

CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE SULA ISLANDS (1991), WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO TALIABU ISLAND.

by

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SUMMARY

The results are presented of a survey conducted on Taliabu, the Sula Islands, Maluku, Indonesia in September October 1991. Apart from two brief visits by single scientists in the previous three years, no ornithological investigations had been conducted in the island group for fifty years. The Sula Islands lie midway between the Sulawesi and Moluccan faunal regions and contain representative species derived from both, with a high degree of endemism at species and subspecies level. The survey recorded 152 bird species, including 47 species new to the islands (a further 8 species have been added to the islands' list by other observers previous to the present survey). While 34 of these may be considered as migrant or vagrant species with no particular significance (including the first record for Indonesia of Black faced Bunting), some 14 additions are considered important. The majority of the latter have Sulawesi affinities and include Lesser Fish eagle, Rufous bellied Eagle, Oriental Hobby, White bellied Imperial Pigeon, Great Eared Nightjar, Citrine Flycatcher, Mountain Tailorbird and Red backed Thrush, whereas the Island Leaf warbler has Moluccan affinities. Records of Snowy browed Flycatcher, Little Pied Flycatcher, Island Flycatcher, Crimson Honey eater and Mountain White eye fill gaps in the known distribution between the two regions.

Several of the Sula Island (or Sula Banggai islands) endemics were found to have healthy populations (Sula Scrubfowl, Slaty Cuckoo shrike, Sula Cicadabird, Helmeted Myna and Bare eyed Myna), although both the mynas are apparently uncommon. However, the Sula Pitta (here split from Red bellied Pitta) was considered uncommon, while there was only one observation of the Taliabu Masked Owl, constituting the second known record. More intensive survey work is required to determine the status of this owl. Almost all endemic taxa, however, are dependent upon forest, and proposals have been submitted for the establishment of a reserve covering some 900 sq. km.

Introduction

Following surveys by the FAO/UNDP National Conservation Plan for Indonesia carried out in the early 1980s, recommendations for protected areas were made for many Indonesian islands, including Taliabu. In Maluku province, few such reserves have been established, one reason for this being the lack of quantitative data to support such proposals. However, the protection of forest in Maluku remains of paramount importance.

An expedition aiming to gather data to make recommendations for the establishment of the proposed Pulau Taliabu reserve was conceived by the University of East Anglia (UEA) in collaboration with ICBP (now BirdLife International), the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) and the Directorate General for Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (PHPA).

The University of East Anglia Taliabu Expedition spent a total of fifty five days on the Sula Islands from September 7 to October 31 1991. Forty eight days were spent on Taliabu carrying out bird survey work.

The findings documented below represent observations from the study period.

History of Ornithological Work

The first documented ornithological observations from the Sula Island group were made by Alfred Russel Wallace (Wallace 1862). Due to poor health, Wallace himself was unable to visit the islands, but in his place sent his assistant, C. Alien. Two type specimens were collected on this occasion

Moluccan Hanging parrot *Loriculus amabilis* and Yellow and green Lorikeet *Trichoglossus flavoviridis*.

Further visits to the Sula Islands were made during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries by Bernstein in 1864, who collected the type specimen of Sula Scrubfowl *Megapodius bemssteini*, Teijsmann in 1877, Guillemard in 1885, Lucas in 1898 and Kopstein in 1924.

In 1938, Menden made the first ornithological observations from Taliabu island itself; and collected the type specimen of Taliabu Masked Owl *Tyto fligrobrurmea*. A fifty year lapse then followed until Dennis Yong visited Sanana and Mangole in 1988. Fred Smiet visited eastern Taliabu and Mangole on behalf of the FAO for five days in October 1990.

Geography

Taliabu (*ca.* 1°80'S 124°60'E) is the westernmost of the Moluccan islands. It covers an area of *ca* 3000 km² and is the largest of the Sula Island group, which comprises Taliabu, Mangole and Sanana. The Sula Islands lie to the east of Sulawesi, in Maluku Province.

Taliabu possesses the characteristic range of forest types associated with other Moluccan oceanic islands. Narrow strips of tidal forest (mangrove) are found along much of the coastline. Primary forest is denoted as occupying the island interior with areas of logged forest in the northeastern and western parts of the island. Coastal forest is found in the north east corner of the island. Cultivated areas and secondary growth are found close to the coast, the main crops being coconuts, cloves and a few areas of rice cultivation.

Recommendations for a proposed reserve area on Taliabu were made by the FAO/UNDP National Conservation Plan for Indonesia (FAO/UNDP 1981) in order to provide protection for the endemic flora and fauna, and to preserve water catchments on the island. The proposed reserve covers an area of *ca* 900 km², and extends from the central mountainous ridge (maximum height 1649 m) down to the northern shores of the island.

Results

A total of 152 bird species was recorded on the Sula Islands of which 47 were new to the island group, and 133 bird species were recorded on Taliabu of which 53 were new to the island. In addition, 28 species recorded were new to Mangole and 4 were new to Sanana. Seventeen species previously recorded from the Sula Islands were not recorded by the expedition (see Appendix). For more detailed accounts of the status and conservation of the species considered threatened or near threatened (Collar and Andrew 1988), the reader is referred to Davidson *et al* (1995).

The Systematic List

The basis of this checklist comprises observations made by the UEA Taliabu expedition 1991 between 6 September and 30 October 1991 on Taliabu, Mangole and Sanana, Sula Islands, Maluku Province, Indonesia. More details of observations, with dates where relevant, are given in Davidson *et al* (1994, 1, 995). Nomenclature and sequence follow Andrew (1992), except where otherwise stated. Subspecific names for those species represented by endemic subspecies on the Sula Islands are given.

a indicates those species for which records from the Sula Island group are published for the first time (including 7 species recorded on the islands for the first time by Yong in 1988 and Smiet in 1990).

Red throated Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*. Up to three **seen on a small** reservoir near Falabisahaya, Mangole.

Fregata spp. Flocks of unidentified frigatebirds were seen twice (3 and 30+ individuals) from Taliabu. A **Great Frigatebird** *F. minor* was seen in a mixed flock of 50 frigatebirds off the north coast of Mangole on 11 Oct and another was seen at sea between Sanana and Mangole on 30th October. At least one **Lesser Frigatebird** *F. oriel* was seen offshore from Falabisahaya, Mangole on 29 Oct, and at least two off Mangole on 30 Oct.

☐ **Little Black Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*. Seen regularly on Mangole and Taliabu along water courses, first recorded 6 Sep.

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*. Seen regularly along rivers on Taliabu and Mangole.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*. Up to 10 birds off Taliabu on 26 and 30 Oct.

Great billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*. One record from Taliabu, an adult in mangroves at Hoi Kemuning. Two adults at Falabisahaya frequenting a log pond adjacent to the plywood factory are the first records for Mangole.

Great Egret *Casmerodius albus*. Identified positively only at Falabisahaya, Mangole (maximum of two individuals), first record 27 Oct.

☒ **Intermediate Egret** *Egretta intermedia*. Only one individual recorded, at Falabisahaya, Mangole, 13 Oct.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*. Frequently encountered in small numbers close to coastal and riverine habitats on Taliabu and Mangole.

Cattle Egret *Buhulcus ibis*. Recorded from Menanga basecamp (one individual) and from Bobong (2 individuals) on Taliabu.

☒ **Striated Heron** *Butorides striatus*. Present in small numbers in coastal and riverine habitats on Taliabu and Mangole.

☒ **Cinnamon Bittern** *Ixobrychus cirmamomeus*. Up to two were seen daily in reedbeds at Bobong, first recorded 17 Oct. The Sula islands lie to the east of the previously known limits of range.

☒ **Black Bittern** *Ixobrychus flavicollis*. One immature was seen near Falabisahaya, Mangole on 11 Oct.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*. Frequently seen on the coast and at Menanga basecamp, with seven birds together at the latter locality. Also recorded on Mangole.

Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni*. Two birds recorded in selectively logged lowland forest at c. 150 m in the south west of Taliabu.

Brahminy Kite *Haliaeetus Indus*. Common on coasts, also seen inland.

White bellied Sea eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*. Regularly recorded at coastal localities and occasionally seen soaring inland.

☒ **Lesser Fish eagle** *Ichthyophaga humilis*. Seen only at Bobong (maximum two individuals), in an area of reed swamp.

Sulawesi Serpent eagle *Spilomis rufpectus sulaensis*. Relatively common in selectively logged and heavily degraded lowland forest and agriculture. Also recorded from montane forest.

Vinous breasted Sparrow hawk *Accipiter rhodogaster sulaensis*. The only sparrowhawk presumed to be resident on Sula, it is apparently scarce, or perhaps overlooked; only two were recorded, both in selectively logged lowland forest near Menanga basecamp.

☒ **Rufous bellied Eagle** *Hieraetus kienerii*. Relatively common. Recorded from Menanga basecamp. Hoi Kemuning, Bobong, Pulau Seho and montane forest. Previously recorded on Mangole in 1988 (D. Yong, pers. Comm.).

☒ **Spotted Kestrel** *Faico moluccensis*. Frequently recorded from Menanga basecamp. Hoi Kemuning and Bobong. Also seen on Mangole.

☒ **Oriental Hobby** *Faico severus*. Three sightings of individuals near Menanga basecamp, first recorded 10 Sep. Also recorded from Falabisahaya, Mangole.

☒ **Peregrine Falcon** *Faico peregrinus*. The only record was of a single individual near Menanga basecamp on 12 Oct.

Spotted Whistling duck *Dendrocygna guttata*. Up to 12 recorded on a small pond at Hoi Kemuning and 10 on a small reservoir near Falabisahaya, Mangole.

☒ **Wandering Whistling duck** *Dendrocygna arcuata*. Twelve recorded on a small reservoir near Falabisahaya, Mangole, 12 Oct.

☒ **Sunda Teal** *Anas gibberifrons*. Up to 9 recorded regularly on the river at Menanga basecamp, from 23 Sep. Also recorded at Bobong (2) and at Falabisahaya, Mangole, (at least 6). All individuals were identified as *gibberifrons*, not Grey Teal *A. gracilis*.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*. One record from the river at Menanga basecamp on 10 Oct and 2 subsequently near Falabisahaya, Mangole.

Sula Scrubfowl *Megapodius bemssteini*. Locally common. Encountered in central northern and south western areas of Taliabu in lowland forest, but also observed in degraded fringe habitats. Scrubfowl were not recorded above c. 250m elevation. Local information indicated that the scrubfowl had declined to near extinction in eastern Taliabu in the vicinity of Tubang logging camp. Noted on Mangole (but not Sanana) in 1988, where one bird was seen, and another heard, both in logged forest (Dekker 1990). On Banggai encountered up to 450m and described as "common but declining" in 1991 (Indrawan *et al.* 1993).

Blue breasted Quail *Cotumix chinensis*. Several individuals recorded from damp grassland areas at Bobong,

☒ **Buff banded Rail** *Gallirallus philippensis*. One recorded from the periphery of an inland swamp at Bobong on 25 Oct.

Barred Rail *Gallirallus torquatus sulcirostris*. Occasionally seen near rivers around Menanga basecamp. Heard calling from mangroves on Pulau Seho and near Falabisahaya, Mangole.

[**Rail sp.** *Rallina* sp.] One individual, perhaps Slaty legged Crake *Rallina eurizonoides*, seen along the river near Menanga basecamp.

☒ **White browed Crake** *Porzana cinerea*. Up to three recorded at Hoi Kemuning, including one juvenile, first date 2 Oct. One recorded several times along the river near Menanga basecamp and several seen daily in inland swamp at Bobong Recorded on three dates near Falabisahaya, Mangole.

White breasted Waterhen *Amauorms phoenicurus*. Two records, from a small pond at Hoi Kemuning and from the river near Menanga basecamp. The individual at Menanga had a white forehead and face suggesting nominate *phoenicurus* rather than *leucomelanus*, the subspecies found most commonly in Wallacea, which has a slaty forehead and face. White and Bruce (1986) mention unstable hybrid populations of *phoenicurus* x *leucomelanus* occurring on Sulawesi. This could also be the case on the Sula Islands.

☒ **Dusky Moorhen** *Gallinula tenebrosa*. The only record was from a small freshwater swamp near Falabisahaya, Mangole, 27 Oct.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*. Recorded from several localities, the largest flock was of 50 birds at Falabisahaya, Mangole.

a Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*. One adult recorded at Falabisahaya, Mangole on 29 30 Oct.

☒ **Malaysia Plover** *Charadrius peronii*. A single bird was observed on a dead coral platform bordering a sandy beach at Falabisahaya, Mangole on 28 30 Oct.

☒ **Lesser Sand plover** *Charadrius mongolus*. Two at Falabisahaya, Mangole on 29 30 Oct.

Greater Sand plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*. Recorded in small numbers, with up to 6 on tidal flats at Bobong, and several at Falabisahaya, Mangole.

Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus*. One very approachable juvenile with a deformed bill on the river at Menanga basecamp on 9 Oct. Six adults at Falabisahaya airfield, Mangole on 30 Oct.

Little Curlew *Numenius minutus*. One record of a juvenile on Falabisahaya airfield, Mangole, 29 Oct. This species is listed in White & Bruce (p. 484) as having been collected by Menden in 1938.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*. Recorded daily at coastal localities, with up to 8 at Bobong and 13 at Hoi Kemuning.

☒ **Far Eastern Curlew** *Numenius maddgascariensis*. One recorded at Falabisahaya, Mangole, 13 Oct.

☒ **Common Redshank** *Tringa tetanus*. Recorded in small numbers from 1 Oct in most riverine and coastal localities on Taliabu and Mangole. ☒ **Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*. One near Falabisahaya, Mangole, 27 Oct. n **Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularis*. One near Falabisahaya, Mangole, 30 Oct.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*. Recorded regularly in groups of up to 15 birds from coastal and riverine habitats on Taliabu and Mangole.

✧ **Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus*. One recorded in mangroves at Hoi Kemuning, 30 Sep, and subsequently up to 6 on mangrove edge at Bobong.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*. Recorded in small numbers near water from all localities. A maximum of 43 recorded roosting in mangroves as a loose flock at Hoi Kemuning on 2 Oct.

Grey tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes*. Recorded regularly in small numbers on the river at Menanga basecamp and in larger numbers (up to 15) from coastal sites (Tubang and Bobong).

✧ **Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*. Two in mangroves at Tubang, 4 Oct, subsequently 2 on the tidal flats at Bobong and 5 at Falabisahaya, Mangole.

[*Gallinago* sp.] One or two Individuals seen at Menanga basecamp.

✧ **Sanderling** *Calidris alba*. One on tidal flats at Bobong on 17 Oct and subsequently.

✧ **Rufous necked Stint** *Calidris ruficollis*. One on the beach at Jurjoga, up to 6 on tidal flats at Bobong, and a single bird at Falabisahaya, Mangole.

✧ **Sharp tailed Sandpiper** *Calidris acuminata*. At least 5 at Falabisahaya, Mangole on 28 30 Oct.

✧ **Red necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*. First recorded at sea off Taliabu on 6 Sep and also off Mangole and Sanana, subsequently in flocks of up to 300.

✧ **Oriental Pratincole** *Glareola maldivarum*. One moulting summer plumaged adult observed at Falabisahaya airfield on 29 Oct.

✧ **Pomarine Jaeger** *Stercorarius pomarinus*. One at sea off Mangole on 30 Oct.

✧ **Arctic Jaeger** *Stercorarius parasiticus*. Two pale phase adults at Bobong on 26 Oct. Two unidentified Jaegers were also observed at the same location. Identification was based on familiarity with the species in Britain.

✧ **Whiskered Tem** *Chlidonias hybridus*. Four seen regularly at Bobong, 17 26 Oct.

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- ✧ **Gull billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*. One seen regularly at Bobong, 17–26 Oct.
 - ✧ **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*. At least 30 seen at sea between Mangole and Taliabu on 7 Sep and up to 20 seen regularly at Bobong.
 - ✧ **Bridled Tern** *Sterna anaethetus*. Up to 5 seen at sea off Taliabu and a flock of 23 off Sanana, 26 and 30 Oct respectively.

Great Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*. Noted at sea between Mangole and Taliabu and up to 260 roosting at Bobong.

- ✧ Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus*. One seen at sea off Mangole on 30 Oct.

Grey checked Green Pigeon *Treron griseicauda*. Recorded daily at Menanga basecamp in flocks of up to 60 in selectively logged and heavily degraded lowland forest. Also noted at Hoi Kemuning and Bobong. From sea level to 400 m. Highest densities were found in primary lowland forest on Pulau Seho.

Maroon chinned Fruit dove *Ptilinopus subgularis mangoliensis*. Common and widespread, occurring at all six of the study sites visited, mostly in lowland forest but also recorded at altitudes of up to 900m.

Black naped Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus melanospila*. Common around Menanga basecamp and at Hoi Kemuning and Bobong. Most abundant in primary lowland forest on Pulau Seho. Less common in montane forest but more numerous than *P. subgularis* in that habitat.

- ✧ **White bellied Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula forsteni*. Recorded in lowlands around Menanga basecamp only, and not above 200m. Previously recorded from Mangole for the first time in 1988 by D. Yong (pers. comm.).

Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea sulana*. Common, recorded Menanga basecamp, Hoi Kemuning, Bobong and on Pulau Seho. Flocks of up to 60 individuals seen around Menanga basecamp. Not recorded above ca. 400 m.

White Imperial Pigeon *Ducula luctuosa*. Fairly common, observed around Menanga basecamp, Hoi Kemuning, Bobong, and on Pulau Seho with flocks of up to 250 individuals regularly seen at Menanga basecamp. Not recorded above C.I.00m.

Sulawesi Black Pigeon *Turacoena manadensis*. Relatively uncommon. Infrequently seen at Menanga basecamp. Seen almost daily on Pulau Seho and up to six seen at Bobong. Not seen above ca. 300m.

Slender billed Cuckoo dove *Macropygia amboinensis sedemica*. Common in all forest types and agricultural areas below ca. 3 00 m.

Spotted Dove *Sfreptopelia chinensis*. Three recorded at Jurjoga and several seen regularly at Bobong.

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*. All *Chalcophaps* recorded on Pulau Seho and at Bobong, in logged forest and agricultural fringe, were of this species. Also infrequently recorded at Menanga basecamp.

Stephan's Dove *Chalcophaps stepham*. Two individuals were trapped and brought to us at Menanga basecamp, and the majority of *Chalcophaps* seen in logged forest around Menanga basecamp were this species.

☐ **Nicobar Pigeon** *Caloenas nicoharica*. On Taliabu only four birds recorded during our period on the island, all at Menanga. Two birds were seen in selectively logged lowland forest close to the basecamp, first record 25 Sep, and two captive birds were brought in to us. In addition, a further bird was being offered for sale at Falabisahaya, Mangole. Our guide informed us that he had seen this species in mangroves fringing Pulau Seho.

Yellow and green Lorikeet *Trichoglossus flavoviridis flavoviridis*. Common around Menanga basecamp in flocks of up to 12 individuals in early September. Numbers seemed to decline thereafter with birds in smaller groups and pairs, perhaps suggesting the onset of breeding. Most numerous in montane forest.

Golden mantled Racquet tail *Prioniturus platurus sinerubris*. Common in montane forest, also primary, selectively logged and heavily degraded lowland forest.

Blue backed Parrot *Tanygnathus sumatranus*. Most regularly recorded in lightly wooded agricultural areas where fairly common. Infrequently seen during the day at Menanga basecamp. Heard calling most frequently after dark. Also recorded at Hoi Kemuning, Jurjoga and common on Pulau Seho and around Bobong. Not recorded above 100m.

Moluccan King Parrot *Alisterus amboinensis sulaensis*. Relatively uncommon. Recorded daily in selectively logged lowland forest at Menanga basecamp, but very rarely in heavily degraded lowland forest, usually in pairs. Also noted in montane forest, and in primary lowland forest on Pulau Seho.

Moluccan Hanging parrot *Loriculus amabilis sclateri*. Abundant in all lowland forest types around Menanga basecamp. Hoi Kemuning, Bobong and on Pulau Seho. Not recorded above ca. 250 m. A breeding record is described separately by Stones (this issue).

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus*. Occasionally seen around Menanga basecamp and Bobong. Immatures seen at Menanga, Bobong and near Falabisahaya, Mangole.

Rusty breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis sepulcralis*. Relatively uncommon. Noted around Menanga basecamp and Bobong. Also recorded from Pulau Seho. One juvenile watched being fed at Menanga on 15 Oct by a Black Sunbird *Nectarinia aspasia*.

Black billed Koel *Eudynamis melanorhyncha*. Relatively uncommon in lowland forest. Up to 6 individuals recorded regularly at Menanga basecamp. Also recorded at Bobong and on Pulau Seho. Not recorded above ca. 500 m.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*. One recorded at Hoi Kemuning and several in agricultural areas at Bobong.

Taliabu Masked Owl *Tyto nigrobrumiea*. The one record is described separately in Stones *et al.* (this issue).

[*Strigidae* sp.] A species of owl, probably an *Otus* species, which may possibly represent a previously undescribed subspecies (D. Yong, pers. comm.), was regularly heard in heavily degraded lowland forest and selectively logged lowland forest around Menanga basecamp (up to six individuals). Hoi Kemuning (at least four individuals), Tubang (at least four individuals) and on Pulau Seho (at least two individuals). Also recorded from montane forest. Only observed briefly in flight on two separate occasions. This same call was previously recorded on Sanana and Mangole in 1988 (D. Yong, pers. comm.).

☒ **Great Eared Nightjar** *Eurostopodus macrotis*. Up to 5 seen feeding over the river at Menanga basecamp, first date 12 Sep. 2 seen at Hoi Kemuning, at least 3 within 4 km of Tubang and 1 at Bobong. Not noted above 100 m.

Sulawesi Nightjar *Caprimulgus celebensis (jmgei)*. Fairly common. Up to four individuals seen along logging roads at Menanga basecamp, up to six on tracks within 5 km of Hoi Kemuning, at least four along the road from Hoi Kemuning to Tubang camp and at least one within Tubang camp. This species was previously named Large tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus jmgei*, or Philippine Nightjar *C. manillensis*, but has been awarded species status following Rozendaal (1990).

☒ **Moluccan Swiftlet** *Aerodramus infliscatus*. At least 30 individuals of this species observed regularly at Menanga basecamp.

Dark bellied swiftlets were seen daily in flocks of up to 200 at Menanga basecamp with smaller numbers at Hoi Kemuning, Tubang, Bobong and on Pulau Seho. These may have been representatives of this species. Uniform Swiftlet *A. vanikorensis*, or both. Neither species has previously been reported from the Sula Islands.

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*. Common at all sites visited. At least one occupied nest on an overhanging rockface with two almost fully fledged young found on 20 Sep in montane forest (ca 800 m).

✎ **White throated Needletail** *Hirundapus caudacutus*. Two individuals seen at Hoi Kemuning on 2 Oct.

✎ **Fork tailed Swift** *Apus pacificus*. One individual seen at Hoi Kemuning on 2 Oct.

Grey rumped Tree swift *Hemiprocne longipeiwiis*. Common, recorded in flocks of up to 22 individuals, particularly in heavily degraded lowland forest, around Menanga basecamp and Hoi Kemuning. Also recorded at Bobong, near Tubang and on Pulau Seho.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*. Both resident and migrant birds probably occur. One individual of the migrant sub species *bengalensis* was recorded at Menanga basecamp on 10 Oct, and an individual of the resident *hispidoides* was recorded on Pulau Seho.

Blue eared Kingfisher *A. meninting* was probably recorded on the river at Menanga basecamp but due to difficulties in separating this species from *A. atthis hispidoides*, no positive identifications were made.

Variable Kingfisher *Ceyx lepidus wallacii*. Common but unobtrusive, encountered regularly in forest around Menanga basecamp, at Hoi Kemuning, Bobong and on Pulau Seho.

Black billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis melanorhyncha eutreptorhyncha*. Up to four birds regularly seen on the river at Menanga basecamp. Also recorded in mangroves at Tubang and at Hoi Kemuning, Bobong and on Pulau Seho.

Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda sulane*. Recorded regularly in heavily degraded lowland forest and selectively logged lowland forest at Menanga basecamp, sometimes in loose groups of up to 4. Also recorded in similar habitats at Hoi Kemuning, Bobong and Pulau Seho.

Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sancta*. Up to six seen daily at Menanga basecamp. Also frequently encountered at Hoi Kemuning and Bobong. Recorded in small numbers on Pulau Seho. Observed in agricultural areas and forest margins.

Collared Kingfisher *Halcyon chloris*. Uncommon. Recorded in small numbers at Menanga village, Jurjoga, Hoi Kemuning and Bobong. Only recorded in coastal areas on Taliabu.

Rainbow Bee eater *Merops omatus*. Recorded at Menanga basecamp until 28 September.

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*. Occasionally recorded at Menanga basecamp, primarily in heavily degraded lowland forest. Also seen at Hoi Kemuning and Jurjoga. Flocks of up to 15 at Bobong are believed to represent migratory birds.

Red bellied Pitta *Pitta erythrogaster dohertyi*. An uncommon resident only recorded at three study sites. All observations were made in selectively logged and heavily degraded lowland forest. In heavily degraded lowland forest, birds appeared to favour areas where large stands of bamboo predominated. All observations were made below *ca.* 200 m. One presumed juvenile or immature was seen in selectively logged lowland forest on Pulau Seho on 19 Oct. It is considered that the differences of the Sula and Banggai *dohertyi* are sufficient to justify full species rank, as Sula Pitta *P. dohertyi* (Sibley & Monroe 1990).

Elegant Pitta *Pitta elegans*. An apparently scarce species on Taliabu. It was seen at only two sites involving a total of five individuals. The majority of records comprised calling birds, with a maximum of three individuals calling together at dusk at Menanga basecamp. The subspecies previously collected on Taliabu is the nominate *elegans*, for which local migratory movements have been suggested. It is possible that this species is only a migrant to Taliabu; it was not noted until 11 Oct, over a month into the study period; this coincides with the only other dated record from the Sula Islands, from Mangole (see White & Bruce 1986).

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*. First recorded at Menanga basecamp on 25 Sep, subsequently becoming increasingly common and widely recorded.

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*. Common near water at Menanga basecamp. Hoi Kemuning, Tubang and Bobong.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*. Common on grassy areas around Menanga basecamp, Hoi Kemuning and Bobong, and also recorded near Falabisahaya, Mangole.

☒ **Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*. Frequently encountered in small numbers along the river at Menanga basecamp, and also recorded at Bobong and at Falabisahaya, Mangole.

☒ **Pechora Pipit** *Anthus gustavi*. Two recorded near Menanga basecamp on 12 Oct. **one** at Bobong on 25 Oct and at least two near Sanana village, Sanana on 30 Oct.

Slaty Cuckoo shrike *Coracina schistacea*. *A.* common endemic, frequently encountered in all lowland areas visited, but only two birds were encountered in the Protection Forest of the island's interior.

Sula Cicadabird *Coracina sula*. A common endemic, regularly recorded in all lowland study areas. D. Yong (pers. comm.) recorded this species often on Mangole and observed it on one occasion on Sanana. The species was found at its highest densities in selectively logged lowland forest, with much lower densities in heavily degraded forest. Only two individuals were recorded from the Protection Forest of the island's interior, and the species seems to be quite scarce in montane forests. It is a vocal species, often noted in mixed foraging flocks.

Sulawesi Triller *Lalage leucopygialis*. Frequently encountered in edge habitats of all secondary lowland forest types surveyed. Most common in inland swamp, agriculture and heavily degraded lowland forest. Not noted above ca. 200 m.

Golden Bulbul *Hypsipetes affinis longirostris*. Abundant at each study site, in all habitat types surveyed, but most common in primary forest, both lowland and montane.

☒ **Brown Shrike** *Lanius cristatus*. One individual of the sub species *lucionensis* seen at Falabisahaya, Mangole on 30 Oct appears to be only the third documented record for this species from Maluku (the previous records being from Seram and Halmahera, see White & Bruce 1986).

Blue Rock thrush *Monticola sollitarius*. One at Menanga basecamp on 15 Oct and one at Jurjoga on 16 Oct.

☒ **Red backed Thrush** *Zoothera erythronota*. Scarce, with only three individuals seen during the study period. First noted on 6 Oct at Menanga basecamp. Of the three individuals seen, two were present in selectively logged forest, the other in heavily degraded forest dominated by large bamboo stands. All observations were in lowland forest. These records constitute the first records of this species for the Sula Islands group. The Red backed thrush is represented by the little known subspecies *mendeni* on Peleng in the nearby Banggai Islands, known only from one specimen collected in 1938 (White & Bruce 1986). Birds seen on Taliabu showed plumage characteristics closest to *mendeni*, but farther details of the Sula Islands population are required before this taxon can be assigned to a named population. A shy species, almost certainly overlooked.

Gray's Warbler *Locustella fasciolata*. First recorded from Menanga basecamp on 12 Sep and becoming increasingly common thereafter. Also recorded in reedswamp at Bobong.

Oriental Reed warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis*. First recorded along the river at Menanga basecamp on 12 Sep and becoming increasingly common thereafter; highest densities in inland swamp at Bobong.

☒ **Mountain Tailorbird** *Orthotomus cuculatus*. Only recorded from montane forest where common, first recorded on 17 Sep. This record may represent a previously undescribed sub species, as the species occurs as a single island endemic sub species on other islands.

Arctic Leaf warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*. First recorded at Menanga basecamp on 1 Oct, and some 8 individuals observed in total. Seen in selectively logged and heavily degraded forest.

☒ **Island Leaf warbler** *Phylloscopus poliocephala*. First observed in high altitude selectively logged forest above 750m near Menanga basecamp on 11 Sep. Common in montane forest, often in mixed species foraging flocks. This represents a major western extension of the known range. This record may represent a previously undescribed sub species, as the species occurs as a single island endemic sub species on other islands.

Henna tailed Rhinomyias *Rhinomyias colonus*. Locally common, encountered regularly in logged or degraded forest in lowland study areas (this constitutes the first record of this species from Taliabu). In recent years this species has been observed by D. Yong (pers. conun.) on Mangole and on Banggai by M. Indrawan (Indrawan *et al.* this issue).

Grey streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa griseisticta*. First recorded on 24 Sep in heavily degraded forest at Menanga basecamp and noted infrequently thereafter. Subsequently one seen at Hoi Kemuning and one at Bobong.

☒ **Island Flycatcher** *Eumyicis panayensis*. Relatively uncommon in montane forest, usually in mixed species foraging flocks, at 1000–2000m although one individual was seen near Menanga basecamp. First recorded on 17 Sep. This record may represent a previously undescribed sub species, as the species occurs as a single island endemic sub species on other islands.

☒ **Snowy browed Flycatcher** *Ficedula hyperythra*. Uncommon in montane forest, generally above 1200m, first recorded on 18 Sep. This record may represent a previously undescribed sub species, as the species occurs as a single island endemic sub species on other islands.

☒ **Little Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula westermmmi*. Relatively common in montane forest, generally above 1100m, first recorded on 18 Sep. This record may represent a previously undescribed subspecies, as the species occurs as a single island endemic sub species on other islands.

☒ **Citrine Flycatcher** *Culicicapa helianthea*. Fairly common in lowland forest types surveyed around Menanga basecamp. Hoi Kemuning and on Pulau Seho. Less common in agricultural areas. Only recorded once from Bobong. This represents an eastern extension of the species' known range.

Black naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea blasii*. Very common in all lowland forest types and agricultural areas surveyed around Menanga basecamp, Hoi Kemuning, Bobong and on Pulau Seho, sometimes to 600m.

Island Monarch *Monarcha cinerascens*. Very common. Found in the same habitats and localities as the preceding species. Observed feeding fledged young on 2 Oct at Menanga basecamp. Not recorded above *ca.* 200m.

Rusty bellied Fantail *Rhipidura teysmanni sulaensis*. Common in mixed species foraging flocks in montane forest. In addition, one individual recorded at *ca.* 200m near Menanga basecamp.

Common Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis clio*. Most common in primary lowland forest but also in heavily degraded lowland forest and selectively logged lowland forest around Menanga basecamp. Hoi Kemuning and Pulau Seho. Also common in mixed species foraging flocks in montane forest.

Drab Whistler *Pachycephala griseonota lineolata*. Frequently recorded from all lowland forest types surveyed around Menanga basecamp. Hoi Kemuning, Bobong and on Pulau Seho. Also common in agricultural areas.

Grey sided Flowerpecker *Dicaeum celebicum sulaense*. Very common in most habitats including montane forest, although absent from primary lowland forest.

Brown throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis extremus*. Relatively common in selectively logged and heavily degraded lowland forest and agriculture around Menanga basecamp. Hoi Kemuning, Bobong and on Pulau Seho. Commonest in agriculture. Not noted above *c.* 300 m

Black Sunbird *Neclarinia aspasia*. Very common in selectively logged and heavily degraded lowland forest and agriculture around Menanga basecamp. Hoi Kemuning, Bobong and on Pulau Seho. Absent from primary lowland forest. Not noted above *c.* 450 m.

Olive backed Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis robustirostris*. Very common in selectively logged and heavily degraded lowland forest and agriculture around Menanga basecamp. Hoi Kemuning, Bobong and on Pulau Seho. Absent from primary lowland forest. Recorded up to *ca.* 500 m.

☐ **Mountain White eye** *Zosterops montanus*. Recorded from montane forest where common in mixed species foraging flocks. May replace Black fronted White eye *Z. atrifrons* in this habitat. This record may represent a previously undescribed sub species, as the species occurs as a single island endemic sub species on other islands.

Black fronted White eye *Zosterops atrifrons sulaensis*. Common, in flocks of up to 20 individuals in selectively logged and heavily degraded lowland forest around Menanga basecamp, Hoi Kemuning, Bobong and on Pulau Seho.

☒ **Crimson Myzomela** *Myzomela dibapha*. Recorded only in montane forest where very common, often in mixed species foraging flocks. This record may represent a previously undescribed sub species, as the species occurs as a single island endemic sub species on other islands.

☒ **Black faced Bunting** *Emberiza spodocephala*. The first record of this species for Indonesia is described separately (Stones *et al.*, this issue).

Black faced Munia *Lonchura molucca*. Seen in flocks of up to 80 individuals in heavily degraded lowland forest and agriculture around Menanga basecamp. Hoi Kemuning and Bobong.

☒ **Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*. Recorded from Tubang, Bobong and Falabisahaya, Mangole, always near human habitation.

Moluccan Starling *Aploms mysolensis sulaensis*. Frequently recorded in groups of up to 30+ birds in heavily degraded forest and agricultural areas surveyed around Menanga basecamp. Flocks of 15+ individuals recorded at Hoi Kemuning and common in mangroves on Pulau Seho. Also recorded from Bobong.

Metallic Starling *Aplonis metallica*. Only recorded from mangroves on Pulau Seho where flocks of **up** to 20+ individuals, including immatures were seen.

Helmeted Myna *Basilomis galeatus*. This endemic is apparently uncommon. There were frequent sightings from three of the study areas visited, including montane forest. Occasionally recorded in flocks, with a maximum flock size of 22 birds at a fruiting tree.

Bare eyed Myna *Streptocitta albertinae*. This endemic is apparently uncommon, but it is an inconspicuous species. Recorded fairly regularly in lowland habitats at three of the six study sites, but only in small numbers. Noted more frequently in heavily degraded forest and agricultural areas than Helmeted Myna. Bare eyed Mynas appear able to persist to some degree in secondary habitats.

Black naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis frontalis*. Very common in all lowland habitat types surveyed, mostly in the forest. Not noted above c.300 m.

Hair crested Dongo *Dicrurus hottentotus pectoralis*. Common in all forest types surveyed including montane.

Ivory backed Woodswallow *Artamus monachus*. Up to four individuals seen regularly in heavily degraded lowland forest near Menanga basecamp. Fairly common in open swamp at Bobong, and also recorded from Pulau Seho. The absence of the more widespread White breasted Woodswallow *A. leucorhynchus* from the Sula Islands is notable.

Slender billed Crow *Corvus enca mangoli*. Small numbers seen regularly, mainly in coastal areas. Not recorded above 100m.

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APPENDIX. Species previously recorded from the Sula Islands but not recorded during the study period.

- ☒ Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*. Recorded on Mangole and Taliabu in 1990 (F. Smiet, pers. comm.)
- Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*. Recorded on Sanana (White & Bruce 1986).
- Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis*. One specimen was collected from Taliabu by Menden in 1938, although the status of this record is uncertain (White & Bruce 1986).
- Chinese Goshawk *Accipiter soloensis*. Recorded on Sula Islands (White & Bruce 1986).
- Sulawesi Hawk eagle *Spizaetus lanceolatus*. Previously recorded from the Sula Islands (White & Bruce 1986) and was noted on Mangole in 1988 (D. Yong pers. comm.)
- Common Bush hen *Amauromis olivacea*. Previously recorded from Mangole (White & Bruce 1986).
- Red Knot *Calidris canutus*. Previously recorded from Taliabu (White & Bruce 1986). Long toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*. One specimen collected from Taliabu by Menden in 1988 (White and Bruce 1986)
- Beach Thick knee *Esacus magnirostris*.
- Australian Pratincole *Stiltia isabella*.
- Metallic Pigeon *Columba vitiensis*. Menden collected four specimens from Taliabu in 1938 (White & Bruce 1986).
- Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*. The migratory nominate race has been recorded from Taliabu in September or October (White & Bruce 1986)
- Channel billed Cuckoo *Scythrops novaehollandiae*. Menden collected two specimens in 1938 (White & Bruce 1938).
- Moluccan Scopsowl *Otus magicus*. The endemic subspecies *sulaensis* has been recorded from Mangole (White & Bruce 1986) (but see text).
- Brown Boobook *Ninox scutulata*.
- ☒ Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. First reported on Mangole in 1990 (F. Smiet, pers. comm.), but not recorded in 1991.
- Black faced Cuckoo shrike *Caracina novaehollandiae*. Previously recorded from Taliabu and Sanana (White & Bruce 1986).