



Satanic Nightjar (Dave Farrow)

BEST OF SULAWESI & HALMAHERA

25 JULY – 7 AUGUST 2022

(& LOMPOBATTANG EXTENSION 22 - 24 JULY)

LEADER: DAVE FARROW

This year's 'Best of Sulawesi and Halmahera' was the first to revisit the islands since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. We were fortunate that travel restrictions had largely been lifted in Indonesia, so our travels went mostly without a hitch. Habitat degradation continues; however, it wasn't *too* awful, and a few trails and tracks were overgrown or suffered rain damage. Indeed, the rain followed us, nevertheless we enjoyed a fine tour with many excellent birds. On Sulawesi we enjoyed the delights of montane forest birding at Lore Lindu where we saw six Satanic Nightjars, Sombre Pigeon, Cinnabar and Speckled Boobook, Sulawesi Masked Owl, Eastern Grass Owl, Sulawesi Serpent and Sulawesi Hawk Eagles, Purple-bearded Bee-eater, Sulawesi Thrush, White-eared Myza and Hylocitrea. In the north at Tangkoko we saw Great-billed, Green-backed, Sulawesi Lilac and Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfishers, Purple-winged Roller, Ornate Lorikeet, Sulawesi Pitta, Sulawesi Nightjar and Sulawesi Scops Owl. On Halmahera we found Moluccan King Parrot, Chattering Lory, Barking Owl, Sombre and Beach Kingfishers, Goliath Coucals, Ivory-breasted and North Moluccan Pitta,

Halmahera Paradise Crows, Halmahera Leaf Warbler, and watched the thrilling displays of Wallace's Standardwing.

Our tour began at Makassar airport with a short extension to Malino and the Lompobattang massif. A fairly short drive from Makassar, and we were able to start birding in some of the forest on its flanks and commence our search for the local specialities. We quickly found Black-ringed White-eye, and Lompobattang Leaf Warbler, plus Sulphur-vented Whistler, Sulawesi Cicadabird and Sulawesi Myzomelas that showed nicely. In the afternoon we were led up a different trail to a higher part of the mountain, which nearly ended badly and is best forgotten! The next morning, we tried again along the same trail as previously, and we had some success when a Lompobattang Flycatcher briefly popped into view. Other birds added were Turquoise Flycatcher, Black-faced Munia, Yellow-sided Flowerpecker, and Sulawesi (aka Rusty-bellied) Fantail. On our way back to Makassar airport we popped into the Makassar fishponds where we found some Javan Plovers, Pied Stilts, Marsh and Curlew Sandpipers, Red-necked Stint and Whiskered Terns.

Beginning the tour in earnest once all participants had come together, we started at Karaenta forest to the east of Makassar. It was weirdly quiet for the most part, but we managed to find Black-ringed White-eyes, Azure-rumped Parrot, Piping Crows and Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbills. Dropping down to the base of the hills we found Pale Blue Monarch, Yellow-sided Flowerpecker and a Sulawesi Streaked Flycatcher that kept returning with food to a hidden nest. We just had time for some Pale-headed Munia and Lemon-bellied White-eyes by the airport, then flew up to Palu. This flight is often late, but this time there was a further delay as the plane couldn't land due to strong winds and we had to circle over the bay until it was safe enough to do so! Once on the ground we drove through torrential rain in the dark, and safely reached our accommodation at Wuasa in time for some dinner.



Cerulean Cuckooshrike



Turquoise Flycatcher

The rain persisted the next day which started with a frustrating encounter with a Cinnabar Boobook, however we had a profitable morning around Lake Taming, where we found Citrine Canary Flycatcher, Blue-fronted and Turquoise Flycatcher, Yellow-cheeked Lorikeet, while bird-flocks were a mixture of Sulawesi Drongo, Cerulean and Pygmy Cuckooshrikes, and the unusual Malia that showed very well on several occasions. We had a nice view of Superb Fruit Dove and saw Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpeckers. A Sulawesi Thrush appeared and gave us a splendid view, plus we had close looks of Sulawesi Babbler, Sulphur-vented Whistler and Rusty-breasted Cuckoo. We then walked up the fabled Anaso track part-way, to get a head start on some of the birds there, however we only managed to add Red-eared Fruit Dove before retreating. In the afternoon we explored some lower areas along the Sedoa river, and found several Crimson-crowned Flowerpeckers, Sulawesi Cicadabird, Sulawesi Leaf Warbler, Black-naped Oriole, distant Knobbed Hornbills and Purple Needletails, and a fantastic perched Sulawesi Hawk Eagle. Sulawesi Swiftlets and Golden-headed Cisticola also featured, and a male Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher sang his mournful little song from a dense thicket, visible through a convenient gap in the vegetation. As dusk fell, we had close views of Great Eared Nightjars, and a fantastic look at a Sulawesi Masked Owl sat on a roadside wire. A Speckled Boobook was harder to view, only showing for a brief moment as it squeaked among the cocoa trees.

The next morning, we were more successful in finding the Cinnabar Boobook as he went to roost, just as heavy rain stopped, then after a quick al-fresco breakfast we began walking up the Anaso track, a nine-hour trek that was blessed with light showers every hour. Our companion and guide, Idris, found us our first Satanic Nightjars, and we went on to see a second and a third pair, snuggled up to their mates in discrete corners of the forest. We had a short view of Sombre Pigeon (only my second in 12 tours!) a White-eared Myza sat and showed atypically well, Golden-mantled Racket-tails flew over in small flocks, we found several Hylocitrea, Streak-headed White-eye (or Sulawesi Heleia), more Malia, and Cerulean and Pygmy Cuckooshrikes. Once we had completed our trek we headed downhill for a more leisurely session, in the paddyfields around Wuasa. We had great views of our only Sulawesi Serpent Eagle of the trip, a flock of Glossy Ibis, numerous Buff-banded Rails and Chestnut Munia, Purple and Black-crowned Night Heron, and as dusk approached, we were treated to the sight of two Eastern Grass Owls flying over the fields. Some Great Eared Nightjars came out to feed, and the Sulawesi Masked Owl was sat on the same wire on the way home.

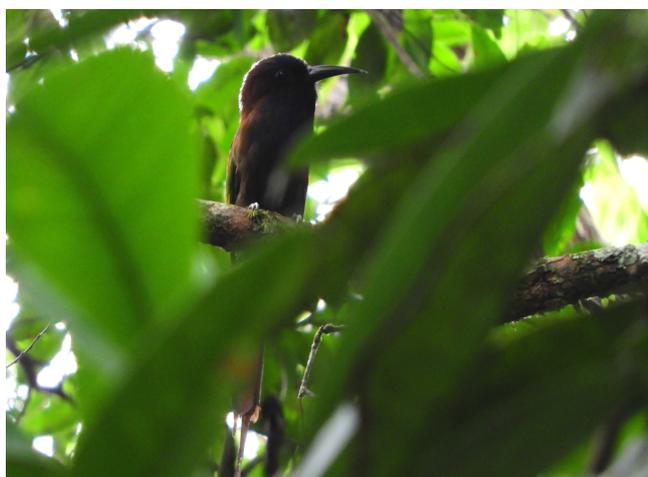


Sulawesi Serpent Eagle

Another morning start at Lake Taming, we found Little Bronze Cuckoo, White-bellied Imperial Pigeon, and were lured up a gully by a Great Shortwing which refused to show himself. One bird noticeable in its absence around Lore Lindu was Purple-bearded Bee-eater, so with some local knowledge from our guide we headed to a place where there was an isolated patch of forest in among rolling grassy fields (presumably formerly forested!) and sure enough we were able to watch a pair that had a nest hole hidden away in a bank by a stream. In the surroundings we enjoyed Grosbeak Starlings at a nest tree, Black Eagle and Black-backed Swamphen, before having to scoot back and get over the hill as the road was scheduled to close for the afternoon. Picking up our birding on the other side we saw our only Black-fronted White-eye, and back in the

lowlands we saw more Pale-headed Munia and had a memorable session with several Savanna Nightjar perched out among some riverside scrub, with perhaps 12 birds seen in total! We spent the night in a nice hotel in Palu and had some excellent seafood in a local restaurant.

The next morning, we took early flights to Makassar and then another to Manado, and we reached Tangkoko in time for lunch (with the help of a speedy new toll road). In the afternoon we joined our guide Samuel and took to the water for one of my favourite parts of the tour, crossing the bay in an outrigger canoe to a mangrove creek. We spent the afternoon splashing up and down the waterway trying to find Great-billed Kingfisher, which we had a glimpse of in flight, thereafter he was nowhere to be found! A flock of Black-naped Tern were pleasing, as was a sky filled with Lesser Frigatebirds, and around the mangroves we saw Pink-necked and Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon, Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeons, Whimbrel, Eastern Osprey, Pacific Reef Heron, Oriental Dollarbird, Sacred Kingfisher, Rainbow Bee-eaters, White-rumped Cuckooshrike and Asian Glossy Starlings (a write-in). Returning in darkness, we just had enough time to go and find a Sulawesi Nightjar at the edge of an open area. Sulawesi Scops Owls were calling all around, but they can wait until tomorrow.



Purple-bearded Bee-eater



White-necked Myna

On arriving at Tangkoko we were told about one unexpected side effect of the pandemic – many of the birds here that were once habituated to visitors had reverted to being shy and difficult to find, as there had been no daily foot traffic into the forest. We persisted anyway and walking into the forest in the morning we had great looks at Philippine Megapodes sorting through the leaf litter, a vocal Spot-tailed Goshawk called from the tops of tall trees and offered a selection of ventral views, and our first Green-backed Kingfishers appeared, perched down low watching the forest floor. With other guides out scouring the forest for target birds, we were called to where a pair of Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfishers sat inert in the understorey, often a tricky bird to find as typically they sit quietly. An even more remarkable find was a trio of Ochre-bellied Boobooks that some hot-shot had found at roost in a gully, very low down and certainly not where I had been looking for them (I always try, and fail, to spot birds before the local guides!) We also saw Ashy Woodpeckers and Yellow-billed Malkoha. Returning after lunch found White-faced Cuckoo Doves, and one of our guides called us over to where he had just found a Sulawesi Lilac Kingfisher that sat and posed for us. We then drove up the hill and scanned the tops of the forest trees from an overlook. A harsh call drew our attention and finding a small trail for a better view of the treetops we could see a Purple-winged Roller perched in a tree. We also found many Silver-tipped and Green Imperial Pigeons, plus a surprise find of two Grey-headed Imperial Pigeons. We saw Knobbed and Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbills, and White-rumped (or Sulawesi) Triller. Returning to our lodge at dusk, we watched a confiding Sulawesi Scops Owl just outside our cabins.

The next morning, we began with a noisy Channel-billed Cuckoo at our lodge, then we drove up to the overlooks finding Bay Coucals, Grosbeak Starlings, and an Isabelline Bush-hen. Samuel guided us down a small trail into the forest where a very shy Sulawesi Pitta was found, and actually gave us a good view despite never calling and behaving very furtively. Another White-faced Cuckoo Dove showed well, and we

saw White-bellied Sea Eagles and a Sulawesi Crested Myna, rounded off with an impromptu tasting session at a jungle still where a rather potent palm wine or 'ara' was being made.

We had another trip out on the boat, back through the flock of Black-naped Terns, and up the creek where we found two Ruddy Kingfisher but not the Great-billed, though a trio of Channel-billed Cuckoos were quite welcome. As our vehicles had come to meet us there, we tried one more place, a short drive along the coast where luckily, we found a confiding Great-billed Kingfisher, fishing over the mouth of a shallow creek as the sun went down. A final morning at Tangkoko saw us return to the hill overlooks, where we had a great view of two Ornate Lorikeets, a Barred Rail appeared at the forest edge, Grey-cheeked Green Pigeons and Great Hanging Parrots joined Grey-sided and Yellow-sided Flowerpeckers, then we made a final trek through the forest searching one last time for Red-backed Thrush. We drew a blank but did see a fine pair of White-necked Myna, and a trio of Sulawesi Crested Myna. It would be remiss of me not to mention the mammals at Tangkoko. We had multiple encounters with the Celebes Crested Macaques that stroll around like they own the place, and twice saw Spectral Tarsiers peeking out of their roost tree cavities. We also saw a Bear Couscous high in a tree, and some rather anonymous Squirrels.

Our last night in Sulawesi was spent near Manado at a coastal resort. Rain finished just as we arrived and we found a quartet of Barred Rails feeding out in the open on a football pitch, then we spent a pleasant hour on a mangrove boardwalk. Pied Imperial Pigeons and Pink-necked Green Pigeons were joined by White-rumped Cuckooshrikes, and two Grey-rumped Tattlers were perched in small trees. Out on the ocean a Long-tailed Jaeger was seen distantly.



Blue-and-White Kingfisher



Sacred Kingfisher

Onwards to Halmahera, we flew from Manado to Ternate, then after a short taxi ride to a jetty we crossed by speedboat to Sidangoli on Halmahera. On approach to the mangroves, we found two Beach Kingfishers shining like beacons from the dark green trees, and a handful of Greater Crested Terns around the shallows. We were met by new vehicles and set off for Subaim under leaden skies. A few birds were encountered en route, with Pacific Baza, Brush Cuckoo, some Blue-and White Kingfishers, and numerous Willy Wagtails with their cute little nests balanced on the telephone wires. On reaching Subaim we headed out into hill forest, where we spent the last hours of daylight exploring from the roadsides. We found our first Blyth's Hornbill, Rufous-bellied Trillers, Wallacean Cicadabird, Cinnamon-bellied and Spectacled Imperial Pigeons, Chattering Lory and White Cockatoo. After dusk we searched for nightbirds and found Moluccan Scops Owl.

The next day we started early, drove to Foli in the dark to rendezvous with a 4x4 pickup with massive tires. We slowly ground our way up an old logging track to where we would visit the lek of Wallace's Standardwing Bird of Paradise (a bird surely worthy of a better name than just 'Standardwing!'). We picked our way down a slippery trail as the light began to come up, the males uttering their noisy calls from the trees above us. As the light improved, we could see the birds waving their standards and flashing their metallic epaulettes at each other and flying back and forwards excitedly. A female did appear a bit later, and perhaps was responsible for shortening the show as the males filtered away into the forest. Wow.

Other birds were in evidence here, with a vocal North Moluccan Pitta that circled us and showed briefly, and a Common Paradise Kingfisher did similar. We continued along the track, which unfortunately had degraded somewhat in the last years, now being little more than a path and we were unable to drive very far. We found Eclectus and Red-cheeked Parrots, a single Great-billed Parrot, some good numbers of Violet-necked Lory, Moluccan Hanging Parrot, White-bellied and Halmahera Cuckooshrikes, Dusky-brown Oriole, Halmahera Spangled Drongo, a Moluccan (or Slaty) Flycatcher high in the tall trees and a handsome White-naped Monarch. We also found Northern Golden Bulbul, Cream-throated White-eye, Metallic Starlings and Long-billed Crow. Ivory-breasted Pitta was only heard in one place and try as we might we just could not get a look at it. We stayed on after darkness fell, and managed to find a pair of Moluccan Boobooks, but they too slipped away from us unseen. We made the slow journey back to our guesthouse in Subaim in time for a late dinner, before a short night and repeating it all again the next morning.



Moluccan King Parrot



Violet-necked Lory

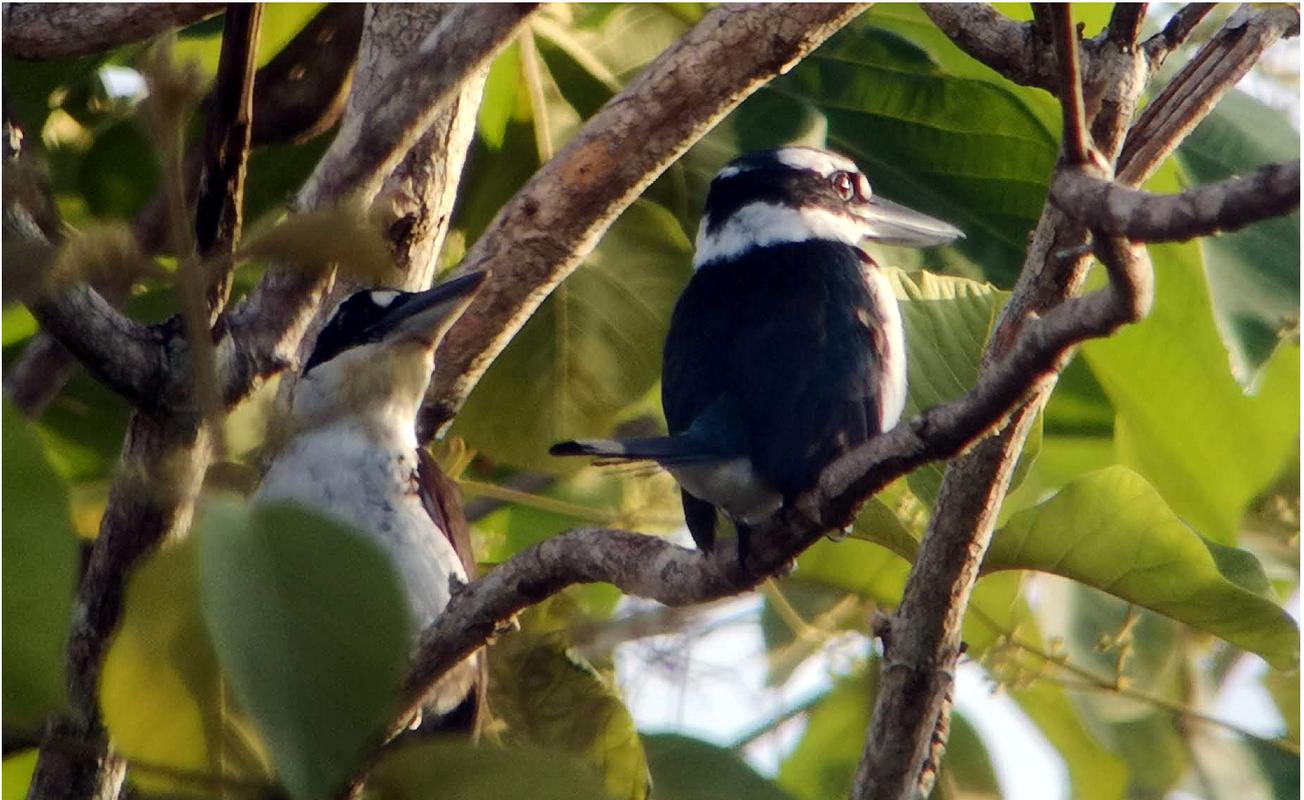
Another morning in the logged forest, we tried with both Ivory-breasted and North Moluccan Pitta that were vocal this morning, without success. A Common Paradise Kingfisher gave another brief view, Violet-necked Lory showed well in a fruiting tree, a Moluccan (or Halmahera Spectacled) Monarch posed nicely, and the demure Drab Whistler showed well, as did Black-chinned Whistler that kept pinging around us in circles. We had brief encounters with Halmahera Flowerpecker and Moluccan Starlings, plus a Variable Goshawk circled over the track. We had lunch in Foli village, then decided to concentrate on the Buli road for the afternoon. Reaching the forest just as it was waking up again, we were delighted to find two stunning Moluccan King Parrots. We saw four Halmahera Paradise Crow feeding high in the trees and had a flight view of Great Cuckoo Dove. Goliath Coucal finally made an appearance, clumsily crawling around in roadside trees. Two Pacific Baza gave us a good fly-by, then as dusk fell, we scoured the forest for nightbirds, finding another Moluccan Scops Owl plus we had a great view of a vocal Barking Owl. Back in the same place the following morning, we found three Moluccan King Parrot, some Pied Imperial Pigeons with the Spectacled and Cinnamon-bellied in a fruiting tree, a group of seven Chattering Lory feeding together in a palm, and Long-billed Crows flew about noisily. We found vocal Island (or Halmahera) Leaf Warbler, and a tiny Blue-capped Fruit Dove that appeared in the same tree. We took a very slippery trail into the forest, where we *finally* had some success with Ivory-breasted Pitta – the first bird noisily flew in close to us and gave itself up for a great view, then a second bird also flew towards us and showed itself. Phew! After all that stress... A bit further down the road we saw a Pygmy Eagle soaring over the forest, a dozen Blyth's Hornbill swarming in a fruiting tree, and a flock of Red-flanked Lorikeet hiding among the greenery.

We retraced our steps to Subaim before driving towards Sidangoli in a rainstorm, and as it cleared, we saw Blue-and-White Kingfishers, White-bellied Cuckooshrikes, Northern Golden Bulbuls and Willie Wagtails.

A final hour or two at Sidangoli before returning across the straits to Ternate was unexpectedly productive. From our breakfast cafe we saw Moluccan and Metallic Starlings, Eastern Osprey and many Rainbow Bee-eater and White-breasted Woodswallow, then as we drove around the village a cackling call drew us to

where two Sombre Kingfishers sat high in some roadside trees! What a treat! We also added Moustached Treeswift here, and by the waterfront we saw Greater Crested Terns. We crossed the straits to Ternate, where we reached the airport and the tour ended.

It was great to be back on the islands for my twelfth visit (over 23 years) and to once more work alongside our indefatigable guide and escort Jonas, plus all the skilled local guides who showed us their birds. This tour still has a huge amount to offer, with all its colourful endemics, Kingfishers, Pittas and Hornbills, friendly people and constantly improving facilities. As always, I would recommend – if you haven't yet been, go soon!



Sombre Kingfishers



Great-billed Kingfisher

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **IOC World Bird Names**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>.

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

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

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

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).

Pacific Black Duck *Anas superciliosa* One or more flying around paddies at Wuasa.

Sunda Teal ◊ *Anas gibberifrons* (E) One on Makassar fishponds.

Philippine Megapode ◊ *Megapodius cumingii* Great views of two at Tangkoko, kicking through the leaf litter.

Dusky Megapode ◊ *Megapodius freycinet* (H) Heard only, in the Halmahera forest.

Satanic Nightjar ◊ *Eurostopodus diabolicus* Superb close looks at three pairs at roost on the Anaso track.

Great Eared Nightjar *Lyncornis macrotis* Some close fly-bys by several in the fields around Wuasa.

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus* A couple of brief views along the track at Foli on Halmahera.

Sulawesi Nightjar ◇ *Caprimulgus celebensis* One vocal perched bird seen well at Tangkoko.

Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis* An outrageous number (12+) found at roost near Palu, with stunning views.

Grey-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocne longipennis* Regularly encountered in the Sulawesi forests.

Moustached Treeswift ◇ *Hemiprocne mystacea* A surprise to find these around Sidangoli.

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta* Seen daily and throughout.

Halmahera Swiftlet ◇ *Aerodramus infuscatus* Some likely examples seen on our first afternoon on Halmahera.

Sulawesi Swiftlet ◇ *Aerodramus sororum* Only seen in Lore Lindu along the Sedoa valley.

Uniform Swiftlet *Aerodramus vanikorensis* Seen around Makassar, also on Halmahera.

Purple Needletail ◇ *Hirundapus celebensis* A handful of distant 'boomerangs' seen along the Sedoa valley.

House Swift *Apus nipalensis* Best observed inside the arrivals area at Makassar airport!

Bay Coucal ◇ *Centropus celebensis* Several fine examples seen at Tangkoko.

Goliath Coucal ◇ *Centropus goliath* Great views of these mega birds on Halmahera.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis* Scattered encounters with vocal birds, seen well near Palu.



Goliath Coucal



Lesser Coucal

Yellow-billed Malkoha ◇ *Rhamphococcyx calyrorhynchus* Several seen at Sedoa and at Tangkoko.

Channel-billed Cuckoo ◇ *Scythrops novaehollandiae* Great to see several of these at Tangkoko.

Little Bronze Cuckoo ◇ *Chrysococcyx [minutillus] jungei* Singles found at Karaenta and at Lake Taming.

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus* Odd birds seen on Halmahera.

Rusty-breasted Cuckoo ◇ *Cacomantis [sepulcralis] virescens* A good look at a couple at Lake Taming.

Rock Dove *Columba livia* Available.

Red Collared Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica* Seen near Palu.

Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis* A few seen in typical habitats.

Sultan's Cuckoo-Dove ◇ *Macropygia doreya* A small number seen on Halmahera.

Sulawesi Cuckoo-Dove ◇ *Macropygia [doreya] albicapilla* A couple of flybys only.

Great Cuckoo-Dove ◇ *Reinwardtoena reinwardti* A single flight view near Subaim.

White-faced Cuckoo-Dove ◇ *Turacoena manadensis* Great looks at these fellows at Tangkoko.

Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* One seen on the track at Foli, some possibles around Tangkoko.

Stephan's Emerald Dove ◇ *Chalcophaps stephani* A couple of sightings at Palu and Tangkoko.

Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata* Some seen in north Sulawesi, also around Palu.

Pink-necked Green Pigeon *Treron vernans* Seen in mangrove at Tangkoko and at Grand Luley.

Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon ◇ *Treron griseicauda* Seen well at Tangkoko.

Red-eared Fruit Dove ◇ *Ptilinopus fischeri* A few found in higher forests at Lore Lindu.

Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove ◇ *Ptilinopus bernsteinii* (H) Two or three heard on Halmahera, could not find it though!

Superb Fruit Dove ◇ *Ptilinopus [superbus] temminckii* Lovely views at Lake Taming.

Blue-capped Fruit Dove ◇ *Ptilinopus monacha* A good view of one near Subaim.

Grey-headed Fruit Dove ◇ *Ptilinopus hyogastrus* Several around Foli and Subaim.

Black-naped Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus melanospilus* A couple showed well at Tangkoko.

White-bellied Imperial Pigeon ◇ *Ducula forsteni* Some fine examples seen at Lore Lindu and Tangkoko.

Grey-headed Imperial Pigeon ◇ *Ducula radiata* A nice surprise to find one at Tangkoko (Samuel was very pleased!)

Green Imperial Pigeon ◇ *Ducula [aenea] paulina* Quite common at Tangkoko, often heard growling from the canopy.

Spectacled Imperial Pigeon ◇ *Ducula perspicillata* Several seen in hill forest near Subaim.

Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon ◇ *Ducula basilica* A lovely addition on Halmahera, with its 'rumbling-stomach' call.

Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor* Seen in mangrove at Grand Luley, also in forest near Subaim.

Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon ◇ *Ducula luctuosa* Many seen at Tangkoko, typically in the treetops.

Sombre Pigeon ◇ *Cryptophaps poecilorrhoea* A brief perched view of one on the Anaso track, only my second!

Barred Rail ◇ *Hypotaenidia torquata* Seen first at Tangkoko, then four openly fed on the football pitch at Grand Luley.

Buff-banded Rail *Hypotaenidia philippensis* Numerous in rice paddies near Wuasa.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* Three seen in paddies near Wuasa.

Black-backed Swamphen *Porphyrio indicus* A couple seen on the strange grassy plateau south of Wuasa.

Isabelline Bush-hen ◇ *Amaurornis isabellina* A good encounter with a roadside bird at Tangkoko.

Pied Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus* (E) Several at Makassar fishponds.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* (E) Several at Makassar fishponds.

Javan Plover ◇ *Charadrius javanicus* (E) Some distant birds at Makassar fishponds.

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* A single at Tangkoko.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* (E) A single at Makassar fishponds.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* (E) Several at Makassar fishponds.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Scattered sightings on the tour.

Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes* Two roosting on bushes at Grand Luley.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* (E) A few at Makassar fishponds.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* (E) Three at Makassar fishponds.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* Some seen over paddies near Wuasa.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* (E) Several at Makassar fishponds.

Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii* Four close inshore at Sidangoli.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons* (E) Several at Makassar fishponds.

Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana* A lovely flock off Tangkoko, calling and flying around our boat.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* (E) Several at Makassar fishponds.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus* A very distant bird loitering off Grand Luley.

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel* In good number off Tangkoko, at least 26.

Little Pied Cormorant *Microcarbo melanoleucos* Singles seen at Makassar fishponds and Sidangoli.

Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* (E) Several perched in a tree at Makassar fishponds.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* Three in wet paddies near Wuasa.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* Two seen flying over paddies near Wuasa.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* Seen in mangroves at Tangkoko, also at Grand Luley.

Javan Pond Heron *Ardeola speciosa* Several in paddies on Sulawesi.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus* A few scattered sightings.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* Seen in open country and paddies near Wuasa.

Great Egret *Ardea [alba] modesta* (E) A single seen at Makassar fishponds.

Little Egret *Egretta [garzetta] nigripes* Several at Makassar fishponds, one at Sidangoli.

Pacific Reef Heron *Egretta sacra* Some nice slaty examples at Tangkoko.

Eastern Osprey *Pandion cristatus* Singles seen at Tangkoko and Sidangoli.

Pacific Baza ♦ *Aviceda subcristata* Good looks at several on Halmahera.

Sulawesi Serpent Eagle ♦ *Spilornis rufipectus* A single showed very well near Wuasa.



Sulawesi Hawk Eagle



Ochre-bellied Boobook

Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle ♦ *Nisaetus lanceolatus* A single perched bird gave good views at Sedoa.

Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii* E: One seen at Malino on the extension.

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malaiensis* A nice example seen in open country south of Wuasa.

Spot-tailed Sparrowhawk ♦ *Accipiter trinotatus* A vocal bird at Tangkoko was staying high in the tall trees.

Variable Goshawk ♦ *Accipiter [hiogaster] griseogularis* A soaring bird seen well at Foli.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* A few seen on Halmahera.

Pygmy Eagle *Hieraaetus weiskei* A fine look at one in hill forest near Subaim.

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* A couple seen at Tangkoko, another on Halmahera.

Sulawesi Masked Owl ♦ *Tyto rosenbergii* A wonderful view of one on a roadside wire at Wuasa.

Eastern Grass Owl *Tyto longimembris* Two seen hunting over paddies near Wuasa was quite thrilling.

Barking Owl ♦ *Ninox connivens* A superb view of one of these near Subaim, winking at us from a dead tree.

Ochre-bellied Boobook ♦ *Ninox ochracea* An outrageously skilled find by local guides, 3 at roost in Tangkoko.

Cinnabar Boobook ◇ *Ninox ios* A single seen reasonably well as it went to roost at Lore Lindu.

Halmahera Boobook ◇ *Ninox hypogramma* (H) A pair eluded us at Foli.

Speckled Boobook ◇ *Ninox punctulata* A comically vocal bird at Wuasa gave us the run around before a brief view.

Moluccan Scops Owl ◇ *Otus magicus* Two seen in tatty forest near Subaim.

Sulawesi Scops Owl ◇ *Otus manadensis* One showed well in the lodge garden at Tangkoko.

Blyth's Hornbill ◇ *Rhyticeros plicatus* A few at Foli, numerous near Subaim.

Knobbed Hornbill ◇ *Rhyticeros cassidix* In fairly good number at Tangkoko, plus a couple at Sedoa.

Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbill ◇ *Rhabdotorrhinus exarhatus* Good views at Karaenta, also seen at Tangkoko.

Purple-winged Roller ◇ *Coracias temminckii* One seen well at Tangkoko, located on call from the roadside.

Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis* Singles at Tangkoko and on Halmahera. Another with no ID near Subaim...

Green-backed Kingfisher ◇ *Actenoides monachus* Just 3 seen at Tangkoko, also heard pre-dawn from our lodge.

Common Paradise Kingfisher ◇ *Tanyiptera galatea* Furtive vocal birds at Foli eventually gave very brief views.



Sulawesi Lilac Kingfisher



Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher

Sulawesi Lilac Kingfisher ◇ *Cittura cyanotis* A splendid example performed for us at Tangkoko.

Great-billed Kingfisher ◇ *Pelargopsis melanorhyncha* Eventually we had a long close view of this, after a chase!

Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda* Two seen in the mangroves at Tangkoko.

Blue-and-white Kingfisher ◇ *Todiramphus diops* Quite common on Halmahera, typically on the roadside wires.

Sombre Kingfisher ◇ *Todiramphus funebris* What a way to finish! Two birds at Sidangoli, vocal and displaying.

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris* Scattered sightings along the route.

Beach Kingfisher ◇ *Todiramphus saurophagus* A great view of two in the Sidangoli mangroves from our boat.

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus* Some at Tangkoko, a single at Sidangoli.

Common Kingfisher ◇ *Alcedo [atthis] hispidoides* Seen in the mangrove at Tangkoko.

Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher ◇ *Ceyx fallax* Rare views of a pair together at Tangkoko, very cryptic in the forest.

Purple-bearded Bee-eater ◇ *Meropogon forsteni* A pair in woodland south of Wuasa were a welcome sight.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus* Some seen between Lore Lindu and Palu.

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus* A few on Sulawesi, many on Halmahera with presumed passage noted.

Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker ◇ *Yungipicus temminckii* A small number seen at Lore Lindu.

Ashy Woodpecker ◇ *Mulleripicus fulvus* Three seen in Tangkoko were nice.

Spotted Kestrel *Falco moluccensis* One over paddies near Palu, also on the extension.

White Cockatoo ◇ *Cacatua alba* Noisy and visible in hill forest near Subaim.

Moluccan King Parrot ◇ *Alisterus amboinensis* Superb views of three in forest near Subaim.

Golden-mantled Racket-tail ◇ *Prioniturus platurus* Airborne flocks at Lore Lindu and Tangkoko.

Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus* Several seen in flight at Foli, always very noisy.

Red-cheeked Parrot *Geoffroyus geoffroyi* Regular sightings on Halmahera.

Great-billed Parrot ◇ *Tanygnathus megalorhynchus* Just one noisy bird seen at Foli.

Azure-rumped Parrot ◇ *Tanygnathus sumatranus* Seen at Karaenta and Tangkoko.

Red-flanked Lorikeet ◇ *Hypocharmosyna placentis* Some reasonable views of a flock in forest near Subaim.

Chattering Lory ◇ *Lorius garrulus* Seven seen together near Subaim, also a couple at Foli.

Yellow-cheeked Lorikeet ◇ *Saudareos meyeri* A small number seen at Lake Taming.

Ornate Lorikeet ◇ *Saudareos ornata* Two seen nicely on our last morning at Tangkoko were very welcome.

Violet-necked Lory ◇ *Eos squamata* Great views of plenty at Foli.

Great Hanging Parrot ◇ *Loriculus stigmatus* Proper views acquired at Tangkoko.

Moluccan Hanging Parrot ◇ *Loriculus amabilis* A couple seen at Foli, another at Sidangoli.

Sulawesi Pitta ◇ *Erythropitta celebensis* A very furtive bird found eventually among the rattan at Tangkoko.

North Moluccan Pitta ◇ *Erythropitta rufiventris* Several vocal birds at Foli, but just one seen, briefly.

Ivory-breasted Pitta ◇ *Pitta maxima* It kept us waiting! Two seen near Subaim. See note.

Dark-eared Myza ◇ *Myza celebensis* (H) Heard at Lore Lindu.



White-eared Myza



Willie Wagtail (photo by R. Bayldon)

White-eared Myza ◇ *Myza sarasinorum* One showed very well on the Anaso track.

White-streaked Friarbird ◇ *Melitograis gilolensis* One showed very well near Subaim, a couple of others noted.

Moluccan Myzomela ◇ *Myzomela simplex* An uninspiring brief look at one near Subaim.

Sulawesi Myzomela ◇ *Myzomela chloroptera* A single seen well at Lore Lindu, also seen at Malino on the extension.

Golden-bellied Gerygone ◇ *Gerygone [sulphurea] flaveola* Frequent at Lore Lindu.

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus* Quite a few seen, on both islands.

Cerulean Cuckooshrike ◇ *Coracina temminckii* Rather common, vocal and visible in the Lore Lindu forests.

Pied Cuckooshrike ◇ *Coracina bicolor* (H) Heard on a few occasions at Tangkoko, always up in the canopy.

White-rumped Cuckooshrike ◇ *Coracina leucopygia* Seen well in mangroves at Tangkoko and Grand Luley resort.

White-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina papuensis* Good looks at Foli and en route to Sidangoli.

Sulawesi Cicadabird ◇ *Edolisoma morio* A couple seen at Sedoa.

Wallacean Cicadabird *Edolisoma tenuirostre* Seen near Subaim and at Foli.

Halmahera Cuckooshrike ◇ *Edolisoma parvulum* Four seen on our first morning at Foli.

Pygmy Cuckooshrike ◇ *Celebesica abbotti* Not uncommon at Lore Lindu, a.k.a. Mountain Cicadabird.

White-shouldered Triller ◇ *Lalage sueurii* One at Bantimurung, a couple near Palu.

Rufous-bellied Triller ◇ *Lalage aurea* Common in forest and secondary on Halmahera.

White-rumped Triller ◇ *Lalage leucopygialis* A pair seen twice at the Tangkoko overlooks.

Sulphur-vented Whistler ◇ *Pachycephala sulfuriventer* Several seen at Lore Lindu, usually in mixed flocks.

Black-chinned Whistler ◇ *Pachycephala mentalis* A good look at one that circled us at Foli.



Drab Whistler



Halmahera Paradise-crow

Drab Whistler ◇ *Pachycephala griseonota* Some good looks at this demure fellow at Foli.

Dusky-brown Oriole ◇ *Oriolus phaeochromus* Not uncommon at Foli.

Black-naped Oriole ◇ *Oriolus [chinensis] frontalis* Seen at Sedoa and Tangkoko.

Sulawesi Drongo ◇ *Dicrurus montanus* A few in mixed flocks at Lore Lindu.

Halmahera Spangled Drongo ◇ *Dicrurus [bracteatus] atrocaeruleus* A small number seen in the Halmahera forests.

Sulawesi White-eyed Drongo ◇ *Dicrurus [hottentottus] leucops* A few seen at Tangkoko.

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys* Numerous along Halmahera roadsides.

Sulawesi Fantail ◇ *Rhipidura teysmanni* A few in the montane forests at Lore Lindu, also Malino.

Pale-blue Monarch ◇ *Hypothymis puella* Seen at Bantimurung, Sedoa and Tangkoko.

Moluccan Monarch ◇ (Halmahera Spectacled M) *Symposiachrus bimaculatus* A male singing at Foli.

White-naped Monarch ◇ *Carterornis [pileatus] pileatus* A single of these smart fellows showed well at Foli.

Moluccan Flycatcher ◇ (Slaty F) *Myiagra galeata* One seen at Foli, high in trees over our heads.

Shining Flycatcher ◇ *Myiagra [alecto] alecto* (H) One heard at Foli.

Piping Crow ◇ *Corvus typicus* Two seen at Karaenta were a welcome sight.

Slender-billed Crow ◇ *Corvus [enca] celebensis* Noisy, regularly encountered in edge habitats.

Long-billed Crow ◇ *Corvus validus* Multiple sightings on Halmahera, always in flight.

Halmahera Paradise-crow ◇ *Lycocorax pyrrhopterus* Good views of four in forest near Subaim.

Standardwing ◇ *Semioptera wallacii* Great to see these, an awesome display if only a couple of males! See note.

Hylocitrea ◇ *Hylocitrea bonensis* Several seen in mixed flocks along the Anaso track, thanks to Idris.

Citrine Canary-flycatcher ◇ *Culicicapa helianthea* Confiding at Lake Taming.

Northern Golden Bulbul ◇ *Hypsipetes longirostris* Not uncommon on Halmahera, often in secondary habitats.

Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier* (E) A couple seen around Makassar fishponds.

Sooty-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus aurigaster* Present on Sulawesi.

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica* Widespread.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* (NL) Seen on Halmahera.

Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cucullatus* Common by ear at Lore Lindu, few seen.

Sulawesi Leaf Warbler ◇ *Phylloscopus nesophilus* A few seen at Lore Lindu.

Lompobattang Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus sarasinorum* (E) A small number seen around Malino on the extension.

Island Leaf Warbler ◇ (Halmahera L W) *Phylloscopus poliocephalus* Good views of singing birds near Subaim.

Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus [stentoreus] celebensis* (H) (E) Heard at Makassar fishponds.

Sulawesi Bush Warbler ◇ *Locustella castanea* A couple of glimpses at Lore Lindu, often heard.

Malia ◇ *Malia grata* Frequent good sightings in the higher forests at Lore Lindu.

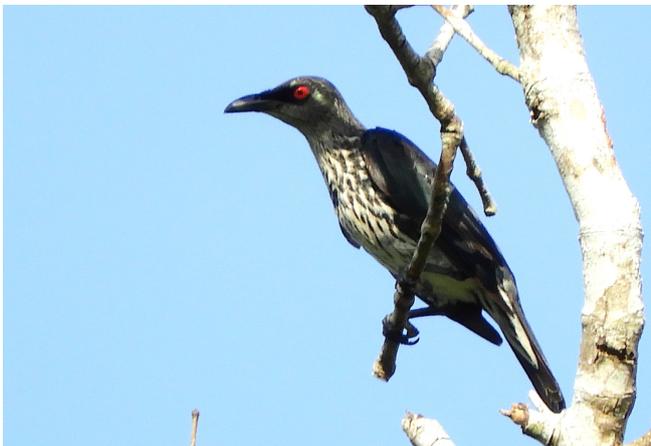
Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis* Good views in grass at Sedoa.

Streak-headed White-eye ◇ *Heleia squamiceps* Several seen lurking about on the Anaso track.

Warbling White-eye *Zosterops japonicus* A small number seen at Lore Lindu.

Lemon-bellied White-eye ◇ *Zosterops chloris* Quite common in lantana and roadside scrub on Sulawesi.

Black-crowned White-eye ◇ *Zosterops atrifrons* Fairly elusive at Lore Lindu, not appearing till we were leaving.



Asian Glossy Starling



Black-ringed White-eye (R.Bayldon)

Black-ringed White-eye ◇ *Zosterops anomalus* Seen well at Karaenta, also at Malino on the extension.

Cream-throated White-eye ◇ *Zosterops [atriceps] fuscifrons* Some good looks at two or three at Foli.

Sulawesi Babbler ◇ *Pellorneum celebense* Seen well on our first morning at Lore Lindu.

Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica* Fairly common on Halmahera.

Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis* Five seen in mangrove at Tangkoko. A write-in.

Moluccan Starling ◇ *Aplonis mysolensis* Just a couple of sightings, at Foli and Sidangoli.

Sulawesi Crested Myna ◇ *Basilornis celebensis* Great views of several of these beauties at Tangkoko.

White-necked Myna ◇ *Streptocitta [albicollis] torquata* A pair in the forest at Tangkoko showed well.

Fiery-browed Starling ◇ *Enodes erythrophris* A handsome bird once seen well at Lore Lindu.

Grosbeak Starling ◇ *Scissirostrum dubium* Another excellent Sulawesi endemic, many seen around their nest trees.



Sulawesi Thrush



Sulawesi Streaked Flycatcher

Sulawesi Thrush ◇ *Turdus turdoides* One with a bird-flock at Lake Tambing showed very nicely.

Sulawesi Streaked Flycatcher ◇ *Muscicapa sodhii* One watched at Karaenta repeatedly taking food to a nest.

Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher ◇ *Cyornis omissus* A lovely mournful song, seen well at Sedoa.

Blue-fronted Blue Flycatcher ◇ *Cyornis hoevelli* Close views of a couple at Lake Tambing.

Turquoise Flycatcher ◇ *Eumyias [panayensis] septentrionalis* Some confiding examples at Lake Tambing.

Great Shortwing ◇ *Heinrichia [calligyna] calligyna* (H) A vocal bird at Lore Lindu stayed in cover.

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni* (E) A male at Malino.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra* A few furtive examples at Lore Lindu.

Lompobattang Flycatcher *Ficedula bonthaina* (E) A male showed briefly near Malino on the extension.

Pied Bush Chat *Saxicola caprata* In arable areas on Sulawesi.

Yellow-sided Flowerpecker ◇ *Dicaeum aureolimbatum* Seen well at Karaenta, Sedoa and Tangkoko.

Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker ◇ *Dicaeum nehrkorni* Good views of several coming to a tree near Wuasa.

Halmahera Flowerpecker ◇ *Dicaeum schistaceiceps* A couple of brief looks at Foli.

Grey-sided Flowerpecker ◇ *Dicaeum celebicum* The commoner and widespread Flowerpecker on Sulawesi.

Brown-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis* A few seen in northern Sulawesi.

Black Sunbird ◇ *Leptocoma aspasia* Frequently seen in forest on both islands.

Olive-backed Sunbird ◇ (Sahul S) *Cinnyris [jugularis] infrenatus* The commonest Sunbird.

Crimson Sunbird ◇ *Aethopyga [siparaja] flavostriata* (LO) A couple of sightings on Sulawesi.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* Common where found.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata* (E) Seen near Malino.

Black-faced Munia ◇ *Lonchura molucca* A couple seen near Malino, a single at Tangkoko.

Chestnut Munia *Lonchura atricapilla* Seen on both islands, abundant in rice paddies at Wuasa.

Pale-headed Munia ◊ *Lonchura pallida* Several with nests at Makassar airport, also in paddies near Palu.

Indonesian Serin ◊ *Chrysocorythus estherae* (H) One heard on the Anaso track at Lore Lindu.

MAMMALS

Sulawesi Bear Cuscus *Ailurops ursinus* Two seen high in big trees at Tangkoko.

Striped Dolphin *Stenella coeruleoalba* The dolphins off Ternate were *possibly* this, based on fin shape and colour.

Moluccan Masked Flying Fox *Pteropus personatus* Seen after dark at Foli.

Spectral Tarsier *Tarsius tarsier* Great looks at some in daytime at Tangkoko.

Moor Macaque *Macaca maura* Unfortunately these have become habituated at Karaenta.

Celebes Crested Macaque *Macaca nigra* The famous 'selfie monkey', plenty on show at Tangkoko.

North Sulawesi Tree Squirrel *Prosciurillus murinus* The grey ones at Tangkoko.

Sulawesi Giant Squirrel (Red-bellied S) *Rubriciurus rubriventer* One ran across the road at Lake Taming.

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

Ivory-breasted Pitta ◊ *Pitta maxima* I was beginning to get worried about seeing this – the restricted access and lack of calling birds at Foli did not bode well, so to find two behaving properly near Subaim was very pleasing.

Standardwing *Semioptera wallacii* Despite the show being rather small with just two males in the lek, it was still an amazing show and exciting to see.



Savanna Nightjar



Spectral Tarsier



Spectral Tarsier



White-faced Cuckoo-Dove



White-streaked Friarbird



White-rumped Cuckooshrike



Sulawesi White-eyed Drongo



Satanic Nightjars – the second pair



Satanic Nightjars – the third pair