

Trip Report, Indonesia June 2010

Dirk Tomsa and Wulan Dirgantoro

This report covers a number of brief birding outings we undertook during a month-long stay in Indonesia in June 2010. We had come to Indonesia for other business, but tried to squeeze in as much birding as possible. Places we visited include Muara Angke in northern Jakarta, the Botanical Gardens in Bogor, the Tangkoko Reserve in North Sulawesi as well as several places in Bali. This seemingly random selection of destinations was determined by the various other commitments we had, but even though time was often limited, we did manage to see many interesting species.

Muara Angke

Our first trip took us to Muara Angke in northern Jakarta. We visited the site on a Sunday morning and had no problems finding it with the help of the directions in the Jepson book (*Birding Indonesia: A Bird-watcher's Guide to the World's Largest Archipelago*. Periplus, 1997). Arriving at around 7am, we were greeted by an army of young volunteers from the *Jakarta Green Monsters* who apparently meet regularly to rid the wetland of the worst of the plentiful rubbish. We decided to go birding on the restored board walk first and then join them once they commenced their work at around 8.30am.

In the forested part around the entrance birdlife was scarce, with a lone **Great Tit** being the only bird seen well. Once we got past the first little shelter and reached the main wetland, however, things changed. A **Common Moorhen** was the first bird we saw in the water, whilst the trees around the wetland revealed **Grey Heron**, **Black-crowned Night-heron** and at least eight **Darters**. Small groups of **Javan Pond-heron** and **Cattle Egret** as well as one **Purple Heron** flew past within the first half an hour before we eventually spotted a pair of **Black Bittern** just before 8 o'clock. Smaller birds in the trees around the wetland included **Pied Fantail**, **Golden-bellied Gerygone**, **Common Iora**, **White-bellied Woodswallow**, as well as two species of bulbul and woodpecker respectively. We dipped on Sunda Coucal and saw no raptors at all, but for a brief early morning outing from Jakarta, it was a nice trip, made even more worthwhile by our clean-up efforts with the Jakarta Green Monsters.

A few days later we were on our way to Bogor, but the trip to the Botanical Gardens was cut short by a heavy downpour. In the limited time we had we did manage to see a decent number of species including **Black-naped Fruit-dove**, **Black-naped Oriole**, **Collared** and **Blue-eared Kingfisher** as well as **Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker**. We also visited the heron colony near the palace where around 60 **Black-crowned Night-heron** were present, including several juvenile.

Species List, Java (includes Muara Angke and Bogor Botanical Gardens)

Little Black Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>	Two flying over at Muara Angke
Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	Eight at Muara Angke
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	At least three at Muara Angke
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	One flying past at Muara Angke
Black-crowned Night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Several at Muara Angke and at least 60 in Bogor
Javan Pond-heron	<i>Ardeola speciosa</i>	At least three at Muara Angke
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Several at Muara Angke
Black Bittern	<i>Dupetor flavicollis</i>	Two at Muara Angke
White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	Muara Angke
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	One at Muara Angke
Pink-necked Green Pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>	Muara Angke
Black-naped Fruit-dove	<i>Ptilinopus melanospila</i>	Several in Bogor
Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Common throughout
Cave Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia linchi</i>	Common everywhere, including central Jakarta
Brown-capped Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos moluccensis</i>	At least two at both Muara Angke and Bogor
Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Picooides macei</i>	One at Muara Angke
Blue-eared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo meninting</i>	One in Bogor
Collared Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chloris</i>	One in Bogor
Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>	Muara Angke
Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	Muara Angke and Bogor
Sooty-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus aurigaster</i>	Common at Muara Angke and Bogor; a few seen in Jakarta, too
Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>	Muara Angke
Black-naped Oriole	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>	Two in Bogor
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	One at Muara Angke
Golden-bellied Gerygone	<i>Gerygone sulphurea</i>	One at Muara Angke
Clamorous Reed-warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>	Heard at Muara Angke
Bar-winged Prinia	<i>Prinia familiaris</i>	One at Muara Angke and several in Bogor
Pied Fantail	<i>Rhipidura javanica</i>	Two at Muara Angke
White-breasted Woodswallow	<i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>	Several at Muara Angke
Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum trochileum</i>	One male in Bogor
Javan Munia	<i>Lonchura leucogastroides</i>	Several in Bogor
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	A few in Bogor

Tangkoko-Batuangas Dua Saudara Reserve

For the trip to Tangkoko, we decided to use the services of Theo Henoeh (www.sulawesi-lw-adventures.com) and his trusted guide Samuel (thanks to Bruce Wedderburn and Stuart Dashper for their information on guides in the area) in order to make the most of our brief visit. Communication with Theo was easy and straightforward and he and Samuel turned out to be extremely helpful in finding some really special birds over the two days in the park.

We were picked up at our hotel in Manado just after 5.30 am and went first to Puncak Temboan, a hill overlooking the Tangkoko forest. Arriving around 7am, Wulan was first to get out of the car and almost immediately started shouting 'rail, rail' while I was still on the back seat, scrambling to get my camera set up. The rail turned out to be a **Barred Rail** and would remain the only one we would see during the two days, so it was a valuable tick. Stumbling out of the car, I only got a glancing view for a couple of seconds, but it was just enough to see the striking head pattern before the bird disappeared in the roadside scrub. It was barely out of sight when a **Yellow-billed Malkoha** and, seconds later, a **Bay Coucal** flew lowly across the road. Three fantastic birds within one minute – we were off to a flying start.

Theo then took us away from the road to a couple of elevated spots from where we could overlook large parts of the lowland forest. While we walked to these spots, we stopped several times to take in the magnificent scenery and, of course, to watch birds. Highlights during these early hours included two **Purple-winged Rollers** (*photo, right*), a juvenile **Knobbed Hornbill** and several small flocks of **Grosbeak Starlings**.



We also saw both species of **Sulawesi Hanging Parrots (Large and Small)**, a **Sulawesi (White-rumped) Triller** and a **Pied Cuckoo-shrike**, a bird which according to Theo can be quite difficult to find. Just before we headed back to the car, two old friends from Australia, migratory **Rainbow Bee-eaters**, put in an appearance. By the time we got back to the car at around 10am, birdlife had become markedly quiet and the sun was burning relentlessly from the now almost cloudless sky. While we kept trying our luck along the road for another hour or so, we failed to make any new discoveries apart from a lone **Brown (Slender-billed) Cuckoo-dove**, so eventually we moved on to check in at Mama Roos at the entrance to the Tangkoko Reserve.

Arriving at lunch time, we were welcomed with a generous and very delicious meal of fish, tofu, veggies and rice. We then took a brief rest and by 3 o'clock we were on our way into the reserve. Theo was now joined by Samuel, and the two combined for a memorable tour de force through the dense lowland forests of the reserve. Determined to show us as many

species as possible within our limited time frame, Samuel in particular set a fast pace as he led us through the forest, pointing out bird calls along the way and calling in a number of species as we trudged along. It was hot and humid, but we were quite impressed.

Birds we managed to see solely due to the dedicated efforts of our guides on this first afternoon included **Ashy Woodpecker**, **Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbill**, **Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher** (photo, right) and **Spot-tailed Goshawk**. After dark, they found us a **Sulawesi Scops-Owl**, but the other main target bird that night, Minahasa Masked Owl, decided not to grace us with an appearance. Though we heard it call repeatedly, we just could not locate the bird in the thick canopy.



The next morning we were back in the forest at 6 am. If we thought Theo and Samuel were good on the first day, they really came into their own on the second day. After we had ticked some good birds during a brief stop at the edge of the forest near the park entrance (including **Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon**, **Yellow-breasted Racquet-tail**, **White-rumped Cuckoo-shrike** and **Sulawesi Black Pigeon**), Samuel promised to show us **Sulawesi Nightjar**, **Ochre-bellied Boobook** and **Green-backed Kingfisher** – and he delivered on all three of them (photos below and p. 5, top left). This was now very targeted birding and we hardly saw anything else (a juvenile **Sulawesi Hawk-eagle** was a welcome addition though), but the great views of the kingfisher in particular made it absolutely worthwhile.



In the afternoon/evening it was a similar story. We were promised **Lilac-cheeked Kingfisher** and **Minahasa Masked Owl** (to make up for dipping the previous night) and indeed found both of them after a dedicated search. Once again, very few other birds were seen, but once again those that did unexpectedly cross our path were absolutely magnificent: a **Sulawesi Serpent-eagle** with a fresh kill in its talons (photo p. 5, top right) and an incessantly calling **Small Sparrowhawk**. By the time we got back to Mama Roos for a final meal we were exhausted but truly delighted with what we had seen over the course of two days.



Species List, Sulawesi (includes Tangkoko and Puncak Temboan)

White-bellied Sea-eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	Seen both days near park entrance
Sulawesi Serpent-eagle	<i>Spilornis rufipectus</i>	Tangkoko, both days; juvenile circling over edge of forest on Day 1, adult with prey on Day 2
Sulawesi Hawk-eagle	<i>Nisaetus lanceolatus</i>	Juvenile, Day 2
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	Puncak Temboan
Spot-tailed Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trinitatus</i>	One bird, Day 1
Small Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nanus</i>	One bird, Day 2
Barred Rail	<i>Gallirallus torquatus</i>	Puncak Temboan
Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>	Several on both days
Silver-tipped Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula luctuosa</i>	Three birds early on Day 2
Black-naped Fruit-dove	<i>Ptilinopus melanospilus</i>	Three birds, Day 1
Stephan's Dove	<i>Chalcophaps stephani</i>	One bird in the undergrowth near the park entrance on Day 2
Sulawesi Black Pigeon (White-faced Cuckoo-dove)	<i>Turacoena manadensis</i>	Just one bird high in a tree at the edge of the forest
Brown (Slender-billed) Cuckoo-dove	<i>Macropygia amboinensis</i>	Several, including one perched by the roadside at Puncak Temboan
Ornate Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus ornatus</i>	Several at Puncak Temboan and at edge of the forest at Tangkoko
Yellow-breasted Racquet-tail	<i>Prioniturus flavicans</i>	Tangkoko, Day 2
Golden-mantled Racquet-tail	<i>Prioniturus platurus</i>	Puncak Temboan and Tangkoko, Day 2
Blue-backed Parrot	<i>Tanygnathus sumatranus</i>	Small groups at Puncak Temboan and Tangkoko on Day 2
Large Sulawesi Hanging-parrot	<i>Loriculus stigmatus</i>	Puncak Temboan
Small Sulawesi Hanging-parrot	<i>Loriculus exilis</i>	Puncak Temboan
Yellow-billed Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus calyborhynchus</i>	One at Puncak Temboan; several others at Tangkoko

Bay Coucal	<i>Centropus celebensis</i>	One at Puncak Temboan; two at Tangkoko on Day 2
Minahasa Masked Owl	<i>Tyto inexpectata</i>	Heard during the first night, seen in the evening of the second day
Ochre-bellied Boobook (Hawk-owl)	<i>Ninox ochracea</i>	Two at roosting site in Tangkoko, Day 2
Sulawesi Scops-owl	<i>Otus manadensis</i>	Several heard calling both evenings; one seen during the first night
Sulawesi Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus celebensis</i>	At nest site in Tangkoko, Day 2
Grey-rumped Tree-swift	<i>Hemiprocne longipennis</i>	A few scattered throughout the ever-present swiftlets
Uniform Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus vanikorensis</i>	Numerous
Glossy Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia esculenta</i>	Numerous
Purple-winged Roller	<i>Coracias temminckii</i>	Two at Puncak Temboan
Green-backed Kingfisher	<i>Actenoides monachus</i>	Male and female at Tangkoko, Day 2
Lilac-cheeked Kingfisher	<i>Cittura cyanotis</i>	Tangkoko, Day 2
Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>	Puncak Temboan
Sulawesi Dwarf Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx fallax</i>	Tangkoko, Day 1
Rainbow Bee-eater	<i>Merops ornatus</i>	Two at Puncak Temboan, several at Tangkoko both days
Sulawesi Dwarf Hornbill	<i>Penelopides exarhatus</i>	One female at Tangkoko, Day 1
Knobbed Hornbill	<i>Aceros cassidix</i>	One juvenile at Puncak Temboan, several others heard both days
Ashy Woodpecker	<i>Mulleripicus fulvus</i>	One seen both days at Tangkoko
Pied Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina bicolor</i>	Two at Puncak Temboan
White-rumped Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina leucopygia</i>	Three at edge of forest at Tangkoko, Day 2
Sulawesi (White-rumped) Triller	<i>Lalage leucopygialis</i>	Puncak Temboan
Black-naped Oriole	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>	Two at Puncak Temboan, another one at Tangkoko on Day 2
Hair-crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>	Fairly common
Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	One female, Tangkoko, Day 2
Slender-billed Crow	<i>Corvus enca</i>	Puncak Temboan
Sooty-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus aurigaster</i>	Common
Sulawesi Babbler	<i>Trichastoma celebense</i>	One in low shrubbery branches near park entrance, Day 2
White-necked Myna	<i>Streptocitta albicollis</i>	Fairly common
Grosbeak Starling	<i>Scissirostrum dubium</i>	Several small flocks of 8-12 birds
Yellow-sided Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum aureolimbatum</i>	Tangkoko, Day 2
Grey-sided Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum celebicum</i>	Puncak Temboan
Brown-throated Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes malacensis</i>	Several females, but no males
Black Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma sericea</i>	One female, Tangkoko, Day 2
Olive-backed Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>	Common

Bali

Our last birding opportunity on this trip was a weekend in Bali just before I had to head back to Melbourne (Wulan would stay in Indonesia for another two months). In order to make the most of what was once again very limited time, we contacted Sumadi from Bali Bird Walks in advance (+62 812 391 3801) to arrange for some guided birding around the Ubud area on Sunday. I had already done the BBW with her two years ago and had fond memories of walking through the rice paddies with her. Our plan to be out the whole day, however, was washed away by massive rain in the morning so that we had to make do with an afternoon trip to Payangan. Gladly, Sumadi was free again on Monday morning and we gratefully agreed to meet again at 7am the next morning to look for **Javan Kingfisher** and other goodies like the ever-present **Javan Pond-heron** (photo below) in the rice paddies around Ubud. After the walk Wulan and I headed south as I had a meeting in Denpasar. We stayed one more night in Sanur and completed our trip with visits to the Nusa Dua Sewage Ponds and the Sanur Mangrove Trail.



Sumadi was, once again, a joy to be around and we thoroughly enjoyed the two short excursions with her. The trip to Payangan (about 20 min north of Ubud) was intended to help us find some of the more common forest species and we were not disappointed. **Common Iora, Oriental Magpie-Robin, Ashy Tailorbird, Pied Fantail** were all found with ease, as were decent numbers of **Asian Glossy Starlings**. In addition, we also saw **Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon, Scarlet-headed** and **Orange-bellied Flowerpecker** as well as **Oriental White-eye** and a juvenile **Javan Grey-throated White-eye**. But arguably the highlight of this trip was an **Orange-fronted Barbet** which, after calling repeatedly, eventually gave away some brief but great views. A magnificent bird.

The next morning Sumadi picked us up at our hotel at 7am to do the Bali Bird Walk. Though I had done it once before, Wulan had not, and I was more than happy to take another stroll through the rice fields around Ubud. I was hoping to get some good photos of **Javan Kingfisher** (photo below, right), but even though we saw this beautiful bird on several occasions, he never let me come close enough for a really good photo. Nonetheless, we thoroughly enjoyed the walk and added a few good birds to our list, including **Brown-backed Needletail**, **Streaked Weaver**, **Zitting Cisticola** (photo below, middle), **Cinnamon Bittern** and a single **Wood Sandpiper**. Munia were everywhere (mostly **Scaly-breasted** (photo below, left), but also **Javan** and, in the end, a couple of **White-headed Munia**) as were the abundant swiftlets (both **Cave** and **Edible-nest Swiftlet**). All in all, a great way to spend the morning.



By afternoon we had arrived in Sanur and immediately took a taxi to the Nusa Dua Sewage ponds. To our surprise, the taxi driver actually knew where to go and even offered to wait for us without letting the meter run. He said he'd take a nap. Great. And so we went inside, keen to add yet another kingfisher species to our Indonesia list – the diminutive **Small Blue Kingfisher**. As it turned out, it took less than five minutes before the first dashed through the air right in front of us. And it was not to be the last; they turned out to be quite numerous. **Sacred** and **Collared Kingfisher** were also around. But first and foremost, this is a place for herons and egrets. Altogether, we saw eight species, namely **Striated Heron**, **Purple Heron**, **Black-crowned Night-heron**, **Rufous Night-heron**, **Javan Pond-heron**, **Little Egret**, **Great Egret** and **Cattle Egret**.

The next day I parted ways with Wulan who had to go to Yogyakarta while I had a meeting scheduled and was due to catch a plane to Melbourne later that evening. Still, there was some time left to pay a brief visit to the Sanur Mangrove Trail. As other birders have noted, this walk is not exactly pristine mangrove habitat, but it is arguably not as polluted as Muara Angke and the boardwalk does offer some nice birding opportunities. In the 90 minutes that

I spent there I saw 21 species including one new bird for the Indonesia list, the rather spectacular **Racket-tailed Treepie**. Apart from that, the trail had good numbers of the more common Balinese birds including **Bar-winged Prinia**, **Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker**, **Common Iora** and the ubiquitous **Spotted Dove**. **Sacred** and **Small Blue Kingfishers** were also present as was a lone **Crested Tern** out towards the harbour. Not a bad way to end the trip.

Species List, Bali (includes Payangan (P), Ubud (U), Nusa Dua (ND) and Sanur (S))

Wandering Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna arcuata</i>	ND
Sunda Teal	<i>Anas gibberifrons</i>	ND
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	ND
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	ND
Javan Pond-heron	<i>Ardeola speciosa</i>	U, ND, S
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	P, U, ND
Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	ND
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	U, ND, S
Black-crowned Night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	ND, S
Rufous Night-heron	<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>	ND
Cinnamon Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>	U
Little Pied Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos</i>	ND
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	ND
White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	U, ND
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	U
Great Crested Tern	<i>Sterna bergii</i>	ND, S
Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	P, U, ND, S
Pink-necked Pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>	ND
Grey-cheeked Green Pigeon	<i>Treron griseicauda</i>	P, U
Ruddy Cuckoo-dove	<i>Macropygia emiliana</i>	P, U
Edible-nest Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia fuciphaga</i>	U, P
Cave Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia linchi</i>	P, U, S, ND
Brown-backed Needletail	<i>Hirondopus giganteus</i>	U
Small Blue Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo coerulescens</i>	ND, S
Javan Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon cyanoventris</i>	U
Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>	P, U, ND
Sacred Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus sanctus</i>	U, S, ND
Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops philippinus</i>	ND
Orange-fronted Barbet	<i>Megalaima armillaris</i>	P
Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Picoides macei</i>	P, S
Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>	U, S
Striated Swallow	<i>Hirundo striolata</i>	U
Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	P, S
Sooty-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus aurigaster</i>	P, U, ND, S
Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>	P, U, ND, S

Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	ND
Racket-tailed Treepie	<i>Crypsirina temia</i>	S
Oriental Magpie-robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	P
Golden-bellied Gerygone	<i>Gerygone sulphurea</i>	S
Ashy Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus ruficeps</i>	P
Bar-winged Prinia	<i>Prinia familiaris</i>	U, S
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola exilis</i>	U
Pied Fantail	<i>Rhipidura javanica</i>	P, U, S
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	P
Brown-throated Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes malacensis</i>	U, P, ND
Olive-backed Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>	U, ND, S
Orange-bellied Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum trigonostigma</i>	P
Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum trochileum</i>	P
Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	P
Javan Grey-throated White-eye	<i>Lophozosterops javanicus</i>	P
Asian Glossy Starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>	P, U
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	U, P, S
Streaked Weaver	<i>Ploceus manyar</i>	U
Javan Munia	<i>Lonchura leucogastroides</i>	U, S
Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	U, S
White-headed Munia	<i>Lonchura maja</i>	U