coral-reef islands rising from famously placid seas around the Togian Islands and watched rolling waves from tropical storm Nalgae crash into the coasts of Talaud. On the fertile island of Sangihe we scrambled up steep volcanic slopes whilst in Gorontalo and North Sulawesi we found muddy riparian forests along flat river plains.

The 2022 Birdquest 'Sulawesi With a Difference' was the first opportunity to join this logistically challenging itinerary since 2011. We repeated or even exceeded the success of our previous trip, finding an excellent selection of some of the world's least-seen birds. Of a possible 44 satellite island endemic species on itinerary, only three were unrecorded. Amongst the long list of highlights from each island group included some very challenging species. On the Sula islands of Banggai and Taliabu we gained excellent views of the stunning *Geocickla* Red-and-black Thrush. On Togian the croaking Boobooks performed spectacularly well. We enjoyed unexpected and prolonged views of the ultra-difficult *Gynocrex* Talaud Rail on our visit there. On Sangihe our uphill scramble was rewarded with fantastic views of the Cerulean Flycatcher – one of the worlds rarest birds. Across the trip, we encountered a total of 9 White-eye species (potentially more depending on future splits) and saw an impressive total of 7 different owls species. Mammals too were well represented, with two species of Tarsier seen and another heard, two species of Black Macaque, Talaud Flying Fox, Long-tailed Talaud Melomys, Sulawesi Warty Pig and best of all the impressive Sulawesi Babirusa.



The island of Taliabu is extremely remote and our visit to the highlands necessitated a night of camping (Simon Mitchell).

The tour began at 0500 on 6th October. The delay of our scheduled departure to Gorontalo from 8am to 2pm provided us with an unexpected opportunity to explore some upland forest in the Makassar area. We headed out before dawn to the Karaenta Forest. This proved very quickly to be an unexpected bonus, when some sharp-eyed scanning from the vehicle on the way up produced a pair of White-necked Myna as virtually the first bird of the trip. Soon after, we were able to track down a quietly singing Black-headed Kingfisher not far from the roadside giving incredibly close views. Nearby we located a very co-operative pair of Black-ringed White-eyes as well as our first Sulawesi Babbler and Yellow-billed Malkohas.



Black-headed Kingfisher was an unexpected bonus around Makassar (Simon Mitchell)

Next morning, we headed out into the Nantu reserve of Bogani-nani National Park. The area is perhaps most famous as being the best site to see Sulawesi's enigmatic Babirusa and Annoa (though the latter being seen only once every few days). Viewing from the tiny screen we soon gained excellent views of two Babirusa. These remarkable prehistoric-looking pigs constitute their own subfamily. The male's distinctive recurved 'horns' are actually upward pointing canine tusks which pierce the flesh of their own snout's. Adding to the prehistoric feel a number of Sulawesi Warty Pigs also showed well. This species is depicted in the worlds oldest known cave painting in Leang Tedongnge; which is estimated to be over 45,500 years old!



Sulawesi Babirusa were seen well at the clay wallow at Nantu (Simon Mitchell)

The Nantu area also proved productive for birds and we picked out Sulawesi Hawk-eagle as well as our first White-eyed Spangled Drongo, Pale Blue Monarch, Bay Coucal and White-rumped Cuckooshrikes. The wallow used by the Babirusa also attracted an excellent selection of pigeons, including White-faced Cuckoo-dove, Black-naped Fruit Dove, Stephen's Emerald Dove and Oberholser's (Maroon-chinned) Fruit-dove. Before heading back to the village for lunch we were treated to a fantastic close encounter with a group of miniature Sulawesi Hornbills which fluttered around the trees above our heads uttering their nasal yelps to one another. Along the riverside forest edge we found a number of mobile canopy species on the move. A pair of Ornate Lorikeets zipped past whilst a group of Grosbeak Starlings were obliging enough to perch out for scope views, as were a number of Pied Imperial Pigeons.

After travelling back to the coast at Marisa we made an early outing to a coastal peninsular the next morning. Here we found a trio of Maleo foraging amongst the scrub-covered sand close to their nesting mounds. A careful walk through the area also produced a pair of Tabon Scrubfowl, whilst overflying Whimbrels and a single Pacific Golden Plover were also highlights. Golden-bellied Gerygones sung from the scrub and flocks of Silver-tipped and Green Imperial Pigeons made morning flights between forest patches and offshore islands.

After breakfast, we headed up into some low hill forest inland of Marisa. Here we hoped to have chance of finding the near-mythical Snoring Rail after a reliable sighting in 2015. Heading up a muddy track in a narrow valley, we criss-crossed a narrow stream several times, somehow managing to keep our hiking boots dry. A

handful of new species showed that afternoon including, however, not so much as a stiff of any rails was had. During the heat of the we called in at some nearby salt pans where a number of commoner waders showed well including Lesser and Greater Sandpipers, numerous Redshank and a few Grey-tailed Tattlers.

The next day we returned to the forest to again scoured the area legendary rails. Returning before dawn we gained excellent views of a calling Sulawesi Scops Owl. As dawn crept into the forests singing Great Eared Nightjars preceded a chorus of singing Kingfishers. We soon gained good views of both Lilac, Green-backed and Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher. With improving light, other new species for the trip were plentiful. Black-crowned White-eyes eventually showed well and an excellent supporting cast included multiple Black-naped Oriole, White-eye Spangled Drongos, Pale Blue Monarchs, Sulawesi Babbler, Asian Glossy Starling, Black-faced Muna, White-breasted Waterhen and a Sulawesi Hawk-eagle. That afternoon, we were finally being rewarded with a couple of clear gulping grunts from the Snoring Rail in response to playback. Despite continued attempts careful searching however, this was the best we could manage of this enigmatic Lewinaria rail, which appears to be difficult to gain an actual sighting of, even in comparison with the Gynocrex rails in the region! We took compensation came in the form of a much more responsive Sulawesi Pitta, which performed well for us on a ridge-top log.



Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher are often confiding (Simon Mitchell)

Our plan for the following day had been to take a speedboat the 100km to Togian Islands. However, with the horizon dark and bubbling with cumulonimbus clouds we were advised by the boatmen this was not a safe option. We instead used the cool of the day to visit some nearby mangroves. Golden-bellied Gerygones, Olive-backed Sunbirds, Zebra Doves flitted between the trees and a group of waders along the muddy shore included Redshank, Common Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper and Long-toed Stint. Best of all was group of smart Sunda Teal including a pair with ducklings. Despite the name this species is actually rather tricky to find in the Sunda region, being much more reliable in Sulawesi. After breakfast we put Plan B into operation, which involved heading first to Banggai before visiting Togian. We therefore headed towards Gorontalo, where we took the overnight ferry across to Bunta, gaining a good night's resting in our surprisingly comfortable air-conditioned cabins.

Upon arrival in Bunta the next morning, we began our transfer across to Luwuk on the South coast of Sulawesi's central arm. Not long after setting off an impromptu stop was made for a smart trio of Sulawesi Rollers perched out on roadside wires- a very welcome sighting which would prove to be the only encounter with the species during the trip. Arriving in Luwuk for a relaxed lunch we then boarded our next overnight ferry which took us to the Eastern end of Peleng island. With an afternoon departure, we were able to do a few hours seawatching from the deck. This proved rather productive, with several Bridled and occasional Sooty Terns seen closely from the boat as well as several impressive large flocks of Red-necked Phalaropes. Less expect were two Wilson's Petrels and a single Lesser Frigatebird.



Red-necked Phalaropes were numerous from many of our ferry crossings (Simon Mitchell)

From Luwuk we arrived to Salakan on the east end of Peleng. Arriving late afternoon, we headed directly to some remnant forest patches to the around Kantu where we hoped to find several key lowland endemic species. In the mosaic of gardens and coconut palm plantations and hilltop forests we found numerous Black-naped Fruit-doves as well as our first Sula Hanging-Parrots and Sula (Solinangan) Cuckoo-dove. The biggest highlight came just before dusk when a pair of Helmeted Mynas perched up close by in a dead tree. Even in the fading light the contrasting face patterns and incredible 'Mohican haircuts' of these charming birds was readily apparent. As the light faded further we heard a chorus of Peleng Tarsiers from thick undergrowth and gained excellent views of the first of many Great Eared Nighthars. We were also able to lure a Banggai Scops Owl into full view from the main road, where it performed splendidly.

The following day we focussed further efforts around Kantu. Arriving before dawn we spent most of the morning. The lowland forest fragments proved rather difficult bird. We heard Sula Pitta, Sula Scrubfowl but concerted efforts to see them we met with initial frustrations. A singing Banggai Jungle-flycatcher and pair of Ruddy Kingfisher gave brief views, but also proved tricky. The forest edges were more productive. Chinese Sparrowhawk, Barred Rail, Black-crowned White-eye (of the *subatrifrons* race- a potential future split), Sultan's (Sulawesi) Cuckoo-dove.

Switching our approach to find the Megapodes the next day, we headed to a small offshore island off the South coast of Peleng. Here, we crammed into a tiny screen before dawn. Ninety minutes stood in silence attempting to ignore the mosquitos proved very worthwhile when our first Scrubfowl crept into view. Soon, we got a fabulous performance of three or more individuals cleaning and foraging around their shared nesting mound.

Other highlights on the island included a rather elusive group of Banggai Golden Bulbuls and a couple of flyover Sula Hanging-Parrots.



Sula Scrubfowl showed amazingly from the specially constructed viewing screen on Peleng (Simon Mitchell)

That afternoon we transferred to the West end of Peleng and began our hike up into the Kolomboi highlands. Improved views of Banggai Golden Bulbuls were among the highlights, as well as large flocks of Sulawesi Raquet-tails. We overnighted at a surprisingly comfortable forest hut accommodation at 600m ready for our trek into the highlands the next morning.

To ensure success with Banggai's montane birds we began our hike before dawn further up into the Kolomboi highlands. A pair roosting Banggai Jungle Flycatchers were found in the darkness with the help of a thermal imager. As dawn broke numerous Yellow-throated Whistlers (of the Banggai sub-species *pelengensis*) began to sing. Climbing higher into some impressive montane forest we began to reach zones of more elfin trees dominated by mosses and bryophytes. Here we found the first of several groups of the wonderfully weird Banggai Crows. With their odd shrill whistles and compact short-tailed structure we these birds reminded us more of South American Fruit-crows than the other true corvids to which they are more closely related. We marvelled at this impressive example of convergent evolution leading to oddly similar traits in such unrelated species. Higher still we found worked hard for the surprisingly wary Peleng Fantail and gained good scope views of the canopy-dwelling Peleng Leaf Warbler amongst mixed flocks of Black-crowned White-eyes, Whistlers, Pale Blue Monarchs and Arctic Warblers. Slaty Cuckooshirkes also performed well, as did Banggai (Common Cicadabirds). Returning to our camp for the afternoon, we tracked down Banggai Fruit-dove

From Banggai, ferry schedules dictated our best option was to return back from Luwuk to Bunta where we stopped overnight. Early the next morning we made our speedboat crossing to the Togian Islands from the much closer Southern side. Arriving mid-morning we headed directly to a patch of forest near to our hotel. We soon encountered a pair of exquisite Togian White-eyes, which proved incredibly approachable. A Sulawesi Jungle-flycatcher of the endemic Togian *omississimus* race also showed well, singing nearby. With the heat of the day upon us, we headed back to our accommodations for lunch, with some of the group choosing to go

snorkelling on a shallow reef during the afternoon. The reefs here turned out to be even more spectacular than the birding, and we encountered over 100 species of tropical fish in just couple of hours!



Togian White-eyes were exceptionally co-operative, and we had no trouble in finding all the endemic species here (Simon Mitchell).

Returning to the forest that evening we quickly encountered a number of parrot species. A group of Ornate Lorikeets zipped by and a handful of Sulawesi Racquet-tails flew high overhead. Even better was an obliging Minahasa (Yellow-breasted) Raquet-tail and a lone Azure-rumped Parrot. As dusk fell we were serenaded by a singing Togian Golden Bulbul showing well from a treetop and were able to appreciate just how utterly unlike the birds we had heard and seen on Banggai this species is. An unexpected Sulawesi Goshawk which cruised by was an added bonus. Not long after dark we heard a distant frog-like croaked from one of the nearby forested valleys. Tracking the sound to its source we gained phenomenal views of a pair of Togian Boobooks at together on a single branch. Although the species is illustrated as being sexually mono-morphic we could clearly see the subtle plumage differences between the two individuals but were uncertain as to whether we had encountered was a rare morph or undescribed female plumage.

Having gained excellent views of all the endemics species we returned from the Togian Islands to Bunta early next morning. Repeating our overland transit to Luwuk, we this time boarded an overnight ferry headed for Bobong, on the island of Taliabu. The next morning we transferred via speedboat the Binadessa area in the North-east of the island. We were greeted at Binadessa port by a confiding duo of Grey-tailed Tattler and Terek Sandpiper. Following lunch our first foray into the lowland plantations and gardens produced good numbers of Columbids, including Silver-tipped and Green Imperial Pigeon as well as several Sula Hanging Parrots and our first Sula Lorikeets and Sula Golden Bulbuls. Several Metallic Startlings also showed well, but we temporarily failed to track down our primary target in the form of Bare-eye Myna.

We repeated our vigil for Mynas from early the next morning, eating our packed breakfast on an excellent vantage point over the lowland forest remnants, but to no avail. Entering a nearby forest patch proved more fruitful, with a showy Sula Fruit-dove and Taliabu Jungle Flycatcher seen well. From 0830 we began our main task for the day – the long and arduous slog up a rather overgrown logging track into the Taliabu highlands. As we gradually reached higher elevations in the afternoon we encountered our first Taliabu Myzomelas, followed by a handful of the Taliabu form of Yellow-throated Whistler and finally Taliabu Leaf Warblers. After over 8km of deep mud and overgrown trails, we reached our camp at 850m just before nightfall in varying states of exhaustion, noting an Oriental Hobby had chosen to roost in the dead tree just opposite.

The following morning we pushed higher into the mountains. A quartet of Helmeted Mynas flitted through the dead trees and much improved views of Taliabu Leaf Warblers and Myzomelas were had. As we gained altitude we found Mountain White-eyes and heard our first Taliabu Fantail. At around 1300m we caught a few snatches of song from a nearby Taliabu Grasshopper Warbler, but despite considerable effort could not attract the bird from the depths of the elfin forest. The local races Snowy-browed Flycatcher, Mountain Leaf-toiler (Tailorbird) and Yellow-vented Whistler all showed well and likely included a few future 'armchair' ticks. A Taliabu Fantail showed closely but was typically skittish.

Returning to camp for breakfast we began our return hike down the to the coast. Mercifully, low cloud kept the temperatures lower than during the previous day's trek and also helped to keep levels of bird activity relatively high. Local guide Alfian was the hero of the morning when he speculatively played the song for Red-and-black Thrush and immediately gained a reply. Before the group could fully appreciate what was going on a stunning male zoomed out of the dark forest and landed almost within touching distance before immediately turning tail. Fantastic stuff! A couple more attempts allowed us all gain good, perched views, although the bird was just fractionally too quick for camera lenses.

Passing back into the cultivated lower slopes we heard the bell-like sounds of calling Mynas but were somewhat disappointed to find this emanating from a pair of Helmeted Mynas rather than our remaining target of Bare-eyed. Having venture closer for photos, Simon suddenly picked up two Bare-eyed Mynas had joined the pair of Helmeted. In fear that shouting might flush the birds, he could only gesticulate wildly to the rest of the group who had returned to rest on shaded log. Fortunately, Alfian took the que and we were all able to enjoy excellent views of both species side-by-side! Avoiding heavy rains, we arrived back to the coastal plains in the late afternoon. Here locals provided with a much-appreciated evening meal which saves us having to return all the way back to our accommodation. We used the opportunity to search for Sula Scops Owl shortly after dinner – which almost immediately flapped directly into view at the side of the track!



Bare-eyed Mynas were the main prize in lowland Taliabu, but we also got good looks at Sula Golden Bulbul. (Simon Mitchell)



Sula Pitta show pale iris, brown crown and black breast band – in total contrast to other Red-bellied Pitta species (Simon Mitchell)

A final morning visit to the lowlands of Taliabu provided us with our remaining targets. Excellent views of Sula Pitta and Sula Dwarf Kingfisher meant we headed back to Bobong with a clean-sweep of almost all the endemic species. We filled the next day with some more relaxed lowland and wetland birding around Bobong, finding Ruddy and Great-billed Kingfishers as well as plenty of Sula Cicadabirds before heading back to Luwuk on the overnight ferry. As we arrived into Luwuk the next morning good numbers of seabirds were noted. These included several Streaked Shearwaters and a single Aleutian Tern. From Luwuk we took a morning flight to Manado and transferred to another overnight ferry to Talaud.

Upon arrival in Talaud we immediately headed for some of the best birding areas around Beo, almost immediately finding ourselves with close-up views of a Talaud Pitta. Over the next three days we focussed our effort on this part of the island, encountering a slew of new endemics birds. A squadron of Red-and-blue Lorys passed low overhead on our first full morning and we gained good enough views of Talaud Kingfisher to spot the subtle differences from Collared Kingfisher. Local forms of Black-naped Oriole, Tabon Scrubfowl and all strong contenders for potential future splits. Meanwhile we noticed the massive eye-rings on the *babelo* race of Everett's White-eye was in complete contrast to birds in the Philippines.

Our second full day was focussed more specifically on the island's two most difficult endemics – the ultra-shy Talaud Bush-hen and the near mythical Talaud Rail. The latter species has been considered very tough to connect with even since the time of its initial discovery when, following an initial chance sighting, fieldworkers were unable to relocate the bird for the following six weeks! Whilst we heard the Bush-hen several times, often very close by, we were unable to tempt any out of the vegetation. We also spent a significant amount of time an area where the rail had recently been glimpsed but were to repeat the encounter. In the late afternoon on our second day we repeated our attempt along a forested trail. As we rounded a bend a rail suddenly zipped across the path 20 meters ahead of us. We paused, dreading that this would be 'leader-only' split second

sighting. After 30 seconds or so we were amazed to see not one but two Talaud Rails nervous stroll out onto the path ahead of us. One of the pair stayed in view for over 20 seconds, allowing us great views of its structure, yellow bill and even pinkish bare skin behind the eye – an utterly amazing sighting!



Talaud Pitta is currently considered various a race of Philippine (Blue-breasted) Pitta, or a species in its own right. (Simon Mitchell).

After three nights on Talaud we flew directly to the island of Sangihe to the South. In contrast to the uplifted limestone reefs of Talaud, Sangihe constitutes a pair of steep volcanoes each over 1000m, connected by a volcanic ridge. The rich soils here have meant agriculture has expanded to all but the more remote fragments of hilltop forest. As a result many of the endemic birds have minute populations and are restricted to an area of less than 500ha.

Our first afternoon on the island we focused on a more accessible area of forest at the North end of the island. Here, we found the local form *sangirihensis* of Black-naped Oriole, gained excellent views of Elegant Imperial-pigeon, and eventually, close view of a pair of Elegant Sunbirds. Returning back along the coast to our accommodations we got wonderful views of a roosting Sangihe Tarsier and several Chinese Sparrowhawks. A heavy downpour put paid to our initial attempts to look for the Scops Owl, meaning we returned after dinner. On the second time of asking the birds performed wonderfully, giving excellent close views for the whole group.

The following morning we headed to the base of Gunung Sahendaruman. Arriving shortly after 5am we began our hike up the mountain just after first light. After gaining a few hundred meters in elevation we began to see numerous Elegant Sunbirds, as well as Grey-sided Flowerpeckers. After considerable effort over some tricky terrain, we reach the 'garden house' area around 8am. As we recuperated from our climb, we gained good views of a pair of Sangihe Hanging Parrots. From here we began a careful descent into one of the steep primary forest valley into the territory of a pair of Cerulean Flycatchers. Stopping for looks at Sangihe Gliding Lizard, Elegant Imperial Pigeon and best of all a smart Sangihe Lilac Kingfisher. Whilst watching the kingfisher we soon noticed birds sallying for insects in the sub-canopy – a trio of Cerulean Flycatchers! The group showed brilliantly and with some rather athletic slope scrambling we were even able to get some good images of this

ultra-rare species. With a global population of less than 50 and now known to be most closely related to Fijian silktails, we felt a true sense of privilege at being able to see such a restricted and unique species at such incredibly close quarters.



Elegant Sunbird proved relatively common once we reached the right habitat on Sangihe (Simon Mitchell)

Given the slippery and difficult climb we had undertaken, no tour participants opted not to make a repeat attempt to reach the even higher ridges the following day – where chance of Sangihe Whistler and Sangihe Golden Bulbul would have been possible. Instead, we headed directly for an overnight return to Manado that night, giving us the opportunity to explore the forest of the Tangkoko Reserve the following morning.

Arriving shortly after dawn at Tangkoko the next day, we had an exceptional run of luck. We soon gained excellent views of Sulawesi Lilac Kingfisher and Green-backed Kingfisher. This was followed by a pair of Red-back Thrushes which fed nearby. As the morning continued, we connected with almost all the species which could be hoped for from the area. A roosting Orche-bellied Boobook performed brilliantly, whilst confiding Knobbed Hornbill, Bay Coucal and Yellow-billed Malkoha fed close to forest tracks. Black-crowned White-eye, both Flowerpeckers, Azure-rumped Parrot and Pygmy Hanging Parrot were also seen. Mammals included a superb Gurksy's Spectral Tarsier and several obliging groups of Crested Black Macques.

In the late afternoon we visited an excellent viewpoint above the reserve. Here, as well as tens of Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeons, we picked up several Green Imperial Pigeons and gained scope views of both White-bellied and Grey-headed Imperial Pigeons. After dark we put in considerable effort searching for night birds and were rewarded by good views of several Sulawesi Nightjars and a screeching overhead flight from a Minahasa Masked Owl! A sensational way to round off the main tour!



Sulawesi Nightjar is typical a difficult bird to see well. This bird in Tangkoko proved to be an exception (Simon Mitchell).

Bidding farewell to those returning home, some of us continued on to Kendari for a short tour-extension to the Wakatobi islands. A daytime ferry crossing produced lots of Bridled and the odd Sooty Tern as well as over 70 Red-footed Boobies. Arriving at our resort accommodation after dark, we hoped we would be able to locate all the endemic birds within our relatively short window the next morning.

We needn't have worried. As dawn broke the surrounding trees were filled with the choruses of Wakatobi White-eyes and Wakatobi (Olive-backed) Sunbirds. It wasn't long before their distinctive calls got helped us locate a pair of the amazing Wangi-wangi White-eyes. This species long yellow bill really has to be seen to be believed and in life looks even more impressive than in photos and illustrations. We were left thinking how the species almost hinted at what the early stages of some of the more impressive Hawaiian honeycreepers may have come about. With genetic work ongoing on the island's bird community we also made a deliberate effort to gain good views of the local Grey-sided (Wakatobi) Flowerpecker and even the somewhat divergent local form of Collared Kingfisher.

After returning on another daytime crossing we had just time the following morning for two more white-eye species in a few forest patches near Kendari airport. Lemon-bellied White-eyes were similar in many ways to the small Wakatobi White-eyes which had showed so well the previous day, whilst we eventually gained good views of a pair of the more restricted Pale-bellied (Kendari) White-eye as our final new bird of the extension.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

The most up to date referenced taxonomic list referred to in the Tour Report is that of the IOC World Bird Names. Gill, F and Donsker, D (Eds). 2012. IOC World Bird Names (v12.1). Available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>

Spotted Whistling Duck** ◊ *Dendrocygna guttata* A few showed well around on Lagoons at Bobong, Taliabu.

Sunda Teal ◊ *Anas gibberifrons* Several were at the mangroves near Marissa, Gorontalo.

Maleo* ◊ *Macrocephalon maleo* A trio seen at a nesting beach near Marissa, Gorontalo.

Philippine Megapode ◊ (Tabon S) *Megapodius cumingii* Two seen briefly near Marissa, Gorontalo.

Philippine [Talaud] Megapode ◊ (Tabon S) *Megapodius [cumingii] talautensis* One showed well perched in a tree on East of Bengel, Talaud. This subspecies is considered a potentially split by Eaton et al., (2021), based on distinct vocalisations and morphology.

Sula Megapode* ◊ *Megapodius bernsteinii* Heard around Kantu, Peleng and 3+ seen well on Pulau Selang.

Red Junglefowl (introduced)** *Gallus gallus*

Great Eared Nightjar *Lyncornis macrotis* Heard in Gorontalo and up to 9 seen around Kantu, Peleng.

Sulawesi Nightjar** ◊ *Caprimulgus celebensis* One seen and several heard in Tangkoko.

Grey-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocne longipennis*

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*

Uniform Swiftlet

Sulawesi Swiftlet ◊ *Aerodramus sororum*

Asian Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus balasensis*

Pacific Swift** *Apus pacificus* Over 70 passed through Wangi-wangi on 2nd November.

House Swift *Apus nipalensis*

Bay Coucal* ◊ (G) *Centropus celebensis* Showed well in both Nantu, Gorontalo and Tangkoko, N. Sul.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*

Yellow-billed Malkoha* ◊ (Fiery-b M) *Rhamphococcyx calyorhynchus* Good views at Karaenta Forest and Tangkoko.



Yellow-billed Malkoha is endemic to Sulawesi and must surely rank as one of the most attract of the family (Simon Mitchell).

Asian Koel** *Eudynamys scolopaceus* Heard several times and brief views on Talaud.

Black-billed Koel ◇ *Eudynamys melanorhynchus* Heard in numerous locations, though difficult to see. Brief views at at Dengilo, Gorontalo.

Moluccan Drongo-Cuckoo** ◇ *Surniculus musschenbroeki* One seen briefly at mid-elevation on Taliabu. Heard at Tangoko.

Oriental Cuckoo* *Cuculus optatus* Heard in several locations and seen moderately well on Talaud.

Rock Dove (introduced) (Feral Pigeon) *Columba [livia] domestica*

Red Collared Dove* (G) (introduced) *Streptopelia tranquebarica*

Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis*

Sultan's [Sulawesi] Cuckoo-Dove ◇ *Macropygia [doreya] albicapilla* Seen commonly throughout including endemic sub-species on Talaud and Sangihe. Eaton et al., (2021) split this species, with the common name Sultan's Cuckoo-dove being ascribed to the nominate sub-species of Halmahera and New Guinea and Sulawesi Cuckoo-Dove used for *Macropygia albicapilla*.

White-faced Cuckoo-Dove* ◇ (G) *Turacoena manadensis* A couple showed well in the Nantu Reserve, Gorontalo.

Sula Cuckoo-Dove* ◇ (Solilongan C D) *Turacoena sulaensis* One briefly on Kantu, Peleng and several seen well in the Kolomboi Highlands, Peleng.

Common Emerald Dove (Asian E D) *Chalcophaps indica*

Stephan's Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps stephani* Seen well at the clay lick in Nantu Reserve, Gorontalo and briefly on Taliabu.

Zebra Dove (Zebra Dove)** *Geopelia striata*

Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon ◇ *Treron griseicauda*

Banggai Fruit Dove ◇ *Ptilinopus subgularis* Eventually showed well in fruiting trees in the Kolomboi highlands,

Peleng.

Oberholser's Fruit Dove* ◇ (G) *Ptilinopus gularis* Seen best at the clay lick in Nantu Reserve, Gorontalo

Sula Fruit Dove ◇ *Ptilinopus mangoliensis* One seen closely around Binadessa, Taliabu and multiple others heard.

Black-naped Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus melanospilus*

White-bellied Imperial Pigeon ◇ *Ducula forsteni* Good scope views of a couple of individuals from the viewpoint at Tangkoko.

Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea*

Elegant Imperial Pigeon* (Yellow-eyed I P, Blue-tailed I P) *Ducula concinna* At least four birds seen well in the highlands of Sangihe.

Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor* Numerous around Nantu, Gorontalo.

Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon ◇ (White I P) *Ducula luctuosa* Recorded around Marissa, Gorontalo and large numbers from the viewpoint in Tangkoko.

Snoring Rail** ◇ *Aramidopsis plateni* Heard briefly around Denggilo, Gorontalo. No further sign despite much searching.

Barred Rail* *Hypotaenidia torquata*

Buff-banded Rail* *Hypotaenidia philippensis*

Black-backed Swampphen** *Porphyrio indicus*

Talaud Rail*** ◇ *Gymnocrex talaudensis* A pair gave good views for over 20 seconds along a forested trail on Talaud. One of the highlights of the tour.

White-browed Crane* *Poliolimnas cinereus*

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

Talaud Bush-hen* ◇ *Amaurornis magnirostris* Heard in at least three locations on Talaud, sometimes in close proximity, but refused to show despite our best efforts.

Isabelline Bush-hen** ◇ (G) *Amaurornis isabelline* One flew across the road and almost collided with the car as we left Tangkoko!

Barred Buttonquail* *Turnix suscitator*

Pied Stilt** *Himantopus leucocephalus*

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

Lesser Sand Plover** (Mongolian P) *Charadrius [mongolus] mongolus*

Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii*

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Far Eastern Curlew** *Numenius madagascariensis*

Long-toed Stint* *Calidris subminuta*

Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*

Red-necked Phalarope* *Phalaropus lobatus*

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Grey-tailed Tattler* *Tringa brevipes*

Common Redshank* *Tringa totanus*

Wood Sandpiper* *Tringa glareola*



Whiskered Terns were a common feature over local rice paddies and lagoons (Simon Mitchell).

Greater Crested Tern* *Thalasseus bergii*

Aleutian Tern** \diamond *Onychoprion aleuticus* One showed well, perched on flotsam with Bridled Terns, from the ferry between

Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus*

Sooty Tern*** *Onychoprion fuscatus*

Black-naped Tern* *Sterna sumatrana*

Whiskered Tern* *Chlidonias hybrida*

White-winged Tern (W-w Black T) *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Pomarine Jaeger* (P Skua)** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudatus*

Wilson's Storm-petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

Streaked Shearwater*** *Calonectris leucomelas*

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*

Red-footed Booby*** *Sula sula* Seventy or more from the ferry from Kendari to Wangi-wangi.

Woolly-necked Stork* *Ciconia episcopus* Two feeding out on the reefs near Ereke, Buton

Black-crowned Night-heron *Nigracorax nigracorax*

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

Javan Pond Heron* *Ardeola speciosa*

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

Purple Heron* *Ardea purpurea*

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Intermediate Egret* *Ardea intermedia*

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Pacific Reef Heron *Egretta sacra*

Osprey (Eastern O) *Pandion [haliaetus] cristatus*

Barred Honey Buzzard* ◇ (Sulawesi H B) *Pernis celebensis* Recorded over Batimuring Reserve, Makassar and Nantu Reserve, Gorontalo.

Sulawesi Serpent Eagle ◇ *Spilornis rufipectus* One over Tangkoko showed well but briefly.

Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle* ◇ *Nisaetus lanceolatus* Singles over Dengillo and Nantu Reserve, Gorontalo.

Rufous-bellied Eagle** *Lophotriorchis kienerii* Four or more sightings on Taliabu.

Sulawesi Goshawk*** ◇ (G) *Accipiter griseiceps* A single flew past at dusk in forest on the edge of Lembanya, Togian.

Chinese Sparrowhawk* *Accipiter soloensis* One seen well near Kantu, Peleng and at least two others on Sangihe.

Spot-tailed Sparrowhawk* ◇ (G) *Accipiter trinotatus* One seen well in Tangkoko.

Japanese Sparrowhawk*** *Accipiter gularis* A bird perched out briefly during our return hike from Gunung Sahendaruman.

Vinous-breasted Sparrowhawk** ◇ *Accipiter rhodogaster* Heard-only. Heard in the Kolomboi highlands, Peleng.

Meyer's Goshawk** ◇ *Accipiter meyerianus* A juvenile perched out well near Binadessa, Taliabu.

Spotted Harrier** *Circus assimilis* Several seen, mostly from the roadside around Gorontalo.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

Lesser Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus humilis*

Grey-faced Buzzard* *Butastur indicus* Migrants were numerous on Sangihe and especially Talaud, where the call was regularly heard.

Sulawesi Masked Owl* ◇ (Eastern Barn O) *Tyto [javanica] rosenbergii* Heard around the Kolomboi highlands, Peleng. Both this species and 'Taliabu Masked Owl' *Tyto [javanica] nigrobrunnea* are genetically and vocally similar to other forms of Eastern Barn Owl and are now re-lumped by Eaton et al., (2021), with other authorities likely to follow in time.

Minahasa Masked Owl*** ◇ *Tyto inexpectata* One gave good fly-over views and at second bird heard during our nocturnal efforts around Tangokoko reserve.

Togian Boobook* ◇ *Ninox burhani* We were treated to an excellent up-close croaking duet by a pair on our single evening on Togian.

Ochre-bellied Boobook** ◇ (G) *Ninox ochracea* A day-roosting bird performed wonderfully in Tangkoko

Sula Scops Owl ◇ *Otus sulaensis* Responded well on Taliabu where excellent views and multiple heard birds were tallied.

Sulawesi Scops Owl* ◇ (G) *Otus manadensis* One seen well at Dengillo, with several other heard here and at Tangoko.

Banggai Scops Owl ◇ *Otus mendeni* One seen well and several other heard during our first evening walk around Kantu, Peleng.

Sangihe Scops Owl* ◇ *Otus collari* Returning after a downpour, we gained good views of two calling birds around,

Talawid, Sangihe.



We totaled 7 different species of Owls during the tour and got good views of all island endemics. Top-left: Banggai Scops. Top-right:

Sangihe Scops. Centre: Sula Scops. Bottom-left Ochre-bellied Boobook. Bottom-right: Togian Boobook. (Simon Mitchell)

Knobbed Hornbill ◇ *Rhyticeros cassidix* Heard widely on the Sulawesi mainland and Togian islands. One seen over Batimurung Reserve and a much closer view of a female at Tangkoko.

Sulawesi Hornbill ◇ (G) (S Dwarf H) *Rhabdotorhinus exarhatus* One seen well in Nantu and others heard in Tangkoko.

Purple-winged Roller* ◇ (G) *Coracias temminckii* A trio showed well on overhead wires during a roadside stop between Bunta and Luwuk.

Green-backed Kingfisher** ◇ (G) *Actenoides monachus* Multiple confiding individuals in Tangkoko.

Black-headed Kingfisher** ◇ *Actenoides* One showed well in the Karaenta forest on our first morning of the trip.

Sulawesi Lilac Kingfisher* ◇ (G) *Cittura cyanotis* A pair showed at dawn at Dengillo, Gorontalo and a confiding individual allowed close observation in Tangkoko.

Sangihe Lilac Kingfisher ◇ *Cittura sanghirensis* One was tracked down and gave decent views on Gunung Sahendaruman, Sangihe.

Great-billed Kingfisher ◇ *Pelargopsis melanorhyncha* One glimpsed from the boat on Togian and another fly over near Bobong, Taliabu. The race on Taliabu *eutreptorhynca* forms part of a leapfrog pattern of phenotypes with populations on Banggai and Sulawesi, hinting that future taxonomic reorganisation is likely.

Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda* Resident races *pelengensis* and *sulana* seen on Peleng and Taliabu. Migrant race *minor* found roosting in a coconut plantation on Talaud.



Both Sulawesi (pictured) and Sangihe Lilac Kingfisher were fairly confiding once located (Simon Mitchell).

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris* Nominat race birds seen on islands throughout. Those on Wakatobi at least have been mooted as potentially undescribed (sub) species.

Talaud Kingfisher ◇ *Todiramphus enigma* One seen well enough on Talaud to gauge the very subtle distinctions between *enigma* and *chloris*

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus* Two seen reasonably well in the lowlands of Taliabu.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* One whist the ferry called at Ereke, Buton and another near Kendari.

Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher* (G) *Ceyx fallax* Two or three seen well in the Denggilo area.

Sula Dwarf Kingfisher** ◇ *Ceyx wallacii* Heard several times up to ~400m on Taliabu and eventually seen well near Binadessa.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater* *Merops philippinus*

Ashy Woodpecker ◇ *Mulleripicus fulvus* Heard several times in Gorantalo and Togian and finally seen well in Tangkoko.

Spotted Kestrel (Moluccan K) *Falco moluccensis*

Oriental Hobby* *Falco severus* One roosting opposite our camp site in the Taliabu highlands.

Peregrine Falcon* *Falco peregrinus*

Moluccan King Parrot** ◇ *Alisterus amboinensis* A couple gave brief views when flushed in the Taliabu highlands.

Golden-mantled Racket-tail ◇ (G-m R-t Parrot) *Prioniturus platurus* Common on Banggai, also recorded Taliabu, Togian and Tangkoko.

Yellow-breasted Racket-tail ◇ (Red-spotted R-t Parrot) *Prioniturus flavicans* One gave good views and vocalisations on Togian islands.

Great-billed Parrot ◇ *Tanygnathus megalorhynchus*

Blue-naped Parrot* ◇ *Tanygnathus lucionensis*

Azure-rumped Parrot ◇ (Blue-backed P) *Tanygnathus sumatranus*

Sula Lorikeet ◇ *Saudareos flavoviridis* Small groups were surprisingly common on Taliabu, where seen daily.

Ornate Lorikeet ◇ *Saudareos ornate* Groups in Nantu, Tangkoko and around Kendari.

Red-and-blue Lory ◇ *Eos histrio* Flyovers on Talaud included a flock of 8.

Great Hanging Parrot* ◇ (Sulawesi H-P) *Loriculus stigmatus* Relatively common in lowland forested area on the Sulawesi mainland.

Sula Hanging Parrot ◇ *Loriculus sclateri* Seen commonly in the Taliabu lowlands around Binadessa.

Sangihe Hanging Parrot* ◇ *Loriculus catamene* Two seen relatively well at the 'garden house' area at Gunung Sahendaruman, Sangihe.

Pygmy Hanging Parrot** ◇ (G) *Loriculus exilis* A trio showed fleetingly from the view point at Tangkoko.

Sulawesi Pitta ◇ *Erythropitta celebensis* Seen well at Denggilo, Gorantalo where several additional birds heard.

Talaud [Philippine] Pitta ◇ (Blue-breasted P) *Erythropitta [erythrogaster] inspeculata* This form is currently considered part of Philippine Pitta by Clements and IOC, but is split by HBW / Birdlife.

Sula Pitta ◇ *Erythropitta dohertyi* One seen well and at least four others heard around Binadessa.

Sangihe Pitta* ◇ *Erythropitta caeruleitorques* Heard briefly along the middle slopes of Gunung Sahendaruman, Sangihe.

Hooded Pitta** *Pitta [sordida] sangirhana* The subspecies *sangirhana* heard in the highlands of Sangihe. Eaton et al., (2021) retained this somewhat divergent taxa within Asian Hooded Pitta, but split the more distinct *foresteni* of Minahasa.

Taliabu Myzomela ◇ *Myzomela wahe* Fairly common in the uplands of Taliabu.

Sulawesi [Golden-bellied] Gerygone (Flyeater) *Gerygone [sulphurea] flaveola* Eaton et al., (2021) suggest the potential split of the Sulawesi subspecies from those in the Philippines and Greater Sundas

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

Ivory-backed Woodswallow ◇ *Artamus monachus* Occasional birds around Gorontalo and Tangkoko and a showy group in the highlands of Peleng.

Slaty Cuckooshrike ◇ *Coracina schistacea* A pair of rather uncooperative individuals in the Peleng highlands.

White-rumped Cuckooshrike ◇ *Coracina leucopygia* Two brief fly-overs at Nantu, Gorontalo.

Sula Cicadabird ◇ *Edolisoma sula* Recorded regularly on both Peleng and Taliabu. Common around Bobong.

White-shouldered Triller ◇ (Lesueur's T) *Lalage sueurii* A pair showed well near Bobong, Taliabu.

White-rumped Triller ◇ (Sulawesi T) *Lalage leucopygialis* A few seen well in the highlands of Peleng.

Triller sp. Lalage sp. Trillers seen and photographed on Talaud showed greyish rumps and broad white eyebrows – most closely resembling Pied Triller. Given the distinctly Philippine avifauna of the island these may represent a disjunct population or even a distinct (sub) species!

Yellow-throated Whistler (Moluccan W) ◇ *Pachycephala macrorhyncha* Both the *pelengensis* and *clio* sub-species showed well on Peleng and Taliabu respectively. A potential split in Eaton et al., (2021).

Drab Whistler* ◇ *Pachycephala griseonota* Recorded on both Peleng and Taliabu, where seen well.

Brown Shrike** *Lanius cristatus* One seen briefly on Talaud.

Sulawesi Golden [Black-naped] Oriole *Oriolus [chinensis] celebenis* Common on mainland Sulawesi. A potential split flagged by Eaton et al., (2021)

Sula Golden [Black-naped] Oriole *Oriolus [chinensis] frontalis / stresemanni* Seen regularly on Peleng and Taliabu. A potential split flagged by Eaton et al., (2021)

Celebes Sea Golden Oriole [Black-naped] Oriole *Oriolus [chinensis] melanisticus / sangirhensis / formosus* The former two forms recorded on Talaud and Sangihe. A potential split flagged by Eaton et al., (2021)

Hair-crested Drongo ◇ (White-eyed Spangled D) *Dicrurus [hottentottus] leucops* Commonly recorded in the lowlands of Gorontalo and Tangkoko. Split by Eaton et al., (2021)

Hair-crested Drongo ◇ (Sula Spangled D) *Dicrurus [hottentottus] pectoralis* Red-eyed birds seen regularly on Taliabu.

Hair-crested Drongo ◇ (Banggai Spangled D) *Dicrurus [hottentottus] banggaiensis* Red-eyed birds were seen on around Kantu, Peleng. This population may represent a hybrid swarm between *leucops* and *pectoralis*, or a novel species.

Hair-crested Drongo ◇ (Sangihe Spangled D) *Dicrurus [hottentottus] ssp. nov.* Birds on Sangihe and Siau represent an undescribed sub-species which may be vocally distinct. Red-eyed birds were seen on Sangihe.

Peleng Fantail ◇ *Rhipadura habibiei* Surprisingly shy and mobile but eventually giving good views in the highlands of Peleng.

Taliabu Fantail ◇ *Rhipadura sulaensis* A couple gave decent views in the highlands of Taliabu.

Cerulean Flycatcher* ◇ *Eutrichomyias rowleyi* An excellent trio on of the streep valleys below Gunung

Sahendaruman

Pale-blue Monarch ◇ *Hypothymis puella* Common in forested areas of the Sulawesi mainland.

Rufous Paradise Flycatcher* ◇ *Terpsiphone cinnamomea* Several close views of this dapper little Philippine flycatcher on Talaud.

Island Monarch* ◇ *Monarcha cinerascens* Relatively common on Taliabu, Togian and Talaud.

Banggai Crow ◇ *Corvus unicolor* Surprisingly common and obvious in the highlands of Peleng.

Slender-billed Crow *Corvus enca*

Togian [Northern] Golden Bulbul ◇ *Hypsipetes [longirostris] aureus* Excellent bouts of song and decent views of dusk-singing birds on Togian

Banggai [Northern] Golden Bulbul ◇ *Hypsipetes [longirostris] harterti* Good views in the lower elevations of the Kolomboi highlands, Peleng.

Sula [Northern] Golden Bulbul ◇ *Hypsipetes [longirostris] longirostris* Common around Binadessa and in the Taliabu highlands.

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Mountain Tailorbird* *Phyllergates cucullatus* Subspecies *relictus* (Peleng) and *sulanus* (Taliabu) were both seen well in the respective highlands of each island.

Arctic Warbler*** *Phylloscopus borealis*

Peleng Leaf Warbler* ◇ *Phylloscopus suamerdu* Good scope views in the treetops of the Kolomboi highlands, Peleng.

Taliabu Leaf Warbler ◇ *Phylloscopus emilsalimi* Eye-level views of a few in the Taliabu highlands.

Gray's Grasshopper Warbler ◇ *Helopsaltes fasciolatus* A few wintering birds encountered, including one seen on Peleng.

Golden-headed Cisticola (Bright-capped C)** *Cisticola exilis*

Warbling White-eye *Zosterops japonicus* A few over the 'Mountain White-eye' form *montanus* gave good views in the highlands of Taliabu.

Lemon-bellied White-eye* ◇ (Moluccan W-e) *Zosterops chloris* Several showy birds around Kendari.

Wakatobi White-eye ◇ *Zosterops flavissimus* Upwards of 20 birds recorded around our accommodation on Wangi-wangi.

Black-crowned White-eye ◇ *Zosterops atrifrons* Several groups around Dengillo, Gorontalo and a couple in Tangkoko.

Pale-bellied White-eye ◇ (Sulawesi W) *Zosterops consobrinorum* A co-operative pair eventually located near Kendari. Initially one was chased off by a Lemon-bellied White-eye, suggesting potentially competitive exclusion from more degraded areas.

Black-ringed White-eye ◇ *Zosterops anomalus* A pair showed well along forest edge near Karaenta, Makassar.

Togian White-eye ◇ *Zosterops somadikartai* A pair responded very well

Everett's White-eye* *Zosterops everetti babelo* A pair of the very distinctive *babelo* race showed extremely well just South of Beo, Talaud.

Wangi-wangi White-eye ◇ *Zosterops* At least three around our accommodation on Wangi-wangi.



A total of nine White-eye species (plus two potential splits) during the tour gave us a sense of following in the footsteps of Alfred Russell Wallace – with each new island came slightly different forms and songs. (Sub-)species on neighboring islands often resembled one another most closely. Clockwise from top-left: Black-ringed White-eye, Black-crowned White-eye, Togian White-eye, Wangi-wangi White-eye, Lemon-bellied White-eye, Pale-bellied (Kendari) White-eye, Wakatobi White-eye, Everett's White-eye (all Simon Mitchell)

Sulawesi Babbler ◇ *Pellorneum celebense* Several groups around Gorontalo and Tangkoko. The local race *finschi* seen well on Togian.

Metallic Starling* (Shining S) *Aplonis metallica* Small groups seen regularly in the Binadessa area.

Asian Glossy Starling (Philippine S) *Aplonis panayensis* Numerous, particularly around the edges of larger urban areas in the region.

Javan Myna *Acridotheres javanicus*

Helmeted Myna ◇ *Basilornis galeatus* Two around Kantu, Peleng. Heard Kolomboi highlands. Four Taliabu highlands and two South of Binadessa with Bare-eyed Mynas

White-necked Myna* ◇ (G) *Streptocitta albigollis* Two showed well at the roadside on our way up to Karaenta Forest and a couple were spotted from the viewpoint in Tangkoko.

Bare-eyed Myna ◇ *Streptocitta albertinae* Four showed very well with Helmeted Mynas as we returned to Binadessa from our hike into the highlands.

Grosbeak Starling ◇ (Finch-billed Myna) *Scissirostrum dubium* A few small flocks around Nantu and Denggilo.

Red-and-black Thrush* ◇ *Geokichla mendeni* Heard close by on Peleng but not seen until we found a more responsive individual on Taliabu.

Red-backed Thrush ◇ *Geokichla erythronota* One briefly at Karaenta Forest and two obliging birds at Tangkoko.

Grey-streaked Flycatcher* *Muscicapa griseisticta* Several seen in the highlands of Peleng and Taliabu.

Sulawesi [Togian] Blue Flycatcher ◇ *Cyornis [omissus] omississimus* One gave good views near Lembanya, Togian.

Sula [Taliabu] Jungle Flycatcher* ◇ (Henna-tailed J F) *Cyornis [colonus] colonus* A singing bird showed well near Binadessa.

Sula [Peleng] Jungle Flycatcher* ◇ (Henna-tailed J F) *Cyornis [colonus] pelingensis* A singing bird and a roosting pair seen well on Peleng.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra bentinabiru* A pair of the endemic race *bentinabiru* in the highlands of Taliabu.

Yellow-sided Flowerpecker ◇ *Dicaeum aureolimbatum* Recorded commonly throughout. The distinctive Sangihe race *laterale* has with reduced yellow on the flanks was seen well.

Grey-sided Flowerpecker ◇ *Dicaeum celebicum*

Talaud [Grey-sided] Flowerpecker ◇ *Dicaeum [celebicum] talautense* Several of this distinctive form seen on Talaud.

Wakatobi [Grey-sided] Flowerpecker ◇ *Dicaeum [celebicum] kuehini* The insular form was recorded commonly on Wakatobi. Recent genetic work suggests high levels of divergence from mainland forms.

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

Black Sunbird ◇ *Leptocoma aspasia* Common throughout. The Sulawesi races constitute a putative future split from those in New Guinea, with the potential that other insular island forms may also follow.

Olive-backed Sunbird (Yellow-bellied S) *Cinnyris jugularis*

Wakatobi [Olive-backed] Sunbird *Cinnyris [jugularis] infrenatus* Recorded commonly during our morning on Wangi-wangi.

Elegant Sunbird* ◇ *Aethopyga duyvenbodei* A pair recorded North of Talawid, Sangihe and at least 15 totaled during

out hike to Gunung Sahendaruman

Crimson Sunbird* ◊ (G) *Aethopyga siparaja* The only sightings was of a single near Kendari airport. Perhaps a sign of how heavily trapped this species is in the region.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (introduced) (Eurasian T S) *Passer montanus*

Scaly-breasted Munia* (G) *Lonchura punctulate*

Black-faced Munia ◊ (Moluccan M) *Lonchura Molucca* Small numbers recorded from grassland areas throughout.

Chestnut Munia* (G) (introduced) *Lonchura atricapilla*

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis*

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

MAMMALS

Sulawesi Babirusa* (G) *Babyrousa celebensis* Good views of a two individuals in Nantu Reserve, Gorontalo.

Sulawesi Warty Pig (G) *Sus celebensis*** A few in Nantu Reserve, including one very confiding individual.

Indo-pacific Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops aduncus* A close pod from the ferry as we departed from Peleng to Luwuk.

Bear Cuscus *Ailurops ursinus* One showed well in the Tangkoko Reserve.

Peleng Tarsier *Tarsius pelengensis*** Heard just before dusk near Kantu, Peleng.

Niemitz's tarsier *Tarsius niemitzii* Heard at dusk on Togian.

Sangihe Tarsier* *Tarsius sangirensis* Two seen briefly just before dusk at Talawid, Sangihe.

Gurskey's Spectral *Tarsius spectrumgurskyae* One showed well from its roost site in Tangkoko.

Heck's Macaque* (G) *Macaca heck* A few seen high in the canopy in Nantu Reserve, Gorontalo.

Moor macaque *Macaca maura* Good numbers along the roadside near Karaenta Forest, Makassar.

Crested Black Macaque *Macaca nigra* Two huge troops of very confiding individuals in Tangkoko NR.

Lowland Long-nosed Squirrel *Hyosciurus ileile* One seen near Dengillo.

North Sulawesi Tree Squirrel* (Sulawesi D S) *Prosciurillus murinus*

Whitish Dwarf Squirrel *Prosciurillus leucomus* Good views of whitish nape in Tangkoko

Sanghir Squirrel (Rosenberg's D S) *Prosciurillus rosenbergii* Fairly common in the upland forests of Sangihe.

Long-tailed Talaud Melomys *Melomys talaudium* At least 6 seen during nightwalks on Talaud using a thermal imager.

Seems to tolerate significant habitat degradation and occur in plantations.

Brown Rat

Black Rat (Ship R)

Talaud Flying Fox *Acerodon humilis* A handful seen around Talaud

Island Flying Fox Many flying at dusk on Wakatobi.

Grey Flying Fox *Pteropus griseus* A few around the resort on Wakatobi



Top: Crested Black Macques in Tangkoko, Centre-left: Sulawesi Warty Pig in Nantu, Centre-right: Talaud Melomys on Talaud, Bottom: Gursky's Spectral Tarsier in Tangkoko

BUTTERFLIES

Idea leuconoe Relatively common in the upland forests on Sangihe.

Idea blanchardi A few high over Karaenta Forest. Seen well around Kantu, Peleng.

Troides helena A handful at Karaenta Forest

Tagaides japedus Seen commonly in the lowlands of Peleng and Taliabu

Smooth-eyed Brownbush *Orsotriaena medus* Lowlands of Peleng

Common Cerulean *Jamides celeno* Lowlands of Peleng

Orange-tipped Pea-Blue *Everes lacturnus* Photographed on Talaud.

Grey Glassy Tiger *Ideopsis juvena* A few around Kantu, Peleng

Chocolate Argus Butterfly (Brown Pansy) *Junonia hedonia* Photographed near Kantu, Peleng

Ascalaphus Swallowtail *Papilio ascalaphus* A few in the lowlands of Peleng.

Pareronia tritaea Lowlands of Peleng.

Gandaca butyroasa Photographed near Kantu, Peleng where the population appears to have unusually broad black margins to the dorsal side of the upperwings.

Lohora haasei This Banggai-endemic species was photographed at around 500m on Peleng

Malayan Eggfly *Hypolimnas anomala* One in the highlands of Taliabu.

Westwood's King Crow *Euploea westwoodii* Seen on both Peleng and Talaud.

Leptotes plinius plutarchus Photographed at the base of the mountain on Sangihe.

Vagrant *Vagrans sinha* One on Sangihe.

REPTILES

Draco supriatnai One or two of this Togian endemic showed well in forest fragments on the island.

Draco caerulhians This Sangihe endemic was seen well in the remaining forest at around 400m

Draco spilonotus A few seen in Tangkoko.

Green Crested Lizard *Bronchocela cristatella* One in the lowlands of Taliabu.

Emerald Tree Snake *Lamprolepis smaragdina* One along the coast near Marissa, Gorantalo-

Pacific Blue-tailed Skink *Emoia ceruleocarta*

Red-tailed Swamp Skink *Emoia ruficauda*(??) Emo skinks resembling this species were seen in the uplands of Peleng. However, this species known range is limited to lowland Mindanao, so it seem likely that a novel taxa is involved.

Common Water Monitor *Varanus salvator* Two in Nantu Reserve

Celebes Black-Tailed Ratsnake *Gonyosoma janseni* Presumably this species in the highlands of Sangihe.



Top left: *Lohora haasei* – a little known Banggai endemic butterfly, Top-right: The tour group enjoys a break with our hosts on Taliabu. Centre: *Emoia* sp., perhaps *ruficauda*, Bottom-left: *Nepenthes* sp. Bottom-right Togian islands vista