Indonesia
Eastern Highlights: Sulawesi, the Moluccas and West Papua
29th August to 13th September 2018 (16 days)
Trip Report

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Tour Summary

Indonesia is a huge and diverse country, rich in endemics and with some very special birds. It is impossible to see everything in a single visit, but this new tour series aimed to give it a go, dividing the country into east and west. This Eastern Highlights tour proved to be a great success, visiting the endemic-rich island of Sulawesi, Halmahera in the north Moluccas, and the extreme western end of West Papua, including the island of Waigeo. There were many highlights, including Western Crowned Pigeon, 12 species of fruit doves, 7 species of imperial pigeons, 17 parrots and 3 cockatoos, Cinnabar and Speckled Boobooks, Satanic Nightjar, Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar, 12 species of kingfishers – including Red-breasted Paradise and Sombre, Purple-bearded Bee-eater, Blyth’s and Knobbed Hornbills, Ivory-breasted Pitta, Hylocitrea, Sulawesi Thrush, some spectacular starlings and mynas, and a bunch of honeyeaters, cuckooshrikes, and whistlers. And I nearly forgot the birds-of-paradise! These included Standardwing, and Red, King, and Wilson’s Birds-of-paradise. The latter was of course the bird of the trip, and Red came second.

After meeting up at Jakarta airport, our intrepid group boarded the plane to Palu, via Makassar in southern Sulawesi. It was already quite late in the afternoon by the time we arrived in Palu, so we only had time for one stop on the way, in some rice fields just outside Palu. Here, we got to grips with three species of munias, including Pale-headed, before continuing our journey to Wuasa and Lore Lindu.

We arose early on our first morning and headed up to Lore Lindu NP. Some roadside night birding quickly produced a much-wanted Cinnabar Boobook, a species only discovered to science in 1999. As dawn broke, we scanned the roadside edges and were rewarded with the very shy Sulawesi Thrush, which showed quite well in the half-light. Several Snowy-browed and Blue-fronted Blue Flycatchers also came out onto the road. As the light improved, we began to see a veritable feast of Sulawesi specialities. Gorgeous Fiery-browed Starlings showed well in the treetops, the enigmatic Malia proved hard to see at first but eventually gave good views, several White-bellied Imperial Pigeons flew over, and a fruiting tree held many very active Sultan’s Cuckoo-Doves. A Black-billed Koel made a brief appearance, and Citrine Lorikeets showed well. A Sulawesi Serpent Eagle called loudly and flew over; while a tiny Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker proved to be very mobile. A Rusty-breasted Cuckoo perched out for us all to see, and the calls of this species were to become perhaps the most familiar sound of Lore Lindu’s forests. Several Sulawesi Myzomelas also perched prominently,
if a little distant at first, and Citrine Canary-Flycatcher and Turquoise Flycatcher also put in appearances. Inside the forest, Rufous-bellied Fantails were conspicuous, but a pair of Chestnut-backed Bush Warblers were far from conspicuous, giving only fleeting views as they scurried along the ground like mice. Late in the afternoon, we headed to some rice fields where, despite the rain, we saw a bold Buff-banded Rail on the track in front of us. Shortly before dusk, two Eastern Grass Owls began to patrol the fields, giving great views of this uncommon species.

The following day was devoted to climbing the Anaso trail, which leads up to Gunung Rorekautimbu. We started early, keen to gain some altitude before the day became too hot. A field breakfast at the helipad was most welcome, and shortly afterwards we found a roosting Satanic Nightjar which showed really well. Singles or pairs of Golden-mantled Racket-tail flew over at high speed, affording only brief views. White-eared Myzas were quite vocal but also fairly uncooperative. Small parties of Sulawesi Leaf Warblers were much easier to see well, unlike a small group of mobile Mountain Serins that flew around at high speed. Our top target bird of the day showed up just before lunch. Two Hylocitreas allowed great scope views in a tall fruiting tree. This very special bird has now been elevated into its own family. Hylocitrea is a hard bird to find due to its sluggish habits; although once found it proved to be easy to scope as it stayed in one place for quite a while. The afternoon was predictably quiet; although we spent a long time watching a most obliging pair of Purple-bearded Bee-eaters in an open area close to the trail. On the way back to the hotel, some people saw a pair of Knobbed Hornbills and a flock of Purple Needle-tails. At dusk, we went out to a site close to our hotel to do some night birding. A Great Eared Nightjar flew over, and a Sulawesi Scops Owl was seen extremely well at close range. A distant Sulawesi Masked Owl on a fence post was a fitting end to the day.

We returned to Lore Lindu for a final morning’s birding. A Great Shortwing only responded briefly, and refused to show itself in the thick undergrowth, but outside the forest, the roadside birding was good. We added Cerulean Cuckooshrike and Sulawesi Cicadabird to the list, and also three new flowerpeckers. A Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker showed particularly well, as did another Purple-bearded Bee-eater. We also had great views of Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher, but Pale-blue Monarch was less obliging. Overhead, a number of raptors soared around. Most were Sulawesi Hawk-Eagles and Black Eagles, but a Dwarf Sparrowhawk was also seen dashing across the road. A tall, bare tree held a number of Grosbeak Starlings and a couple of Short-tailed Starlings, but the highlight of the morning for most was probably the Knobbed Hornbills.
We had several great sightings, including prolonged views of a pair close to the roadside. Returning to the lowlands around Palu, we made a couple of stops in open country where we added day-roosting Savanna Nightjars, several delightful Blue-tailed Bee-eaters, and many Lemon-bellied White-eyes. A Red-backed Buttonquail was flushed from some tall vegetation, and four species of munias included the endemic Pale-headed.

Relocating from Palu to Manado involved a transfer at Makassar, where a flock of Woolly-necked Storks were circling over the runway. At Manado, we enjoyed a splendid field lunch of home-cooked local specialities against a backdrop of eye-level swiftlets and scenic views. Our birding destination in the afternoon was Gunung Mahawu, to the south of Manado. There was some good habitat near the top, but the forest was disappointingly quiet. A Superb Fruit Dove showed well, but briefly, and a Speckled Boobook that was flushed by our driver gave wonderful prolonged scope views. This was a species we had missed at Lore Lindu, so it was a welcome catch-up. On the way down, a very obliging Barred Rail made repeated sallies out into the road in front of us, giving superb close views and photographic opportunities.

A late morning flight to Ternate and Halmahera allowed for a leisurely start and breakfast at a normal hour. Those that ventured out of the hotel early were rewarded with several Buff-banded and Barred Rails in the open on the golf course, as well as the more usual ‘garden’ birds. Our late morning flight to Halmahera left on time, making a brief stop on Ternate, and we reached Buli in the early afternoon. The drive to Subaim took us over Gunung Uni-un, and through some good forest (although generally degraded along the roadsides). At our first stop, we quickly found a stunning Chattering Lory and several Red-cheeked Parrots. Singles and pairs of Blyth’s Hornbills flew overhead, but the star bird was a female Eclectus Parrot. Although at long range, the prolonged scope views allowed her to be much admired. A very different-looking male was also seen. A pair of White Cockatoos showed up, and several Long-billed Crows flew over. At our second stop, we got to grips with both Spectacled and Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeons, as well as a number of Grey-headed Fruit Doves. A distant tree also hosted some Moluccan Starlings and a Moluccan Cuckooshrike, but a pair of Paradise-crows, a member of the birds-of-paradise family, were considered by most to be underwhelming. A light shower prevented any night birding in the evening, and we arrived at our surprisingly comfortable lodgings at a sensible hour.
The next morning, we began with some night birding, and we quickly found an obliging Moluccan Scops Owl that perched low and in the open. Moving on to the summit of Gunung Uni-unu, we spent much time birding from the roadside, overlooking the forest. In addition to all the parrots and pigeons seen the day before, we added a fine pair of Moluccan King Parrots and a big flock of Red-flanked Lorikeets. Two Pacific Bazas showed well, both perched and in flight, and a gigantic Goliath Coucal was much admired. Other new birds included Halmahera Cuckoo-shrike, Rufous-bellied Triller, Moluccan Flycatcher, and Halmahera Flowerpecker. To our delight, a male Standardwing appeared briefly in the open canopy of a distant tree, giving good scope views as a foretaste of our excursion the following day. Our next target bird required rather more effort. We entered the forest on the trail of a calling Ivory-breasted Pitta. It took more than half an hour of careful searching before we finally got a glimpse of one, and even longer before everyone got views. In the end, we all managed stunning views, both hopping on the ground and perched upright in the trees, and even a few photos. The large size and characteristic upright posture prompted it to be called the ‘Penguin Pitta’! Flushed with success, we continued walking down the road until the forest went quiet in the late morning. A Blue-capped Fruit Dove called and showed briefly, but a Sombre Kingfisher came in close to the road and stayed for ages. In the afternoon, we returned to Gunung Uni-unu, and birded both sides of the summit. Things were rather slow until almost dusk, when a flurry of colourful activity gave us an obliging pair of Violet-necked Lories, a tree-full of Chattering Lories feeding on palm fruits, and a flock of Rainbow Bee-eaters. Once again, early evening rain prevented any night birding.

We set off extra early the following day to visit a Standardwing lek. Some night birding before it got light got us a couple of views of a Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar. It was a steep trail down to the lek, and by the time we were safely installed on the viewing platform the show was already in progress. As it continued to get light, there was considerable activity as several males and females performed their morning ritual. Two males were in full display, with iridescent green breast epaulets puffed out and standards waving in all directions. We even observed one pair mating on a couple of occasions. After about 40 minutes it was all over, and the Standardwings fell silent. As we walked back up the ridge, a squadron of at least 30 Blyth’s Hornbills flew round and round over our heads in the tops of the trees, causing a considerable commotion. A Dusky Megapode put in a brief appearance too for one lucky person. For the rest of the morning, we worked the area close by. A suite of rather dull brown birds, namely Drab Whistler,
Dusky Myzomela, and Cream-throated White-eye, were new, but Moustached Treeswift and Gurney’s Eagle were appreciated more. Just before it got too hot and the forest became quiet, we managed to get great views of a pair of Common Paradise Kingfishers, sitting low down in the forest. In the afternoon, we headed towards Gunung Roni, birding the roadside at various places. Along the coast, flocks of Lesser Frigatebirds circled overhead looking for thermals, and an Eastern Osprey was watched carrying and eating a fish. Two pairs of the endemic Blue-and-white Kingfisher were much admired. Several Rufous bellied Trillers and a Black chinned Whistler showed well, and we finally managed good views of Metallic Starlings. A few lucky people saw a Great-billed Parrot in flight, and we all enjoyed many wonderful views of Blyth’s Hornbills, which are still delightfully common and conspicuous on Halmahera.

After a successful visit to Halmahera, it was time to move on. We had one final morning birding the roadside on Gunung Ununi. The usual hornbills and parrots were in evidence, and we finally managed a view of a perched Blue-capped Fruit Dove, although rather distant. At least three Halmahera Cuckooshrikes put on a good show for us, but the only new bird for the trip was a stunning Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove. It took a bit of tracking down, but when it was finally located it showed really well, conveniently showing first its dorsal side and then its ventral side as it turned to face us, calling softly. It was already hot by the time we reached Buli, and after an early lunch in a local padang restaurant, we headed to the airport. A short birding session at Buli airport produced another pair of Common Paradise Kingfishers and a close view of a Moluccan Brush Cuckoo. The rest of the afternoon was spent flying back to Manado, via Ternate, in preparation for the final leg of our journey, West Papua.

We arrived in the bustling, ever-expanding town of Sorong in the late morning. After settling into our comfortable hotel, we set off for our first birding excursion in the environs of Sorong. Unfortunately, it was still hot in the mid-afternoon, and we failed to find birds at all other than Tree Sparrows! So we adjourned to some mangroves where we enjoyed views of Oriental Dollarbird, Sacred Kingfisher, Pinon’s Imperial Pigeon, Brown-backed Honeyeater and Glossy-mantled Manucode. A small flock of Ruffs flew over, probably a significant record for this under-recorded species in the region.

The following day, we caught the fast ferry across to Waisai on Waigeo Island. On the way, there were flocks of several hundred Lesser Frigatebirds, about a dozen Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, and a single
Bulwer’s Petrel. A well-shaded dive resort, situated right on the beach with accessible coral reefs and crystal-clear water, was to be our home for the next three nights. For our first afternoon’s excursion, we headed a short distance inland to the lekking tree of some Red Birds-of-paradise. We could hear the birds from the road, and a short walk took us to a simple viewing platform. Here we waited for the show to begin. While we waited, we were entertained by a pair of Frilled Monarchs, an obliging Golden Monarch, and a pair of Olive-crowned Flowerpeckers. The calling became more frequent and louder, but still the birds were invisible. Then, finally, at almost exactly 17:00, three utterly glorious male Red Birds-of-paradise appeared in the very top of a tree, which fortunately was leafless. There they displayed frantically, calling incessantly and shaking their magnificent plumes in all directions. We were all transfixed, but the show only lasted a few minutes, and then the birds fell silent. But it had certainly been worth the wait. The matinee performance had met all our expectations, and we decided not to wait for the evening performance. We walked back to the road, and enjoyed views of Eclectus Parrots, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Brush Cuckoo, Rufous-bellied Kookaburra, Black-capped Lory, Brown Oriole, Yellow-faced Myna, and another male Red Bird-of-paradise in flight across the valley. As dusk fell, we added a single Spotted Whistling Duck to the list.

It was an early start the following morning. We needed to be in place at the Wilson’s Bird-of-paradise site before it got light. Safely installed in the shelter overlooking the lek, we waited for the show to begin. At 06:00, the male appeared. First, he began to clear the ground of the dead leaves that had fallen during the night. He moved between favourite perches on the ground and in the mid-storey at regular intervals, calling frequently. His plumage was immaculate and breathtaking, and this is surely a strong candidate for the best-looking bird in the world. His blue skullcap positively glowed in the early morning light. The yellow collar was as bright as yellow can be, and much of the rest of the upperparts were bright scarlet. The blue legs and green underparts only became obvious when the light began to improve. After a while, a female appeared and the male showed some interest in her, although not too much – presumably she was already his mate. Later, another female appeared, and the family relationships became less clear. But the male was our main focus, and he continued to perform for more than two hours – moving leaves, calling loudly, and showing off his exquisite plumage. For a birder, this was arguably the greatest show on earth, and Wilson’s Bird-of-paradise was eventually voted bird of the trip, with a perfect score of 40 points. Towards the end of our time there, a small kingfisher flew in and perched at close range. It proved to be...
a Papuan Dwarf Kingfisher, a small species of forest kingfisher that is normally hard to see. After a field breakfast, we walked the main trail through the forest. We spent time trying (unsuccessfully) to tease out several Hook-billed Kingfishers and Papuan Pittas. A Rusty Mouse-warbler was also playing hard to get, and we only glimpsed a Dusky Megapode. We had more success with a suite of somewhat less attractive species, such as Tawny-breasted Honeyeater, Yellow-bellied Longbill, Grey Whistler, and the endemic Raja Ampat Pitohui. We returned to our lodge for lunch, and in the ‘garden’ we picked up a huge roosting Papuan Frogmouth, and an equally large Palm Cockatoo. We returned to the Wilson’s area in the afternoon, and on the way up we disturbed a Western Crowned Pigeon on the main trail. It flew off rather quickly, but a second bird stayed around, and eventually gave prolonged scope views and even allowed itself to be photographed. This huge, mainly terrestrial pigeon with a wacky crest is one of the top targets in West Papua. A Yellow-billed Kingfisher refused to show itself, and Claret-breasted Fruit Doves only showed briefly. But we did see Ruby-throated Myzomela, Fairy and Green-backed Gerygones, Hooded Butcherbird, and Rusty Pitohui. We ended the day watching more Eclectus Parrots and Blyth’s Hornbills before returning to our secluded beach resort.

On our second morning on Waigeo, we elected to work the roadsides on the way back to the airfield, and walked alongside the river there. We had good views of Brown Orioles, and found a Papuan Frogmouth on its untidy nest in a big tree. As usual, Eclectus Parrots, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, and Blyth’s Hornbills were flying overhead. We also had our best views yet of Pinon’s Imperial Pigeon, and also quite a few Pied Imperial Pigeons. On the beach near the airfield, we found a pair of Beach Kingfishers and also a Sacred Kingfisher. Coconut Lories (a split from Rainbow) were flying overhead, and we finally got good looks at a pair of Shining Flycatchers. Two Raja Shelducks flew past, and then a pair of Claret-breasted Fruit Doves showed well at low level. Shortly after, an immaculate Beautiful Fruit Dove gave great views before flying off, except that it flew in the wrong direction, flying straight towards us at high speed, only veering off just before it reached us. What a spectacular bird! During a coffee break at a nearby beach resort, we found a sleeping Waigeo Cuscus high up in a tree. This gorgeous animal, with dense white fur marked with black blotches, showed well through the scope – its bare, pink prehensile tail curled around in front of it. Cuscuses are largely nocturnal animals, and it is unusual to see one so well. Flushed with success, we headed to the mangroves, but it was already getting hot, and there was little moving. Some Puff-backed Honeyeaters and another Shining Flycatcher were seen, and
a Great-billed Parrot made an all-too-brief appearance. In the afternoon, we headed back to the same area near the airfield, but on a different track. Parrots and pigeons were seen regularly, but most memorable were a perched group of Coconut Lorikeets and Violet-necked Lories, which stayed for a long time. Many Yellow-faced Mynas appeared in adjacent bare treetops, and there was a constant procession of Pinon’s Imperial Pigeons. A Claret-breasted Fruit Dove was scoped for as long as we wanted, and a Long-tailed Honey Buzzard made a welcome appearance, shortly followed by a White-bellied Sea Eagle. Then, a magnificent Great-billed Parrot appeared in the lorikeet tree, allowing prolonged scope views. Three Brown-headed Crows flew over and, finally, as the afternoon was drawing to a close, a huge Palm Cockatoo quietly sailed overhead.

On our final morning on Waigeo, we boarded a fast speedboat to visit a small and uninhabited island in the Dampier Strait. We were greeted on arrival with the clatter of Spice Imperial Pigeons in the treetops, and as we wandered around in the thick undergrowth, we quickly found a number of other small-island specialists. Island Whistlers and Olive Honeyeaters were common, as were Arafura Fantails. We also saw Moluccan Starling and Lemon-bellied White-eye – both of which have only a toe-hold in the West Papua region – and a pair of Varied Honeyeaters. Another key bird that was seen well was White-bibbed Fruit Dove, the local race of which is sometimes split as Moluccan Fruit Dove. Dusky Megapodes proved to be common on the island; but, as always, they were hard to see. After several attempts, we finally managed to get good but brief views of one on a log. As the tide was dropping, we beat a hasty retreat after breakfast in order to get past the offshore coral reef while we were still able to. On the return journey, a small flock of Bridled Terns and a single Black-naped Tern provided a welcome alternative to the hundreds of Lesser Frigatebirds. Back on Waigeo, it was time to pack up and return to Sorong for our final day’s birding of the trip.

For our final morning, we headed to a forest area to the north-east of Sorong. One of the first birds we saw was Black Lory, virtually endemic to the Vogelkop, which we scoped and saw well in flight. This was swiftly followed by great views of a couple of Orange-bellied Fruit Doves and Zoe’s Imperial Pigeons. Smaller parrots were less obliging and mostly seen in flight, but we did scope Double-eyed Fig Parrot and got reasonable views of a tiny Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot. There were also two new honeyeaters – Spotted and Streak-headed – but a Dwarf Koel that responded to playback would not show itself. It was a good morning for cuckooshrikes, with Boyer’s, Grey-headed and, best of all, Golden, as well as Black-browed Triller. We had had mixed fortunes with monarchs on the trip, but a male Frilled Monarch defied convention, and put on a magnificent show. Despite all these
wonderful birds, there were two species that stood head and shoulders above the rest. The call of a King Bird-of-paradise alerted us to the presence of this very special bird. First, we found a female, but she disappeared quickly. Then, a glorious male flew across the road and into the tree we were watching. He did a great job at remaining hidden, but stayed long enough for us all to get views of his stunning red and white plumage before flying back across the road. But there was another treat in store for us. After a well-deserved coffee break, a Red-breasted Paradise Kingfisher started calling from the forest. Although not far away, it would not budge. We peered into the forest from every possible angle, but could see nothing. Another bird called nearby, but that was no easier to find. Eventually, we went in, very slowly and carefully – but not very quietly, as there was no track and there were many obstacles and noisy leaves on the steep slope. It was amazing that our crashing around like a herd of elephants did not spook the bird, and still it continued calling. Finally, it was spotted high up in a tree, through the tiniest of windows and behind many layers of foliage. It was only possible to see the bird from one position, and one-by-one we all had a great view of this shy and spectacular kingfisher. In fact, the deep orange-red colour of its underparts shone like a beacon once you could see it! One person had wandered off, and arrived back just after the bird had flown. So, the search began again, and fortunately we managed to locate it two more times before we left it in peace. In the afternoon, we returned to the mangroves to the south of Sorong. They were predictably quiet, but frequent sightings and excellent scope views of Orange-fronted Fruit Doves were most welcome – our 12th species of fruit dove for the trip. A Brown-backed Honeyeater showed well, and a party of White-bellied Cuckoo-shrikes passed through. The mangroves here are known to hold a few Blue-black Kingfishers, a rather special and localised New Guinea endemic, but we were unable to entice one out. So, we moved to another area and, as the sun dipped below the horizon, a couple of birds responded somewhat unenthusiastically from the sago palms. We peered optimistically into the dense swamp, but the light was fading fast. Then, as our hopes were beginning to fade, a bird broke cover and flew low across the road. It landed out of sight. We were almost resigned to accepting a flight view only when our local guide spotted a perched bird, low down in some bare branches and completely unobscured. It stayed long enough for us all to get good scope views before disappearing back into its dark jungle home. It was our 12th kingfisher and the last bird of the trip.

Eastern Indonesia had not disappointed. Although there were some similarities with the Greater and Lesser Sundas, the contrasts were more marked, and in general the trip had generated a whole suite of different species. Instead of woodpeckers, bulbuls, and babblers, we had enjoyed honeyeaters, pigeons, and parrots. The kingfishers were spectacular, as were the birds-of-paradise. And as usual, we left a few things to go back for.
Annotated List of Species Recorded

**Birds (272 in total: 254 seen, 18 heard)**

**Status codes:** E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced, H = Heard
**IUCN codes:** CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

### Ducks, Geese and Swans *Anatidae*

**Spotted Whistling Duck**
*Dendrocygna guttata*
One was seen briefly at dusk on Waigeo.

**Wandering Whistling Duck (H)**
*Dendrocygna arcuata*
Several were heard in the mangroves at Sorong.

**Raja Shelduck**
*Radjah radjah*
A pair was seen in flight on Waigeo.

**Pacific Black Duck**
*Anas superciliosa*
Six in the Wuasa Valley, near Lore Lindu.

**Sunda Teal (NT)**
*Anas gibberifrons*
Two on Lake Tambing, Lore Lindu NP.

### Megapodes *Megapodiidae*

**Dusky Megapode**
*Megapodius freycinet*
On Halmahera, singles heard on Gunung Uni-uni and Gunung Roni; also seen (by one person) and heard at Foli. Seen (briefly) and heard in the forest on Waigeo, but the best views were on Merpati Island where it was common.

### Petrels, Shearwaters and Diving Petrels *Procellariidae*

**Streaked Shearwater**
*Calonectris leucomelas*
Two birds were seen from the ferry between Sorong and Waigeo.

**Wedge-tailed Shearwater**
*Ardenna pacifica*
About ten birds were seen from the ferry between Sorong and Waigeo, and a few more on the return journey.

**Bulwer’s Petrel**
*Bulweria bulwerii*
One bird was seen and photographed from the ferry between Sorong and Waigeo.

### Grebes *Podicipedidae*

**Little Grebe**
*Tachybaptus ruficollis*
One was seen briefly on Lake Tambing at Lore Lindu NP.

### Storks *Ciconiidae*

**Woolly-necked Stork (VU)**
*Ciconia episcopus*
Ten birds were circling low over the airport at Makassar.

### Herons, Egrets and Bitterns *Ardeidae*

**Black-crowned Night Heron**
*Nycticorax nycticorax*
Two in the Wuasa Valley were the only ones recorded.

**Striated Heron**
*Butorides striata*
One on the golf course at Manado and two at Sorong.
### Javan Pond Heron  
*Ardeola speciosa*
Up to 10 on two days in the Wuasa Valley and several at Palu, all on Sulawesi.

### Eastern Cattle Egret  
*Bubulcus coromandus*
Only seen in the Wuasa Valley on Sulawesi, with up to 100 going to roost one day.

### Purple Heron  
*Ardea purpurea*
Three singles seen in the Wuasa Valley on Sulawesi.

### Great Egret  
*Ardea alba*
Singles on Waigeo and at Sorong.  
*The form concerned is sometimes considered to be a separate species, Eastern Great Egret A. modesta.*

### Intermediate Egret  
*Ardea intermedia*
Several seen well on Waigeo.

### Little Egret  
*Egretta garzetta*
Singles seen at Subaim on Halmahera and on Waigeo.

#### Frigatebirds *Fregatidae*

### Lesser Frigatebird  
*Fregata ariel*
First seen between Subaim and Roni on Halmahera. Several hundred seen from the ferry between Sorong and Waigeo, and on the boat trip to Merpati Island.

#### Osprey *Pandionidae*

### Eastern Osprey  
*Pandion cristatus*
One seen eating a fish at Gunung Roni.

#### Kites, Hawks and Eagles *Accipitridae*

### Pacific Baza  
*Aviceda subcristata*
A pair at Gunung Uni-un on Halmahera and another single there two days later.

### Long-tailed Honey Buzzard  
*Henicopernis longicauda*
Singles were seen twice on Waigeo.

### Sulawesi Serpent Eagle  
*Spilornis rufiplectus*
One was seen well at Lake Tambing, Lore Lindu NP.

### Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle  
*Nisaetus lanceolatus*
Great looks of at least six birds at Lore Lindu NP.

### Rufous-bellied Eagle  
*Lophotriorchis kienerii*
One was seen briefly at Lore Lindu NP.

### Black Eagle  
*Ictinaetus malaiensis*
Good views of at least four birds at Lore Lindu NP and another pair seen at Gunung Uni-un on Halmahera.

### Gurney’s Eagle (NT)  
*Aquila gurneyi*
A pair showed well at Foli on Halmahera.

### Dwarf Sparrowhawk (NT)  
*Accipiter nanus*
Three typically brief sightings at Lore Lindu NP.

### Brahminy Kite  
*Haliastur indus*
Singles or pairs commonly encountered on Halmahera and in West Papua.

### White-bellied Sea Eagle  
*Haliaeetus leucogaster*
Singles seen on Waigeo and on the way to Merpati Island.
Rails, Crakes and Coots Rallidae

Barred Rail Gallirallus torquatus
A single at Gunung Mahawu repeatedly came out onto the road, giving great views. At least two more on the golf course at Manado.

Buff-banded Rail Gallirallus philippensis
First seen in the paddyfields in the Wuasa Valley, but common on the golf course in Manado; also a single at the mangroves near Sorong.

Pale-vented Bush-hen Amaurornis moluccana
A single leader-only sighting of a bird running across the road at Gunung Uni-uni.

White-breasted Waterhen Amaurornis phoenicurus
One at Lake Tambing in Lore Lindu NP.

Common Moorhen Gallinula chloropus
One was seen in the paddyfields in the Wuasa Valley.

Buttonquails Turnicidae

Red-backed Buttonquail Turnix maculosus
One was flushed near Palu on Sulawesi.

Sandpipers and allies Scolopacidae

Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus
One on Waigeo Island and a flock of 10 from the ferry back to Sorong.

Ruff Calidris pugnax
A flock of 7 birds flew over the mangroves at Sorong.

Common Sandpiper Actitis hypoleucus
Singles or pairs seen frequently on Waigeo and in the Sorong area.

Wood Sandpiper Tringa glareola
At least 50 in paddyfields near Palu and another six in the Wuasa Valley.

Common Greenshank Tringa nebularia
A single bird was seen twice on Waigeo.

Gulls, Terns and Skimmers Laridae

Greater Crested Tern Thalasseus bergii
One was seen from the ferry between Waigeo and Sorong.

Lesser Crested Tern Thalasseus bengalensis
Two birds were seen on the sea at Foli.

Bridled Tern Onychoprion anaethetus
A flock of ten flew past our speedboat off Waigeo Island.

Black-naped Tern Sterna sumatrana
One bird was present with the flock of Bridled Terns off Waigeo.

Pigeons and Doves Columbidae

Rock Dove Columba livia var. domestica
A single bird in a village on the way to Gunung Roni and two more in Buli – refreshingly scarce in this part of the world.

Red Turtle Dove (I) Streptopelia tranquebarica
Several were seen in the Palu area.

Spotted Dove (I) Spilopelia chinensis
Several were seen in the Palu area and another was seen near Gunung Roni.
Sultan’s Cuckoo-Dove  *Macropygia doreya*
Common in Lore Lindu NP with up to 20 seen daily. Small numbers also on Halmahera, Waigeo and near Sorong.

The form on Sulawesi is sometimes separated as Sulawesi Cuckoo-Dove *M. albicapilla*. Both forms were previously united with other races as Slender-billed or Brown Cuckoo-Dove *M. amboinensis*.

**Great Cuckoo-Dove**  *Reinwardtoena reinwardti*
One bird was seen briefly on Waigeo.

**Stephan’s Emerald Dove**  *Chalcophaps stephani*
One bird showed to a few people at Batu Lobang, near Sorong.

**Western Crowned Pigeon (VU)**  *Goura cristata*
Great views of two birds on Waigeo, surely one of the best birds of the trip, even if it didn’t make the top five.

**Red-eared Fruit Dove**  *Ptilinopus fischeri*
A couple of great sightings (and others heard) at Lore Lindu NP.

**Scarlet-breasted Fruit Dove**  *Ptilinopus bernsteinii*
It took ages to track down a calling bird at Gunung Uni-unii, but it was certainly worth the wait.

**Wompoo Fruit Dove (H)**  *Ptilinopus magnificus*
A single bird heard on Waigeo was the only record, sadly.

**Orange-fronted Fruit Dove**  *Ptilinopus aurantiifrons*
About 15 birds were seen well in the mangroves near Sorong on our last day.

**Superb Fruit Dove**  *Ptilinopus superbus*
Three birds showed well at Lore Lindu NP and another was seen at Gunung Mahawu, all on Sulawesi.

**Beautiful Fruit Dove**  *Ptilinopus pulchellus*
After hearing one on Waigeo we had great views of another the following day.

**Blue-capped Fruit Dove (NT)**  *Ptilinopus monacha*
After poor views of two at Gunung Uni-unii and another heard at Gunung Roni, we finally saw one well at Gunung Uni-unii on our final day on Halmahera.

**White-bibbed Fruit Dove**  *Ptilinopus rivoli*
At least three birds were seen well on Merpati Island.

The form here is sometimes split as Moluccan Fruit Dove *P. prasinorrhous*.

**Claret-breasted Fruit Dove**  *Ptilinopus viridis*
Commonly encountered on Waigeo and another was seen at Batu Lobang.

**Orange-bellied Fruit Dove**  *Ptilinopus iozonus*
Three birds were seen well at Batu Lobang near Sorong on our last day.

**Grey-headed Fruit Dove**  *Ptilinopus hyogastrus*
Common at Gunung Uni-unii on Halmahera.

**Dwarf Fruit Dove**  *Ptilinopus nainus*
One was seen briefly at Batu Lobang, near Sorong, on our last day.

**White-bellied Imperial Pigeon**  *Ducula forsteni*
Common at Lore Lindu NP with frequent sightings; also heard at Gunung Mahawu.

**Grey-headed Imperial Pigeon**  *Ducula radiata*
Just a single bird at Lore Lindu NP, seen perched atop a bare tree on our first morning.

**Spectacled Imperial Pigeon**  *Ducula perspicillata*
Common on Halmahera with most sightings on Gunung Uni-unii.

**Spice Imperial Pigeon**  *Ducula myristicivora*
At least 20 on Merpati Island where it was the only large pigeon.

**Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeon (H)**  *Ducula rufigaster*
A single bird heard on Waigeo was the only record.
**Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula basilica*
Several sightings of single birds on Gunung Uni-uni on Halmahera, but less common than Spectacled.

**Pinon’s Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula pinon*
Common on Waigeo Island with a peak daily count of 30; also a few near Sorong.

**Zoe’s Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula zoeae*
Three birds were seen at Batu Lobang, near Sorong.

**Pied Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula bicolor*
At least 20 were seen one morning on Waigeo, in degraded coastal forest.

### Cuckoos *Cuculidae*

**Goliath Coucal** *Centropus goliath*
A single at Gunung Uni-uni was followed by three more at Foli.

**Lesser Coucal** *Centropus bengalensis*
Several in the Wuasa Valley on Sulawesi.

**Yellow-billed Malkoha** *Rhamphococcyx calyorhynchus*
Singles or pairs seen on several occasions in the Lore Lindu area, but usually shy and difficult to observe.

**Dwarf Koel (H)** *Microdynamis parva*
One was heard at Batu Lobang near Sorong, but refused to show itself.

**Black-billed Koel** *Eudynamys melanorhynchus*
One bird responded well at Lore Lindu NP.

**Channel-billed Cuckoo** *Scythrops novaehollandiae*
One bird was seen and heard on Merpati Island.

**Little Bronze Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx minutillus*
Singles at Lore Lindu NP and Palu.

**Brush Cuckoo (Australian Brush C)** *Cacomantis variolosus*
Frequently heard in the Sorong area and on Waigeo Island, but we managed a couple of sightings too.

**Rusty-breasted Cuckoo** *Cacomantis sepalcralis*
Commonly heard at Lore Lindu NP, and a few sightings too. 
*The form concerned is sometimes split off as a separate species, Sulawesi Brush Cuckoo C. virescens.*

**Moluccan Cuckoo (NT)** *Cacomantis aeruginosus*
Singles heard at Gunung Roni and Gunung Uni-uni, and one was seen well near the airport at Buli.

### Barn Owls *Tytonidae*

**Sulawesi Masked Owl** *Tyto rosenbergii*
One was spotlighted at night in the Wuasa Valley.

**Eastern Grass Owl** *Tyto longimembris*
Two were seen well at dusk in paddyfields in the Wuasa Valley.

### Owls *Strigidae*

**Moluccan Scops Owl** *Otus magicus*
One spotlighted at night on Gunung Uni-uni and another heard at Foli.

**Sulawesi Scops Owl** *Otus manadensis*
One was seen really well after dark in the Wuasa Valley.

**Cinnabar Boobook (VU)** *Ninox ios*
One was seen briefly shortly before dawn at Lore Lindu NP.

**Speckled Boobook** *Ninox punctulata*
One bird was seen well in the afternoon on Gunung Mahawu.
Frogmouths *Podargidae*

**Papuan Frogmouth**  
*Podargus papuensis*  
One bird was roosting in our resort on Waigeo and another was seen on a nest high in a tree nearby.

Nightjars and allies *Caprimulgidae*

**Satanic Nightjar (VU)**  
*Eurostopodus diabolicus*  
One bird was very obliging on its day roost in Lore Lindu NP.

**Great Eared Nightjar**  
*Lyncornis macrotis*  
A couple of brief sightings in the Wuasa Valley on Sualwesi and another was heard.

**Large-tailed Nightjar (H)**  
*Caprimulgus macrurus*  
Two were heard near Sorong on our last day.

**Savanna Nightjar**  
*Caprimulgus affinis*  
Three birds were seen during the late afternoon near Palu.

Owlet-Nightjars *Aegotheidae*

**Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar**  
*Aegotheles crinifrons*  
Two birds showed well but briefly to most people near Foli, and a couple of others were heard in the distance.

Treeswifts *Hemiprocnidae*

**Grey-rumped Treeswift**  
*Hemiprocnus longipennis*  
Six at Lore Lindu NP, two on Gunung Mahawu and a single in Manado.

**Moustached Treeswift**  
*Hemiprocnus mystacea*  
Pairs were seen at Foli, Gunung Roni and on Waigeo.

Swifts *Apodidae*

**Glossy Swiftlet**  
*Collocalia esculenta*  
Very common throughout and seen almost every day.

**Halmahera Swiftlet**  
*Aerodramus infuscatus*  
A few were seen on two occasions on Gunung Uni-uni and also on Gunung Roni.

**Uniform Swiftlet**  
*Aerodramus vanikorensis*  
A small flock on Waigeo was the only confirmed sighting. The species was suspected on Sulawesi, but the presence of introduced Edible-nest Swiftlets for farming makes positive identification difficult.

**Edible-nest Swiftlet (I)**  
*Aerodramus fuciphagus*  
Recorded frequently in lowland Sulawesi, often in proximity to swiftlet farms.

**Purple Needletail**  
*Hirundapus celebensis*  
A single over paddyfields in the Wuasa Valley, and around 10 over forest at the edge of Lore Lindu NP.

Rollers *Coraciidae*

**Oriental Dollarbird**  
*Euorystomus orientalis*  
Singles or pairs seen frequently in the Sorong area and on Waigeo.

Kingfishers *Alcedinidae*

**Hook-billed Kingfisher (H)**  
*Melidora macrorrhina*  
Four birds were heard one morning on Waigeo, but we didn’t manage to see any of them.

**Common Paradise Kingfisher**  
*Tanysiptera galatea*  
Frequently heard on Halmahera and Waigeo; we had great sightings of several birds at Foli and Buli.
Red-breasted Paradise Kingfisher *Tanysiptera nympha*
Two birds were calling at Batu Lobang, near Sorong, and after considerable effort we managed to get great views of one bird.

**Red-breasted Paradise Kingfisher**

Rufous-bellied Kookaburra *Dacelo gaudichaud*
Some great sightings of this impressive kingfisher on Waigeo.

**Rufous-bellied Kookaburra**

Blue-black Kingfisher (DD) *Todiramphus nigrocyaneus*
After a lot of effort, we finally tracked this species down in the sago swamps near Sorong. Two birds were seen and at least two others were heard. It was the last new bird of the trip.

**Blue-black Kingfisher (DD)**

Blue-and-white Kingfisher *Todiramphus diops*
Two pairs were located in the Gunung Roni area and another two pairs on Gunung Uni-uni.

**Blue-and-white Kingfisher**

Sombre Kingfisher (VU) *Todiramphus funebris*
One very obliging bird was seen on Gunung Uni-uni.

**Sombre Kingfisher (VU)**

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris*
Several sightings in the vicinity of Lore Lindu NP, including at Lake Tambing; also seen at Palu and Manado.

**Collared Kingfisher**

Beach Kingfisher *Todiramphus saurophagus*
A pair was seen near the airfield on Waigeo and another on Merpati Island.

**Beach Kingfisher**

Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sanctus*
Several sightings in the Sorong area and on Waigeo.

**Sacred Kingfisher**

Yellow-billed Kingfisher (H) *Syma torotoro*
At least one bird was heard on Waigeo.

**Yellow-billed Kingfisher (H)**

Papuan Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx solitarius*
One bird showed exceptionally well at the Wilson’s site on Waigeo.

**Papuan Dwarf Kingfisher**

Bee-eaters *Meropidae*

Purple-bearded Bee-eater *Meropogon forsteni*
A pair along the Anaso Track at Lore Lindu NP and a single bird on the edge of the park the next day.

**Purple-bearded Bee-eater**

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*
Small numbers seen on two occasions in the Palu area on Sulawesi.

**Blue-tailed Bee-eater**

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*
Small numbers seen on five occasions, at Gunung Uni-uni, Sorong and on Waigeo.

**Rainbow Bee-eater**

Hornbills *Bucerotidae*

Blyth’s Hornbill *Rhyticeros plicatus*
Common on Halmahera and in West Papua. Usually seen singly or in pairs, but sometimes in small flocks. A very noisy flock of at least 30 at Foli was noteworthy.

**Blyth’s Hornbill**

Knobbed Hornbill (VU) *Rhyticeros cassidix*
Pairs were seen on several occasions in the Wuasa Valley and in Lore Lindu NP.

**Knobbed Hornbill (VU)**

Woodpeckers *Picidae*

Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker *Yungipicus temminckii*
Pairs were seen twice in Lore Lindu NP.

**Sulawesi Pygmy Woodpecker**

Falcons and Caracaras *Falconidae*

Spotted Kestrel *Falco moluccensis*
Several sightings in Lore Lindu NP and on Gunung Uni-uni.

**Spotted Kestrel**

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*
One was scoped during breakfast at Foli.

**Peregrine Falcon**
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**Cockatoos Cacatuidae**

**Palm Cockatoo**  
*Probosciger aterrimus*  
A single bird in the garden of our resort on Waigeo was followed by two more in flight nearby.

**Sulphur-crested Cockatoo**  
*Cacatua galerita*  
Up to six were seen daily on Waigeo and a single at Batu Lobang near Sorong.

**White Cockatoo (VU)**  
*Cacatua alba*  
Singles or pairs of this Halmahera endemic were seen on several occasions at Gunung Uni-uni, Gunung Roni and Foli.

**Old World Parrots Psittaculidae**

**Yellow-capped Pygmy Parrot**  
*Micropsitta keiensis*  
Two pairs were seen at Batu Lobang, near Sorong.

**Moluccan King Parrot**  
*Alisterus amboinensis*  
A pair at Gunung Uni-uni showed well.

**Golden-mantled Racket-tail**  
*Prioniturus platurus*  
Regular sightings at Lore Lindu NP, always in flight.

**Eclectus Parrot**  
*Eclectus roratus*  
Delightfully common on Halmahera and in West Papua. This popular species never failed to delight.

**Red-cheeked Parrot**  
*Geoffroyus geoffroyi*  
Commonly encountered on Halmahera and in West Papua.

**Great-billed Parrot**  
*Tanygnathus megalorynchos*  
A single was seen by a few people at Gunung Roni on Halmahera, and two more individuals were seen by everyone on Waigeo.

**Red-flanked Lorikeet**  
*Charmosyna placentis*  
Small flocks were regularly encountered on Gunung Uni-uni and at Foli on Halmahera.

**Chattering Lory (VU)**  
*Lorius garrulus*  
This spectacular parrot was seen frequently on Gunung Uni-uni, including a group of 7 feeding on a small fruiting palm close to the road one evening.

**Black-capped Lory**  
*Lorius lory*  
Pairs were seen on four occasions on Waigeo and at Batu Lobang, near Sorong.

**Black Lory**  
*Chalcopsitta atra*  
Good views of at least 8 birds at Batu Lobang, near Sorong.

**Violet-necked Lory**  
*Eos squamata*  
Singles or pairs at Gunung Uni-uni, Gunung Roni and on Waigeo; also a flock of 8 on Merpati Island.

**Coconut Lorikeet**  
*Trichoglossus haematodus*  
Formerly lumped with other extralimital taxa as Rainbow Lorikeet.

**Citrine Lorikeet**  
*Trichoglossus flavoviridis*  
Small numbers were seen frequently at Lore Lindu NP.

**Orange-breasted Fig Parrot**  
*Cyclopsitta gulielmitertii*  
A pair at Batu Lobang was only seen in flight.

**Double-eyed Fig Parrot**  
*Cyclopsitta diophthalma*  
Good views of a pair at Batu Lobang and another pair in flight.

**Great Hanging Parrot**  
*Loriculus stigmatus*  
One at Lore Lindu NP was only seen in flight.

**Moluccan Hanging Parrot**  
*Loriculus amabilis*  
A flock of six at Gunung Uni-uni was only seen in flight.

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Rockjumper Birding Tours  
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**Pittas Pittidae**

**Papuan Pitta (H)** *Erythropitta macklotii*
Four birds were heard on Waigeo, but despite coming in close, we never managed to see any of them.

**Ivory-breasted Pitta** *Pitta maxima*
Frequently heard on Gunung Uni-uni and Foli. After a long, stealthy stalk in the forest, we all managed amazing views of this extraordinary species. Voted 3rd in the ‘bird of the trip’ poll.

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**Honeyeaters Meliphagidae**

**Ruby-throated Myzomela** *Myzomela eques*
A couple of singles on Waigeo.

**Dusky Myzomela** *Myzomela obscura*
Two were seen at Foli on Halmahera.

**Sulawesi Myzomela** *Myzomela chloroptera*
Singles or pairs were seen on several occasions at Lore Lindu NP.

**Streak-headed Honeyeater** *Pycnopygius stictocepalus*
One bird was seen at Batu Lobang, near Sorong.

**Olive Honeyeater** *Lichmera argentauris*
At least 8 on Merpati Island.

**Spotted Honeyeater** *Xanthotis polygrammus*
Several at Batu Lobang, near Sorong.

**Tawny-breasted Honeyeater** *Xanthotis flaviventer*
Several on Waigeo and one at Batu Lobang, near Sorong.

**Helmeted Friarbird** *Philemon buceroides*
Up to 10 per day on Waigeo and 6 at Batu Lobang, near Sorong.

**White-streaked Friarbird** *Melitograis gilolensis*
Two were seen on Gunung Uni-uni on Halmahera.

**Long-billed Honeyeater** *Melilestes megarhynchus*
Just a single of this distinctive species on Waigeo.

**Brown-backed Honeyeater** *Ramsayornis modestus*
At least two birds were seen in the mangroves near Sorong.

**Varied Honeyeater** *Gavicalis versicolor*
Several were seen on Merpati Island, but less common than Olive Honeyeater.

**Scrub Honeyeater** *Meliphaga albonotata*
One was seen in the mangroves near Sorong.

**Mimic Honeyeater** *Meliphaga analoga*
Singles on two occasions on Waigeo.

**Puff-backed Honeyeater** *Meliphaga aruensis*
Seen and heard twice on Waigeo.

**White-eared Myza** *Myza sarasinorum*
A couple of brief sightings at Lore Lindu NP.

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**Australasian Warblers Acanthizidae**

**Rusty Mouse-Warbler (H)** *Crateroscelis murina*
One was heard in the forest on Waigeo, but it could be enticed out.

**Golden-bellied Gerygone** *Gerygone sulphurea*
Frequently heard at Lore Lindu NP and also one at Manado.

**Green-backed Gerygone** *Gerygone chloronota*
Several seen and heard on Waigeo.
Fairy Gerygone  
*Gerygone palpebrosa*
One bird was seen briefly but well on Waigeo.

**Berriypeckers and Longbills* Melanocharitidae**

**Black Berriypecker (H)**  
*Melanocharis nigra*
One was heard on Waigeo.

**Yellow-bellied Longbill**  
*Toxorhamphus novaeguineae*
Singles seen and heard on Waigeo.

**Boatbills* Machaerirhynchidae**

**Yellow-breasted Boatbill (H)**  
*Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*
One was heard on Waigeo.

**Woodswallows, Butcherbirds and allies* Artamidae**

**White-breasted Woodswallow**  
*Artamus leucorynchus*
Frequent sightings throughout.

**Ivory-backed Woodswallow**  
*Artamus monachus*
A pair in the forest at Lore Lindu NP was the only sighting.

**Black Butcherbird**  
*Melloria quoyi*
One was seen in the resort on Waigeo and another was heard near Sorong.

**Hooded Butcherbird**  
*Cracticus cassicus*
Frequently seen and heard on Waigeo.

**Cuckoo-shrikes* Campephagidae**

**Moluccan Cuckooshrike**  
*Coracina atriceps*
Several at Gunung Uni-unii and Foli, on Halmahera.

**Cerulean Cuckooshrike**  
*Coracina temminckii*
Great looks at a couple of pairs of this distinctive species at Lore Lindu NP.

**Boyer’s Cuckooshrike**  
*Coracina boyeri*
About five at Batu Lobang, near Sorong.

**White-bellied Cuckooshrike**  
*Coracina papuensis*
A nice little flock of six birds at the mangroves near Sorong.

**Halmahera Cuckooshrike**  
*Coracina parvula*
We all saw this endemic rather well on Gunung Uni-unii.

**Pygmy Cuckooshrike**  
*Coracina abbotti*
Three individuals were seen at Lore Lindu NP.

**Sulawesi Cicaadabird**  
*Coracina morio*
A pair was seen at Lore Lindu NP.

**Grey-headed Cuckooshrike**  
*Coracina schisticeps*
A pair seen at Batu Lobang, near Sorong – the female is one of the more distinctive cuckooshrikes.

**Golden Cuckooshrike**  
*Campochaera sloetii*
A flock of three birds at Batu Lobang was a treat – what a stunner!

**White-shouldered Triller**  
*Lalage sueurii*
One was seen near Palu.

**Rufous-bellied Triller**  
*Lalage aurea*
Frequent sightings of this distinctive Halmahera endemic at Gunung Uni-unii and Gunung Roni.

**Black-browed Triller**  
*Lalage atrovirens*
At least four at Batu Lobang, near Sorong.
Whistlers and allies *Pachycephalidae*

**Island Whistler**  
*Pachycephala phaionota*  
At least 8 on Merpati Island.

**Sulphur-vented Whistler**  
*Pachycephala sulfuriventer*  
Frequent sightings of mainly single birds at Lore Lindu NP.

**Grey Whistler**  
*Pachycephala simplex*  
A single on Waigeo was the only record.

**Black-chinned Whistler**  
*Pachycephala mentalis*  
Just one was seen on Gunung Roni, and another heard on Gunung Uni-unii.  
*This species was formerly lumped in the extralimital Golden Whistler P. pectoralis.*

**Drab Whistler**  
*Pachycephala griseonota*  
One was seen at Foli and another heard on Gunung Uni-unii.

**Rusty Pitohui**  
*Pseudorectes ferrugineus*  
At least two were seen on Waigeo.

**Little Shrikethrush**  
*Colluricincla megarhyncha*  
Heard at the Wilson’s site on Waigeo, and one was seen the following day.

Old World Orioles *Oriolidae*

**Raja Ampat Pitohui**  
*Pitohui cerviniventris*  
At least three birds were seen on Waigeo.  
*Recently split from Variable Pitohui P. kirhocephalus, and endemic to Waigeo and Batanta Islands.*

**Brown Oriole**  
*Oriolus szalayi*  
Several sightings on Waigeo.

**Dusky-brown Oriole**  
*Oriolus phaeochromus*  
Frequently seen and heard at Gunung Uni-unii on Halmahera.

**Black-naped Oriole**  
*Oriolus chinensis*  
Two birds were seen in Lore Lindu NP.

Drongos *Dicuridae*

**Sulawesi Drongo**  
*Dicrurus montanus*  
A pair was seen in Lore Lindu NP.

**Spangled Drongo**  
*Dicrurus bracteatus*  
Several sightings on Halmahera (Gunung Uni-unii and Foli), Waigeo and Sorong.  
*The form on Halmahera is sometimes split off as Halmahera Spangled Drongo D. atrocaeruleus.*

Fantails *Rhipiduridae*

**Willie Wagtail**  
*Rhipidura leucophrys*  
Common in open country on Halmahera, Waigeo and around Sorong.

**Northern Fantail**  
*Rhipidura rufiventer*  
Just a couple of brief sightings on Waigeo.

**Sooty Thicket Fantail (H)**  
*Rhipidura threnothorax*  
One was heard at Batu Lobang, near Sorong.

**Rusty-bellied Fantail**  
*Rhipidura teysmanni*  
Frequent sightings at Lore Lindu NP.

**Arafura Fantail**  
*Rhipidura dryas*  
At least 10 on Merpati Island where it was one of the commonest passerines.
**Monarchs Monarchidae**

**Pale-blue Monarch**  
*Hypothymis puella*

Seen and heard at Lore Lindu NP and also one at Gunung Mahawu.

**Spectacled Monarch (H)**  
*Symposiachrus trivirgatus*

Singles heard at Gunung Uni-uni and Gunung Roni.

**White-naped Monarch (H)**  
*Carterornis pileatus*

One was heard at Gunung Roni.

**Golden Monarch**  
*Carterornis chrysomela*

A very obliging individual was seen at the Red BOP site on Waigeo Island and another was at Batu Lobang, near Sorong.

**Frilled Monarch**  
*Arses telescophthalmus*

Two on Waigeo and another two at Batu Lobang, near Sorong. The latter showed particularly well.

**Moluccan Flycatcher**  
*Myiagra galeata*

Singles on Gunung Uni-uni and Gunung Roni.

**Shining Flycatcher**  
*Myiagra alecto*

After hearing several unresponsive birds on Halmahera, we finally managed to see a few on Waigeo.

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**Crows, Jays and Magpies Corvidae**

**Slender-billed Crow**  
*Corvus enca*

One bird near Palu was the only sighting.

*The form on Sulawesi is sometimes split as a separate species, Sulawesi Crow C. celebensis.*

**Piping Crow (H)**  
*Corvus typicus*

One was heard at Lore Lindu NP.

**Long-billed Crow (NT)**  
*Corvus validus*

This distinctive species was seen frequently on Halmahera.

**Brown-headed Crow (NT)**  
*Corvus fuscicapillus*

Three birds were seen on our final afternoon on Waigeo.

**Torresian Crow**  
*Corvus orru*

Several were seen on Waigeo; also heard on Merpati Island.

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**Birds-of-paradise Paradisaeidae**

**Paradise-crow**  
*Lycocorax pyrrhopterus*

Pairs were seen on three occasions at Gunung Uni-uni on Halmahera.

**Glossy-mantled Manucode**  
*Manucodia ater*

Two at the mangroves near Sorong and another on Waigeo Island.

**Wilson’s Bird-of-paradise**  
*Diphyllodes respublica*

The undisputed ‘bird of the trip’. We observed two leks of this glorious species, one with one male and two females, the other with two males and three females.

**King Bird-of-paradise**  
*Cicinnurus regius*

After some diligent searching we all saw a magnificent male at Batu Lobang; the two females present were more furtive.

**Standardwing (NT)**  
*Semioptera wallacii*

First seen and heard on Gunung Uni-uni, but the lek near Foli did not disappoint. At least six birds were present and mating was observed on two occasions.

**Red Bird-of-paradise (NT)**  
*Paradisaea rubra*

Three glorious males were displaying in the top of a bare tree on Waigeo, with a female nearby and another male in flight over the valley. Singles were seen or heard on subsequent days too. This species gained second place in the ‘bird of the trip’ poll.
**Australasian Robins Petroicidae**

**Black-sided Robin (H)**
*Poecilodryas hypoleuca*
One was heard early in the morning at the Wilson’s site on Waigeo.

**Hylocitrea Hylocitreidae**

**Hylocitrea**
*Hylocitrea bonensis*
After a brief search, two birds showed really well at Lore Lindu NP.

**Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae**

**Citrine Canary-Flycatcher**
*Culicica helianthea*
Several sightings of single birds at Lore Lindu NP.

**Bulbs Pycnonotidae**

**Sooty-headed Bulbul (I)**
*Pycnonotus aurigaster*
Common in the Palu area; also seen on Gunung Mahawu and in the Manado area. This species is now well established on Sulawesi.

**Northern Golden Bulbul**
*Thapsinillas longirostris*
Frequent sightings on Gunung Uni-uni and Gunung Roni on Halmahera.

**Swallows Hirundinidae**

**Barn Swallow**
*Hirundo rustica*
Only a few birds were seen, at Subaim on Halmahera and at Sorong.

**Pacific Swallow**
*Hirundo tahitica*
Common throughout, and seen almost every day.

**Cettia Bush Warblers and allies Cettiidae**

**Mountain Tailorbird**
*Phyllergates cucullatus*
Frequently heard at Lore Lindu NP and several birds were seen; also heard at Gunung Mahawu.

**Leaf warblers and allies Phylloscopidae**

**Sulawesi Leaf Warbler**
*Phylloscopus sarasinorum*
Fairly common at Lore Lindu NP, often in small flocks.

**Grassbirds and allies Locustellidae**

**Chestnut-backed Bush Warbler**
*Locustella castanea*
Frequently heard in the forest at Lore Lindu NP. After a bit of effort, we managed views of three birds close to the road.

**Tawny Grassbird**
*Megalurus timoriensis*
One leader-only bird was seen in the Wuasa Valley.

**Malia**
*Malia grata*
Several sightings in Lore Lindu NP, but more often heard than seen.

**Cisticolas and allies Cisticolidae**

**Zitting Cisticola**
*Cisticola juncidis*
Several sightings at Palu and in the Wuasa Valley.

**Golden-headed Cisticola (H)**
*Cisticola exilis*
One was heard in the Wuasa Valley.
Fulvettas and Ground Babblers *Pellorneidae*

**Sulawesi Babbler**  
*Trichastoma celebense*  
Heard in Lore Lindu NP but only seen briefly.

White-eyes *Zosteropidae*

**Streak-headed White-eye**  
*Lophozosterops squamiceps*  
Only a single bird was seen in Lore Lindu NP.

**Mountain White-eye**  
*Zosterops montanus*  
Commonly encountered in Lore Lindu NP; also seen on Gunung Mahawu.

**Lemon-bellied White-eye**  
*Zosterops chloris*  
Common in the Wuasa Valley and around Palu; also a few on Merpati Island, off Waigeo.

**Cream-throated White-eye**  
*Zosterops atriceps*  
Two at Foli and one on Gunung Roni.  
The form concerned is sometimes split off as Halmahera White-eye *Z. fuscifrons*.

**Black-crowned White-eye**  
*Zosterops atrifrons*  
Common at Lore Lindu NP.

Starlings *Sturnidae*

**Metallic Starling**  
*Aplonis metallica*  
Flocks were seen on Halmahera, Waigeo and at Sorong.

**Singing Starling**  
*Aplonis cantoroides*  
A flock of five birds was seen on Waigeo.

**Asian Glossy Starling**  
*Aplonis panayensis*  
Four birds were seen in Manado, en route to the airport.

**Moluccan Starling**  
*Aplonis mysolensis*  
Small numbers were seen on Halmahera, mainly on Gunung Uni-unii; also a few on Merpati Island.

**Short-tailed Starling**  
*Aplonis minor*  
Two birds were found in Lore Lindu NP with some Grosbeak Starlings.

**Yellow-faced Myna**  
*Mino dumontii*  
Up to 20 per day on Waigeo Island; also seen near Sorong.

**Fiery-browed Starling**  
*Enodes erythrophris*  
This stunning species was frequently encountered in Lore Lindu NP.

**Grosbeak Starling**  
*Scissirostrum dubium*  
Great views of two small groups in Lore Lindu NP.

**Javan Myna (I)**  
*Acridotheres javanicus*  
Small flocks of this recently established species were seen in Palu and Manado.

Thrushes and allies *Turdidae*

**Sulawesi Thrush**  
*Cataponera turdoides*  
Good views of a single bird on the roadside at dawn in Lore Lindu NP.

Chats and Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae*

**Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher**  
*Cyornis omissus*  
One was seen and another heard at Lore Lindu NP.

**Blue-fronted Blue Flycatcher**  
*Cyornis hoevelli*  
A couple of good sightings of this endemic flycatcher at Lore Lindu NP.

**Turquoise Flycatcher**  
*Eumyias panayensis*  
Up to four per day at Lore Lindu NP.
Great Shortwing (H)  
*Heinrichia calligyna*
We tried so hard for this one, but we only heard it at Lore Lindu NP.

**Snowy-browed Flycatcher**  
*Ficedula hyperythra*
Common at Lore Lindu NP; also seen on Gunung Mahawu.

**Little Pied Flycatcher**  
*Ficedula westermanni*
Several at Lore Lindu NP.

**Pied Bush Chat**  
*Saxicola caprata*
Two in the Wuasa Valley and one at Palu.

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**Flowerpeckers *Dicaeidae***

**Yellow-sided Flowerpecker**  
*Dicaeum aureolimbatum*
Two birds were seen at Lore Lindu NP.

**Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker**  
*Dicaeum nehrkorni*
Two birds were seen at Lore Lindu NP.

**Halmahera Flowerpecker**  
*Dicaeum schistaceiceps*
Pairs were seen on two occasions at Gunung Uni-uni.

**Olive-crowned Flowerpecker**  
*Dicaeum pectorale*
Several sightings on Waigeo and another at Batu Lobang, near Sorong.

**Grey-sided Flowerpecker**  
*Dicaeum celebicum*
This species was seen at Lore Lindu NP, Palu and Manado.

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**Sunbirds and Spiderhunters *Nectariniidae***

**Black Sunbird**  
*Leptocoma aspasia*
Frequently encountered on Halmahera, Waigeo and near Sorong.

**Olive-backed Sunbird**  
*Cinnyris jugularis*
Frequent sightings on Sulawesi (Palu), Halmahera and in the mangroves near Sorong.

**Crimson Sunbird**  
*Aethopyga siparaja*
Two singles were seen in Lore Lindu NP.

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**Old World Sparrows *Passeridae***

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow**  
*Passer montanus*
Common throughout and seen almost every day.

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**Waxbills, Munias and allies *Estrildidae***

**Black-faced Munia**  
*Lonchura molucca*
A few were seen on two occasions near Palu.

**Scaly-breasted Munia**  
*Lonchura punctulata*
Three birds near Palu were the only ones seen.

**Chestnut Munia**  
*Lonchura atricapilla*
Commonly encountered in paddyfields on Sulawesi.

**Pale-headed Munia**  
*Lonchura pallida*
Two flocks were seen in the Palu area.

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**Finches *Fringillidae***

**Mountain Serin**  
*Chrysocorythus estherae*
A flighty group of six birds was seen by a few people at Lore Lindu NP.
*The population in Lore Lindu belongs to an undescribed subspecies.*
Mammals (only 2 species seen!)

**Possums, Cuscuses, Gledero, Ringtails Phalangeridae**

*Waigeo Cuscus*  
*Spilocuscus papuensis*  
One was seen well at its day roost on Waigeo.

*Squirrels Sciuridae*

*Celebes Dwarf Squirrel*  
*Prosciurillus murinus*  
One was seen at Lore Lindu NP.

Reptiles (3 species seen)

**Skinks Scincidae**

*Pacific Bluetail Skink*  
*Emoia caeruleocauda*  
Several were seen in our beach resort on Waigeo.

**Monitor Lizards Varanidae**

*Peach-throated Monitor*  
*Varanus jobiensis*  
Three individuals were seen on Waigeo.

*Water Monitor*  
*Varanus salvator*  
One was seen near Palu, on Sulawesi.