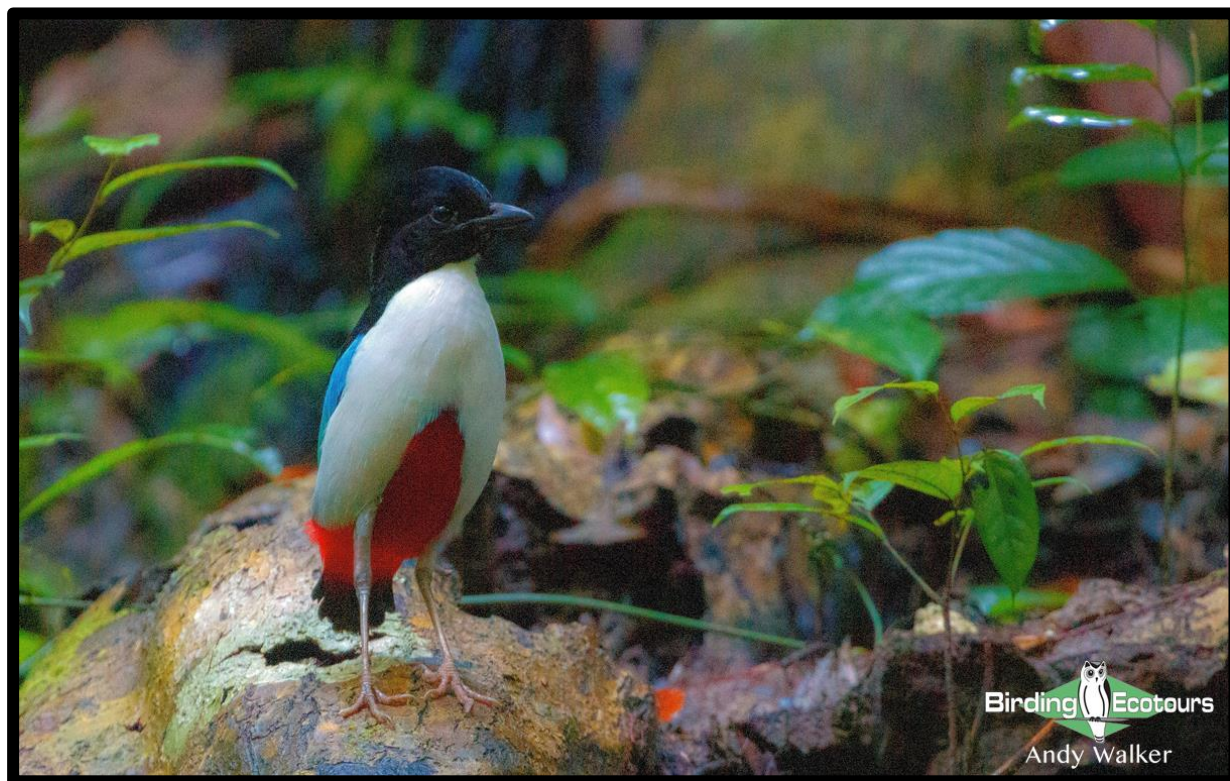




## SULAWESI AND HALMAHERA TRIP REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2020

By Andy Walker



*We had incredible views of the stunning **Ivory-breasted Pitta** during the trip.*

## Overview

The island of Sulawesi (formerly Celebes) offers some of *the* best birding in Indonesia, and that's saying something for a country made up of over 17,500 islands sprawling across 3,181 miles (5,120 kilometers) from east to west, and 1,094 miles (1,760 kilometers) from north to south, including the 'famous' islands of New Guinea (Papua and West Papua), Borneo (Kalimantan), Halmahera, Java, Bali, and Sumatra to name a few, and which has a bird list of nearly 1,800 species!

The Sulawesi Archipelago, which includes several near-shore islands such as the Banggai islands – where I visited in February 2020 (read all about the birding and several species new to science on these islands in [this blog post](#)), has a bird list of 534 species following International Ornithological Congress (IOC) taxonomy in October 2020 and an amazing 98 endemics, including one endemic monotypic family, the highly sought-after **Hylocitrea** – making it a 'must-visit' destination for 'family listers'.

Some of the highly sought-after and intriguing species in Sulawesi include **Maleo**, **Geomalia**, **Malia**, **Blue-faced Rail**, several endemic kingfisher (such as **Green-backed Kingfisher**, **Lilac Kingfisher**, **Scaly-breasted Kingfisher**, **Great-billed Kingfisher**, and **Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher**), **Purple-bearded Bee-eater**, **Sulawesi Pitta**, **Sulawesi Hornbill**, **Knobbed Hornbill**, **Lompobattang Flycatcher**, **Sulawesi Streaked Flycatcher**, **Sulawesi Goshawk**, **Ashy Woodpecker**, and a range of owls and nightjars such as **Satanic Nightjar**, **Sulawesi Nightjar**, **Ochre-bellied Boobook**, **Speckled Boobook**, **Sulawesi Masked Owl**, **Minahassa Masked Owl**, and **Sulawesi Scops Owl**. There are just so many amazing birds to look for here and this list is just a very small sample, with tons of fruit doves, pigeons, parrots, flycatcher, mynas, thrushes, warblers, white-eyes, and raptors all possible too!

Furthermore, Sulawesi sits in an interesting position geographically, to the east of the Wallace Line – an invisible line that marks the change from Asian fauna (west of the line) to Australian fauna (east of the line). Those countries that occur in the transition zone closest to the Wallace Line (such as Sulawesi) are considered to be part of 'Wallacea' – named after Alfred Russel Wallace, a British naturalist (amongst many other things) who discovered this phenomenon whilst independently conceiving the theory of evolution through natural selection in a paper jointly published with some of Charles Darwin's writings.

We have a really exciting Sulawesi and Halmahera birding tour that I'm lucky enough to lead in July each year with our team of excellent local guides. However, like everyone, we unfortunately had to postpone our 2020 tour due to the ongoing global Covid situation. I have been 'stuck' in Bali since March 2020 and in about August 2020, travel within Indonesia was approved (after taking a Covid test and following certain precautions). Once Tangkoko National Park in northern Sulawesi opened to foreigners still in Indonesia, I decided to take the relatively short flight from Denpasar in Bali to Manado in northern Sulawesi to spend a few days exploring this top birdwatching site in Sulawesi.

One of the best things about Tangkoko National Park is that it is packed full of interesting birds, including many of the aforementioned endemics, as well as some unique mammals. In addition to the high-quality wildlife, the open-nature of the forest here, with its limited ground-cover vegetation, offers incredible views of many species, and this also allows for some great photo



opportunities, for those that way inclined. Finally, the birds and wildlife here are relatively accustomed to people, far more so than most other places I've been in Indonesia (usually they can be nervous due to hunting pressure – either to kill and eat or to capture for the illegal pet trade – unfortunately still a huge problem in the country). All in all, the above results in some of the best birding in the country and is always a popular stop on our tours. Therefore, I felt a long-weekend here and at the nearby Mount Mahawu (for some higher-elevation birds) would be good fun – and I wasn't disappointed....



*Maleo – always a top target when birding in Sulawesi.*

After a few days birding in northern Sulawesi we decided to take the short flight from Manado in northern Sulawesi to the volcanic island of Ternate – this place is literally one huge forest-covered volcano with a large amount of urban development on the more gentle slopes going down to the coast.

Ternate is in the North Molucca (or North Maluku) islands and it is here that Alfred Russel Wallace lived. From Ternate we took a speedboat to Sofifi, the capital city (or more accurately, village!) on the island of Halmahera. Halmahera was formerly known as Jilolo, Gilolo, or Jailolo and is the largest of the North Molucca islands and is a similar shape to Sulawesi, but is much smaller (though it is still the sixth-largest island in Indonesia).

Halmahera has a bird list of 327 species following International Ornithological Congress (IOC) taxonomy in October 2020, with six of these species being endemic to the island and a further almost 60 species endemic to the region, so it is an important stop for world birders. The feel of this island is much more of an Australian flavor than Asian and there are some truly jaw-dropping and exciting species to look for. The forest and birding here reminded me hugely of being in the amazing West Papua region, which isn't probably all that surprising given it's not that far away.



*The view out the back of the speedboat as we departed Ternate for Sofifi.*

There are some staggering birds possible on the island. Everyone is familiar with the gorgeous birds-of-paradise of New Guinea (see this [blog post](#) I recently put together) but Halmahera has two species of this incredible family too – (Wallace’s) **Standardwing** and (Halmahera) **Paradise-crow**, furthermore, if like me, you are a fan of pittas then you really do have to add this to your ‘need to go to’ places with the striking **Ivory-breasted Pitta** and stunning **North Moluccan Pitta** both present. Kingfishers too are very well represented (such as **Blue-and-white Kingfisher**, **Sombre Kingfisher**, **Moluccan Dwarf Kingfisher**, **Common Paradise Kingfisher**), as too are pigeons, fruit doves, an assortment of colorful parrots, and numerous endemics and regional specialties. There are also several really interesting nightbirds present on the island, such as **Halmahera Boobook**, **Moluccan Scops Owl**, and **Moluccan Owlet-nightjar**. In addition to the birds, the snorkeling and scuba-diving around Halmahera is excellent, we stay at a dive resort while here, so there’s ample opportunity for these activities.

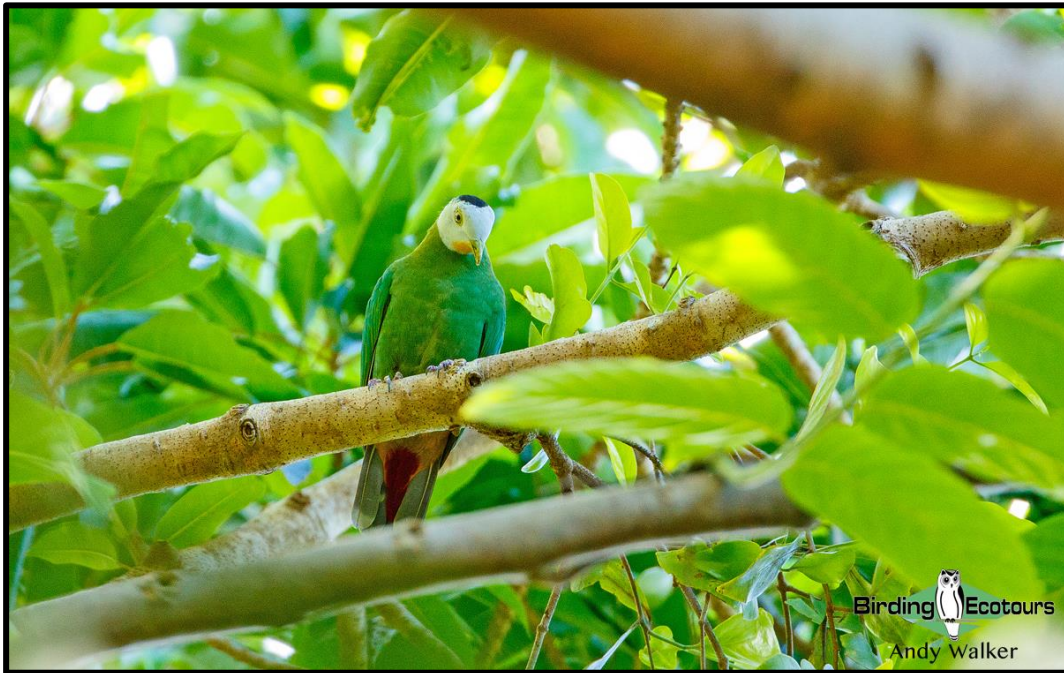
### Detailed Report

#### **Day 1: Tangkoko Batuangus National Park**

Walking through the park entrance we were greeted by the sight and sound of multitudes of pigeons and doves, **White-faced Cuckoo-Dove**, **Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon**, **Black-naped Fruit Dove**, and **Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon** to name but a few. It was early morning, and many other species were announcing their presence vocally and flying between roosting and feeding areas which included the rather impressive **White-necked Myna** dragging its long tail behind – very nice, while on the forest floor a lone **Philippine Megapode** (Tabon Scrubfowl) skulked about. Our attention was suddenly dragged into the tangles of a tree where we got glimpses of one of the



spectacular endemics we were hoping for, **Yellow-billed Malkoha**. I'd seen this species back in February but only briefly without any photo opportunities, but this one was happy to show well. It was interesting watching it slink around looking for a hearty insect breakfast. Also, in the same tree, a pair of **Bay Coucals** were similarly working away for some food. The foraging of these two large species had not gone unnoticed, for a **Hair-crested** (White-eyed Spangled) **Drongo** was waiting patiently nearby for any insects escaping the malkoha or coucal, as too were **Pale-blue Monarchs** – clever tactics!

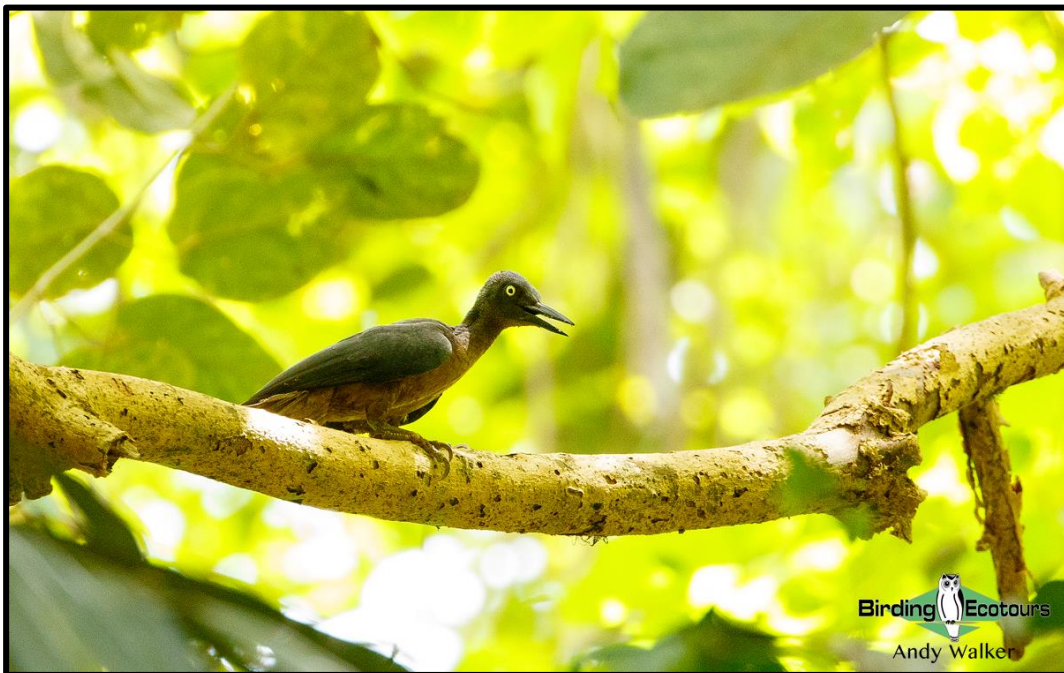


*A Black-naped Fruit Dove peers down at me!*

As we approached a small campsite clearing, another of the major target birds appeared into view, **Ashy Woodpecker**. There are not many woodpeckers to the east of the Wallace Line and this is the largest, it too showed well. Several swiftlets were foraging at different heights in the open area, these included **Glossy Swiftlet**, **Sulawesi Swiftlet**, and **Uniform Swiftlet**, all dwarfed by the huge **Grey-rumped Treeswift**. There was a very secretive bird calling in the distance, so while waiting for that to come closer, there was ample opportunity to study the swiftlets, always a fun exercise! The secretive bird started getting closer, so we found a more concealed spot and waited, after a lot of cat-and-mouse, eventually a pair of **Isabelline Bush-hens** stepped into view, showing very well, for bush-hens that is! We were pleased that they did show as there was a lot of bird activity in the nearby trees that deserved some attention as they held **Yellow-sided Flowerpecker**, **Olive-backed Sunbird**, **Sultan's** (Sulawesi) **Cuckoo-Dove**, **White-faced Cuckoo-Dove**, **Grosbeak Starling**, **Sooty-headed Bulbul**, and **Collared Kingfisher** among others already seen.



*The stunning **Yellow-billed Malkoha** taking a pause from foraging and showing very well.*



*It was great to see **Ashy Woodpeckers** so well at Tangkoko.*

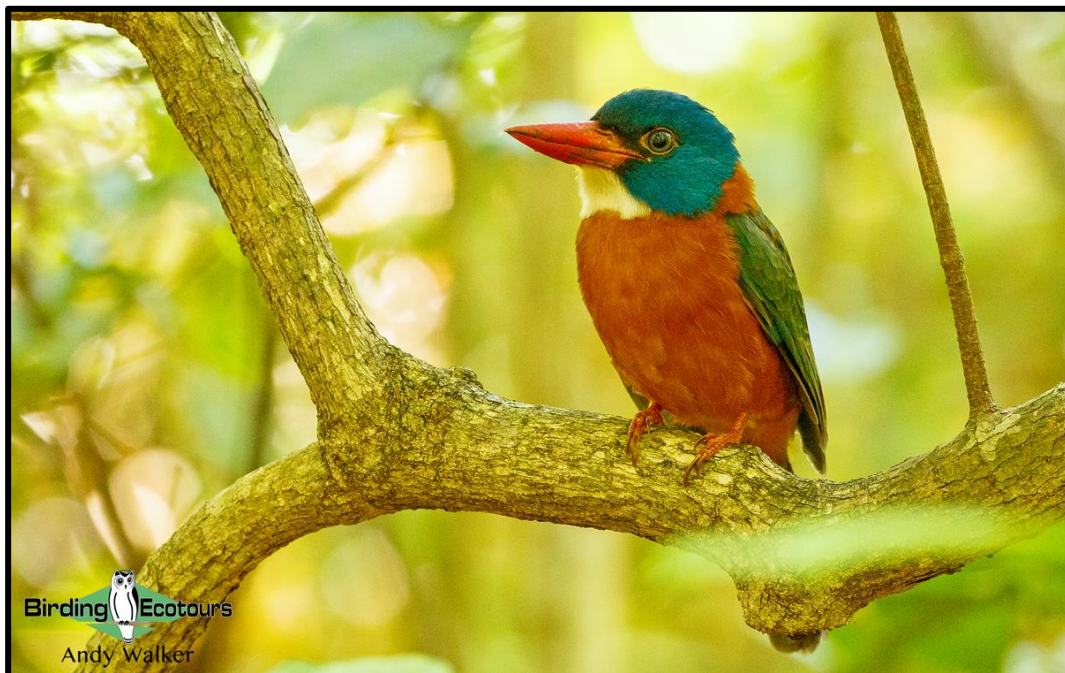
Walking back into the forest there was suddenly a troop of **Celebes Crested (Black) Macaques** sat in the trail which proceeded to give some great views. It's always interesting to watch mammals in their natural habitat.





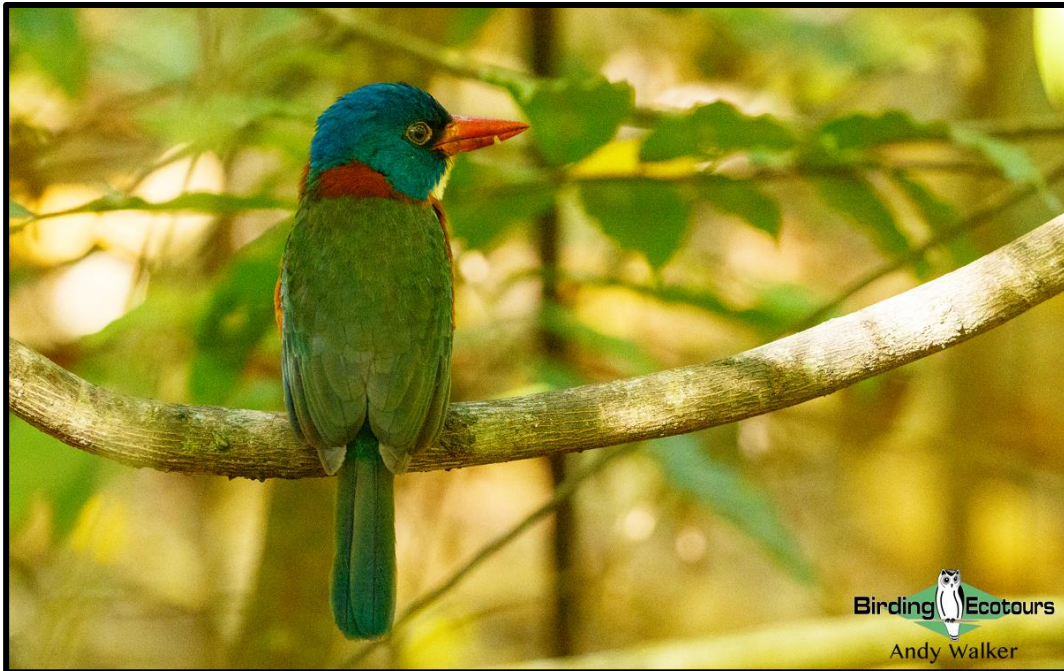
*Celebes Crested (Black) Macaque sitting briefly before venturing back into the forest.*

It was shortly after the monkey sighting that the morning hit the jackpot as far as we were concerned, with fantastic, point-blank, walkaway views of both **Green-backed Kingfisher** and **Lilac Kingfisher**, two of the most highly sought-after kingfisher endemics.



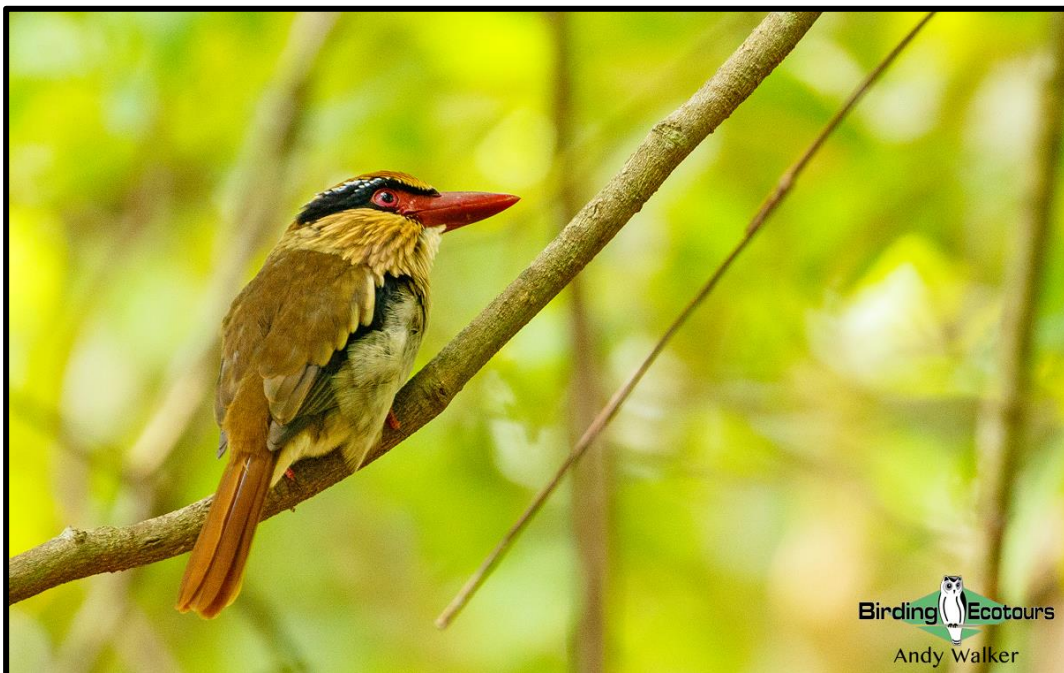
*Green-backed Kingfisher (front view)*





*Green-backed Kingfisher (back view)*

This **Green-backed Kingfisher** allowed me to do a 360° walk-around as it sat motionless low-down (at eye-level) in the hanging vines – stunning, what a bird! The **Lilac Kingfisher** a few moments later was just as co-operative...



*Lilac Kingfisher perched low and showing well.*

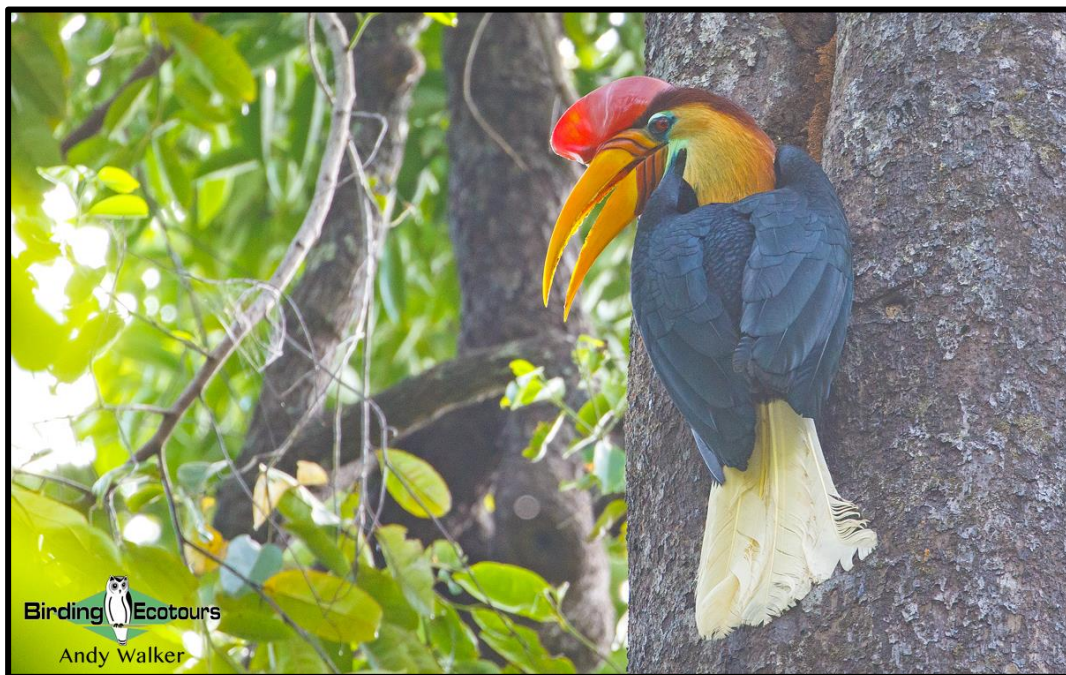


After a great local-style lunch – amazing fresh fish, and a siesta through the hottest part of the day, it was time for the afternoon birding session. This was almost as good as the morning with further views of many of the birds mentioned above along with yet more highlights found too, such as **Sulawesi Hawk-Eagle**, **Purple-winged Roller**, **Black-billed Koel**, **Yellow-breasted Racket-tail**, **Black-naped Oriole**, and two more mammals – **Spectral Tarsier** and (Sulawesi) **Bear Cuscus**. As dusk turned into darkness a brief session near the accommodation yielded **Sulawesi Nightjar** and **Great Eared Nightjar**. It had been a great day birding in Tangkoko National Park. With so many incredible highlights it was tough to pick a favorite!

## Day 2: Tangkoko Batuangus National Park, mangrove boat ride, and travel to Tomohon

The next morning it was time for a bit of a longer hike as we walked along the nice flat trails for quite a way (just stopping for a quick glance at some of the birds mentioned above) before going “off-piste” a little. After a bit of uphill, we reached a tree and sat and waited. We could hear our target bird calling and then flying around behind us – it’s not a quiet bird, and it was coming closer and closer... eventually there it was – right above us. Patiently we remained hidden, the urge to get the camera going was huge but we needed to wait and let it feel comfortable with our presence. After a while of it sitting and preening it eventually did what we hoped it would do...

The simply stunning male **Knobbed Hornbill** dropped down to the tree in question where it proceeded to regurgitate fruit and feed his partner through a small slit – this was the nest-site of this amazing endemic hornbill and the wait had been more than worthwhile. We enjoyed fantastic views of this remarkable bird, soaking in every minute detail – click [here](#) to see a video of this.



*To get the view we had of **Knobbed Hornbill** was beyond our wildest dreams. What a bird!*

We found the endemic **Ochre-bellied Boobook** roosting low down in some spiky palms and then also found a secretive **Red-backed Thrush** which nervously showed. Other highlights included **Golden-mantled Racket-tail**, **Blue-backed Parrot**, **Ornate Lorikeet**, and **Sulawesi Babbler**.



*Take a look at the piercing eyes of the **Ochre-bellied Boobook** – wow!*



*This **Red-backed Thrush** was typically skittish as most members of the *Geokichla* genus are...*



Next up was a boat ride on an outrigger along a river channel surrounded by mangroves. The journey to the river mouth was across a sheltered coastal sea passage which gave good views of **Pied Imperial Pigeon**, **Pacific Reef Heron**, and **Lesser Frigatebird**. On reaching the river mouth, two extremely (and typically) raucous **Channel-billed Cuckoos** flew over – we could hear them coming from miles away! **Striated Heron**, **Eurasian Whimbrel**, and **Common Sandpiper** greeted us, as too did a pair of smart **Collared Kingfisher** and a pair of the gorgeous Australian migrant, **Sacred Kingfisher**.



*A lovely **Sacred Kingfisher** perched up on the riverbank, soon to be flying back to Australia.*

As we progressed along the river, we found **Black Sunbird**, **Golden-bellied Gerygone**, **White-breasted Woodswallow**, **Pink-necked Green Pigeon**, **Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon**, **Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon**, **Slender-billed** (Sulawesi) **Crow**, and **Great** (Sulawesi) **Hanging Parrot**. Our main target bird however took some tracking down, it was very secretive and shy to begin with, but eventually with some patience and excellent boat work, we were able to get into place to enjoy clear views of the huge **Great-billed** (Black-billed) **Kingfisher** – yet another Sulawesi endemic. I had seen the red-billed subspecies in February 2020 in central Sulawesi, so it was interesting to see this very different one here. Fantastic views too!

The boat trip rounded off an excellent couple of days in the lowlands of the Tangkoko area and for a final quick stop and change of environment and altitude, we moved across to Gunung Mahawu and the town of Tomohon located nearby.



*The black-billed subspecies of **Great-billed Kingfisher** gave some really excellent views.*

We stayed in a delightful hotel and had a few fun birds in the garden, such as **Sulawesi Scops Owl**, **Yellow-sided Flowerpecker**, **Grey-sided Flowerpecker**, **White-rumped Triller**, **Black-crowned White-eye**, and **Warbling White-eye** (formerly Mountain White-eye).



***Yellow-sided Flowerpecker** – feeding out at eye-level in the hotel garden was a nice sight.*





*Many Zosterops (white-eye) species have had a big shuffle around, formerly this was called Mountain White-eye but has now been moved to **Warbling White-eye**.*



*Beautiful light on this **Uniform Swiftlet**.*

### Day 3: Gunung Mahawu

Unfortunately, our morning birding session at Gunung Mahawu was seriously hampered by rain so we didn't get the **Scaly-breasted Kingfisher** that we would usually stand a great chance of seeing here, though consolation in the form of **Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher**, **Citrine Canary-flycatcher**, **Rusty-breasted Cuckoo**, **White-bellied Imperial Pigeon**, **Sulawesi Myzomela**, **Sulphur-vented Whistler**, **Sulawesi Bush Warbler**, **Turquoise Flycatcher**, **Snowy-browed Flycatcher**, and **Crimson-crowned Flowerpecker** were all welcome.



*Sulawesi Blue Flycatcher* was one of the first passerines to show in the high-elevation forest.

Despite the poor weather we encountered on the mountain, it was still great to be in the forest, with some very nice patches of habitat thankfully still present, despite plenty of deforestation for agriculture clearly evident in the surrounding area.

It is easy to see why this part of Sulawesi, located right at the tip of the Minahassa Peninsula, is so popular with visiting birders and photographers. It is possible to rack up a huge number of Sulawesi endemics in no time at all, and get great views of so many of them. Even in the couple of brief birdwatching sessions we made on this trip, our list was very impressive, and on our Sulawesi bird tour we spend even more time here (summarized above), which will result in even more high-quality birding experiences.

We spent the night in the city of Manado at a very comfortable hotel ahead of a flight to Ternate in the North Moluccas the next morning, the stepping-stone to Halmahera, our next birding destination.





*High up in the canopy, the **Citrine Canary-flycatchers** were all very active despite the weather!*



***White-faced Cuckoo-Dove** is an interestingly plumaged bird, glossy iridescent green-black with a bright white head!*



**Day 4: Manado (Sulawesi) to Ternate (Ternate) to Weda Resort (Halmahera)**

Essentially a travel day as we flew from Manado in northern Sulawesi to Ternate in the North Moluccas. Once we'd collected our bags we took the short (c.10 minute) ride from the airport to the port. Here we met up with our designated speedboat to take us over to Sofifi on Halmahera. The boat ride took about 30 minutes and conditions were nice and calm (the same cannot be said to be true of our return journey a few days later which was rather 'lumpy').

My choice of accommodation on Halmahera was straightforward, Weda Dive Resort. After our speedboat docked in Sofifi we jumped into our 4x4 and drove across to the resort. The drive took several hours as we took it fairly slowly, stopping to look at one or two species along the way, such as **Moluccan Starling**, **Blyth's Hornbill**, **Spangled (Halmahera) Drongo**, **Willie Wagtail** (which is actually a fantail), **Grey-headed Fruit Dove**, **Brahminy Kite**, and one of the best, **Blue-and-white Kingfisher**.



*We had some fantastic, almost eye-level views of a pair of **Blyth's Hornbills** feeding out in the open.*

On arrival at the resort, just in time for sundown, we enjoyed a fresh coconut drink and relaxed in the hammocks outside our comfortable beachside rooms – very comfortable considering where we were in the world!

After some excellent home-cooked food, which was a bit of a feast really, we had an early night as the following morning promised to be exciting one (with an early start).





*Not a bad 'roadside bird', this is the female **Blue-and-white Kingfisher**, the male has a white chest and breast.*

### Day 5: Halmahera

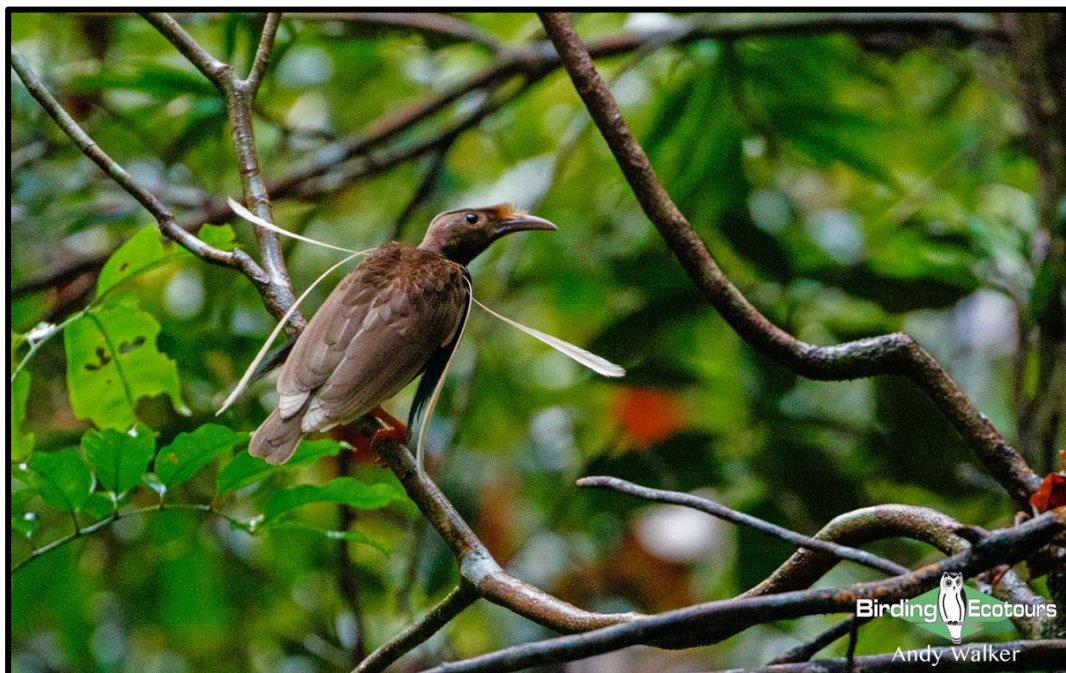
All too soon it was time to get up. After a quick breakfast, and still in darkness we hopped into the waiting 4x4s and drove a short distance to a patch of forest owned by the resort. We put on our headtorches and commenced a short hike into the darkness along a forest trail. Fairly quickly it started getting light enough to lose the torches and the forest started to come alive with beautiful, interesting, then plain nasty squarks! It was clear we were hearing a dawn chorus punctuated by calls of a bird-of-paradise, our first target of the morning!

We carefully settled into place and patiently waited, though the wait was not for long. Suddenly, there before our very eyes, was one of our most-wanted birds of the trip – the **Standardwing**. This species has been known as Wallace's Standardwing (after Alfred Russel Wallace – no surprise there) as well as Standardwing Bird-of-paradise, and various combinations of the above. This is a species that, in all honesty, does not look great in the field guides, but don't let that fool you. This bird is really something to behold. The male has a stunning, glowing bluish-green breast shield and four white wing-standards that float about around the bird. When a female is present the display really gets going as he jumps around between song perches making some typically raucous bird-of-paradise noises and flashing the breast shield and wing-standards!

We watched these birds for about an hour, paying hardly any attention to the other birds that were passing through the forest or above the forest, such as the various parrot and pigeons, though **Dusky-brown** (Halmahera) **Oriole** and **White-streaked** (Halmahera) **Friarbird** did drop in close enough that we couldn't do anything but see them! But in all honesty, the display of the **Standardwing** was just mesmerizing and amazing to watch, there is a reason why they are called birds-of-paradise after all!



*Standardwing with some light showing the delightful blue-green breast shield.*



*Here you can see the four white wing-standards that the male **Standardwing** uses in his display.*

Birds-of-paradise are one thing, and an amazing family, but they (nor any other family in my opinion) come close to pittas. There are two highly sought-after pittas on Halmahera and our next target was going to be one of these... suddenly my interest was piqued! I knew it was on the cards



as we'd heard two calling as part of the dawn chorus a few hours earlier but there is something special about tracking (chasing) after a pitta, it really gets the blood and adrenalin going. As we walked through the forest it started calling again, we followed the sound, momentarily getting distracted by a small **Halmahera Python** in the trail. We got into a sheltered and hidden spot in the forest close to where the sound was emanating from and after a bit of whistling we could see this huge white ball slowly bouncing through the forest and down the slope towards us. Most of the time it was obscured but then suddenly after one more bounce there it stood, right out in the middle of a clearing, glowing against the almost-pitch-black forest floor – the stunning **Ivory-breasted Pitta** – WOW! Not just any old pitta, this is the largest pitta of them all (along with **Giant Pitta**, though **Ivory-breasted Pitta** actually averages larger), with a crazy white breast, which makes it even more impressive when this thing just simply vanishes – how do you lose a huge white bird in a black forest floor...? We spent a good 30 minutes or more watching this bird, there was a second male calling nearby so I think we were at the meeting point of their territories. This bird is often high in the trees, odd for a pitta, but we were not complaining at seeing it hopping along the ground at close range. Certainly one of those magical birding moments to live in the memory for a lifetime.



*Getting views of Ivory-breasted Pitta out in the open like this was a trip highlight. A magical experience that will never fade.*

After these amazing encounters it was time to venture a bit further afield so we jumped into the 4x4s and made our way along the roads of the area where we could see more of the edge of the forest, this proved an excellent choice and we found the second bird-of-paradise on the island, (Halmahera) **Paradise-crow**. The individuals we saw showed well but always briefly and I wasn't quick enough to grab a shot of those. We did also find several other great birds, such as **Sombre Kingfisher**, **Long-billed Crow**, **Halmahera Flowerpecker**, **Cream-throated** (Halmahera)

**White-eye, Grey-headed Fruit Dove, Variable Goshawk, Halmahera Swiftlet, Northern (Halmahera) Golden Bulbul, Moluccan Cuckooshrike, and the gorgeous Rufous-bellied Triller.**



*The often-secretive Sombre Kingfisher showed well.*



*Cream-throated (Halmahera) White-eye was so close we had to back away to photograph it!*





*Grey-headed Fruit Dove* was one of several gorgeous fruit doves enjoyed on Halmahera.

What a phenomenal morning's birding, just amazing! The afternoon was spent relaxing around the resort grounds with a bit of swimming and exploring the underwater life, always fun. Also, the hammocks in the resort are great for drifting off to sleep while listening to the gently breaking waves in the bay!

## Day 6: Halmahera

The following morning we were back out in the forest looking for one of my other major targets on the island. This one took some patience, but after a while we were rewarded with some excellent views of a very vocal **North Moluccan Pitta**, another beautiful bird, previously part of the 'Red-bellied Pitta' complex before a massive split, check out the [Sula Pitta experience](#) I had back in February 2020, another from the split.

We then spent quite a while hoping that **Invisible Rail** would show, but true to its name, that didn't happen, so we had to just settle for hearing it! There was quite a lot of water in the swampy forest so the chances of this bird during my visit in September were not as good as in July, we were just very limited in where we could walk which lowered our chances massively. However, here we did find **White (Umbrella) Cockatoo**, **Common Paradise Kingfisher**, **Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon**, **Goliath Coucal**, **Blyth's Hornbill**, **Red-flanked Lorikeet**, **Azure Dollarbird**, **Oriental Dollarbird**, **Sultan's Cuckoo-Dove**, **Pied Imperial Pigeon**, **Shining Flycatcher**, **Moluccan Hanging Parrot**, **Sacred Kingfisher**, **Moustached Treeswift**, and **Gurney's Eagle**. A couple more (Halmahera) **Paradise-crows** were also well-received, though not at all photogenic!





*This North Moluccan Pitta took a liking to this perch and eventually gave some great views.*



*A whole flock of Red-flanked Lorikeets were actively feeding high up in a flowering tree. The speed these parrots move through the trees is incredible!*





***Oriental Dollarbird** is common throughout its range but spends a lot of time high above the canopy looking for food, so getting an eye-level photo opportunity along a ridgeline was great, unfortunately the **Azure Dollarbird** a few hundred meters along the ridge didn't pose for photos!*



*This large **Gurney's Eagle** drifted over the forested ridge line.*



*Common Paradise Kingfisher* was typically shy though did drop down briefly into view.

The afternoon was spent relaxing and swimming at the resort, this also allowed some great views of the resident pair of **Beach Kingfishers** as well as several other species such as the tiny **Blue-capped Fruit Dove**, **Rusty-breasted Cuckoo**, and **White-bellied Cuckooshrike**.



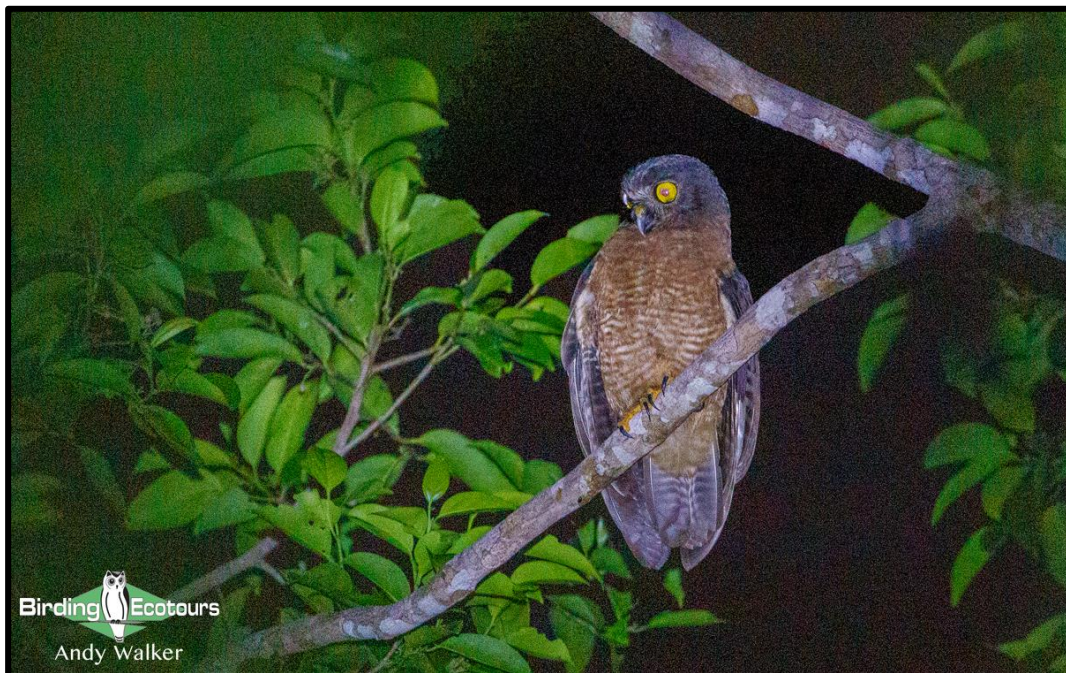
*Blue-capped Fruit Dove* is a tiny pigeon at just 6-7 inches (16-18 centimeters)!





*Fantastic close views of this attractive **Beach Kingfisher***

Ahead of dinner we had a one-hour birding session near the resort, where we found **Moluccan Scops Owl**, **Halmahera Boobook**, **Moluccan Owlet-nightjar**, and **Large-tailed Nightjar** – it was pretty amazing, however the rain came down pretty hard all of a sudden!



***Halmahera Boobook** is an uncommon owl and always so great to see.*





*This **Moluccan Scops Owl** was one of two birds that came to check us out before the rain lashed down!*

### **Day 7: Halmahera to Ternate to Denpasar**

It was only a short trip to Halmahera but the birding had been excellent, the accommodation and food perfect, the views of the forest and the coast to-die-for and the weather had generally played ball, we'd had a couple of thunderstorms but these didn't affect the birding too much as they were in the afternoon or evening. Unfortunately, and all too soon, it was time to jump back into the 4x4s and drive back to Sofifi, from where we grabbed a speedboat across to Ternate and then caught our flights back to Denpasar, Bali. It had been an incredible trip and I can't wait for July 2021 to roll around so I can go back to this wonderful place once more and share these amazing birds with others....

Our **2021 Sulawesi and Halmahera tour** is a **guaranteed departure** with a few places left at the time of writing in October 2020, so why not take a look at our newly updated detailed itinerary [here](#) and consider joining us. I'm sure you will have a great time and I'd love to show you the above birds, and more!

If you'd like to see a bird list for this trip please request via an email.